

TOWN OF BENNINGTON

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes of the Meeting – September 26, 2018

Selectmen James Cleary, Mark Mackesy and David Hardwick Sr. were present as well as Administrator Denise French. The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m.

Highway Department representative Chris Davies was present to discuss the following:

- Upon review of the September 19th Quote from CWS Fence & Guardrail for purchase and installation of North Bennington Road guardrail, Selectmen Chair signed the Board's acceptance of the Quote.
- Great working relationship with the Town's most recent hire.
- Estimates indicate that ditching performed by the Town would be less expensive than contracting the project out.
- The loader's steering piston has been replaced.
- Cutting edges have been ordered.
- Selectmen authorized filling the salt shed.
- Class V Larkin Hill needs attention.
- Drainage has been improved on Old Stagecoach Road and Antrim Road.
- Agreement that Damon Beaudreau achieve certification as a Solid Waste Operator.
- Agreement that the Town discontinue Transfer Station scheduling of an as-needed/non-certified staff member.
- The current three year contract with Monadnock Disposal Service will expire December 31, 2018; the Town is being warned to expect significant changes associated with the decline of the recycling market.
- Accepted Pine View Excavation and Land Clearing's September 26, 2018 Estimate for snow removal service for 2018/2019 through 2020/2021. David Desaulniers will continue to provide his services without increase to hourly rates. A new clause has been added to charge the Town a fuel surcharge if local fuel prices reach \$4.00 per gallon.
- Agreement that the Highway Department will continue to work four ten-hour days through October.

Candidate for 3rd District State Representative Tim Lord met with the Selectmen to discuss municipal matters of mutual interest.

Code Officer Dario Carrara met with the Selectmen to discuss the current and future use of M21/L6, a private family (exclusive to blood related members) campground utilizing 54.6 acres of land. Ownership of the property has been in Probate for at least thirty years; a single tax bill is divided up and assessed to the users by the Board of Directors; portable toilets are placed throughout the campground; there doesn't seem to be any provision for the disposal of gray water. Dario agreed to brainstorm the Town's Zoning Ordinance and continue discussions with the Board of Directors and the Board of Selectmen relative to future development of sites and utilities.

The Selectmen took action on the following matters:

- Selectmen Cleary and Hardwick reviewed and approved the Selectmen's August 8, 2018 Minutes.
- Selectmen Cleary and Mackesy reviewed and approved the Selectmen's September 5 and September 7, 2018 Minutes.
- Reviewed and approved the September 3, 2018 Payroll Register as well as the September 6, 2018 Accounts Payable Register. Also reviewed and approved were the Payroll and Accounts Payable Registers for September 13, September 20 and September 27, 2018.
- Shared personal information for submission to Bar Harbor Bank ahead of establishing Town accounts with this new financial institution.
- The Route 47 passing zone has recently been eliminated by NHDOT as was recommended last year by the Board of Selectmen.
- The family owning M3/L22 continues to seek an affordable solution to remove the dilapidated building owned by their parent.
- Heard a report from the Administrator that the Town has yet to receive an invoice for the installation of three new light fixtures and the removal of eleven fixtures as a result of the LED upgrade late last winter. Also not received is a refund/credit for a missing halide light fixture that the Town was billed for and paid for approximately seven years. This utility error presented itself in 2017 when the Energy Committee compared the street light roster to the actual pole. Prior to this evening's meeting an Eversource representative reported a refund/credit would be forthcoming for the two year look back period; they also reported that the winter invoice had fallen through the cracks and they would seek an expedited bill.
- Heard a report that PSNH has filed a Civil Action against the Town of Bennington. Their attorney requests the Superior Court to determine a just and proportionate assessment for Eversource's property as of April 1, 2017 and a just and proportionate tax as of said date. Additionally, Eversource is seeking costs and attorneys' fees incurred in their pursuit of this action. The matter has been forwarded to Donahue, Tucker & Ciandella, PLLC who represent most all of the municipalities in matters initiated by Eversource; associated billing is prorated amongs the municipal group.
- Discussed a Main Street resident's concern that cars are speeding through the Town's center. The resident complained that many vehicles do not yield to pedestrians in the crosswalk areas. These concerns will be forwarded to the Police Chief.
- Voted not to promote a 2018 Keno warrant article.
- Discussed conceptual reconfiguration of shared Town Clerk/Administration office space. The Selectmen recommended that the part-time administrative desk be moved to the floor position closest to the service window; due to prior constraints the desk had been positioned at the furthest point away from the public.
- Received invitation from the Conservation Commission that the Selectmen join them in their October 6th perambulation of the Hancock town-line.
- Accepted the Cemetery Trustees invitation to attend their monthly meeting to discuss a single bid received for lawn maintenance of Sunnyside and Evergreen Cemeteries.
- In concert with Code Officer Dario Carrara the Board voted to reduce the Building Permit Fee for construction of an outbuilding from \$0.25/square foot to \$0.10/square foot.
- Reviewed and approved the following:
 - ✓ Building Permit – M11/L16
 - ✓ Building Permit – M10/L74-4
 - ✓ Building Permit – M21/L6
 - ✓ Summary Inventory of Valuation – MS-1

The meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise French
Administrator