

TOWN OF BENNINGTON

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes of the Meeting – November 6, 2018

Selectmen James Cleary, David Hardwick, Sr. and Mark Mackesy were present as well as Deputy Town Administrator Kristie LaPlante. The meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m.

In the Road Agent's absence, Highway Department representative Chris Davies met with the Selectmen to discuss the following:

- The Highway Department has completed preparations for the winter season: 3,000 yards of winter sand has been stockpiled, three loads of salt have been delivered, sand/salt mix is created, and all the trucks have been serviced and are ready for winter gear when the time comes.
- Guardrails have been installed along the river on the west end of North Bennington Road.
- In the Road Agent's absence, Chris has met with Advanced Paving to better understand the planned pugmill project for Onset Road in 2019. Based on Chris' research, pugmill is not the preferred product for pavement replacement projects but is the best solution for roads where the road subsurface needs improvement.
  - The \$72,000 estimate for using pugmill to improve the surface on Onset Road appears to be for the product only and does not include costs for laying down the product. If the Town uses Advanced to lay down the product the cost will be \$13,000 a day and will be done in three days. If the Town lays down the project there are added costs for machine rentals and unseen trucking and staff costs.
  - To regrind the road surface and add a 2" binder layer of pavement it will cost an estimated \$113,000. That does not include the cost for a top coat of pavement in year two.
  - Pugmill has an projected four to five year life span where pavement has a fifteen to twenty year life span.
  - The Selectmen thanked Chris for researching the options and presenting it to the Board; they will make a decision in 2019.
- The Selectmen asked Chris to research the cost of purchasing a surface compactor for use with roadway projects. The Selectmen plan to purchase 3" gravel for future roadway projects as well as the compactor with the remaining funds from the 2017 SB38 grant funds.

Town Administrator Kristie LaPlante reported that Cemetery Trustee Chair Karen Bartlett asked for the Highway Department's assistance in removing two trees at Evergreen Cemetery. Because the Highway Department was unavailable during Karen's availability it was agreed that she would flag the trees and the Highway Department staff would look at the trees this week. Chris reported that he does not believe the Highway Department staff is qualified to remove the trees and reported that the trees do not appear unhealthy or in need of removal. The Selectmen will continue the discussion with the Cemetery Trustees at a meeting with them on November 13, 2018.

The Selectmen reviewed the preliminary Tax Rate of \$33.08 as established by the Department of Revenue Administration. The Selectmen voted to use \$60,000 from Fund Balance to achieve a Town Tax Rate that is \$.18 higher than the 2017 rate. The new tax rate for 2018 will be \$32.51.

Selectman Jim Cleary reported to the Board that local roofer Ryan Seneschal has looked at the Town Hall roof and believes flashing near the cupula is causing water to be leaking in the gymnasium. When Norm Mercier brought over his lift for Ryan to use, Norm inspected the cupula and will provide a quote to scrape and repaint it in 2019. Norm discovered that the weathervane is in poor shape and Jim has agreed with Norm's recommendation to remove the weathervane and ornamentation and rehab it over the winter months.

The Selectmen acted on the following matters:

- Heard a report that the carpets will be replaced in the Town Office, lobby, and Police Department Hallway starting Friday, November 9<sup>th</sup>; the Police Department carpets will be replaced later in November.
- Heard a report that the VFW, Town Hall, and Sewer Pump Station are experiencing mice problems. The Selectmen authorized the Town Administrator to enter in to a contract with JP Pest for them to eradicate the mice population at those locations.
- Reviewed and approved the Minutes of the Board's October 17, 2018 meeting as prepared.
- Reviewed and approved the Payroll Registers for October 25, November 1, and November 8<sup>th</sup> as well as the Accounts Payable Registers for October 22 and November 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Heard a report that the grass/hay growth at the Tri-Town Pit has been minimal this year. The Selectmen agreed to skip mowing in 2018 and rebid the project moving forward in 2019.
- Heard a verbal report from the Town Administrator that surrounding towns remain split on Cemetery mowing and maintenance, with half of the Towns contracting the services and half of the Towns undertaking the task with their own staff.
- Tentatively scheduled December 5, 2018 to meet with the Capital Reserve Funding Committee and Department Heads.
- Signed a PSNH pole license, the Forest Fire Warden Reappointments Form as required by NH Division of Forest and Lands, and a Building Permit for Map 3, Lot 21.

There being no other business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 6:46 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristie LaPlante  
Town Administrator