

TOWN OF BENNINGTON

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes of the Meeting – June 18, 2019

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

Main Street property owner Joe MacGregor met with the Selectmen to follow-up on the Town's agreement to remove the dead tree at School Street/Main Street. The Highway Department has been directed to remove the tree and provide fresh loam; local Arborist Brent Paradis will assist in the purchase and planting of a new tree. The Selectmen authorized up to \$500 for the purchase of a new tree.

Road Agent Gary Russell met with the Selectmen to discuss a minor fire at the Highway Garage on June 12, 2019. At 6:08 p.m. a motion was made by Selectman Mark Mackesy to enter into Nonpublic Session under RSA 91-A:3-II(c) and seconded by Selectman James Cleary; all voted in favor of entering Nonpublic Session. Also present during the Nonpublic Session were Road Agent Gary Russell and Town Administrator Kristie LaPlante. The group discussed a minor fire in the office of the Highway Garage that involved a cigarette, paper towels, and miscellaneous papers. Gary maintains he has not smoked in the building in several weeks and the cigarette on the desk was not his. Gary discussed personnel issues and his theories for how the fire may have started. No decisions were made. Gary left the Nonpublic Session at 6:35 p.m.

At 6:38 p.m. the decision was made to call Town Council for the purpose of receiving legal advice and the meeting was closed.

The meeting reopened in Nonpublic Session at 6:55 p.m. The Selectmen discussed advice received from Council. Selectmen Mackesy made a motion to reconvene the Public Session; seconded by Selectman Cleary; all voted to reconvene the Public Session at 8:01 p.m. In Public Session motion was made, seconded, and unanimously voted to authorize the Town Administrator to arrange with Town Council and/or a third party to conduct an investigation into the fire on June 12, 2019.

In other items on their Agenda, the Selectmen took the following action:

- Reviewed and approved the Minutes of the Board's June 4 and June 13, 2019 meetings.
- Reviewed the Accounts Payable Register for June 6th and the Payroll Registers for June 6, June 13, and June 20, 2019.
- Reviewed the Highway Department work schedule for the week as prepared by Chris Davies.
- Authorized the immediate replacement of the four rear tires on the 1998 KME Fire Truck used by the Highway Department to flush culverts.
- Authorized the purchase of replacement parts for the Town's road sweeper.
- Declined a timber cut on Town property identified as Map 10, Lot 84.
- Received quotes for propane and oil from Irving Oil and Rymes. The Selectmen signed a contract for propane (price not to exceed \$1.259/gallon) and oil (Price not to exceed \$2.389 per gallon) for Rymes for the 2019/2020 Heating Season.
- Authorized a \$2/hour raise for the Town's Welfare Director.

- Requested a local contractor inspect the Highway Garage for heating efficiency and make repairs if necessary.
- Instructed the Town Administrator to reschedule the June 22, 2019 meeting scheduled at the Tri-Town Landfill.
- Reviewed recommendations from the Town's Assessor and approved property tax abatements for 27 Francestown Road (Map 7, Lot 6) and 41 Francestown Road (Map 7, Lot 4). The Selectman also reviewed a recommendation from George Sansoucy, LLC and voted to deny an abatement request for Eversource.
- Signed the Town Clerk's Warrant for Unlicensed Dogs.
- Signed a three year Contribution Assurance Program Agreement for Workers' Compensation coverage through Primex and committed to the following Resolution:

"Resolved to hereby accept the offer of the New Hampshire Public Risk Management Exchange (Primex) to enter into its' Workers Compensation Assurance Program (CAP) as of the date of the adoption of this resolution, and to be contractually bound to all of the terms and conditions of Primex risk management pool membership during the term of the Workers' Compensation Contribution Assurance Program (CAP). The coverage provided by Primex in each year of membership shall be as then set forth in the Coverage Documents of Primex".

There being no other business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristie LaPlante