

TOWN OF BENNINGTON

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes of the Meeting – August 13, 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 6:03 p.m.

Police Chief Bret Sullivan met with the Selectmen. At 6:11 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 Selectmen David Hardwick Sr., Town Administrator Kristie LaPlante, and Police Chief Bret Sullivan. Chief Sullivan provided the Board of Selectmen with an update of his agency's investigation in to the minor fire that occurred at the Highway Garage on June 12, 2019. With the assistance of the New Hampshire Fire Marshal's Office, Chief Sullivan reports that, so far, their results are inconclusive. Chief Sullivan left the Nonpublic meeting at 6:38 p.m. While remaining in Nonpublic Session, the Selectmen heard a report from the Town Administrator that an employee has retained legal counsel. No decisions were made. The Board of Selectmen instructed the Town Administrator to schedule a meeting with Town Counsel as soon as feasible. Selectman Mackesy made a motion to reconvene the Public Session; seconded by Selectman Cleary; all voted to reconvene the Public Session at 6:37 p.m.

Road Agent Gary Russell met with the Board to provide a status update on the culvert replacement project on Onset Road. He reported that his as-needed help can work two more days, during which they should be able to install two more culverts. Once Onset is done the rented Excavator will be returned. Next week Gary has hired a company to crush gravel and move material with their loaders to save time.

The Road Agent requested time specific details about a Workers Compensation injury that occurred on August 5, 2019 and shared notes he gleaned from the surveillance cameras. No action was taken.

The Selectmen and Road Agent discussed the Highway Labor job advertisement that was posted July 30th through August 13th. Zero applications were submitted. In discussing overall staffing, a motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved by the Board of Selectmen for the Highway Department to help a current part-time employee obtain his CDL license, with the understanding that the offer was in no way tied to an offer of or guarantee of full-time employment within the Highway Department.

The Selectmen and Town Administrator discussed the Administrative Assistant job advertisement that was posted July 30th through August 13th and reviewed fifteen applications received as of the 4:00 p.m. deadline. The Selectmen focused on applicants with municipal experience and were able to refine their candidate pool. The Selectmen will begin interviews on August 21, 2019.

The Town Administrator shared with the Board an August 13, 2019 article in the Monadnock Ledger Transcript that seems to indicate Bennington's contribution to Conval may increase as much as 15% (\$300,818) over last year's apportionment. Kristie reported that she has received no communications from the School District about the budget impact. Because the Town is in the middle of a Town wide revaluation, the true impact on property owners won't be known until values are established. The Town Administrator has requested more information from Conval and will report back at the next meeting.

In other news on their Agenda, the Board:

- Reviewed and approved the Minutes of their July 30, 2019 meeting.
- Reviewed and approved the Payroll Registers for August 1 and August 8, 2019 and the Accounts Payable Registers for July 25 and August 7, 2019.
- Heard a report that Lenny Emond has resigned from the Police Department; Chief Sullivan is actively recruiting additional staff.
- Expressed their gratitude for volunteer efforts to trim the bushes near the statue on the Town Common. The Selectmen requested the remainder of the bushes be removed and replacement plants be selected that will optimize access to the statue to better honor our veterans.
- Agreed to reschedule the Tri-Town Landfill site visit to September 21, 2019 at 8:00 a.m.
- Appointed John Kendall as the Town's Health Officer.
- Requested a quote from the Town's cemetery mowing vendor on what his cost would be to mow the Tri-Town Landfill.
- Signed a Written Warning to an employee in accordance with the Town's Personnel Policy.
- Signed an Intent to Cut for Map 14, Lot 01 and an Intent to Cut for Map 20, Lots 20, 11, and 11-01.

There being no other business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristie LaPlante