

TOWN OF BENNINGTON

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes of the Meeting – October 8, 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 6:08 p.m.

At 6:10 p.m. a motion as made by Selectman Mark Mackesy to enter in to Nonpublic Session under RSA 91-A-II(b) and seconded by Selectman James Cleary; all voted in favor of entering Nonpublic Session. Also present during the Nonpublic Session were Selectman David Hardwick Sr., Town Administrator Kristie LaPlante, and Hazen Fisk, III. The Selectmen interviewed Mr. Fisk for the Road Agent position. No decisions were made. Selectman Cleary made a motion to reconvene the Public Session; seconded by Selectman Mackesy. All voted to reconvene the Public Session at 6:30 p.m.

At 6:40 p.m. a motion as made by Selectman Mackesy to enter in to Nonpublic Session under RSA 91-A-II(b) and seconded by Selectman Cleary; all voted in favor of entering Nonpublic Session. Also present during the Nonpublic Session were Selectman Hardwick., Town Administrator LaPlante, and Matthew Blanchard. The Selectmen interviewed Mr. Blanchard for the Road Agent position. No decisions were made. Selectman Cleary made a motion to reconvene the Public Session; seconded by Selectman Mackesy. All voted to reconvene the Public Session at 6:53 p.m.

At 6:58 p.m. a motion as made by Selectman Mackesy to enter in to Nonpublic Session under RSA 91-A-II(b) and seconded by Selectman Cleary; all voted in favor of entering Nonpublic Session. Also present during the Nonpublic Session were Selectman Hardwick, Town Administrator LaPlante, and Thomas Cummings. The Selectmen interviewed Mr. Cummings for the Road Agent position. No decisions were made. Selectman Cleary made a motion to reconvene the Public Session; seconded by Selectman Mackesy. All voted to reconvene the Public Session at 7:18 p.m.

At 7:29 p.m. a motion as made by Selectman Mackesy to enter in to Nonpublic Session under RSA 91-A-II(b) and seconded by Selectman Cleary; all voted in favor of entering Nonpublic Session. Also present during the Nonpublic Session were Selectman Hardwick, Town Administrator LaPlante, and Christopher Davies. The Selectmen interviewed Mr. Davies for the Road Agent position. No decisions were made. Selectman Cleary made a motion to reconvene the Public Session; seconded by Selectman Mackesy. All voted to reconvene the Public Session at 7:36 p.m.

In Public Session the Selectmen discussed the status of Highway Department projects with pro-tem Road Agent Chris Davies:

- Onset Road was paved and the Highway Department will be firming up the shoulders this week.
- A local contractor has looked at the Highway Garage and will be addressing areas of the building that can be improved to mitigate heat loss in the winter.
- Chris has spoken with Francestown and Antrim Road Agents and they have agreed that the gate for the Tri-Town Pit will be locked at the end of each day. Chris will post a sign at the gate that the stump dump is available for residents when the gate is open or during Transfer Station hours on the weekends.
- JCL Septic has inspected and pumped the septic system at the Highway Garage. The roots and earth material on the top of the septic system will be stripped off by a contractor with suitable

equipment, fabric laid over, and wood chips have been donated to put on top to discourage future growth of trees and shrubs.

- The Department of Labor Inspection on October 2<sup>nd</sup> went very well. Inspector Laramie reported to the Town Administrator that the Highway Garage was very clean and was an easy inspection compared to the “industry standard”.
- The trailer that was adjacent to the sand and salt shed has been demolished and hauled away.
- The Selectmen support the concept of creating a second floor on the 3-bay shed for storage.

The Town Administrator shared with the Selectmen the results of research pertaining to Assistant Town Clerk functions in the absence of the Town Clerk. The Town Clerk had reported to the Board of Selectmen that the Assistant Town Clerk could not complete Vital Records work when the Town Clerk is unavailable and that the Assistant Town Clerk cannot help with the election process. A review of RSAs, educational material recently presented at the Town Clerk’s Association Conference, and a conversation with the Farmington Town Clerk, the Town Administrator reported that Vital Records work can be completed if the Town Clerk obtains a signature stamp and issues stamping authority to the Assistant Town Clerk. In addition, current State statutes regarding Elections specifically allow for Assistant Town Clerks. Based on that information the Selectmen declined to appoint a Deputy Town Clerk.

At 8:15 p.m. a motion was made by Selectman Cleary and seconded by Selectman Mackesy to enter in to Nonpublic Session under RSA 91-A-II(b). Also present were Selectman Hardwick and Town Administrator LaPlante. The Selectmen reviewed the four interviews for the Road Agent position. The decision was made to offer a Conditional Offer of Employment to Mr. Fisk. Selectman Cleary made a motion to reconvene the Public Session; seconded by Selectman Mackesy. All voted to reconvene the Public Session at 8:36 p.m.

In other action on their Agenda, the Board:

- Reviewed and approved the Minutes of the Board’s September 24, 2019 Meeting.
- Reviewed and approved two Accounts Payable Registers for October 2, 2019 and one Payroll Register for October 3, 2019.
- Received notice that Public Service of NH has sued the Town of Bennington in Superior Court relative to the 2018 Assessed Property Value. The Town Administrator has forwarded the Complaint to the Town’s utility value attorney.
- Agreed to sell the 2015 Ford Explorer Police Cruiser to the Town of Hancock for \$500.
- Heard a report that Scott Liljeberg has agreed to erect a 12’ x 14’ storage building for the Recreation Department at Newhall Field.
- Heard a report that the Town is still on track to receive the gift of property known as Map 7, Lot 18 before December 31, 2019.
- Signed a Cemetery Deed for Lot 5, Row 12.
- Signed two Building Permits (Map 2, Lot 3-9 and Map 19, Lot 8).
- Signed the State of NH Hazard Mitigation Update Consultant Selection form notifying the State that the Town intends to use the Regional Planning Commission to update the Plan.

There being no other business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:41 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristie LaPlante, Town Administrator