

TOWN OF BENNINGTON

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes of the Meeting – October 29, 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 6:04 p.m.

Conservation Commission members Mike Munhall and Valerie Germain met with the Selectmen to discuss the following Conservation Commission happenings:

- The Conservation Commission's objectives are to protect and preserve water resources, conserve and manage Town lands, and promote awareness of the Town's natural and historic resources.
- A new tree was donated by the NH Forestry Office and planted at the VFW near the picnic table.
- Now that the Natural Resource Inventory (NRI) is complete, Mike and Val will be working to develop a Conservation Plan for future considerations based on input received during the NRI.
- The Conservation Commission would like to receive timely copies of all approved Intents to Cut.

The group discussed the VFW building, how its current state is not an honor to our veterans, and what repairs can be made to remedy the peeling paint and dark interior. Selectman Cleary reported that years ago the building was going to be rehabbed by local contractors but that tract was disregarded when the Town Buildings Committee applied to LCHIP for funding for the repairs. Bennington was not awarded funding in the first round of the LCHIP Grant Process and the price associated with projects that would be required by LCHIP was astronomical. From that point forward rehabilitation of the building has been at a stalemate. The group agreed to reexamine volunteer interest to possibly rehab the building in the spring of 2020.

Interim Road Agent Chris Davies met with the Selectmen to provide an update on projects:

- The remainder of the miscellaneous Hazardous Waste identified during and August DES Compliance Inspection was delivered to Keene today.
- Local contractor Mike Young has completed securing the waste oil bay at the Highway Garage.
- Winter salt has been ordered.
- Mike Richardson is scheduled to come in for repairs on the 2015 Freightliner; the 2007 International was recently repaired by Sizemore.
- Onset shoulders will be backfilled as staffing permits.
- Chris has received a quote of \$50,000 from Advanced Paving to put down the top 2" of pavement on Onset in 2020.
- The Town should begin exploring replacement options for the Loader.
- Chris is still inventorying parts, materials, and supplies to ensure there is an adequate supply going in to the winter season.
- Chris has obtained two double walled fuel cells from Clean Harbors that will be used for waste oil moving forward. Use of these fuel cells would circumvent the State requirements for DES containment and storage sizes.
- The snow dump off Acre Street needs to be cleaned up before winter. Chris will contact two local contractors to get a quote for them to move the material with their heavy equipment.

- A State of NH Trooper is scheduled to come to the Highway Garage on November 4 to administer the CDL driving test for both Matt Blanchard and Chris Davies.

In other items on their Agenda, the Board:

- Heard a report that the Deed for Map 7, Lot 18 has been delivered to the Town.
- The 2019 values are nearly complete. Once the values are complete the Town Administrator will contact the Selectmen to sign the MS-1 form for the State.
- Heard a report that the Town Administrator spoke with Town Council about the enforcement provisions in the existing Tri-Town Landfill Agreement. Town Council has recommended having a more firm idea of quantities before discussing changing the enforcement provisions.
- The Town Administrator reported she has received budget requests from Department Heads and will be working to compile the data for the Selectmen.
- The Selectmen received a formal Letter of Deficiency from NH DES in response to the August Transfer Station Inspection. The bulk of the deficiencies were remedied soon after the inspection.
- The Selectmen agreed to place Solar Exemptions on the 2020 Warrant.
- The Selectmen agreed to increase Supervisors of the Checklist Clerical Wages to \$15/hour.
- Discussed an incident that occurred at the Planning Board's October 14, 2019 meeting.
- Agreed to post all Town Parking Lots as "No Overnight Parking"
- Authorized a wage increase for Chris Davies but declined to authorize an additional week of vacation.
- Reviewed and approved the Minutes of the October 22, 2019 Selectmen's Meeting.
- Reviewed and approved the Accounts Payable Register for October 24, 2019 and the Payroll Registers for October 24 and October 31, 2019.

There being no other business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:51 p.m.