

TOWN OF BENNINGTON

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes of the Meeting – December 26, 2018

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 6:02 p.m.

Police Chief Bret Sullivan met with the Selectmen to discuss his request to the Budget Committee for \$15,000 in additional funding for the Part-Time Officers line item in 2019 to allow double coverage on some shifts. The Police Chief presented the Selectmen with a revised proposal of \$6,800 which would allow for additional shift coverage during certain times of the year as well as allow for three part-time officers to attend one week trainings. The Selectmen listened to Chief Sullivan's presentation and discussed their concern about complaints about decreased visibility of officers within the community and questioned if there were feasible alternatives to increase police visibility with existing officers. The Police Chief agreed to review the current schedule to see what changes can be made to cover extra hours. The Selectmen voted to approve an increase of \$2,400 to the Part-Time Officers line item for part-time officer training.

At 7:18 p.m. a motion was made by Selectman Mackesy to enter into Nonpublic Session under RSA 91-A:3-II(c) and seconded by Selectman Cleary; all voted in favor of entering Nonpublic Session. Present during the Nonpublic Session were the three Selectmen and Town Administrator Kristie LaPlante. The Selectmen discussed a verbal complaint one of the Selectmen received about information discussed in Nonpublic Session reportedly being discussed in public. After discussion with the Town Administrator, the Selectmen found the content of the complaint to be invalid. Selectman Mackesy made a motion to end the Nonpublic Session and reconvene the Public Session; seconded by Selectman Cleary. All voted to reconvene the Public Session at 7:27 p.m.

In other business, the Board acted on the following matters:

- Reviewed and approved the Payroll registers for December 20 and 27 as well as the Accounts Payable Register for December 13, 2018.
- Reviewed and approved the Minutes of the Board's December 18, 2018 meeting
- Reviewed two quotes for tree removal at Evergreen Cemetery. Because the two quotes provide different opinions on preservation options for one of the trees, the Selectmen tabled award of the project pending receipt of a third quote.
- Accepted, with regret, the verbal resignation of Police Officer Phil Marcellino.
- Declined to approve a barter agreement between the Highway Department and DC Slocumb for the value of an old trash compactor and work to be done on the bucket of the backhoe. The Selectmen plan to meet with the Road Agent to further discuss the proposed agreement.
- Tentatively scheduled a meeting with Antrim and Francestown Selectmen to discuss the Tri-Town Landfill for February 20th. In the interim the Town Administrator will work with her counterparts to develop an agenda for the meeting.
- Voted to decrease Fire Department wage line items by a collective \$3,000 to reflect prior expenditures.
- Agreed to invite Department Heads in for monthly meetings starting in February.

There being no other business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristie LaPlante, Town Administrator