

TOWN OF BENNINGTON

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes of the Meeting – January 14, 2020

Selectmen James, Cleary David Hardwick, Sr., and Mark Mackesy were in attendance as well as Town Administrator Kristie LaPlante. The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m.

Selectman Jim Cleary reported on a January 10, 2020 meeting with the Antrim Water/Sewer Commissioners to discuss their new rates. After a lengthy discussion, the Antrim Commissioners agreed to a \$79/hour rate for 2020 with in the intent of increasing the hourly rate to \$85/hour in 2021. At the meeting the Antrim Commissioners also shared an upcoming Federal mandate that will require the Town of Antrim to construct a different sewer processing facility, of which the Town of Bennington will be responsible for 25% of the cost. Exact costs and a timeframe are not known.

The Selectmen discussed two Warrant Articles requested by the Conservation Commission to appropriate funding to the Conservation Commission Fund equivalent to 75% of Timber Tax revenues and Gravel Tax revenues received in 2019. The Selectmen discussed the increase in funding requested from 50% to 75% and the impact it will have on the Budget. In the absence of additional information or discussion and to comply with State of NH Budget Laws, the Selectmen voted to place the Articles on the Warrant and fund them at \$1 each. The Selectmen intend to follow up with the Conservation Commission to determine what amount of funding they will approve on the 2020 Warrant.

The Selectmen heard a report that the Highway Department closed the sidewalk on Route 47 along the Congregational Church and discovered several large pieces of slate from the Church roof. The Selectmen intend to establish a cross walk from Map 7/Lot 12 to Map 10/Lot 20 for winter use.

In addition, the Selectmen reviewed or acted on the following:

- Reviewed and signed the 2020 Audit Engagement Letter for the Town's auditors.
- Reviewed an application for the Transfer Station Attendant position and authorized the Town Administrator to submit the Applicant to the State of NH Background Check process.
- Heard a report that during recent maintenance, the blower motor on one of the propane heaters at the Highway Garage stopped working. Due to the age of the blower it cannot be replaced. Rymes provided an estimate in the amount of \$3,451.50 to replace the propane heater. The Selectmen tabled decision on replacing the unit pending additional estimates.
- Reviewed a request from a local news organization that Minutes be emailed each week. The Selectmen denied the request because it is not required under the State's Right to Know Law.

The Selectmen adjourned their meeting at 6:53 p.m. to relocate to the Elementary School for the Budget Hearing.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristie LaPlante
Town Administrator