

TOWN OF BENNINGTON

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes of the Meeting – April 28, 2020

Selectmen James Cleary, David Foster, and David Hardwick, Sr., were present as well as Town Administrator Kristie LaPlante. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

Road Agent Hazen Fisk met with the Selectmen and discussed the following:

- Due to COVID-19 and the unknown impact on the economy, the Selectmen voted to table the Durgin Road restoration project for 2020.
- Hazen presented the Board with three alternative projects to consider for 2020: top pave Onset (two quotes received for \$77,000 and \$79,000), shim Pine Meadows Circle (two quotes received for \$58,500 and \$65,000) and chip seal various roads (estimated cost \$37,000). After considerable discussion, the Selectmen voted to chip seal portions of Starrett Road, Eaton Avenue, Acre Street, Dodge Road, Balch Farm Road, and Balch Farm Road extension – approximately 6,500 feet of roadway – at a total cost of \$37,000.
- The Selectmen intend to reevaluate roadway projects on Durgin Road and Onset Road in 2021.
- A used sidewalk sweeper was purchased for \$250 from the vendor the Town utilizes for equipment rentals.
- The Highway Department has transitioned to 10-hour days. The Road Agent will work the traditional Monday through Thursday schedule; the two Highway Department employees will work Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday to accommodate remote learning schedules for their families.
- The stump dump at the Transfer Station has been utilized in recent months for commercial disposal of stumps and debris. As such, the Highway Department has spent several days sorting the stumps from limbs and debris. The group reviewed the Town's Transfer Station Ordinance which prohibits the disposal of commercial debris. Under the terms of the current Transfer Station Ordinance, the Selectmen agreed that commercial disposal should be halted immediately.
- Hazen provided a quote for \$44,000 to replace the dump body on the 2007 International. The Selectmen intend to replace the dump body which should extend the life of the vehicle by another ten years. No decisions were made.
- The compactor at the Transfer Station has been getting full much quicker than normal. The increased disposal is three-fold – the Town temporarily suspended recycling in late March, more property owners are cleaning out their homes and disposing of improper items, and there has been an increase in out of Town individuals improperly utilizing the Town's Transfer Station. As a result, the Town has put out notice that only household items will be accepted from Town residents and bags may be subject to random inspection.

The Selectmen discussed a resident's request to resume recycling operations at the Transfer Station. The Town Administrator reported that she spoke with the Emergency Management Director and reviewed several options to resume recycling in a manner to support social distancing. The Selectmen reviewed the options and determined that the only way to safely resume recycling would be to add a third staff member to supervise recycling at a location away from the regular disposal area. As such, the Selectmen voted not to resume recycling at this time.

The Selectmen acted on the following matters:

- Reviewed and approved the Minutes of the Board's March 31, 2020 meeting.
- Reviewed and approved the Accounts Payable Registers for April 9 and 23 and the Payroll Registers for April 2, April 9, and April 23.
- Heard a report that Primex has settled a Worker's Compensation claim with a former Town employee.
- Received the 2019 Report of Services provided by Antrim Water/Sewer. The Selectmen intend to review the services provided to determine if any of those services can be performed by Town employees at a lower cost.
- Approved a request for Extension for Timber Operation 19-041-09.
- Reviewed a proposal from Pleasant Pond Landscape for annual mowing and maintenance of Town properties. The Selectmen agreed to continue to utilize Pleasant Pond for 2020.
- The Selectmen reviewed the 2019 costs for mowing Sawyer Field and voted to change mowing vendors for that property and utilize Pleasant Pond.
- Reviewed a request from the VFW to erect a 10'x10' shed at the VFW to receive donated clothing. The Selectmen denied the request because of the size of the property and the location of two other clothing donation receptacles in Town.
- Appointed David Hardwick, Sr. as Ex-Officio to the Planning Board and Jim Cleary to serve as Bennington's representative on the Conval Selectmen's Advisory Committee.
- Agreed to allow the Conval Seniors to post signs of Bennington graduating seniors on Town property Memorial Day weekend.
- Heard a report that the Recreation Committee will conduct Birthday Party parades on Fridays starting May 1st instead of several days during the week.
- Chairman Jim Cleary signed the Town of Bennington Safety Policy.
- Signed the 2020 GMP Reporting and Landfill Gas Monitoring agreement with Stantec.
- Signed four solar exemptions (Map/Lots: 18-01-B1, 05-01, 15-05, and 17-17).
- Signed a Disabled Veteran's Tax Credit and Standard Veteran's Tax Credit Application for Map 07 Lot 76.
- Reviewed four Intents to Excavate. Three were signed (Map/Lots 03-01, 11-16, 11-12). The Selectmen did not sign the Intent to Excavate for Map 10, Lot 74-01 because the Excavation activities are incidental to the construction of a house.
- Signed two Intents to Cut – Forever Forestlands (Map/Lots 14-02, 11-13, 11-14) and Hardwick Trust (11-16).
- Signed four Building Permits (Map/Lots 02-03, 11-15, 17-01, and 07-24A).
- Signed a Gravel Tax Levy for Operations #s 19-041-02 and 19-041-03.

There being no other business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:44 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristie LaPlante, Town Administrator