

TOWN OF BENNINGTON

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes of the Meeting – July 14, 2020

Selectmen James Cleary, David Hardwick, Sr., and David Foster were present as well as Town Administrator Kristie LaPlante. The meeting was called to order at 6:07 p.m.

At 6:12 p.m. a motion was made by Selectmen James Cleary to enter into Nonpublic Session under RSA 91-A:3-II(c) and seconded by David Hardwick; all voted in favor of entering Nonpublic session. Also present during the Nonpublic Session was Town Administrator Kristie LaPlante. The Selectmen reviewed a letter from a Town employee who was suspended in 2014. The Board felt the letter contained no new information or relevant data and declined to take any action. No decisions were made. Selectman Cleary made a motion to reconvene the Public Session; seconded by David Hardwick; all voted in to reconvene the Public Session at 6:17 p.m.

Town Administrator Kristie LaPlante reported on a conversation with Conval Superintendent Kimberly Rizzo-Saunders about use of the Pierce Elementary School Multi-Purpose Room for the September 8th Primary and November 3rd General Election. Because of COVID-19 it is highly unlikely that the Town will be able to use the School for the September 8th Primary because school will be in session and students will be in the building; the Town should be able to use the building for the November 3rd General Election because all Conval Schools are closed that day. LaPlante intends to hold a meeting with the Town Moderator, Supervisors of the Checklist, Town Clerk, and Emergency Management Director to further discuss options and safety protocols that may be needed for both elections.

The Selectmen considered a verbal request from a Town employee to allow employees to choose to either earn comp-time or receive over-time pay for hours worked in excess of 40. Comp-time for municipal employees is not allowed by the NH Department of Labor (RSA 275:43).

In addition, the Selectmen acted on the following matters:

- Reviewed and approved the Minutes of the Board's June 30, 2020 Meeting.
- Reviewed and approved the Accounts Payable Registers for June 25 and July 1, 2020 as well as the Payroll Registers for June 25, July 1, and July 9, 2020.
- Reviewed the Highway Department schedule of work completed as provided by the Road Agent.
- Heard a report that the Board of Tax and Land Appeals made a minor error in calculating the amount of abated value for Eversource Property for the 2014-2017 Tax Appeals. The Selectmen authorized the Town's Attorney for this matter, Donahue, Tucker & Ciandella, PLLC to include the Town of Bennington in a Joinder filing to the BTLA.
- Discussed a resident's request to rent Whittemore Beach for a private event. The Selectmen declined the request because the beach area is large enough to accommodate larger groups of people and because the Boat Launch must remain open.
- Heard a report that the Pierce School Fourth Grade Class of 2020 will be holding an end of year gathering at Whittemore Beach on Monday, July 27th.
- Reviewed correspondence from the School District outlining their intent to reopen schools for learning this fall.

- In response to a recommendation from the GEP Dodge Library Trustees, the Selectmen appointed David McKenzie an alternate.
- Signed an Intent to Cut for Map 21, Lot 2A and a Building Permit for Map 23, Lot 1-11.
- Discussed multiple complaints about the cones being removed from the sewer covers on Main Street, Route 47, and Antrim Road. The Town Administrator will inquire if it was done by Antrim Water and Sewer Department or the Contractor that did the work.
- Discussed several inquiries about the volume of vehicles with Massachusetts license plates entering a property on Route 202. The Town Administrator reported that the property owner has family from Massachusetts and they were likely visiting for the Independence Day holiday. The Current Stay at Home Order issued by Governor Sununu does not require out of state visitors to quarantine.

There being no other business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:07 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristie LaPlante, Town Administrator