

TOWN OF BENNINGTON

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes of the Meeting – August 5, 2020

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

From 6:01 p.m. until 6:06 p.m. the Selectmen met in Nonpublic Session under RSA 91-A:3II(a). Selectman Cleary made the motion to enter into Nonpublic Session, seconded by Selectman Hardwick; the vote was unanimous. Present were Selectmen Cleary, Hardwick and Foster as well as Deputy Town Administrator French. The group discussed a personnel matter. No decisions were made. Selectman Cleary made a motion to adjourn the Nonpublic Session at 6:06 p.m.; seconded by Selectman Hardwick; the Board unanimously voted to adjourn.

From 6:07 p.m. until 6:35 p.m. the Selectmen met in Nonpublic Session under RSA 91-A:3II(a). Selectman Cleary made the motion to enter into Nonpublic Session, seconded by Selectman Hardwick; the vote was unanimous. Present were Selectmen Cleary, Hardwick and Foster as well as Christopher Davies and Deputy Town Administrator French. At the request of Chris Davies, the group discussed the recent suspension letter he received, Highway Department operations, and the effect his reassignment of duties would have on his family. He requested that the Board speak with two co-workers who will substantiate his position that the suspension is uncalled for. The Selectmen notified Chris that they were still in the process of investigating his case. Selectman Cleary made a motion to adjourn the Nonpublic Session at 6:35 p.m.; seconded by Selectman Hardwick; the Board unanimously voted to adjourn.

From 6:37 p.m. until 6:43 p.m. the Selectmen met in Nonpublic Session under RSA 91-A:3II(a). Selectman Cleary made the motion to enter into Nonpublic Session, seconded by Selectman Hardwick; the vote was unanimous. Present were Selectmen Cleary, Hardwick and Foster as well as Police Chief Bret Sullivan and Deputy Town Administrator French. The group discussed an exemplary 18 year part-time veteran employee and unanimously voted a pay increase to \$23 an hour. Selectman Cleary made a motion to adjourn the Nonpublic Session at 6:43 p.m.; seconded by Selectman Hardwick; the Board unanimously voted to adjourn.

From 7:20 p.m. until 7:40 p.m. the Selectmen met in Nonpublic Session under RSA 91-A:3II(a). Selectman Cleary made the motion to enter into Nonpublic Session, seconded by Selectman Hardwick; the vote was unanimous. Present were Selectmen Cleary, Hardwick and Foster as well as Road Agent Fisk, Matthew Blanchard, Patrick Greene and Deputy Town Administrator French. The group was interviewed as part of the Board's investigation of events that lead to the suspension of Chris Davies. No decisions were made. Selectman Cleary made a motion to adjourn the Nonpublic Session at 7:40 p.m.; seconded by Selectman Hardwick; the Board unanimously voted to adjourn.

From 7:41 p.m. until 8:10 p.m. the Selectmen met in Nonpublic Session under RSA 91-A:3II(a). Selectman Cleary made the motion to enter into Nonpublic Session, seconded by Selectman Hardwick; the vote was unanimous. Present were Selectmen Cleary, Hardwick and Foster as well as Deputy Town Administrator French. The Selectmen reviewed all of the evening's Highway Department interviews and unanimously voted that the one-week suspension stands as does the Wednesday through Sunday reassignment of employment duties While still in Nonpublic Session Selectman Cleary called Chris to deliver the Board's decisions. Jim relayed to the Deputy Administrator that Chris will be using vacation time for August 8th and 9th. Selectman Cleary made a motion to adjourn the Nonpublic Session at 8:10 p.m.; seconded by Selectman Hardwick; the Board unanimously voted to adjourn.

Board of Selectmen Minutes – August 5, 2020

The Selectmen took action on the following matters:

- Reviewed and approved the Board's July 14 and July 28 Minutes as well as Payroll Registers for July 14th and August 6th. Also reviewed and approved was the August 6th Accounts Payable Register.
- Discussed with the Road Agent a report of a plugged culvert on Rogers Road.
- Reviewed and approved a letter to Antrim Water & Sewer Commissioners seeking reimbursement from Antrim to reset manhole covers that were erroneously raised for the NHDOT paving project.
- Discussed the immediate need for the Fire Department to finish their punch list of recommendations put forth by the Department of Labor during their fall visit. Selectman Foster, in his capacity as Fire Chief, stated 95% of the outstanding obligations would be finished no later than Sunday.
- Heard a report that the retaining wall at the Fire Station which abuts 12 School Street has partially collapsed. The Deputy Administrator was instructed to determine who owns the retaining wall.
- Discussed the immediate need for the VFW building to be brought into compliance as indicated by the Department of Labor during their fall visit. The Selectmen unanimously voted to shut down the building until such time as the handicapped ramp is replaced and the interior punch list is complete. Selectman Cleary volunteered to notify the VFW Commander of the Town's decision with an offer for the Veteran's to use alternate Town facilities for their meetings.
- Heard a report that the Fire Station is likely not the best location for hosting the September elections. Monday the Administrator and Moderator will tour the Highway Garage to determine its suitability.
- Heard a report from NHDOT that the earliest Continental Paving will be in Town paving is the week of August 24th or the week of August 31st. They have been warned that the week of September 7th is inappropriate due to students resuming classes at Pierce School.
- Selectman Jim Cleary volunteered to use his brush saw at the VFW to clean up the picnic area.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise French
Deputy Town Administrator