

TOWN OF BENNINGTON

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes of the Meeting – August 25, 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 6:00 p.m.

Road Agent Hazen Fisk met with the Selectmen to discuss road projects that were tabled earlier in the spring due to COVID-19. The Selectmen reviewed year to date expenditures and confirmed there is approximately \$87,900 in roadway improvement money that the voters approved that remains unspent. Hazen presented the Selectmen with a proposal for \$72,850 from Advanced Paving & Excavating to provide the top coat of pavement on Onset Road. The Selectmen also discussed cost and project alternatives to preserve a deteriorating section of roadway on Durgin Road. The Selectmen voted to approve the proposal for \$72,850 to pave Onset Road and requested the Road Agent gather costs to address the deteriorating roadway on Durgin Road.

Antrim Water/Sewer Superintendent Matt Miller and Bennington Water/Sewer Commissioner Dennis McKenney met with the Selectmen to discuss the January 21, 2020 draft of the Antrim Water/Sewer Department Fee Schedule & Operating Agreement. The Selectmen expressed their concern over the rate of \$85/hour when some work doesn't require a vehicle for each person. Matt agreed to revise the Agreement to include a fee rate of \$53/hour for just labor (with no motor vehicle, tools, or equipment). The group also discussed the June raising and resetting of sewer manhole covers and agreed the extra work was unnecessary but poorly communicated in contract documents.

The Selectmen reviewed an August 1976 Proposed Boundary Line Change Plan for Map 10, Lots 1 and 2 as well as survey work completed during the 2007 Transportation Enhancement Project – Phase 1 to try to determine ownership of a failing retaining wall. The Selectmen agreed that the property lines are unidentifiable in the field. The Town Administrator will communicate with the property owner to discuss options for removing the retaining wall.

The Selectmen reviewed a January 1933 Survey of the Southerly Bound of Bennington that includes annotations from 1966 survey work. The Town Administrator reported receiving a question regarding ownership of a parcel of land at the Townline. The Selectmen determined the ownership question was civil in nature and the Town is not in a position to make any determinations.

In addition, the Selectmen acted on the following matters:

- Reviewed and approved the August 11, 2020 Minutes of the Board of Selectmen.
- Reviewed and approved the Accounts Payable Registers for August 13 and August 20th as well as the Payroll Registers for August 13, August 20, and August 27.
- Reviewed a Department Expenditure report with all expenditures reported through August 25, 2020.
- Reviewed the Highway Department work schedule.
- Heard a report that the Town Clerk, Supervisors of the Checklist, Moderator, Emergency Management Director, and Town Administrator met to continue planning for the September 8th General Election which will be held at the Highway Garage. The Selectmen were reminded that they need to be present during elections that day as well as counting that evening.

- Requested the Town Administrator develop a Committee to update the Town's Hazard Mitigation Plan.
- Discussed a schedule change for an employee for the week of September 7, 2020 due to the Labor Day Holiday.
- Requested the Town Administrator begin the 2021 Budget process with the goal of having initial Department Head submissions compiled for the Board to review in early October.
- Accepted, with regret, the resignation of Crossing Guard Anmarie Wilson.
- Heard a report from the Town Administrator that she is waiting on final invoices rather than submitting a partial reimbursement request from the GOFERR Municipal Relief Fund.
- Approved a request from Pierce School for teachers to park off-site this school year, utilizing either the lot across from the Historical Society or the VFW.
- Reviewed and signed Driveway Permits for Map 12, Lot 02 and Map 21, Lot 08A.
- Reviewed and approved a Building Permit for Map 03, Lot 07.
- Selectboard Chair Jim Cleary signed a Grant Agreement for Elections CARES Act funding.

There being no other business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:22 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristie LaPlante, Town Administrator