

TOWN OF BENNINGTON

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes of the Meeting – September 1, 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 6:05 p.m.

Road Agent Hazen Fisk met with the Selectmen to continue discussion of roadway improvement projects. Hazen reported that he marked out the five worst spots on Durgin Road that would be good candidates for excavation and paving. In order for the project to be completed, the Town would need to excavate and replace the materials before pavement; the cost for Advanced Paving to pave those sections would be \$10,260. The Selectmen agreed to table the project to 2021 when the Highway Department will have more time to properly address a larger section of the roadway.

Hazen reported to the Selectmen that at the August 26, 2020 re-inspection of property and equipment, the Department of Labor observed the Loader with inoperable front and rear amber lights, over-cab spotlights, and a reverse signal alarm that was not operable. Hazen noted that a few weeks ago there appeared to have been a light haze in the loader but was unaware there had been a fire or any damage to the electrical system. The Department of Labor will require the equipment to be fully repaired or taken out of service in order to close out the deficiency. The Selectmen and Road Agent discussed repair costs, the equipment fire in 2019, and the age of the equipment. The Selectmen agreed to research costs for a used loader before spending significant money on repairs or removing it from service.

Town Administrator Kristie LaPlante briefed the Selectmen on recent meetings with Election personnel in preparation of the September 8, 2020 election to be held at the Highway Department. The Moderator will require masks for all people entering the building and plans are in place to accommodate voters who refuse to wear a mask. The Moderator has requested that if the Selectmen are unable to attend voting on September 8th they should find their own replacement until they can participate.

The Selectmen reviewed the Department of Labor Safety Inspection Report from August 26, 2020 and were pleased to note that the Department of Labor did not find any new violations. The Inspector clarified the requirements for hanging power cords at the Fire Station and documented the new electrical issue with the Loader. The Town has until October 1st to properly address the cords at the Fire Station as well as remedy the electrical issue with the Loader. The Town Administrator reported that proper cord reels have been ordered for the Fire Department and they have plans to install them with the assistance of a local contractor.

Selectmen Jim Cleary reported to the Board on conversations he has had with the Police Department about the speed limit and passing zone locations on Route 202 North between Antrim Road and the Antrim town line. The Selectmen agreed that a letter should be sent to the NH Department of Transportation requesting their evaluation of the speed limit and passing zones.

Selectman Dave Foster reported to the Board that Rymes Heating Oils is in the process of being sold to a Canadian company and inquired about the status of the Town's two fuel contamination claims. All documentation has been provided to Primex who is in the process of subrogating the claims with Rymes. The Town Administrator will contact Primex to ensure they are aware of the upcoming sale.

In addition, the Selectmen acted on the following matters:

- Reviewed and approved the Minutes of the Board's August 25, 2020 meeting.
- Reviewed the Highway Department work schedule.
- Heard a report that Ciardelli Fuel is in the process of contacting Town employees with employee pricing offers for propane and heating oil.
- Discussed an inquiry about political signs being placed on the flower islands owned by the Town. After some discussion, the Selectmen affirmed their previous policy that private signage is not allowed on Town property without permission of the Board of Selectmen.
- Agreed to resume recycling in the existing recycling shed as long as the attendants enforce social distancing requirements. The Swap Shop is to remain closed until further notice.
- Because of the bulk of Facility Use stickers have been issued, the Selectmen requested the process be taken over by Town Office staff.
- Received, with regret, the verbal resignation from Crossing Guard Anmarie Wilson.

The meeting adjourned at 7:08 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristie LaPlante, Town Administrator