

TOWN OF BENNINGTON

BOARD OF SELECMEN

Minutes of the Meeting – September 29, 2020

Selectmen David Hardwick Sr, James Cleary and David Foster were present as well as Deputy Administrator Denise French. The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m.

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

- He is working at securing a second quote for striping the crosswalks near the Historical Society and the Paper Mill as well as striping the Town Hall parking lot. Also, to be done is stenciling “School” and “Bump” on Main Street.
- Onset Road has been top coat paved; the edging machine to finish the road rehabilitation will be arriving shortly at an estimated cost of \$3,000.
- Permission was granted to underspend the Road Maintenance line-item and overspend the Gravel Preparation line-item as long as the bottom-line budget is underspent.
- Difficulty in finding a reliable used replacement loader with Tier 3-motor to purchase. It was agreed by all that a Tier 4-motor could be problematic and not in the Town’s best interest.
- The old fire truck was not properly winterized last fall as had been reported to the incoming Road Agent. The end result is damage to the intake piping; the initial costs for repair is approximately \$800. There is concern that the pump housing might also be affected from the frozen lines.
- Reviewed the current fees for recycling disposal costs. The Selectmen requests that fees assessed to the customer be realistic to offset the actual cost to the Town for its disposal. The Recycling Committee will be taking up the matter at their September 30th meeting.
- Received the Highway Department’s work schedule for the work week of September 21, 2020.

The Selectmen took action on the following matters:

- Reviewed and approved the September 17, 2020 Accounts Payable Register as well as Payroll Registers for September 17, 24 and 29th.
- Received a report from William Lambert, NH DOT, that the Town’s Route 202 stated concerns will be addressed in October without possibility to move it up on their calendar. The Selectmen were not comfortable with the State’s timeline and unanimously voted to instruct the Town Administrator to notify Governor Sununu of the Selectmen’s safety concerns.
- The Administrator has requested a thirty-day extension of time from the Labor Department for the Fire Department air components to be replumed after the October 1 deadline. In his capacity as Fire Chief, Dave Foster reported he would be taking care of the matter at the conclusion of this evening’s Selectmen meeting.
- Heard a report that the Conservation Committee has received a letter from NHDES that there currently isn’t a need for a Dredge and Fill Permit to remove the downed tree from the dried river bed near Albertos. Monadnock Paper Mills has volunteered to pay for the cost of the crane; the tree removal operation is being done without any cost to the Town.
- Heard a report that in response to concerns raised by the Conservation Commission relative to a Timber cutting operation at 258 North Bennington Road, the State Forester visited the site and did not locate any timber trespass or wetlands violations.
- Heard a report that the NHDES has granted a one-year extension to Crotched Mountain Ski & Ride Area to resolve their water issue.

- Revisited the Cell Phone Stipend Policy and voted that only Department Heads and two full-time Police Officers are eligible for monthly payment.
- In response to inquiries about employee out-of-state travel (beyond New England) the Selectmen stated their intent to follow the most recent State guidelines in affect at the time of travel.
- Selectman James Cleary has volunteered to serve on the Conval Selectmen's Advisory Committee as time and Zoom access permits.
- Tabled opening Town Hall Improvement estimates until the Board's next meeting.
- Voted to support Trick or Treating from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on October 31st. It is recommended that Covid safety measures be adhered to by all.
- Voted to invite the Fire Department's abutting owners at 12 School Street to a Board meeting to discuss the deterioration of the retaining wall at the shared boundary line.
- Reviewed and approved a Solar Exemption for M20/L7 and a Timber Tax Warrant for M20/L10.

The meeting adjourned at 7:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Denise French
Deputy Town Administrator