

TOWN OF BENNINGTON

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes of the Meeting – October 13, 2020

Selectmen James Cleary and David Foster were present as well as Town Administrator Kristie LaPlante. The meeting was called to order at 6:08 p.m.

The Selectmen reviewed the Minutes of the Solid Waste Committee's September 30, 2020 meeting and discussed the following:

- Reviewed the Committee's discussion about replacing the existing recycling building with a long building that would provide a lean-to roof over each of the five roll-offs and improve foot traffic flow for patrons. The Selectmen tabled any decision until they have a better understanding of the current recyclables market.
- Agreed with the Committee's recommendation to remove Commercial Haulers from the Transfer Station Ordinance.
- Disagreed with the Committee's recommendation to relocate the permit location on vehicles.
- Agreed with price changes for Bulk Material disposal.
- Requested the Town Administrator obtain costs for adding a compactor for cardboard disposal.

At 6:20 p.m., the Selectmen opened a Public Hearing in compliance with RSA 31:95-b to discuss anticipated receipt of State of NH GOFERR Coronavirus Relief Funds. Despite the Public Hearing Notice being duly noticed in the Monadnock Ledger Transcript and posted at the Town Hall and Library, there were no attendees at the Public Hearing. Prior to closing the Public Hearing at 6:50 p.m., Selectmen Cleary and Foster voted to accept up to \$35,155 from the State of NH GOFERR program for Coronavirus Relief Funds.

Town Administrator Kristie LaPlante briefed the Board on a second complaint of possible Timber Trespass at Map 21, Lot 1. The State Forest Ranger did a site walk on September 28<sup>th</sup> and reported that trees appeared to be cut right up to the property boundary but he did not find any Trespass. On October 5<sup>th</sup>, LaPlante received a second complaint about Trespass with further discussion about the location of property boundary markers. The State Forest Ranger will conduct another site visit, locate the property boundaries, and provide a follow-up report.

The Town Administrator briefed the Selectmen on the following matters:

- Representatives from NH Department of Transportation will meet on-site on Route 202 on Friday, October 16, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. to evaluate the Selectmen's written concerns about the speed limit and location of passing zones.
- The NH Department of Labor has provided written acknowledgment that the Town of Bennington has addressed all of their documented safety concerns stemming from their October 2019 inspection and they consider our file now closed.
- The tree in the river by Alberto's Restaurant was successfully removed on October 1, 2020.
- Moderator John Cronin would like the Selectmen to be present at the November 3, 2020 elections; if a member is unable to attend they must find their own replacement.
- Conservation Commission member Valerie Germain has submitted her resignation effective immediately.

- The Town of Hancock will be joining the Regional Prosecutor Program. The Town Administrator signed the revised Prosecutor Program bylaws on behalf of the Town of Bennington which authorizes the addition of another Agency.
- Provided an update on the applicability of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act and leave options that are federally protected.

During their meeting, the Selectmen expressed their gratitude to Jay Contracting LLC for the work done so far at Town Hall as part of COVID-19 Improvements. The Selectmen reviewed and approved follow-up estimates for additional work:

- Replacement of the main customer door at Town Hall with a similar looking door that will improve energy efficiency.
- Removal of a secondary, stationary door at Town Hall that will be replaced by the used window being removed from the hallway to the Police Department.
- Painting the main lobby and Police Department lobby.
- Refurbishment of the lobby bathroom (new vanity, toilet, and paint).
- Painting the conference room upon completion of the lobby.

In addition, the Selectmen acted on the following matters:

- Reviewed and approved the Minutes of the Board's September 29, 2020 meeting. The Minutes of the October 1, 2020 meeting were tabled until David Hardwick is present.
- Reviewed the First Draft of the 2021 Budget. The Selectmen intend to review the document at home this week and hold a formal discussion at their October 20, 2020 meeting.
- Approved a quote not to exceed \$1,500 for Eversource Utility appraisal in accordance with HB700. The Selectmen cannot execute a contract for the work until the NH Department of Revenue approves the scope of work.
- Discussed a complaint of tar damage to a vehicle on Onset Road. No decisions were made.
- Heard a report that the Road Agent will be out until October 26, 2020. The Selectmen requested the Road Agent follow-up on a used loader while he is out.
- Signed the State of NH Election Warrant for November 3, 2020. Voting will take place at Pierce Elementary School.

The meeting adjourned at 7:27 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristie LaPlante, Town Administrator