

TOWN OF BENNINGTON

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes of the Meeting – February 4, 2021

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

Police Chief Bret Sullivan and Sergeant Jason Lepine met with the Board of Selectmen to share the anticipated resignation of part-time Police Department Administrative Assistant Cathy McGillicuddy. The Police Department Administrative Assistant is an instrumental support position that helps process files, gather and provide information for the Prosecutor, and disseminate police reports. After some discussion, the Selectmen recommended utilizing existing Town Office staff to fill the part-time position. Debra Davidson met briefly with the Board and Police Department and accepted the part-time position with the understanding that these duties be worked in to a regular 40-hour work week and not be in addition to 40 hours of work each week.

The Selectmen reviewed and discussed the 2021 Warrant in advance of the Deliberative Session scheduled for 7:00 p.m. Warrant Article 18 (Fire Department Cardiac Monitor) as placed on the Warrant requests a \$1 appropriation because that was the value presented and discussed at the Budget Hearing. The Selectmen reviewed and approved wording for a proposed amendment to Warrant Article 18 to increase the appropriation to \$32,000. The Amendment will be presented to the Moderator at Deliberative Session.

The Board reviewed and acted on the following:

- Reviewed and approved the Minutes of the Board's January 5, 2021 and January 13, 2021 meetings. The Board reviewed and tabled approval of the Board's January 23, 2021 meeting pending the inclusion of content inadvertently omitted.
- Declined to add a remote monitoring feature to the Highway Department security cameras.
- Heard a report that the NH Department of Transportation agreed with the Board's September request to eliminate the passing zone on Route 202 in the area of Dollar General. NH DOT will remove the passing zone in the summer of 2021 when their road surface paint crew is in the area.
- Heard a report of increased alcohol consumption in the parking lot of a business in Town and reviewed the Town of Bennington Alcoholic Beverages and Liquor Ordinance. The Town Administrator reported hearing folklore that prior Boards of Selectmen did not support the Ordinance. To eliminate ambiguity about the current Board's position, the Selectmen reviewed the Ordinance and unanimously agreed the Ordinance should be enforced.
- Heard a report that the NH Department of Revenue Administration has established the Town of Bennington's 2020 Equalization Ratio at 85.2%. The significant change from 97.2% in 2019 to 85.25% in 2020 is a direct result of the real estate market and is not a result of an inadequate revaluation in 2019.
- Reviewed and approved an abatement of the Inventory Penalty for Map 12, Lot 01C-19A and an abatement of the 2020 property taxes for Map 01, Lot 10 (due to a boundary line issue).

The meeting was adjourned at 6:43 p.m. so the Board could attend the Deliberative Session at Pierce School.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristie LaPlante
Town Administrator