

TOWN OF BENNINGTON

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes of the Meeting – October 3, 2007

Selectmen Philip Germain, James Trow and Joseph Cuddemi were present, as well as Administrator Denise French. Also attending the meeting were Monadnock Ledger-Transcript reporter Sam Bonacci and Peter Martel. The meeting was called to order at 5:20 p.m.

From 5:21 p.m. to 5:38 p.m. the Selectmen met in Nonpublic Session with police personnel under RSA 91-A:3II(c).

Police Chief C. Stephen Campbell advised the Board of a phone call he received from the Attorney General's Office regarding a complaint they received about a Town Official abusing their power of office. Selectman Trow recused himself; Selectmen Philip Germain and Joseph Cuddemi both responded that they had no knowledge of anyone using their position to influence police personnel.

The Administrator reported clarification received on filing reports for Grant reimbursement. Both the DWI and Speed Patrol Grants allow reimbursement to the community for its share of payroll tax expenses, i.e. retirement, medicare and worker's compensation. Payroll was re-calculated using the new information, which resulted in both police officers receiving supplemental paychecks.

Road Agent David Blanchard met with the Board. Mutual items of interest discussed included:

- David Blanchard's and Gary Langlois' attendance at a Basic Winter Operations workshop
- Blanchard reported he is grading, doing shoulder work and filling potholes
- Culvert cleaning is ongoing
- The converted fire truck is due for inspection. A bill for the previous inspection has not been received
- Accumulated tires will be removed at the cost of \$100/ton
- Apparent increase in the consumption of diesel fuel. The Road Agent will look into this
- Walter Kiblin's Job Performance review has not been done and is required October 10th
- The Selectmen requested the Road Agent prepare and bring a two-month plan for pre-winter obligations to the October 10th meeting
- Blanchard reported arrangements to move the salt storage area to a place under cover in accordance with DES rules. The Selectmen asked that cost estimates for the barn conversion be brought to the October 10 meeting
- A preliminary ten-year road maintenance plan is due October 17th

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Minutes of the September 26, 2007 public and nonpublic sessions were reviewed and approved as presented. Minutes of the September 19, 2007 6:10 p.m. nonpublic session and Minutes of the September 22, 2007 town-wide tour were tabled until October 10, 2007.

Transfer Station Manager Donald Parker was in and delivered a verbal complaint to the Selectmen regarding an incident with Edward Pelletier last weekend. Mr. Parker complained that he was accused of harassment for asking Mrs. Pelletier about the makeup of a carload of items she was depositing into the demolition box. Mr. Pelletier was not present during the disposal but drove to the Transfer Station to confront Parker about singling his wife out. After delivering his complaint, Mr. Parker left the meeting.

Jane and Edward Pelletier were present by appointment. Mrs. Pelletier reported she was at the Transfer Station Saturday and reported Don Parker was helpful to her. Mrs. Pelletier also reported that when she was at the Transfer Station on Sunday unloading an odd-assortment of items Mr. Parker approached her and suggested he might have to charge a fee for the disposal of items into the demolition box. Mrs. Pelletier explained the discarded items were mostly old toys and she was throwing them in the demolition box because of their size. She reported to the Selectmen that Mr. Parker was not abusive. Upon returning home she informed her husband of Mr. Parker's conversation regarding the possible charge of disposal fees. Mr. Pelletier reported to the Selectmen that he is tired of the Pelletier's being singled out and harassed by the Town.

The Selectmen briefly discussed campaigning at the Transfer Station. The subject will be put forth on the October 10th Selectmen's Agenda. Selectman Cuddemi volunteered to speak with Transfer Station employees about the need to disallow the public in their office, unless they have a legitimate need to conduct business within the building.

The Selectmen reviewed email correspondence from Richard Horn to the Administrator in which he requested information from Fay, Thorndike, Spofford, Inc. The Selectmen will invite Mr. Horn to meet with them and FST at their next joint meeting, which is scheduled for October 23rd.

Selectman Cuddemi departed the meeting at 6:55 p.m. to attend the Conval Selectmen's Advisory Committee meeting.

Conservation Commission members Joseph MacGregor, Dennis McKenney and Letitia Rice met with the Selectmen to explore the Town's interest in accepting a substantial donation to be used exclusively for the Bruce Edes Memorial Forest and associated goals previously established by the Bruce Edes Foundation. Chairman MacGregor reported that much more information is needed, however, the Conservation Commission is seeking broad support from the Selectmen before proceeding with the project. Selectmen Germain and Trow expressed their willingness to support a warrant article to enable the transaction.

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The Administrator provided an update on two hazardous buildings. She reported that a dilapidated mobile home on Bible Hill Road has been removed and a vacant building on Bible Hill Road has been boarded-up to prevent entry into the building.

The Selectmen acted on the following matters:

- Voted to require the Police Department to submit overtime time cards on at least a monthly basis
- Voted to invite the Budget Committee and the Department Heads to a joint meeting with the Selectmen on October 17th to discuss everyone's expectations for the coming budget season
- Voted to invite the Antrim Selectmen to meet with them at their October 24th meeting to discuss the jointly owned bridge
- Reviewed September Police Statistics for 2007 and comparative for 2006
- Approved Time-off Requests for Steve Campbell and Walter Kiblin

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Denise French
Administrator