

TOWN OF BENNINGTON

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes of the Meeting – November 19, 2007

Selectmen Philip Germain, Joseph Cuddemi, and James Trow were present, as well as Assistant to the Administrator Kristie French. The meeting was called to order at 5:40 p.m.

Police Chief Steve Campbell displayed a certificate of appreciation awarded to the Bennington Police Department by the NH Highway Safety Agency at a luncheon earlier in the day. Chief Campbell reported that Bennington was the only rural community in the State to receive recognition for their productivity with DWI and Speed Enforcement Grants in 2006. The certificate read “For exemplary work in the field of DWI enforcement serving the Town of Bennington and the citizens of the State of New Hampshire”. The Board congratulated Chief Campbell and the Bennington Police Department for their hard work.

Chief Campbell reported that the Crossing Guard was unhappy with comments about her job performance that were allegedly made by a Selectman outside of a Selectmen’s meeting. The Board stated that they were satisfied with the Crossing Guard’s performance and if they had concerns they would direct those concerns to Chief Campbell, the Crossing Guard’s direct supervisor.

The Board reviewed the Minutes of their November 14, 2007 Meeting and voted to approve them with the following amendments:

page two, first line – remove “and suggested he file a building permit application to replace the structure” and insert “Mr. Veale was advised that if the structure was not a permitted structure before, then he would have to complete the building permit process”.

Page two, end of the first full paragraph – insert “The Board tabled other outstanding issues with the Road Agent until their next meeting on November 19th.”

The Board reviewed the Minutes of the Second Public Informational Meeting of the Transportation Enhancement Project, held on October 30, 2007.

The Board reviewed and approved the Accounts Payable and Payroll Posting Registers for November 19, 2007.

Based on a report from Steve Campbell that the insurance benefit package he currently has and his wife’s insurance benefit package are virtually the same, the Board entered a lengthy discussion on insurance reimbursement. The Board considered four scenarios: pay the employee the difference between their current plan and the next plan they would be eligible for (the cost differential between a two-person and a family plan), pay a fixed amount for the three plans (single, two-person, and family), pay a percentage amount for each plan, or not reimburse the employee any benefit they would be otherwise eligible for. After a lengthy discussion, the Board

voted to amend the new Personnel Policy to allow for an annual reimbursement to an employee who has overlapping or double coverage health insurance with a spouse as follows: \$1,500 for an employee on a single person plan, \$2500 for an employee on a two-person plan, and \$3500 for an employee on a family plan. The reimbursement would be pro-rated and paid monthly. The insurance reimbursement will be based on current rates for the insurance year (July 1 to June 30) and the Board will review the reimbursement option on an annual basis.

In other action before the Board, they acted on the following:

- Discussed the Regional Prosecutor Program with the Police Chief and developed questions for a November 20th meeting with the Towns involved in the Program.
- Agreed to meet with Fay, Stoddard & Thorndike on December 4th to discuss cost estimates and determine Phase One of the Transportation Enhancement Project.
- Discussed the possibilities of involving the Conservation Commission in Intent to Cuts and Report of Cuts.
- Heard a report that Grappone Auto Center offered \$11,000 to trade in the Town's 1999 one-ton. The offer was accepted and the truck will be traded in when the Town accepts delivery of a 2007 F350 vehicle next week.
- Heard a report that Crotched Mountain Ski & Ride Area is now in compliance with Life Safety Code requirements and that their Permit to Operate a Place of Assembly will be issued this week.
- Requested the Code Enforcement Officer, Planning Board, and Conservation Commission be informed of a Comprehensive Shoreland Act Educational Opportunity scheduled for December 11th and 12th.
- Developed a list of projects requiring bid solicitations.
- Scheduled a Public Hearing for a Solicitation Amendment to the Transfer Station Ordinance for December 12th.
- Signed an Intent to Cut (Map 13, Lots 35, 36, 41, 42, and 43).
- Signed two Timber Tax Warrants (Map 20, Lots 16A & 20 and Map 13, Lot 3A).

The Board voted to enter into Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A:3-II(c) at 8:13 p.m. The meeting was adjourned at 9:08 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristie French, Assistant to the Administrator