

TOWN OF BENNINGTON

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes of the Meeting – January 30, 2008

Selectmen Philip Germain, James Trow and Joseph Cuddemi were present, as well as Administrator Denise French. Also attending the meeting was Peter Martel.

Police Chief Steve Campbell met with the Board to review proposed revisions to the Parking Ordinance. Chief Campbell undertook the revisions to clarify information and address parking concerns on Main Street and at Crotched Mountain Ski Area. The Selectmen approved the revisions and executed the Parking Ordinance.

Chief Campbell and the Selectmen reviewed January 28, 2008 revisions to the Personnel Policy. The Board voted to convert four spent vacation days to four sick days to compensate the Chief for time off he needed to address a medical issue within his immediate family.

Chief Campbell reported that the Ford Expedition was out-of-service with electrical problems.

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

- The recent incident when studs broke off the 1995 International truck causing two wheels to come off. The Road Agent reported this is a reoccurring issue due to a design flaw. This time the wheels warped, creating the need to purchase two new wheels and two tires.
- The Ten Year Road Maintenance Plan is not finished. Selectman Germain and Road Agent Blanchard will work on the Plan February 4th at 5:45 p.m.
- The Personnel Policy was discussed, specifically the requirement that full-time employees will receive compensation for forty hours every week unless they have exhausted their accrued sick leave and vacation time. Blanchard prefers not to receive compensation for time he must take off to deal with personal matters. The Road Agent's submitted time card was changed from thirty hours to forty hours, in keeping with the Personnel Policy.
- Salt deliveries continue to lag; two orders are currently backordered and a third order has been submitted.
- Operations at the Transfer Station were discussed, specifically compaction and hauling.

Water/Sewer Commissioners Glenn Wilson and Mark Chase met with the Board and presented additional information to be filed with the Water Grant. The Selectmen apprised the Commissioners of their meeting with abutter Scott Liljeberg. The proposed plan for fence installation was reviewed and revised. A revised quote for fence installation will be secured.

Library Director Leslie MacGregor, accompanied by Library Trustees Lisa Shingler, Laurie MacKeigan and Alternate Victoria Burnham met with the Selectmen. Library Trustees Chair

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Lisa Shingler submitted the resignation of fellow Trustee Karen Aucella. Upon recommendation of the Library Trustees the Board of Selectmen unanimously voted to appoint Victoria Burnham a Library Trustee. Information will be sought from the Town Clerk as to the length of Mrs. Burnham's appointment.

Motion was made, seconded and unanimously voted to enter into Nonpublic Session under RSA 91-A:3II(c). The Selectmen and the Library Trustees met in Nonpublic Session from 7:29 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. The Selectmen unanimously voted to seal the Minutes of the Nonpublic Session.

Motion was made, seconded and voted to approve Minutes of the January 23, 2008 Selectmen's meeting as presented. Hand written notes of the Selectmen's January 28, 2008 meeting with Scott Liljeberg were used as a reference during the meeting with the Water/Sewer Commissioners.

The Selectmen acted on the following matters:

- Heard a report that the Town's 2007 financial audit has been completed.
- Viewed billing information received from the Town of Antrim regarding their ambulance service. Additional information has been requested regarding the operating budget and the associated allocation of costs assessed to the Town of Bennington.
- Heard a report from Peter Martel that he would forfeit his 2007 building permit fee.
- Tabled work on the Action List.
- Heard the Administrator's report that Patricia Collins had filed a Permit By Notification (PBN) for extension of an existing culvert. As a result of a phone conversation with DES, Conservation Commission Chair Joseph MacGregor was advised that the PBN filed by Ms. Collins is probably not the appropriate form and could result in Ms. Collins having to pay an additional filing fee at the time the appropriate application is filed. The Selectmen suggested Mr. MacGregor should contact Ms. Collins and inform her of the potential loss of her \$200 filing fee recently paid.
- Selectman Germain tentatively agreed to attend the February 13th meeting of the Fire Mutual Aid System to participate in discussion with affected towns regarding funding 20% of a matching Grant awarded.
- Discussed the 25 MPH speed limit on Onset Road and agreed to add an additional sign alerting drivers headed down Onset Road. Selectman Cuddemi will discuss the matter with the Road Agent.
- Referred questions regarding Transfer Station Disposal Fees to the Solid Waste Committee.
- The Selectmen authorized the Administrator and the Assistant to the Administrator to work the February 18, 2008 holiday with the clear understanding that the holiday time off would be taken at a later date, and not paid for February 18th.
- Authorized Denise French and Kristie French to attend the February 26th Joint Loss Management Committee Workshop.

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- Reviewed and approved the January 30, 2008 Accounts Payable Register and the Payroll Register. It was noted that the January 23rd receipt of an invoice from the Bennington Garage included six 2007 invoices dating back as far as June 5th. Because of the lateness in receiving the statement, \$830.95 will have to be paid from the 2008 budget, rather than the 2007 budget. Department Heads will be reminded it is their responsibility to pursue outstanding invoices in a timely manner.
- Approved two Employee Time-off Requests.
- Signed letters to two legal counsels with regard to 2007 audit formalities.

The Selectmen reviewed a rough impact plan, as prepared by FST, based on the status of the current design of the Traffic Enhancement Project since the submittal of the Study. Also received from FST was a sample Right of Entry form to be used where the owner does not wish any financial compensation for allowing work on their property. In response to receiving notice from FST that they have scheduled the second Cultural Resources Meeting for March 6th the Administrator was instructed to inquire if the meeting could be scheduled for February 7th in an effort to keep the project on track. The Administrator will also request an updated timeline of the project.

The meeting adjourned at 10:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Denise French
Administrator