

TOWN OF BENNINGTON

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes of the Meeting – March 5, 2008

Selectmen Philip Germain, James Trow and Joseph Cuddemi were present, as well as Administrator Denise French.

Motion was made seconded and unanimously voted to accept the February 27, 2008 Selectmen's Minutes as presented.

Fire Chiefs Joseph O'Brien and Kristie French met with the Selectmen to discuss the Fire Mutual Aid System's grant award, which will feature Firehouse software and enhanced 911 dispatching capabilities. Presently the Town owns a different version of Firehouse software that costs \$625 a year for support. The Selectmen voted to convert the Fire Department's database to Keene Mutual Aid's Firehouse software package at a onetime cost of approximately \$250; the annual software support cost will be \$200. In connection with the project Chairman Germain signed a Local GIS Data Release Form for the benefit of Fire Mutual Aid System obtaining GIS mapping data.

The Chiefs reported repeat damage to the upstairs wall that is wet from an apparent ice jam. The Selectmen will initiate corrective action this summer. Also discussed was the pending Fire Department Payroll Policy. The Department of Labor has stated that, with written permission from their Agency, payroll could occur monthly rather than weekly. Chief O'Brien agreed to submit detailed call data for the past fourteen months to the Administrator for analysis of hours. It is probable that the Town could petition the Department of Labor for further modification of the payroll payment cycle.

The Selectmen and the Fire Chiefs jointly agreed to request an operations audit from the Local Government Center. This review of operations will provide the Fire Department with an administrative master plan for the future.

The Selectmen acted on the following matters:

- The Selectmen accepted the resignation of Welfare Director Christine Lavery, effective March 18, 2008.
- Agreed to participate with New Hampshire Public Radio's request for information in developing an interactive map to promote awareness of local issues and increase public participation.
- Signed a Grant Agreement to accept an \$8,000 grant award from the NH Department of Environmental Services for the installation of fencing surrounding the Town's well.
- Continued discussion on the conceptual parking plan proposed by High Bank Properties, LLC. The Selectmen and the property owner are scheduled to meet March 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.

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- Received a third request from a property owner to receive an inspection report from the Fire Chief.
- Heard a report that a property owner has withdrawn their request that the Town pay an ambulance transport bill in exchange for a lien on the homeowner's property.
- Heard a report that \$6,112.92 had been paid for redemption of a 1992 lien for general assistance.
- Voted to expedite a letter, accompanied by photos, to NHDOT requesting immediate repairs to the South Bennington Road.
- Heard a report that since March 3, 2008 when two structures were posted as "Unsafe Structure" the roofs of each building have collapsed under the snow load.
- Reviewed February Police Statistics and a roster of appointments that expire later this month.
- The Selectmen voted to advertise the upcoming appointments of ZBA members, as mandated by the 2007 Town Meeting vote.
- Heard a report of two boundary pins being dislodged during hydrant snow removal operations on Bible Hill Road.
- The Selectmen signed a Tax Deferral Application for Map 21, Lot 8A, an Abatement of inventory penalty for Map 1, Lot 10, a DWI Patrol Grant and a Speed Patrol Grant.

The meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Denise French  
Administrator