

TOWN OF BENNINGTON

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes of the Meeting – August 19, 2009

Selectmen James Trow, Joseph Cuddemi and Philip Germain were present as well as Administrator Denise French. Also attending the meeting were Shelagh Clough and Monadnock Ledger-Transcript reporter Joshua Bond. The meeting was called to order at 5:39 p.m.

Main Street resident Linda Church met with the Selectmen in response to a statement heard earlier in the day that the sidewalk project would be taking four feet of her front yard. The Selectmen reviewed the project plans and reported it is possible that the PSNH pole will be moved to either side of its present location for drainage purposes but there is no indication of the pole being moved further back. Town Officials will speak with the Town's engineer in the morning and report back to Ms. Church.

Kristie LaPlante met with the Selectmen, in her capacity as Fire Inspector, to deliver requested information relative to the Rymes propane facility. She reported that the proposed signage received from Thomas Rymes is adequate; Fire Chief Allan Wilson and Mrs. LaPlante request that appropriate UL (sparkless) lighting be installed to cast light on the propane tanks.

In her capacity as Assistant to the Administrator, and point of contact for the TEP Phase 2 Grant work, Kristie LaPlante reported that before submitting final application the Town should host a community forum to receive input and documented support from the residents that they wish to continue with Phase 2 of the downtown improvement project. To that end, contact with FST will be made to determine what they perceive as Phase 2 and how much of the current information can be used for the subsequent TEP application. At their September 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting the Selectmen will assess the information received and determine if the Town should proceed with Phase 2 application. The deadline for submitting the application is September 15<sup>th</sup>.

From 6:14 p.m. until 6:39 p.m. the Selectmen met in Nonpublic Session under RSA 91-A:3II(a). No decisions were made.

Road Agent Gary Russell met with the Selectmen and discussed the following:

- Plans were finalized for the August 22<sup>nd</sup> Fire Department/Recreation function at Sawyer Park.
- The Administrator will schedule a meeting with the Concord Regional Solid Waste/Resource Recovery Cooperative in response to their invitation to join their single stream recycling project.
- Two weeks of improvements to the upper section of Dodge Hill Road have been completed.
- The Road Agent will meet with the Water/Sewer Commissioners to develop "Water Dig Guidelines" to enhance repair operations.
- The Road Agent will notify the Water/Sewer Commissioners that Japanese Knotweed, a very invasive plant, is growing around the Hancock Road hydrant. State officials have warned of specific procedures for the plant's destruction, of which mowing is not permitted.
- The Administrator will follow-up with the Water/Sewer Commissioners on their letters to two specific property owners alerting them to water leaks and the need for repairs.

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- The Highway Laborer is doing well in his training on the Town's grader.
- A borrowed roller from Greenfield was used on the Tri-Town pit road and Gillis Hill Road.
- The Yield sign for placement at Pierce Hill Road and Route 31 intersection has been ordered.
- Town gravel for the TEP project has been moved to the lay down areas; the Town is responsible for providing four types of gravel.
- The Road Agent reported to the Selectmen that complaints were made that the Highway Department did not cover a load and of an idling truck.

Peter Cordatos and Dot Tuttle met with the Selectmen. Mr. Cordatos read a letter addressed to the Selectmen from his attorney, Steven M. Whitley alleging the Town is responsible for water infiltration into his basement. Mr. Cordatos then complained about actions undertaken by the Town for his benefit while also complaining about the lack of concern from the Town.

Fire Chief Allan Wilson met with the Selectmen. He reported that favorable background check and reference checks have been completed for applicant Ben Bartlett. Chief Wilson reported the membership had conditionally voted Mr. Bartlett a member pending action by the Board of Selection. Motion was made, seconded and unanimously voted by the Selectmen to appoint Benjamin Bartlett a firefighter.

In other matters the Selectmen and the Fire Chief discussed the following:

- Plans were finalized for the August 22<sup>nd</sup> Fire Department/Recreation function at Sawyer Park.
- Fire Department SOGs have been approved by the membership and are being printed for distribution.
- The replacement Rescue Vehicle should be delivered mid-September.
- Training is going well – good attendance at a recent pumps class in Antrim, at least one member has committed to taking a Firefighter I class in January. Rescue Captain Kristen Jackson is doing well with medical training. The previous evening the Department began training with the Fire Department's boat.

From 8:12 p.m. until 8:40 p.m. the Selectmen met in Nonpublic Session under RSA 91-A:3II(a). No decisions were made.

In other matters the Selectmen acted as indicated:

- Reviewed and approved Accounts Payable Registers for August 12, 2009 and August 19, 2009 (2).
- Reviewed and approved Payroll Registers for August 12, 2009, August 14, 2009 and August 19, 2009.
- Approved the draft ad seeking Proposals for Town Building Janitorial Services.
- Asked that Caretaker Chris Clough receive the Risk Services Bulletin which highlights liability claims and losses the Town is subject to when third parties use municipal facilities.
- Asked that the Administrator explore municipal banking services available from Lake Sunapee Bank.

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- Heard a report that the revaluation data collection is complete while letters are being processed to those building owners who were not available for an interior inspection; the sales analysis office preparation work has also been completed. The Selectmen drafted a response to a taxpayer inquiry. The Board voted to purchase updated assessing software from the Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund at an approximate cost of \$750.
- The Selectmen voted to link [benningtonrec.blogspot.com](http://benningtonrec.blogspot.com) to the Town's website. An [@townofbennington.com](mailto:@townofbennington.com) email address will be established for the Recreation Committee. Recreation Committee meetings are the first and third Tuesday each month at the VFW beginning at 6:30 p.m. The premier of evening swim lessons was reviewed. The event was well received and attended.
- Regretfully received the resignation of ZBA member and former Chairman John Tyler. The Administrator will communicate with the ZBA in the Town's quest to fill the vacancy.
- Heard a report that a sewer credit for metered water flowing from an outside spigot has been eliminated.
- Heard a report that Eastern Mountain Sports will again be sending a contingent of volunteers to Town on September 15<sup>th</sup> for community service work. This year's task will be reclaiming the Bennington Trail, which has been littered with growth and ice storm debris.
- The Selectmen authorized the Administrator to engage insurance officials whose firms provide property-liability insurance and workers compensation insurance for a comprehensive overview of the Town's buildings and workplaces. Membership of the Safety Committee was discussed.
- The Selectmen approved using a template for Non-Public Sessions as provided by Town Counsel.
- Received courtesy copy from NHDES of Notice of Past Violation, as addressed in their August 7, 2009 letter to Monadnock Paper Mills, Inc.
- Signed the MS-1, Extension Request Form, requesting an extension until November 15th to file the Summary Inventory of Valuation report.
- Reviewed and approved an Intent to Cut for Map 9, Lot 2.
- Approved two Time-off Request forms.

With regard to the TE Project:

- Received August 12<sup>th</sup> Construction Meeting Minutes.
- Received a revised Emergency Contact List.
- Received a Project Schedule for the month of August.
- Heard a report that the reimbursement process for the project should be a three-week turnaround time for the State to process the Town's reimbursement request. Plans to obtain a Revenue Anticipation Note were tabled.

The meeting adjourned at 9:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Denise French  
Town Administrator