

TOWN OF BENNINGTON

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes of the Meeting – April 7, 2010

Selectmen Joseph Cuddemi, Philip Germain and Steven Oseinski were present as well as Administrator Denise French. Also attending the meeting was Peter Martel. The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m.

Earth Day Committee Chair Valerie Germain met with the Selectmen and received authorization to spend up to \$200 to purchase flowers for planting in the traffic islands and at town buildings.

Moderator John J. Cronin, III met with the Selectmen and discussed the following election site notables:

- Overall, the March 9th voting arrangements worked out due to the fact it was a low turnout.
- What did not work well was conducting the election process at Pierce School while school was in session.
- A new venue should be found for conducting the National election due to limited parking which could likely dissuade voters from participating in the election process.
- Alternate voting facilities informally discussed were:
 - Town Hall first floor; temporary reconfiguration of floor space to allow for voting booths and election officials' tables. Future development of the second floor would enhance the use of the facility.
 - Building limitations at the VFW would likely deter holding elections at this facility.
 - Seeking cooperation from Devine Mercy Parish to restore utilities - at the Town's expense.

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

- Downtown paving is scheduled for Monday, April 19th while Pierce School and the Common Place Eatery are both closed. The Town is awaiting information from NHDOT Project Manager Tom Jameson before making arrangements that address storm drains, catch basins, risers and shimming. Three curbs need to be reset before paving.
- Annual sweeping is schedule for April 12th; minimal attention will be paid to roads within the downtown project confines.
- Grader repairs are underway.
- In light of savings recognized when heating the garage with wood and not propane, the Selectmen authorized the Road Agent to obtain estimates for replacing the chimney.
- Beavers will be trapped from the Bible Hill Road culvert at a shared expense with a neighboring property owner.
- The Town received a \$1,500 rock crushing credit for bartering the old rescue body.
- Level III waste management certification includes three years waste management experience in addition to a High School Diploma/GED.
- The Selectmen authorized the Highway Department to work four ten-hour days from May 1st until Labor Day with the clear understanding that someone would be on call for the fifth day.

Board of Selectmen Minutes – April 7, 2010

Transfer Station applicant Wayne Maki met with the Selectmen by invitation. From 6:59 p.m. until 7:22 p.m. the Selectmen and Wayne Maki met in Nonpublic Session under RSA 91-a:III(a) to discuss an employment opportunity. Also attending the Nonpublic Session was Administrator Denise French and Road Agent Gary Russell. No decision was made.

Fire Chiefs Allan Wilson, Chester Heinzman and Joseph O'Brien met with the Selectmen and discussed the following:

- Follow-up items:
 - A key to the Chief's Office will be delivered to Town Hall shortly.
 - SOGs are almost complete.
 - Chief Wilson will communicate with Peterborough Fire Department about registration documents for the boat and trailer.
 - Chief Heinzman is waiting for a call back from Liberty International about interest they might have in the 9-1-1 jump-seats.
 - Chief O'Brien reported that estimates for fire and security quotes are forthcoming.
 - Grant application is in process for SCBAs, bottles and masks.
- The hiring process will be revamped to reflect changes as a result of the firefighters/EMTs being considered employees and no longer volunteer staff members.
- The 5 and 10 year Master Plan is in process with the draft document available in June.
- Chief O'Brien clarified that the Fire Department Association does not vote members onto the Fire Department; the vote is for membership to the Fire Department Association.
- The current roster is 17 employees, optimal staff is 26; NFPA (assuming full coverage) suggests a staff of 19.

From 7:59 p.m. until 8:40 p.m. the Selectmen and Fire Chiefs met in Nonpublic Session under RSA 91-a:III(a). Present were Selectmen Joseph Cuddemi, Philip Germain and Steven Osienski as well as Fire Chiefs Allan Wilson, Chester Heinzman and Joseph O'Brien. No decisions were made.

The Selectmen appointed Allan Wilson as Fire Chief for an undesignated term, pending review of prior Town Meeting action. Chairman Germain administered the Oath of Office.

In other matters the Selectmen acted on the following:

- Reviewed and approved the March 31, 2010 Selectmen's Minutes.
- Reviewed and approved the April 7, 2010 Accounts Payable and Payroll Registers.
- Tabled the First Quarter 2010 Expenditures for lack of time.
- Heard a report that US District Court for the District of Vermont dismissed David and Scott Veale's complaint against the Town of Bennington and Police Chief Steve Campbell.
- Heard a report that the Code Officer was confused when advising a condominium developer about Life Safety Code since at the beginning of the project the property was classified as apartments. The Life Safety Code differs when addressing apartments vs. condominiums. The matter has since been resolved.
- Finalized details for the April 14, 2010 compliance review hearing for M7/L111.
- Heard a report that the 2009 Equalization Ratio has been set at 100%.

Board of Selectmen Minutes – April 7, 2010

- Asked for additional financial information before agreeing to direct payroll deposit.
- Received notification from the Moderator of his appointments to the 2010 Budget Committee: Melissa Clark, Chris Gladding, Harvey Goodwin, Rick Reed and Deb Whitney.
- Heard a statement from Lynn Heinzman that she has not received a reply from the Selectmen or Emergency Management Director to her letter address to Christopher Pope at Homeland Security and Emergency Management. The Selectmen later agreed to a May 5th meeting date.
- Reviewed Police Statistics for the month of March and the First Quarter 2010.
- Denied a Veteran's Tax Credit for the owner of M10/L80A due to ineligible dates of service.
- Received notice, as an abutter to M11/L16, of a Site Plan Review Hearing on April 12th for an Aggregate Processing Facility.
- Approved a \$10 abatement of penalty charge for M24/L29.
- Tabled review of FST Invoice No. 9 for lack of time.
- Requested the Code Officer watch M7/L50 for signs of residency in the travel trailer and to take appropriate action if warranted.
- Endorsed Commendation Awards to Officer Chris Parsons, Antrim Officer Jason Lepine and Police Chief Steve Campbell for their expertise and assistance of a drug buy and bust operation.
- Nominated Joe MacGregor and Jon Manley to the Department of Environmental Services for appointment to the Local River Management Advisory Committee.
- Appointed the following individuals to the Recreation Committee for the indicated terms: Kiersten Streeter and James Griswold each a one year term, Aimee Bartlett a two year term, Sadie Cahoon a three year term, Shelagh Clough a one year Alternate and Norm Shepphard a two year Alternate.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Denise French
Town Administrator