

TOWN OF BENNINGTON

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes of the Meeting – February 16, 2011

Selectmen Joseph Cuddemi and Steven Osienski were present as well as Administrator Denise French. The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m.

Cub Scouts Noah Stewart, Kyle Howe, Max Vassar and Alex Warner attended the Board of Selectmen meeting to observe the meeting procedure and to ask questions about the Town's business and the community. The Selectmen gave each Scout a packet of information which included the evening's Agenda, Minutes of their last meeting, Accounts Payable Register and a Building Permit.

Peter Martel met with the Selectmen to discuss the following:

- Accepted Peter's offer to install a programmable thermostat in the upstairs meeting hall and to repair the front door and entry.
- Deferred approval for Robotics to use the small upstairs room until Selectman Germain is present.
- In view of Mr. Martel's late submission of a petitioned Warrant Article which would change the manner in which the ZBA is seated, at Peter's request, the Board agreed not to include the Non-Binding Referendum question regarding this subject matter.
- Heard a report that Town Meeting day (March 8th) will be the kick-off for the Energy Challenge.
- The Selectmen reported they have no intention of changing the membership of the ZBA when it comes to the 2011 annual appointments.

Fire Chiefs Chet Heinzman and Joseph O'Brien met with the Selectmen to discuss the following:

- As a compromise to the Board's February 9th decision not to pay for purchase of a single-brew coffeemaker, K-cups, cups, lids and half & half, the Selectmen voted a one-time payment for these non-refundable items with the clear understanding that the Town does not pay for routine employee refreshments and will not pay for their replacement in the future.
- The Fire Department requested, and the Selectmen agreed that the newly reconstructed Town website will include a new site for the Fire Department; email addresses for each Fire Department employee will be established.

Water/Sewer Commissioners Glenn Wilson and John Spanos met with the Selectmen to discuss the following:

- Documentation needed from the Administrative Offices. It was agreed that the Commissioners would be provided with copies of the Rymes and PSNH invoices.
- The heater in the water pump house is failing. Commissioner Wilson will develop specifications for the unit's replacement; at least two quotes for installation of a replacement heater will be provided to the Selectmen.
- The Administrator will discuss the status of the sheered hydrant near the Historical Society with the Road Agent; the hydrant was damaged during sidewalk clearing operations.
- A structural engineer should look at the water pump house to determine if the structure is sound.

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In other matters the Selectmen took the following action:

- Reviewed and approved the February 9, 2011 Selectmen's Minutes.
- Reviewed the January 4, 2011 Fire Department Minutes.
- Reviewed and approved the February 16, 2011 Accounts Payable and Payroll Registers.
- Voted not to include a Non-Binding Referendum question relative to voter input on returning to a Town Meeting format to conduct the Town's annual business in lieu of the SB2 arrangements. The Board's decision was based on a similar 2006 question put before the voters where the results were 208 voters expressing their desire to retain SB2 ballot voting and 69 voters wishing to return to the traditional Town Meeting format.
- Voted to purchase a used three-yard bucket for \$1,500 to enhance snow removal.
- Tabled the following matters until the full Board is present: TEP2 Municipal Agreement, Antrim/Bennington bridge design, Dubois & King anniversary promotion, review of the Tri-Town Landfill 2010 Post-Closure Report and an employee's unused vacation allotment.
- Selectman Osienski volunteered to donate his used laptop computer to the Town for use in the Conference Room; a printer will be sought.
- Agreed to donate the VFW's indoor grill to the Newhall Park Board since the grill originally was owned by William Newhall. The Newhall Park Board has made it clear that the grill will be available for use by any Town Department/Committee.
- Heard a report that the Department of Revenue Administration has determined the overall equalization assessment-sales ratio for the land, buildings and manufactured housing in Bennington for Tax Year 2010 to be 107.6%.
- Heard a report that the 2010 audit confirmed a net surplus of \$252,799 at December 31, 2010.
- Asked the Administrator to follow-up with an interested developer who was researching Route 202 property for a commercial entity.
- Received notification from the Southwest Region Planning Commission that the NH Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management has targeted grant funds for use in updating Bennington's 2007 Hazard Mitigation Plan later this year.
- Reviewed January 2011 Police Statistics.
- Reviewed, approved and signed the following: two Employee Time-Off Request forms and Building Permits for M2/L3-P, M2/L3-G and M10/L27.

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Denise French
Town Administrator