

TOWN OF BENNINGTON

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes of the Meeting – March 9, 2011

Selectmen Philip Germain and Joseph Cuddemi were present as well as Administrator Denise French. The meeting was called to order at 5:40 p.m.

From 5:50 p.m. until 6:33 p.m. the Selectmen and the Police Chief met in Nonpublic Session under RSA 91-A:3II(a) to discuss a police personnel matter. The Chief was encouraged to continue dialog with Town Counsel. No other decisions were made.

From 7:40 p.m. until 8:06 p.m. the Selectmen met in Nonpublic Session under RSA 91-A:3II(a) to discuss a personnel matter. No decisions were made.

In other matters the Selectmen took the following action:

- Tabled review of the February 23, 2011 and February 27, 2011 Minutes until Selectman Osienski is present.
- Reviewed and approved the March 2, 2011 and March 9, 2011 Accounts Payable and Payroll Registers.
- Suggested to Peter Martel that the Robotics league use the stage for their program.
- Requested the Administrator get a longevity time-table from NHDOT for the TEP2 Municipal Grant since voters denied funding the Sidewalk Capital Reserve Fund.
- Selectman Germain volunteered to speak with principles of Quantum Construction regarding the Town's consideration of employing their firm for rehabilitation of the Antrim/Bennington bridge.
- Were satisfied with the results of the Tri-Town Landfill 2010 Post-Closure Report.
- Confirmed the Board's decision to buy back 31.25 hours of Kristie LaPlante's unused 2010 vacation allotment with the understanding that the 2011 vacation allotment is effective March 1, 2011 through January 31, 2012.
- Authorized the buyback of 40 hours of Steve Campbell's unused 2010 vacation allotment as of March 31, 2011.
- Heard a report that Code Officer Peter Hopkins has sent notice to Joshi Hospitality LLC that as of March 7, 2011 the Town considers the renovation project permitted by Building Permit #07-06 abandoned; further renovation activities will require a new Building Permit.
- Tabled discussion on the generator/propane tank placements until Road Agent Gary Russell is present.
- Reviewed Donald Cashion's letter with attachments in which he again implores the Water/Sewer Commissioners and the Board of Selectmen to overturn the Commissioner's decision to discontinue Mr. Cashion's auxiliary water meter that records water usage through the outside water spigot and does not get treated by the Sewer system. The Selectmen will encourage the Water/Sewer Commissioners to reconsider their stance.

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- 2011 Town Meeting results are as follows:
 - Article 2 which would have changed the use of the Sewer Capital Reserve Fund, and required a 2/3 vote, was defeated by three votes. The Article was also defeated in 2010. The Selectmen voted to request a recount of Article 2.
 - Article 4 which requested \$63,000 to purchase the former Plants Alive property for future Town expansion was defeated by sixty-three votes.
 - Article 11 which requested \$4,000 to purchase Tasers was defeated by thirty-three votes.
 - Article 14 which requested \$15,000 to be added to the Sidewalk Capital Reserve Fund was defeated by forty-nine votes. The Fund balance is \$65,414; an additional \$54,000 is needed for the Town's 20% match to receive the \$596,000 Grant Award.
 - Article 15 which requested \$10,000 to be added to the Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund was defeated by forty-seven votes. The Fund balance is \$7,832; an additional \$40,000 will be needed prior to the State mandated 2014 revaluation of all Town property.
 - Notables: the Operating Budget passed by twenty-eight votes. Funding the Police Cruiser Capital Reserve Fund passed by three votes.
- The Board voted the following 2011 appointments:
 - Capital Reserve Funding Committee – one year each: Philip Germain, Steven Osienski, Joseph Cuddemi, Joseph MacGregor, Robyn Manley, and Harvey Goodwin.
 - Conservation Commission – three years each: Joseph MacGregor and Jon Manley.
 - Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee – one year each: Steve Campbell, Kristie LaPlante, Joseph MacGregor, Richard Reed, Michael Roina and Gary Russell.
 - Newhall Park Board – with recommendations from Trustee Scott Liljeberg: David Parker – three year term; Brian Whitemore – an Alternate for one year.
 - Solid Waste Committee – one year each: Joseph Cuddemi, Wayne Maki and Gary Russell.
 - Zoning Board of Adjustment – three years each: Sam Cohen and Barbara Moorehead, Melissa Clark – Alternate.
- Appointments tabled until the full Board is in session:
 - Board of Selectmen Chair
 - Planning Board Ex-officio
 - Fire Chief
- In preparation of Senator Andy Sanborn's March 16th visit the Selectmen asked that the projected shifts in the State Budget which could impact the community be summarized.
- Heard a report that USPS Officials will be formally closing out the "Independent Post Office" which occupied the building at 7 Main Street. This action relates to the 1990 closure of the original Post Office and should have been done twenty years ago. Postal Officials were very clear that this action is not at all related to the Community Post Office at the Bennington Country Store.
- Reviewed were the February Police Statistics and the 2010/2011 Ski Season Report as prepared by Chief Campbell.

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- The Selectmen voted to inform the Fire Chiefs that the Chiefs are responsible for determining operational needs and related purchasing. For first time purchases of questionable items it is the Selectmen's suggestion that the Chiefs discuss the proposed purchase with the Board prior to the purchase. This should eliminate the situation created when the Fire Department purchased the single-serve coffeemaker and associated refreshments from the Operating Budget. Also discussed was the need to remind the Fire Chiefs of the absolute need to deliver invoices to Town Hall promptly for timely payments.
- Denied use of the Fire Station for a non-Fire Department fundraiser.
- Tabled a requested alcohol waiver until the full Board is present.
- Selectmen Cuddemi and Germain executed the Highway Safety Project Application for the acquisition of Police Department grants.
- Executed a Gravel Tax Levy for M3/L1.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Denise French
Town Administrator