

TOWN OF BENNINGTON

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes of the Meeting – March 16, 2011

Selectmen Philip Germain, Steven Osienski and Joseph Cuddemi were present as well as Administrator Denise French.

Senator Andy Sanborn met with the Selectmen to discuss financial concerns related to the impending July 1, 2011 State Budget.

Fire & Iron Motorcycle Club members Marc Mosher, Charles Rich, Bob Areias, Butch Perry and Michael Reed met with the Selectmen to discuss their interests in establishing Bennington as their home to carry out their group's charity fundraising events. The Selectmen agreed that the VFW was a suitable location for the non-profit organization's meetings.

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

- The planned trailer transport of a generator and associated propane tank will not meet Hazmat standards. Gary will research tank placement options.
- The aged water heater at Town Hall is leaking. Gary will research alternate hot water tank options.
- John Burroughs Trucking loaned the Town their fourteen foot wing at no cost for widening the Town's roads in one-half the usual amount of time.
- 3,550 lbs of aluminum cans were recycled last month at \$.70 per pound resulting in revenue of \$2,485.
- County inmate workers will begin winter cleanup next week.

David and Scott Veale met with the Selectmen to discuss their tax arrearage. From 7:59 p.m. until 8:15 p.m. the Selectmen, David Veale, Scott Veale and Administrator French met in Nonpublic Session under RSA 91-A:3II(c) to discuss the 2010 Application for Hardship Abatement. The Selectmen voted to abate the unpaid 2007 tax balance of \$1,192.82. The Selectmen and David and Scott Veale agreed to enter into a Forbearance Agreement for the payment of 2008 taxes over a twelve month period. The Veale brothers agreed to withdraw their 2010 Abatement Application. No other decisions were made.

The Selectmen acted on the following matters:

- Selectmen Cuddemi and Osienski reviewed and approved the February 23, 2011 and February 27, 2011 Minutes.
- Selectmen Cuddemi and Germain reviewed and approved the March 9, 2011 Minutes.
- The Board reviewed and approved the March 11, 2011 and March 12, 2011 Minutes.
- Reviewed the March 1, 2011 Fire Department Minutes.
- Reviewed and approved the March 16, 2011 Accounts Payable and Payroll Registers.
- Reviewed Budgeted Expenditures for the period January 1 through March 9, 2011.

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- Received a recommendation from NHDOT that the Town request that TEP2 be put on hold until the March 2012 Town Meeting for lack of funding. If the voters deny funding at that time the State will initiate the process to de-obligate the funds for TE Bennington Project #16008 which would mean the loss of the \$596,000 Grant.
- Tabled discussion on the Antrim/Bennington bridge until Chairman Germain has an opportunity to speak with Quantum Construction.
- Selectmen Cuddemi and Osienski voted to grant an alcohol waiver to the Sportsmen Club for their May 21 Game Supper. Selectman Germain voted against the alcohol waiver.
- Heard a report that the Water/Sewer Commissioners voted to reinstate the sewer abatement for Donald Cashion due to its grandfathered status.
- Heard a report that the recently known issue regarding formatting of the Town's website is still being worked on. The Selectmen voted to authorize the Fire Department to create their own website so long as it links to townofbennington.com.
- In response to an inquiry from the Town Clerk, the Board scheduled a March 23rd date for the Recount of Warrant Article 2.
- Selectman Philip Germain was re-appointed Chair of the Board of Selectmen as well as the Planning Board Ex-officio member.
- Appointment of the Fire Chief was tabled until March 23rd.
- Voted to expend \$928.67 to replace the old Town Hall Dialer and two smoke detectors that are out of date with the NFPA Code.
- In keeping with their verbal commitment to the owner of 172 State Route 202, the Board voted to abate 2010 taxes in the amount of \$1,141.30 for the three months (January through March 2011) that the property was reserved for the Town awaiting vote on Warrant Article 4.
- Agreed that mandatory NIMSCAST Training is a payroll related item and the Fire Department membership will be paid for this mandatory training.
- Signed were two Employee Time-Off Request forms, a Speed Control Grant Application and a Demolition Permit for M7/L91.

From 9:26 p.m. until 9:40 p.m. the Selectmen met in Nonpublic Session under RSA 91-A:3II(a). The Selectmen unanimously voted to seal the Minutes.

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Denise French
Town Administrator