

TOWN OF BENNINGTON

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes of the Meeting – April 20, 2011

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

The Selectmen and Deputy Administrator Kristie LaPlante discussed the Town's website status via conference call. The Selectmen instructed Kristie to explore other website options since it became obvious on April 15<sup>th</sup> that the long-awaited newly constructed website does not meet the Town's initial expectations and the maintenance is extremely cumbersome. The Board expressed their continued frustrations regarding their March 17, 2010 decision to reconstruct the Town's website with a different vendor.

From 6:25 p.m. until 6:50 p.m. Selectmen Germain, Osienski and Cuddemi, along with Administrator French and David D. Desaulniers met in Nonpublic Session under RSA 91-A:311(c) to discuss Impending Tax Deeds for M22/L11C and M22/L11D. The Selectmen voted to abate \$775.77 in interest for M22/L11C. The remaining balance of \$4,000 for tax, interest and penalties was paid at this time. Mr. Desaulniers was given a Forbearance Of Tax Collector's Deed application to consider filing before the June 6, 2011 deed date for M22/L11D.

Forest Fire Warden Michael Roina met with the Selectmen to discuss the Board's recommendation for placement of a "Smokey the Bear" fire danger warning sign. The Selectmen, Administrator and Fire Warden all helped maneuver the sign at different locations at the Fire Station. It was agreed by all that the sign would be positioned on the Cross Street side of the Triangle. The installation will not be encased in concrete which will allow the sign to be readily moved if necessary.

Warden Roina informed the Board that due to State budget cuts the Division of Forests and Lands has requested assistance from local Wardens in helping to monitor active timber sales, slash law violations, and potential fire situations. As requested, the Board of Selectmen/Administrator will forward copies of approved Intent to Cut applications to Michael Roina to aid the Division of Forests and Lands.

In other matters the Selectmen took the following action:

- Reviewed and approved the April 13, 2011 Selectmen's Minutes.
- Reviewed and approved the April 20, 2011 Accounts Payable Registers (2) and Payroll Registers (2).
- Tabled approval of the Joint Loss Management Policy pending receipt of the referenced Forms.
- Unanimously voted not to change the term of the Fire Chief's 2011 one-year appointment due to the minimal responses received in response to the Selectmen's request for information from the Fire Department membership that would substantiate the Chief's request for a longer term of appointment.
- Voted to invite the Town Clerk to their May 11<sup>th</sup> Board meeting to discuss the Auditor's internal control recommendation.

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- Confirmed the Board's intent to begin their spring town-wide tour April 23<sup>rd</sup> with a continuation date of April 30<sup>th</sup>.
- Accepted with regret Salvatore Landi's resignation from the Fire Department.
- Discussed the intended seasonal use of two travel trailers on M7/L50. The matter will be referred to the Code Officer.
- Reviewed an "Escape From 2011" Proposal for an August all day/night festival at Crotched Mountain Ski & Ride. After comparing the Proposal to the Planning Board's 2008 Notice of Decision to extend the use of Crotched Mountain facilities during the off ski season, the Selectmen voted to forward the matter to the Planning Board since the Proposal appears to exceed the permitted time the Lodge is open, the capacity of the building, and includes outside camping which is not permitted.
- Chairman Germain signed the required Close Out Documents for the Transportation Enhancement Project, as presented by David McNamara from Fay, Spofford & Thorndike.
- On behalf of the Board, Chairman Germain signed a Proposal for Additional Professional Engineering Services for the Bible Hill Road Culvert & Drainage Hazard Mitigation Grant, as submitted by Quantum Construction Consultants, LLC.
- The Board signed an Intent to Cut for M18/L2.
- Selectman Germain reported his upcoming absences for April 27<sup>th</sup> and May 4<sup>th</sup>.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Denise French  
Town Administrator