

TOWN OF BENNINGTON

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes of the Meeting – May 25, 2011

Selectmen Philip Germain and Joseph Cuddemi were present as well as Administrator Denise French. The meeting was called to order at 5:35 p.m. Also attending the meeting was Peter Martel.

From 6:12 p.m. until 6:17 p.m. Selectmen Germain and Cuddemi, along with Administrator French and James Griswold, III met in Nonpublic Session under RSA 91-A:3II(c) to discuss a 2010 Impending Tax Lien for M10/L28. The Selectmen voted to abate \$120.07 in interest for this specific property. Prior to his departure Mr. Griswold paid the unpaid balance of \$2,193.33 for tax and penalties.

Cemetery Trustee Shelagh Clough met with the Selectmen and discussed the following:

- Rumored allegations that lead to Mrs. Clough's inquiry about the reason for the responsibility for repair of the Sunnyside Cemetery pillar being taken from the Cemetery Trustees and delegated to a Town department. The Selectmen assured Mrs. Clough the Selectmen did not take away the Trustees' responsibility.
- The Sunnyside Cemetery pillar has been repaired.
- Requested that the revised Cemetery Rules & Regulations be delivered to Town Hall since they are a public document. Mrs. Clough will check to see if Selectmen signatures are still required; she will also check to see if an Addendum page has been included which advertises the prices of the cemetery lots.
- LGC's legal opinion regarding the Georgietta Bryer deed to the Town for exclusive use as a cemetery was delivered to Cemetery Trustee Clough.

Water/Sewer Commissioners Glenn Wilson, Salvatore Landi and John Spanos met with the Selectmen and discussed the following:

- Mutually agreed to request one more additional bid from the three contractors – this time for a 100,000 BTU replacement furnace with fresh air in-take.
- Mutually agreed that the cement floor at the water pump house should be removed, existing underground pipes under the old cement floor replaced and a new cement floor be poured. This work is in response to the pump house settlement issue and the fact that the building is 3" out of plumb. The Commissioners will develop a Scope of Work and obtain estimates for the work, which is slated to take approximately six weeks.
- Tabled action on a water abatement for M7/L111 until after the June 25th public auction when proceeds from the sale will be known.
- Jointly signed a letter of appreciation to Dave Beck for his time in meeting with Water Department Officials and his resulting draft Bennington Pump House Settlement report which saved the community tax dollars.

Police Chief Steve Campbell met with the Selectmen and discussed the following:

- The background review of the full-time candidate is progressing well.

Board of Selectmen Minutes – May 25, 2011

- Reported on a meeting with Senator Andy Sanborn earlier in the day when the area Chiefs heard a report that the Henniker District Court is being considered for closure with cases being transferred to the Concord District Court. Chief Campbell reported to the Senator that Bennington's first choice would be a court in Hillsborough, followed by his second choice that Bennington Police cases be processed out of the Peterborough-Jaffrey court, and the third choice would be keeping the court in Henniker. Chief Campbell is opposed to Bennington Police being mandated to the Concord Court due to staffing and travel issues. The Chief will write a letter to this affect to Judge Kelly.

In other matters the Selectmen took the following action:

- Reviewed and approved the May 18, 2011 Selectmen's Minutes.
- Reviewed and approved the May 25, 2011 Accounts Payable and Payroll Registers.
- Heard a report that the propane stove at the VFW had been removed in error. As previously requested, permission was granted to the VFW to replace the propane stove with a new model.
- Authorized the replacement of the aged Town Hall hot water tank at a cost of \$575.
- Discussed their May 22nd site visit to town-owned property at M17/L29. The Highway Department will be asked to coordinate removal of tires, appliances, small outbuildings, etc. Once these big items are removed the Board will revisit the site.
- Reviewed three auction proposals for town-owned property at 186 State Route 202. The Board voted to engage the services of St. Jean Auctioneers for a June 25th auction of the property. The former owner has until June 5th to remove their personal property.
- Heard a report that payroll Direct Deposit will begin June 30th. Associated notices have been sent to all employees regarding deadlines for submitting payroll; an additional letter will be sent regarding the necessity to include time-in and time-out on all payroll card submissions.
- Received notice from the Planning Board of their May 9th adoption of an Interim Regulation Policy for Existing Mining and Excavation Permit Holders.
- Heard a report from ZBA Chair Peter Martel that the Joshi Hospitality Group, LLC's initial application was incomplete; a new application has been requested from Leigh Bosse, their designated representative.
- Reviewed and approved the following documents: Elderly & Disabled Tax Deferral for M24/L23, an Intent to Cut for M24/L29, signature cards for People's United Bank and appreciation letters to Robyn Manley and the Bennington Historical Society.

The meeting adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Denise French
Town Administrator