

TOWN OF BENNINGTON

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes of the Meeting – July 18, 2011

Selectmen Philip Germain and Joseph Cuddemi were present when the meeting was called to order at 5:43 p.m. as well as Administrator Denise French. Selectman Steven Osienski arrived later in the meeting due to a communication misfortune.

Police Chief Steve Campbell met with the Selectmen to continue discussion on the full-time officer vacancy. A motion was made, seconded and voted to appoint part-time police officer John Giffin a full-time officer, effective August 1, 2011. Officer Giffin is scheduled to attend the Police Academy beginning August 29th.

Joseph O'Brien met with the Selectmen to deliver a requested Quote from Mammoth Fire Alarms for fire/burglar/security system equipment for installation at Town Hall as a test site for their new product. The installed systems are estimated to cost a total of \$8,000. The Administrator was charged with reviewing the Town's financial affairs to determine the feasibility of undertaking this project. The Selectmen thanked Mr. O'Brien for pursuing this opportunity on behalf of the Town of Bennington.

Code Officer Peter Hopkins met with the Selectmen to discuss the unresolved permit issues for M3/L14. The Selectmen agreed with Mr. Hopkins that he send a letter to the Mountain Road property owner which addresses the required removal of abandoned and dilapidated buildings.

In other matters the Selectmen took the following action:

- Reviewed and approved the Board of Selectmen's June 29, 2011 Minutes.
- Reviewed the following Board/Committee meeting Minutes: Hazard Mitigation Committee-June 30th, Zoning Board of Adjustment-June 27th, July 11th and July 12th Notice of Decision, Planning Board-July 11th, Cemetery Trustees-June 14th and July 12th, Energy Committee-June 6th and July 6th and Fire Department-June 7th.
- Reviewed and approved the Accounts Payable Registers for June 30th, July 6th and July 13, 2011.
- Reviewed and approved the Payroll Registers for July 6th and July 13, 2011.
- Tabled review of June and the period January 1 through June 30 Expenditure Report.
- Discussed the Administrator's frustration with not being allowed to address the Zoning Board of Adjustment about inaccurate information stated in the ZBA's June 22nd Minutes. Because the Administrator was not in attendance at the meeting when the erroneous information was put forth it was captured in the Minutes as being true.
- Instructed the Administrator to send Peter Martel a follow-up letter about the immediate need to clean and organize the Town Hall gymnasium prior to the planned building inspection by the Joint Loss Management Committee and the Town's insurance agencies.
- Asked that an inquiry be made to the website volunteers to determine any interest they may have in authoring a new Town website.
- Received from Town Counsel a *Motion for Voluntary Non-Suit* in the matter of Town of Bennington v. James Champagne and Scott Champagne. Since the Town now owns the property and is in the process of selling M7/L111 this will effectively end the Town's lawsuit to bring the property into compliance with the Zoning Ordinance and State laws.

Board of Selectmen Minutes – July 18, 2011

- Reviewed Police Statistics for June and the Second Quarter 2011.
- Instructed the Administrator to communicate with the Cemetery Trustees the need for the Selectmen to receive Thomas Belcher's written resignation; that the Trustees' appointment of a Cemetery Trustee is in error since RSA 289:6 authorizes the Board of Selectmen to fill any Cemetery Trustee vacancy. The Cemetery Trustees will also be asked to put forth a candidate for the Selectmen to consider when making their appointment.
- Received a complaint about the Town's fire truck being used to fill a private swimming pool. The Board agreed that it is not proper for any town equipment to be used for personal gain.
- Approved a request for parking at the VFW parking lot for a private event the weekend of August 13th and 14th.
- Received from Quantum Construction their Proposal for Phase II Engineering Study for the Antrim/Bennington Bridge (#184/071) as was presented to NHDOT for review and comment.
- Reviewed, approved and signed the following documents:
 - Land Use Change Tax for M17/L35-1 – previously approved; page two signatures were overlooked
 - Intent to Cut for combined lots M13/L3 and M19/L21
 - A \$40 abatement of inventory penalty for M2/L3D
 - A Veteran's Tax Credit for M23/L6 – an administrative error created the delay in timely approval
 - Building Permit for M9/L25

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Denise French
Town Administrator