

TOWN OF BENNINGTON

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes of the Meeting – August 17, 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.

Joint Loss Management Committee Chair Steve Campbell reminded the Board about the August 24th Facilities Review and the need for the Town Hall gymnasium to be neat and organized by the Lego group. Selectman Osienski volunteered to take responsibility for making sure the gymnasium is cleaned by August 22nd.

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

- Bible Hill Road drainage project:
 - The project cannot be finished due to pending Grant Application approval which, if awarded, will impact drainage at the North Bennington Road section of Bible Hill Road.
 - The active drainage project is within 200' of completion with cleanup of the site to follow.
 - Due to the Town's delay in not completing the Bible Hill Road drainage project (caused by FEMA's delay in approving the Grant application) the Selectmen unanimously voted a one-year extension of time for Scott Liljeberg to construct driveway aprons for Map 17, Lots 22-1 and 22-2 (shared driveway) and Map 17, Lot 22-3.
- Productivity of Highway Department personnel has been reduced approximately 25% due to the lack of equipment when loading/unloading materials at the job site, i.e. only one loader-backhoe which is needed at the place of loading and when material is delivered. The matter will be revisited during preparation of the 2012 Budget.
- Shimming is planned for portions of Bible Hill Road and North Bennington Road to the Transfer Station.
- Crushing is scheduled for early September.
- Mike Roina recently completed a two-day grader operations training class.
- Transfer Station operations:
 - Reviewed a proposal from Waste Management for renting a compactor. Gary will explore alternative considerations.
 - Ongoing instances of mixed items being disposed of in the brush pile.
 - Old previously discarded concrete is being used in the ditch alongside the Tri-Town pit road.
 - Tentatively scheduled a September 14th meeting with Antrim and Frankestown to discuss Tri-Town Landfill District considerations.

Cemetery Trustees' Chair Jill Young met with the Selectmen by invitation to discuss the following:

- A letter of resignation was delivered to the Selectmen from Trustee Thomas Belcher.
- Upon recommendation from the Cemetery Trustees the Board unanimously voted to appoint Karen Bartlett to fill the vacancy until March 2013.

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- Rules & Regulations document:
 - The Trustees agreed to include a joint signature page for Cemetery Trustees and Board of Selectmen to sign their approval.
 - The Trustees declined changing their existing policy where refunds of unused cemetery plots will only occur after the Town sells the lot being given up.
 - The Trustees agreed to include financial detail that shows the purchaser how much of their money is earmarked for perpetual care and for the cost of the purchase of the lot.
 - The Trustees agreed to work with the Charitable Trust Unit of the Attorney General's Office to have the Georgietta Bryer bequest modified so that the property can be used for some other purpose due to the unsuitable physical characteristics for a cemetery.
- Discussed available kitchen facilities at the VFW for providing meals to the County correctional workers. The Administrator will follow-up on the status of a replacement stove.
- Heard a report that the current mowing contractor has indicated his willingness to continue providing services next year without an increase in price.
- Heard a report that the Trustees have executed a payment plan for the purchase of a cemetery lot; also the Trustees are working towards repair of a Sunnyside Cemetery plot.

Assistant Fire Chief Chester Heinzman and Lieutenant Michel Roina met with the Board to discuss the following:

- Upon a recommendation from Forest Fire Warden Mike Roina, the Selectmen unanimously voted to appoint Matthew Hall a Deputy Forest Fire Warden.
- Jump seats are still at Liberty International. Firefighter Roina will be researching alternative actions that could help sell the unused fire truck seats.
- The Fire Department is awaiting price information for the purchase of SCBA equipment through the recently awarded Grant.
- Informally discussed the concept of finding a volunteer to process administrative paperwork for the Fire Department.
- Reminded the Officers of the absolute need to receive Fire Department payroll information no later than the 5th day of each month.
- Heard a report that the Department is considering contacting Marine Patrol for training with the Fire Department's boat.
- Welcomed Michael Poitras as the newest member of the Fire Department.

In other matters the Selectmen took the following action:

- Reviewed and approved the July 27, 2011 Selectmen's Minutes.
- Reviewed copies of the July 25, 2011 Planning Board Minutes and the July 27, 2011 ZBA Minutes.
- Reviewed and approved Accounts Payable Registers for August 4, 10 and 17, 2011.
- Reviewed and approved Payroll Registers for July 28, August 2, 9 and 16, 2011.
- Asked the Administrator to communicate with the Road Agent to see if Peter Cordatos's reminder to fill in a hole and block a pipe relates to prior work undertaken by the Highway Department.

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- Received information from the Historical Society that former railroad depots were traditionally painted brown if the buildings were not constructed of stone or brick. Old photos of the Bennington Railroad Station distinctly show two-tone (brown) colors. Based on history, the Board agreed that the building's colors should remain the same. Selectman Cuddemi volunteered to get bids for scraping and prepping the VFW and another for painting a primer coat. Volunteers have offered to paint the building.
- Due to liability concerns, voted not to permit golf balls to be hit on/from Town property.
- Heard a report from ZBA member Steve Osienski that the ZBA unanimously voted on August 15th to grant a Rehearing to the Joshi Hospitality Group, LLC.
- Agreed to forward a donation request from the Contoocook and North Branch Rivers Local Advisory Committee to the Conservation Commission. The CNBRLAC is seeking contributions to purchase a second set of meters at a cost of \$2,500.
- Agreed to ask the Road Agent to post Mountain Road at 25 MPH and to also install Slow Children Signage.
- Agreed not to meet August 24th and September 7th. The Board will be in session August 31st.
- Accepted Tax Deeds for M9/L10, M12/L3 and M22/L11D and affixed their signatures to same.
- Signed Oaths of Office for the following ZBA members: Melissa Clark, Sam Cohen and Barbara Moorehead; the appointments were made March 9, 2011.

From 8:55 p.m. until 9:34 p.m. the Selectmen met in Nonpublic Session under RSA 91-A:3II(d). Present were Selectmen Germain, Osienski and Cuddemi as well as Administrator French. No decision was made other than to invite the seller to a future Board meeting to discuss their position.

The meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Denise French
Town Administrator