

TOWN OF BENNINGTON

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes of the Meeting – September 28, 2011

Selectmen Philip Germain and Steven Osienski were present as well as Administrator Denise French. The meeting was called to order at 5:45 p.m.

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

- Approval was granted to purchase a 2011 replacement Crown Vic cruiser from Hillsboro Ford at a cost of \$23,491 which includes an extended warranty. In lieu of insurance reimbursement in hand the Selectmen agreed to write a “promise to pay” letter to Hillsboro Ford to expedite the purchase.
- Anticipated proceeds for the unused portion of the 2010 extended warranty will be applied against the new cruiser purchase.
- Snow tires will be purchased for both the Expedition and the new Crown Vic.
- The concept of adding security cameras at the Town Hall, Highway Department and the Transfer Station.

Joseph O’Brien met with the Selectmen and discussed the following:

- Progress of his installation of the fire/burglar/security system at Town Hall which includes challenges presented by two exterior doors.
- The concept of adding security cameras at the Town Hall, Highway Department and the Transfer Station. Joe will provide an estimate of cable cost for consideration at the next Board meeting. No decision was made.
- Estimates for the purchase of security and card access systems for the Fire Department and Highway Department. No decision was made.

The following residents met with the Selectmen to discuss their concerns regarding Gillis Hill Road conditions – Barry and Susan White, Doug Davie, Todd Wheeler, Joshua Boucher, David and Gina Nelson, Janice McKenzie, Adam Wolotschaj, Peter Eppig, Ed Pelletier and Fremont Gagnon. Topics of discussion as well as specific questions posed included:

- Q: Who makes the decision of which roadways are prioritized for work? A: The Board of Selectmen in conjunction with Road Agent Gary Russell.
- Q: Why has the road continually been raised? A: In the past three years material has only been added to the road once; the pitch of the road has increased.
- Q: What is the required standard width for Bennington roads? A: For existing roads there is no required standard; road widths vary.
- Q: How is the road width measured? A: From the center of the road out towards the abutting shoulder/stonewall/property line, etc.
- Q: What would the evacuation route be for approximately 110 homes if Gillis Hill Road became unpassable and folks were unable to use North Bennington Road or Bible Hill Road by the river? A: For any weather event, Town staff and Emergency Management Officials have prioritized Gillis Hill Road travel conditions.

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- It is the landowner's responsibility to install and maintain culverts.
- By prescription, if a waterway exists then the Town has a water easement.
- Informally discussed the concept of partially paving key erosion areas.

In other matters the Selectmen took the following action:

- Tabled approval of the September 21, 2011 Selectmen's Minutes until the full Board is present.
- Reviewed the September 19, 2011 Zoning Board of Adjustment Minutes.
- Reviewed and approved the September 28, 2011 Accounts Payable Register and the September 27, 2011 Payroll Register.
- Confirmed the Selectmen's June 16, 2010 decision to bar a resident from using the Transfer Station due to nonpayment of an April 21, 2010 invoice.
- Agreed to post a notice at the Transfer Station letting the public know that staff is willing and able to assist them upon their request for help.
- Heard a report that installation of the donated propane cook stove at the VFW is more involved than anticipated. The propane feed line under the crawl space had to be replaced and the nearby electrical outlet for the stove needs to be lowered.
- Voted to open a business checking account at Laconia Savings Bank for the sole purpose of depositing revenues locally which will then be transferred to Peoples' United Bank. The move will save the Town wages and travel expenses while only costing \$.08 per transfer.
- Reaffirmed the Board's long-standing position that they do not want the Town to own a credit card.
- Voted to use the dollar amount from the Right to Repurchase Tax Map 9, Lot 10 as the minimum bid in the Notice of Offering for Sale or Conveyance to the former owners of 3 Pierce Hill Road.
- Received notice that under the new law RSA 674:39-aa that affects involuntary merged lots, the owner of Map 7, Lot 109 has restored the property to include the three original tracts of land that comprise Map 7, Lot 109.
- Confirmed that funding is not available to spray for mosquitoes. A resident recently asked that Newhall Field be protected from mosquitoes.
- Voted to schedule a two-hour driver training program entitled *Emergency Vehicle Liability: Police, Fire and EMS* for employees of the Fire and Police Departments. The program is sponsored by the Town's insurance firm, NH Local Government Center.
- Tabled approval of the revised Welfare Guidelines to enable the Board to review them.
- Tabled action on the Highway Safety Grant application until the full Board is in session.
- Signed an Employee Time-Off Request form.

The meeting adjourned at 9:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Denise French
Town Administrator