

TOWN OF BENNINGTON

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes of the Meeting – October 5, 2011

Selectmen Philip Germain, Steven Osienski and Joseph Cuddemi were present as well as Administrator Denise French. The meeting was called to order at 5:41 p.m.

From 5:45 p.m. until 6:15 p.m. the Selectmen met in Nonpublic Session under RSA 91-A:3II(a) for the purpose of conducting the annual performance review of the Deputy Town Administrator/Tax Collector. Present were Selectmen Germain, Osienski and Cuddemi as well as Kristie LaPlante. No decisions were made.

In other matters, Kristie discussed the following with the Selectmen:

- The newly created Town and Police Department websites are majority complete. Volunteers Ethan Aho and Margot Horn have initiated the domain transfer requests with Soluture but that process is moving slowly. The domain transfers should be complete and the new websites should go live by the end of October.
- In her capacity of Assistant Emergency Management Director, Kristie briefed the Board on the closeout of the generator grant. September 26th the Town received notice from NH Homeland and Security Management that the FEMA Environmental and Historical Preservation Review was not completed prior to the installation of the generator at Town Hall. This was the Town's first notice of the requirement and now puts the Town at risk for losing the \$16,260 matching grant. Bennington's Local Field Representative Jack Moorhouse is following through on submitting the documentation to FEMA.

Onset Road resident Sara Dunn met with the Selectmen to discuss Class VI Onset Road conditions and the expensive maintenance cost they have privately paid to keep the bottom section of the road passable. The Road Agent also participated in the conversation which eventually led to the Board of Selectmen agreeing to hold a Public Hearing to consider posting the Class VI portion of Onset Road for one-way travel. Upon receiving procedural information, the Public Hearing was tentatively scheduled for October 19th at 7:00 p.m.

In other matters the Road Agent discussed the following with the Selectmen:

- A Class VI Mountain Road property owner has inquired about upgrading a portion of the road which directly abuts their property to Class V with the idea of the Town eventually taking over the maintenance of this section.
- The Solid Waste Committee is looking into the concept of renting a receptacle (similar to the e-waste trailer) for the future storage of tires until they are removed from the property. The Road Agent asked that the arrangements be finalized by mid-November when he clears out the salt barn of the existing accumulated tires.
- Security cameras at the Highway Department/Transfer Station Facility. Later in the meeting the Selectmen voted to purchase a camera system for the joint facilities. The installation date will depend on the cost for labor (2011 or 2012).

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From 7:50 p.m. until 8:08 p.m. the Selectmen met in Nonpublic Session under RSA 91-A:3II(a) for the purpose of conducting the annual performance review of the Town Administrator. Present were Selectmen Germain, Osienski and Cuddemi as well as Denise French. No decisions were made.

Peter Martel met with the Selectmen to discuss the following:

- In his capacity as acting Chairperson of the Library Building Committee he inquired about the Town's Facilities Review Committee and the wisdom of having a liaison between the two Committees.
- In his capacity of Chairperson for the Energy Committee he inquired about the wisdom of having a liaison between the Facilities Review Committee and the Energy Committee.
- The 2012 budget process and the deadline for submitting 2012 warrant articles.

In other matters the Selectmen took the following action:

- Selectmen Cuddemi and Osienski reviewed and approved the September 21, 2011 Minutes.
- Selectmen Germain and Osienski reviewed and approved the September 28, 2011 Minutes.
- Reviewed the September 26, 2011 Planning Board Minutes and were pleased to note that David McKenzie was appointed a Planning Board member to fill the vacancy of Melissa Stewart.
- Reviewed and approved the October 5, 2011 Accounts Payable Register and the October 4, 2011 Payroll Register.
- Reviewed expenditures for the month of September and year-to-date balances.
- Tabled approval of the Welfare Guidelines until the October 12, 2011 meeting.
- Confirmed the Board's approval of the recent Highway Grant Application for the Police Department.
- Identified potential residents for appointment to various Board/Committees. The Administrator will send letters to the potential candidates seeking their levels of interest in the Planning Board, Zoning Board, Regional Police Study Committee and the Facilities Review Committee.
- Voted to purchase security cameras for the Town Hall and the Highway/Transfer Station at an equipment cost of \$687 for each facility. Installation of the cameras at Town Hall will be done in conjunction with the installation of the fire/burglar/security system.
- Tabled review of the Town Facilities Inspection Report and the 2012 Draft Budget due to the late hour.
- Heard a report that an Intent to Cut is required unless permits are in-hand which would exempt taxing the timber removed.
- Reviewed Police Statistics for September and the Third Quarter.
- Selectmen Germain and Cuddemi voted a \$2,400 Land Use Change Tax Abatement for M17/L35-1. The original penalty assessment assumed the lot to be .5 acres and would include a house, well and septic. The abatement corrects the penalty assessment to show .3 acres was disturbed for the erection of an outbuilding without utilities.
- An amended MS-1, Summary of Valuation, was signed to reflect the addition of TDS real estate valued at \$570,700. This new telecommunications assessment is a result of SB 35 which took effect July 1, 2011.

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- Regarding reports from Quantum Construction on the Antrim/Bennington shared bridge:
 - An assessment of the east and west stone abutments indicates settlement and areas of concentrated stress. It is unlikely the stones in the abutments can act together to form a mass of sufficient size to resist the vertical and horizontal forces from a new superstructure.
 - Due to the severe deterioration of the steel and the presence of lead paint, it is not economically feasible to rehabilitate the steel girders. The concrete deck shows severe deterioration and is not repairable.
 - In consideration of the above findings, the towns will now be faced with replacing the shared bridge, thereby doubling the original estimated cost. Quantum Construction now proposes to the towns that they each budget approximately \$130,000. Bennington's Bridge Replacement CRF currently has a balance of \$75,533.
 - With approval from NHDOT, the Administrator has submitted a request that the Bridge Project be moved from FY 2012 to FY 2013.
 - A \$16,000 credit will be applied to the current design contract due to deleting scope on the geophysical investigation.

- Reviewed and approved two Employee Time-off Requests and Building Permits for M9/L27, M10/L22 and M13/L4-A3

The meeting adjourned at 10:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Denise French
Town Administrator