

TOWN OF BENNINGTON

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes of the Meeting – October 19, 2011

Selectmen Philip Germain, Steven Osienski and Joseph Cuddemi were present as well as Administrator Denise French. The meeting was called to order at 5:36 p.m.

Volunteer Michael Roina met with the Selectmen to discuss his offer to install and maintain a community skating rink at Sawyer Park this winter. The Selectmen voted to purchase a rink kit at an approximate cost of \$500 plus shipping and handling. A tentative date of Saturday, January 14, 2012 was established for a community skate day.

VFW Caretaker Chris Clough met with the Selectmen to discuss use and access of the facility in light of the new replacement door lock. Now that the propane stove has been replaced, it was voted to charge a \$25 fee for use of the kitchen for users other than nonprofit entities.

A Public Hearing was held from 7:00 p.m. until 7:32 p.m. to discuss consideration of regulating the Class VI portion of Onset Road a one-way travel pattern from the area of 181 Onset Road, north to the intersection of Class V Onset Road in the area of 76 Onset Road (from the top of the unpaved road down to its terminus with the paved Class V portion). Present for the Hearing were Mary Townley-Tilson and Irene Lambert. They both stated their agreement to post the Class VI road if the posting did not interfere with access to their property where 160' +/- abuts the Class VI road. Additionally, they request that a Stop sign be erected at the end of the Class VI road where it intersects with the Class V Onset Road. Sara and Joshua Dunn submitted a statement seeking the one-way travel due to the ruts and damages that are incurred when a two-wheel drive vehicle drives up the hill, their cost to grade the road in the spring through fall months, and the assumption that making the Class VI portion of the road one-way will cause less traffic thereby eliminating at least half the costs to maintain the road for their residence. The Selectmen tabled their decision until the Board's October 26th meeting.

Library Trustee Chair Lisa Shingler and Peter Martel, Acting Library Building Committee Chair met with the Board to discuss the importance of the Facilities Review Committee and the Library Building Committee joining forces to determine an appropriate plan of action for the Library to eventually expand its facility. Trustee Shingler reported the Library has some funds available for a structural review of St. Patrick's Church. Chairman Germain volunteered to seek a structural engineer to assist the Town.

From 8:10 p.m. until 8:46 p.m. the Selectmen met in Nonpublic Session under RSA 91-A:3II(c) to discuss an impending tax deed. Present were Selectmen Germain, Osienski and Cuddemi, Administrator French along with David and Scott Veale. Applications were delivered to both David Veale and Scott Veale seeking their individual financial data which will be considered when the Board evaluates their abatement request at the next Selectmen's meeting. The Selectmen agreed to continue the delay of the Veales' October 17th payment due in accordance with their Forbearance Agreement until a decision is reached on their request for financial abatement.

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In other matters the Selectmen took the following action:

- Reviewed and approved the Board of Selectmen's October 12, 2011 Minutes.
- Reviewed the October 11, 2011 Cemetery Trustees' Minutes and asked the Administrator to inquire of Town Counsel the procedure for changing the use of gifted real estate deeded to the Town from Georgietta Bryer.
- Reviewed the October 10, 2011 Planning Board Minutes and asked the Administrator to invite Rex Gray, et al to a Selectmen's meeting to chat about rental of their condominium units. The invitation is in accordance with Article XVI, Enforcement and Administration of the Zoning Ordinance.
- Reviewed and approved the October 19, 2011 Accounts Payable Register and the October 18, 2011 Payroll Registers.
- Reviewed the counter-offer received from the Roman Catholic Bishop of Manchester in which Church Officials determined a sales price of \$225,000. The Selectmen voted to stand firm on their September 13th offer of \$210,000 for the purchase of the former St. Patrick's Church.
- Tabled until a later meeting were the approval of the Welfare Guidelines and review of the Facilities Inspection Report.
- Voted that any extension of the Class V section of Mountain Road would have to be paved at the time of construction.
- Heard a report that the Administrator has made arrangements to transfer phone and internet service for the Police Department, Administrative Offices and the Highway Garage from TDS to Comcast. The move will greatly enhance internet capabilities while saving the Town approximately \$90 per month. As an incentive, Comcast has provided a \$900 credit to the Town's account to pay for costs associated with the conversion.
- Approved purchase and installation cost for a SonicWall TZ-200W Firewall Appliance and a new network switch at a cost of \$1,250.
- Approved the draft revision to the "2. ADMISSION" section of the Transfer Station/Recycling Facility Ordinance which changes the procedure for issuing Permit stickers. The revision will take effect January 1, 2012.
- Declined including a Congregational Church news item in the upcoming Fall Newsletter unless it is found that precedence has previously been established for including non-Town of Bennington solicitations.
- Approved a \$100 donation to the Bennington Fire Department for their annual Breakfast With Santa event.
- Heard a report that the Town's bridges are not insured for any coverage other than General Liability which would cover personal injury in the event of a broken railing or bridge collapse, etc. Coverage for physical damage would cost \$3.74 per thousand dollars of value and would not include damage from flooding or hurricanes.
- Since the Town of Bennington is administering the shared bridge project, the Board reviewed and approved payment of Quantum Construction's Invoice #1533 in the amount of \$4,695 for the engineering study.

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- Received a report from NHDOT that the Town potentially has the option of reducing the amount of project funds awarded for phase two of reconstructing drainage and sidewalks in the Village but would require the submission of a revised scope of work and the possibility of needing approval from the TE Committee. The Selectmen voted not to incur further costs associated with the present Grant award.
- Approved an Employee Time-off Request.
- Under RSA 91-A:3II(c) received notice of a Medical Leave of Absence.
- Confirmed the Board's October 25, 2011 meeting date to review the draft 2012 Budget and employee benefits.

The meeting adjourned at 10:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Denise French
Town Administrator