

TOWN OF BENNINGTON

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes of the Meeting – January 18, 2012

Selectmen Steven Osienski and Joseph Cuddemi were present when the meeting was called to order at 5:48 p.m. Selectman Philip Germain arrived at 6:15 p.m. Also attending the meeting were Barry White and Peter Martel.

James Cleary met with the Selectmen to discuss the Town's possible interest in forest management and selective timber cutting which would generate revenue. Chairman Germain will communicate Jim's interest to the Conservation Commission.

Having each individually expressed an interest in studying the possibility of combining the Antrim and Bennington Police Departments; a motion was made, seconded and voted to appoint James Cleary and Barry White to the Police Regionalization Study Committee as Bennington's representatives, along with Chief Campbell.

From 6:50 p.m. until 7:42 p.m. the Selectmen met in Nonpublic Session under RSA 91-A:3II(c). Present were Selectmen Germain, Osienski and Cuddemi, Administrator French and Amy Wing. The purpose of the meeting was to conduct an exit interview as a result of Amy's resignation. No decisions were made.

Representing the Water/Sewer Commission, Glenn Wilson met with the Selectmen by invitation to discuss the need to improve communications with their customers and with fellow employees. It was agreed by all that a joint meeting would be scheduled with the Selectmen, Water/Sewer Commissioners, Water/Sewer Superintendent and the Road Agent. Also discussed was warranty work at the water tank, the possibility of installing an alarm system at the water pump house and consideration of amending the next water bills to compensate customers affected by the ongoing discolored water issue while the Town waits for a part from the manufacturer.

From 8:30 p.m. until 9:04 p.m. the Selectmen met in Nonpublic Session under RSA 91-A:3II(c). Present were Selectmen Germain, Osienski and Cuddemi, Administrator French and Police Chief Steve Campbell. The purpose of the meeting was to review a resident's letter of concern. No decisions were made.

From 9:06 p.m. until 9:40 p.m. the Selectmen met in Nonpublic Session under RSA 91-A:3II(a). Present were Selectmen Germain, Osienski and Cuddemi as well as Administrator French. The purpose of the meeting was to revisit the Selectmen's policy that employee wages will not be temporarily adjusted to compensate for additional duties created by the absence of another employee. The Board confirmed their philosophy that the Team steps up in a time of need for the good of the community without financial incentive.

In other matters the Selectmen took the following action:

- Reviewed and approved the January 3rd and January 11, 2012 Minutes.

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- Reviewed and approved the January 17, 2012 Payroll Register as well as Accounts Payable and Payroll Registers for January 18, 2012.
- Reviewed all the warrant articles which were discussed at the Budget Hearing, totaling \$1,804,365. The Selectmen agreed to review the proposed funding prior to their next meeting to see if there were areas that could be trimmed back.
- Received official notice that FEMA has obligated \$228,513 for replacement of the Bible Hill Road culvert; the Town's obligation totals \$76,171 which can include soft-match items such as providing labor and material to the hazard mitigation project. The total grant is \$304,684.
- Confirmed that the Town is not in a position to purchase the former St. Patrick's Church due to the restrictive covenants.
- Heard a report that the auditors were frustrated not to have the Trustee of Trust Funds financial records at the time of their visit. Arrangements are in process for the information to be available for audit by the end of the week.
- Received, with regret, the resignation of Trustee of the Trust Fund Julie Southard.
- Unanimously agreed to turn-over the ongoing zoning violations at M3/L14 to Town Counsel for remedy since the owner continues to disregard deadlines established by the Code Officer and the Board of Selectmen.
- Heard a report of a water leak at the intersection of Bible Hill and Antrim Road; water shut-off notifications were prepared by the Town Office and delivered by the Police Department.
- Tabled consideration of RSA 261:153,VI which could be a source of additional income.
- Received notice that the Antrim/Bennington Bridge Engineering Study is complete and ready for review with both Boards of Selectmen prior to its submission to NHDOT. The Selectmen agreed to attend an Antrim Selectmen's meeting with Quantum Construction Consultants at a date to be determined.
- Signed two Employee Time-off Requests and an Elderly/Disabled Tax Deferral for M24/L23.

The meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Denise French
Town Administrator