

TOWN OF BENNINGTON

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes of the Meeting – December 18, 2013

Selectmen James Cleary, Jeffrey Rose and Steven Osienski were present as well as Administrator Denise French. The meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m.

Derek and Kristin Davis met with the Board to discuss an unfortunate situation that occurred while mutual aid Police Departments were responding to assist Chief Campbell with a Route 202 incident. (Police Chief Steve Campbell was present for this portion of the Selectmen’s meeting.) While Mrs. Davis’s was pulled over to the side of the road due to approaching police cruisers her vehicle was involved in a hit-and-run accident. Although no Town of Bennington vehicles or personnel were involved in the incident Mrs. Davis thought it appropriate to request reimbursement of her \$500 automobile insurance deductible from the Town. The Administrator will continue discussion of the matter with the Town’s insurance carrier.

From 7:00 p.m. until 7:10 p.m. the Selectmen held a Public Hearing for Unanticipated Revenues; there was no audience or public input. The Selectmen unanimously voted to accept the following 2013 Unanticipated Revenues as stated below:

Month Revenue Received	Department/Source	Amount
March	FD - Training Grant (2012)	\$1,781.20
April	PD - Enforcement Patrols	\$815.79
April	PD - Operation Safe Commute	\$785.06
April	PD - DWI/DUI Patrols	\$1,513.28
April	Operation Safe Commute	\$846.52
August	LGC - Health Insurance Surplus	\$7,244.06
September	Emergency Management - Snowstorm Nemo	\$10,796.28
October	PD - Enforcement Patrols	\$1,586.91
October	Welfare - Benevolent Trust Donation	\$450.00
October	Antrim - Giffin Contract Penalty	\$3,300.00
November	PD - DWI/DUI Patrols	\$1,552.88
November	PD - Operation Safe Commute	\$651.89
November	Conval - LGC Health Insurance Refund	\$30,118.20
December	Energy Committee - Seed Grant	\$950.00
	Sum of Unanticipated Revenues Accepted	\$62,392.07

From 8:03 p.m. until 8:13 p.m. the Selectmen met in Nonpublic Session under RSA 91-A:3II(c). Present were Selectmen Cleary, Rose and Osienski as well as Administrator French. The Selectmen voted to continue discussion with the Fire Chief.

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From 8:15 p.m. until 8:25 p.m. the Selectmen met in Nonpublic Session under RSA 91-A:3II(a). Present were Selectmen Cleary, Rose and Osienski as well as Administrator French. In response to the NH Retirement System's determination (through an audit) that an employee was not eligible for three years of retirement benefits, the Board voted to return the employee's contributions withheld during this three year time frame and to retain the Town's retirement contributions for the same time period.

From 8:26 p.m. until 8:50 p.m. the Selectmen met in Nonpublic Session under RSA 91-A:3II(a). Present were Selectmen Cleary, Rose and Osienski as well as Administrator French. No decisions were made.

From 8:52 p.m. until 8:55 p.m. the Selectmen met in Nonpublic Session under RSA 91-A:3II(c). Present were Selectmen Cleary, Rose and Osienski as well as Administrator French. The Selectmen reviewed a request for input from the Welfare Director and voted not to grant further tax abatements.

The Selectmen took action on the following matters:

- Reviewed and approved Payroll Registers for December 9 and 18, 2013 and Accounts Payable Registers for December 11 and 18, 2013.
- Reviewed Draft #5 of the 2014 Budget which reflects a 2% increase from 2013.
- In response to a request from Antrim Recreation member Peter Lamb, the Selectmen briefly discussed Antrim's request that Bennington include a 2014 Warrant Article for \$2,000 towards lighting at the Antrim ball field since Bennington youth use the field. The Selectmen unanimously declined the request.
- In response to receiving only two Revaluation Proposals, the Selectmen agreed to interview each vendor at their December 19th meeting.
- Agreed to continue 2014 lifeguard coverage at Whittemore Beach.
- Selectman Cleary will contact Antrim Selectman Gordon Webber to determine if Antrim is agreeable to a follow-up meeting to conceptually discuss Police Regionalization.
- Agreed that, in lieu of a written message from the Selectmen about safe driving, the Board will host a Safe Driving Class for all Town vehicle/equipment drivers.
- Agreed to close Town Hall December 24th if the employees used their vacation time for compensation of the morning hours.
- Reviewed a written complaint from a citizen who alleged improper administration of an employee's wages. The complainant did not have all of the relative facts; the complaint was not valid.
- Scheduled Thursday, January 16th as the 2014 Budget Hearing date, 7:00 p.m. at the VFW; the 2014 First Deliberative Session is scheduled for Tuesday, February 4th, 7:00 p.m. at Pierce School.
- Wondered why the swingset had been removed from Sawyer Park when the noted deficiency was the swings themselves; the Administrator will seek further information.
- Signed an appreciation letter to Scott Liljeberg for his ongoing efforts for the betterment of the Community.

- Heard a report from the Fire Chief that he is working with a business owner to avert invoking stringent Life Safety Codes.

The meeting adjourned at 9:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Denise French
Administrator