

TOWN OF BENNINGTON

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes of the Meeting – June 11, 2014

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.

Jon Manley met with the Selectmen and discussed the following:

- As State Representative, reported that additional funds for road and bridge projects are now available due to the \$.04 increase in the gas tax.
- Jon also inquired if the Town has any ideas for new bills to put forth before the Legislature.
- On behalf of the Conservation Commission, Jon will be requesting a bill that would allow municipalities to divert timber tax revenue to the Conservation Commission.
- The Selectmen inquired if State funds are available for alternate energy.
- High level of arsenic in his well, which is likely being fed from the same aquifer as the rest of Town. The Administrator will inquire of the Water Superintendent about arsenic readings from the Town's water samples.

Fire Chief Michael Roina met with the Selectmen and discussed the following:

- He has drafted a letter to the owner of M13/L14 inviting them to meet with the Chief, Code Officer and Selectmen to discuss acquisition of a Certificate of Occupancy.
- The Fire Department Association's \$1,500 check for payment of their donation towards the thermal imaging camera is forthcoming.
- Approval was given for the Fire Department to use the VFW parking lot June 21st for "thermal recognition training" with the thermal imaging camera.
- (For the rescue vehicle) the Chief reported that a US Cellular trac phone is the same price as the second cell phone that he personally provides. Selectman Osienski offered his cell phone if the cost for a trac card would be a cost savings.
- Mike will work on language for a Fireworks Ordinance when convenient.
- Arrangements will be made for updating the Fire Department website, upon which the maintenance of the site will be transferred to Melissa.
- The Chief will speak with the Water Superintendent about live training on the hydrant system to determine best practices to minimize dirty water.
- The annual pump test on the 2005 fire truck documented that the Engine 1 pump failed. The Chief reported, for the short-term, the operator can over-speed the pump to achieve adequate flow. An insurance claim will be filed with LGC; funds to repair/rebuild (\$8,000) or \$24,000 to replace the pump will be included in the 2015 Town Warrant. The expense will not be known until the pump is torn down (tentatively scheduled for December).
- A letter of suspension was hand-delivered June 10th to an employee.
- As requested by the Selectmen, a draft Fire Department Payroll Policy and Pay Scale was presented to the Board for consideration. Discussion was tabled until the June 25th meeting when additional information will be available.
- Also discussed was a conceptual idea of a dog search team being affiliated with the Bennington Fire Department.

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- The Selectmen authorized the Chief to institute a “ride along” program for rescue calls which will allow individuals under the age of eighteen to acquire an apprentice license from the State.

Charlotte Thomas met with the Board to respectfully decline the invitation to manage Whittemore Beach this summer due to another employment opportunity. The Administrator will look into limited options that might be available to ensure staffing at Whittemore Beach.

Patricia and Stella Collins met with the Selectmen to discuss an impending tax deed for M24/L10 which is vacant property and abuts their home on M24/L11 and is situated in the flood plain. The Selectmen established August 1st as the due date to satisfy the impending tax deed.

Via conference call, the Road Agent and the Selectmen discussed proposals received for clear-cutting and stumping 1.5 acres +/- at the former Tri-Town Landfill site. On behalf of the Antrim, Bennington and Frankestown Selectmen the Board voted to accept the lowest bid of 20,000 board feet of white pine which was put forth by Adam Lyons. The timber harvest will begin June 13th.

Cross Country Appraisal Group presented their 2013 Abatement Recommendations for the following properties, which were all accepted by the Selectmen upon review:

➤ M2/L3-8	Denied	
➤ M10/L14	Denied	
➤ M12/L7	Denied	
➤ M13/L40	Denied	
➤ M7/L57	Approved	\$41,200 value = \$1,046.48 tax
➤ M7/L116	Approved	\$9,000 value = \$228.60 tax
➤ M9/L10	Approved	\$30,400 value = \$772.16 tax
➤ M12/L1C-31A	Approved	\$29,200 value = \$741.68 tax
➤ M12/L1C-32B	Approved	\$13,200 value = \$335.28 tax
➤ M12/L1C-22A	Approved	\$29,200 value = \$741.68 tax
➤ M12/L1C-37B	Approved	\$13,200 value = \$335.28 tax
➤ M12/L1C-44	Approved	\$46,200 value = \$1,173.48 tax
➤ M24/L15-1	Approved	\$4,700 value = \$119.38 tax

George Sansoucy, PE, LLC presented their 2013 Abatement Recommendations, which were accepted by the Selectmen upon review:

➤ Monadnock Paper Mills	Denied
➤ PSNH	Denied

The Selectmen took action on the following matters:

- Reviewed and approved Selectmen Minutes for May 28 and June 4, 2014. The Board also reviewed June 4, 2014 Energy Committee Minutes .
- Reviewed and approved Accounts Payable Registers for June 5 and 11, 2014 as well as the Payroll Register for June 11, 2014 and Expenditures for the period January through May 2014.
- Heard a report that the two recipients of the Edward French Memorial Scholarship are Selena Baldwin who plans to pursue anthropology and Christopher Ouellete who has a passion for graphic arts, especially film.

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- At the recommendation of the Conservation Commission, the Board appointed Stephen Willette a member of the Commission.
- Reviewed May Police Statistics.
- Heard a report that the Cemetery Trustees are developing a plan-of-action that addresses fence maintenance and deteriorating markers at Sunnyside Cemetery; the missing letter on the gate is in the process of being replaced.
- Voted to continue utilizing Form PA-28, Taxpayer Inventory Blank in accordance with RSA 74:4 for 2015.

The meeting adjourned at 825 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Denise French
Administrator