

TOWN OF BENNINGTON

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes of the Meeting – November 25, 2014

Selectmen James Cleary, Steve Osienski, and Jeffrey Rose were present as well as Deputy Administrator Kristie LaPlante. The meeting was called to order at 6:04 p.m.

The Board heard a report from Kristie LaPlante that the Town's tax collection and financial software packages continue to be outdated with little hope for significant timely updates. Kristie has thoroughly researched software options – which are limited for municipalities – and obtained quotes for each of their replacements. To add the tax collection component to the Town's existing Avitar assessing software will cost \$9,320. To switch to Accufund for the financial suite will cost the Town \$23,741. The Board recognized the ongoing deferral of replacing these software suites but tabled taking action ahead of the upcoming December 2 review of the Draft Budget.

Kevin Gagne, Senior Principal Engineer at Fay, Spofford & Thorndike, met with the Board and Road Agent Gary Russell to provide a status update regarding the Town's TE2 Project. Kevin was in Town throughout the afternoon meeting with project abutters to provide first-hand dialogue about the temporary project impact to properties. Kevin is also working with the Town's legal counsel to draft Temporary Easement Deeds and offers of compensation that are required before the project begins.

Gary reported that he had set up cones to mark the planned TEP2 roadway improvements at the Bible Hill Road/Eaton Avenue intersection and as a result he had concerns about snow removal. After discussion with the engineer, it was agreed that some curbing at M10/L16 could be eliminated. It was also agreed that curbing would be removed from the edge of reclaimed land which will be realized from the removal of the concrete wall at M10/L57.

In other items on their Agenda, the Board:

- Approved the November 19, 2014 Minutes as written;
- Reviewed, approved, and signed the Accounts Payable Register for November 20th and two Payroll Registers for November 25th;
- Authorized an abatement of an Inventory Penalty for Map 10 Lot 13;
- Reviewed Conval's proposed Budget;
- Signed a Commitment letter for SWRPC to conduct a Culvert Inventory in 2015;
- Heard a report from Road Agent Gary Russell that he put out patch on South Bennington Road and that the State plans to undertake roadway maintenance there in 2015;
- Heard a report that the heater at the Transfer Station has been replaced.

The meeting adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Kristie LaPlante
Deputy Administrator