

TOWN OF BENNINGTON

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes of the Meeting – July 1, 2015

Selectmen James Cleary, Jeffrey Rose and Steven Osienski were present as well as Administrator Denise French.

Police Chief Bret Sullivan met with the Selectmen and discussed the following:

- Sunday evening he held a staff meeting which was well attended. The Chief reported that Bennington's part-time officers are a great asset, as is the newly hired part-time administrative secretary who is streamlining documents and training officers on existing software.
- Permission was granted to advertise for a part-time officer to fill a long-standing vacancy in the Department.
- All Police Officers have been warned not to use cell phone communications in the cruiser.
- NH Police Standards and Training Council have reported the reduction in their free training due to State financial cutbacks.
- A mechanic's review of the crown vic police cruiser did not find or identify any potential vehicle deficiencies, as of this date.
- An alternative to the closed dog care facility that went out of business a few months ago, the Chief has made tentative arrangements with Our Town Kennels in Peterborough at a \$19 per day cost for them to provide room/board for stray dogs.
- Work on updating the Police Department website is on the horizon.

Recreation Committee Chair Bethany Craig met with the Selectmen and discussed the following:

- Volunteers cleaned up the beach ahead of school closing. The Highway Department will be tasked with raking the beach sand each time they are at the facility picking up trash cans.
- The need to add better quality beach sand, as well as improving the boat ramp access' eroded surface.
- Beach Opening Party was a huge success with over 100 attendees.
- Conceptual ideas for providing oversight of the beach and the individuals who use the facility.
- The Administrator will check signage to be sure the Town has adequately warned the public that there is no lifeguard on duty.
- Selectmen expressed appreciation for the independent summer program and associated flyer recently developed and advertised by the Recreation Committee.
- Separately from her duties with the Recreation Committee, Bethany is working with volunteer Val Germain to develop ideas and cost estimates to purchase signage for advertising Town events; she was encouraged by the Board to bring back ideas and costs to a future Selectmen's meeting.

On behalf of the Bruce C. Edes Trust Fund award evaluation committee, Rick Reed met with the Selectmen and made the following three recommendations to receive cash awards:

- Victoria Marchand, \$345 towards tuition for Barry Conservation Camp

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- Julianna Stone, \$350 towards her desire to work in the medical field
- Dominique Tarr, \$350 towards her desire to study environmental biology

The Selectmen unanimously accepted the award evaluation committee's recommendations and plan to make a public presentation at their July 29<sup>th</sup> Board meeting.

The Selectmen took action on the following matters:

- Selectmen Osienski and Cleary reviewed and approved meeting Minutes for June 3, 2015.
- Selectmen Rose and Cleary reviewed and approved meeting Minutes for June 17, 2015.
- Reviewed Planning Board Minutes for June 8 and June 22, 2105.
- Reviewed and approved Accounts Payable and Payroll Registers for June 24 and July 1, 2015. Also reviewed were Expenditures for the first six months of 2015.
- Were disappointed that lack of communication from Manna Waterfront Properties, LLC will force the Selectmen to engage Town Counsel to adequately address their noncompliance with the Zoning Ordinance and Site Plan Review Regulations.
- Received notice of a July 14<sup>th</sup> ZBA public hearing for a Variance Application for M5/L1 which could permit construction of an addition and other improvements to an existing residence with frontage on a Class VI Highway. The outcome of this ZBA public hearing will be considered when the Selectmen review the pending Building Permit Application.
- Requested that the Code Enforcement Officer follow-up on an expired Permit for Temporary Trailer Siting for M1/L16.
- Selectman Cleary volunteered to monitor a camper trailer on South Bennington Road that is reported to be used for residential purposes.
- Heard a report that the M7/L85 School Street fence damaged by winter snow removal will be repaired this coming week.
- Received notice that Executive Director Kristen Vance will be resigning her post from The Grapevine as of August 31<sup>st</sup>.
- The Administrator reported her communications with FST and the Road Agent that the TEP2 contractor can close the Bible Hill/Eaton Avenue intersection during downtown construction. Also, demo materials can be disposed of at the former Tri-Town pit.
- Confirmed Chairman Cleary's June 24<sup>th</sup> decision to enter into contracts with Rymes Propane & Oil for the purchase of 1800 gallons of propane at a price of \$1.629 per gallon and 5400 gallons of oil at a price of \$2.449 per gallon for the period September 1 through May 31, 2016.
- Heard Selectman Osienski report from the June 24<sup>th</sup> Conval SAC meeting which included the fact that the State of NH is reducing its Adequacy Aid which will have a negative impact on Bennington's school costs.
- Suggested that Town Counsel weigh in on whether or not the Town should mandate a Certificate of Insurance from nonprofit organizations that use Sawyer Field.
- The Selectmen reviewed the June 9, 2008 Planning Board's Notice of Decision for Peak Resorts and authorized use of their facility for a nonprofit road race which will benefit *Live Free and Ski, Inc.*
- Heard a report that construction to an existing outbuilding is ongoing without benefit of a Building Permit; the construction also intrudes into the rear setback. The matter is in the hands of Code Enforcement.

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- The Administrator was requested to notify all employees that use of cell phone communications in Town vehicles is prohibited unless the vehicle is pulled off from the road and the transmission is in park.
- Agreed that all responding Firefighters/EMTs shall be required to sign their name on all Time Sheets that document their hours worked.
- Agreed to meet with the Trustees of Trust Funds to discuss moving the annual date when Capital Reserve Fund appropriations are paid; from the usual month of July to potentially December when the second issue tax revenues are received.
- Were pleased to hear that Whittemore Lake e.coli water samples were well within acceptable limits at the Town's swimming area.
- Were pleased to hear that the Town has received a \$15,813.44 "Premium Holiday" credit from Primex; after 2015 obligations are paid the net result is a 2016 credit of \$13,917.44 which will be applied against workers compensation and unemployment compensation premiums.
- Reviewed and approved the following documents:
  - Yield Tax Levy – M20/L7
  - Building Permit – M7/L99
  - Building Permit – M8/L1C
  - Abatement – M21/L6
  - Abatement – M24/L15-1

The meeting adjourned at 9:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Denise French  
Administrator