

TOWN OF BENNINGTON

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes of the Meeting – May 4, 2016

Selectmen James Cleary, Jeffrey Rose and Steven Osienski were present as well as Administrator Denise French. The meeting was called to order at 5:33 p.m.

The Selectmen began their meeting by inspecting the Town Hall building and Police Department facilities. Information gleaned from the inspections will be included in the Board's review of all other Town buildings. A maintenance plan encompassing all building obligations will be created. The Selectmen plan development of head-in parking on the Acre Street side of Town Hall.

Town Clerk Debra Belcher met with the Selectmen by invitation to continue discussion of staff and operations. The Selectmen informed Deb that, because she is an elected official (RSA 31:9-b), she is not eligible for payment of unused vacation time.

Phil Germain stopped by to show the Board the hookah he found in a Route 47 ditch while participating in the Town-wide clean. The Selectmen will await notification of the most unusual "trash" find before awarding their services of trash removal to the winner.

Scott Plourde and Damon Beaudreau met with the Selectmen to discuss Fire Department operations and the proposed Attendance Policy. The Board was dismayed to learn that the membership's input was not considered when the Chief drafted the Policy. Former firefighter Beaudreau conceptually discussed his consideration of returning to the Fire Department. Selectman Osienski volunteered to attend the upcoming monthly Fire Department meetings.

Recreation Chair Bethany Craig met with the Selectmen to discuss staffing of Whittemore Beach. Bethany has agreed to undertake the task of identifying summer employees to provide eight hours of coverage seven days of the week. The Town will supply a designated T-shirt for easy recognition of the employee in charge of beach behavior and conduct at the facility. A volunteer based clean-up day will be scheduled.

From 8:43 p.m. until 8:59 p.m. the Selectmen met in Nonpublic Session under RSA 91-A:3III(c). Present were Selectmen Cleary, Rose and Osienski as well as Administrator French. No decisions were made.

The Selectmen took action on the following matters:

- Reviewed and approved the April 27, 2016 Selectmen's Minutes as well as Stantec's April 28th Progress Meeting notes.
- Reviewed and approved the April 28th Payroll Register and the May 4, 2016 Payroll and Accounts Payable Registers.
- Heard a report that physical damage incurred April 4th when the Highway Department truck was towed back onto Switzer Road amounted to \$11,639.23; subject to a \$1,000 deductible.

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- Reluctantly agreed to authorize the Town’s insurance provider to pay the inflated towing invoice from Kent’s Towing. Failure to authorize the \$8,750 payment could result in a lawsuit which would put the Town at a disadvantage when they would have to pay legal costs to defend their beliefs. The Board authorized Selectman Rose to file a Consumer Complaint with the Attorney General’s Consumer Protection and Antitrust Bureau.
- Heard a report that disposal of out-of-town demolition material, by a resident contractor, will be curtailed and diverted to the community of origin.
- Heard a report that a ZBA Variance Hearing for M17/L15 is scheduled for May 16th.
- Having received only one Town Hall painting bid the Selectmen agreed to meet with the returning contractor to refine the painting plan based on the Board’s observations earlier in the evening.
- Selectmen Rose reported on the April 30th Community Clean Up activities sponsored by the Conservation Commission:
 - A light turn-out at the appreciation breakfast ahead of the tasks
 - 50-80 individuals participated throughout the day
 - Approximately 150 bags of trash were collected by volunteers
- The Board signed two Employee Time-off Requests, an Intent to Cut for M9/L2 and a Petition and Pole License as presented by Eversource.

The meeting adjourned at 9:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Denise French
Administrator