

TOWN OF BENNINGTON

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes of the Meeting – October 11, 2017

Selectmen James Cleary, Jeffrey Rose and Mark Mackesy were present as well as Administrator Denise French. The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m.

Fire Chiefs David Foster and Matthew Hall met with the Selectmen by invitation to discuss the following:

- Kudos from the Selectmen and administrative staff for the Chiefs' cohesive leadership, the ability to delegate responsibilities and the Department's teamwork.
- Review of the employment process and the need for the Selectmen to meet potential employees prior to pursuing their background checks.
- Medical emergencies at Crotched Mountain Ski Area; Antrim and Bennington Fire Department officials along with Crotched Mountain officials are working towards a possible change in routine medical response to the Mountain. This review takes into account the small First Aid facility as well as medically trained ski patrol who are usually the first personnel to treat the patient. Any agreement reached will be reviewed by respective Selectmen and Town Counsel.
- Conceptual rental of the Fire Station meeting hall. The Fire Chief will research pass fobs and associated costs to secure the truck bays. It was agreed that rental income for the building would be Town income; rental income for the use of tables and chairs would belong to the Fire Department Association who initially purchased them.

Sealed bids for the purchase of the 1984 GMC pickup truck were opened by Chairman Cleary:

➤ Michael Caisse	\$250
➤ Rick Chicoine	\$378
➤ Robert Grunkemeyer	\$2,000

Knowing that the vehicle is in deplorable condition, the Selectmen voted a maximum cash sale of \$750 from Mr. Grunkemeyer.

The Selectmen acted on the following matters:

- Reviewed and approved the Board's September 27, 2017 Minutes.
- Reviewed and approved Payroll Registers for October 5 and 12, 2017 as well as Accounts Payable Registers for September 28, October 5 and 12, 2017.
- Cursory view of a draft LED Street Light Conversion RFP as prepared by retired engineer David Beck at a cost of \$200.
- Received information that an LED Pedestrian Crossing sign would cost \$1,600; no decision was made.
- Approved a draft letter to the NH Department of Transportation with regard to the State's lingering position that the railroad trestle bridge will be locked at each end for three seasons while opening exclusively for winter passage by snowmobiles.
- Discussed reoccurring damage occurring at M10/L55 from tractor trailer truck drivers not heeding the numerous railroad trestle height restriction signs and using private property to turn their rigs around. The property owner will be meeting with Monandnock Paper Mill officials to solicit their assistance in notifying their vendors of the proper truck route.

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- Heard a report that the Zoning Board of Adjustment is having difficulty recruiting new members to serve on their Board. The Selectmen will assist the ZBA with recruitment.
- Reviewed proposed Zoning Ordinance changes put forth to the Planning Board by Code Enforcement Officer and Zoning Administrator Dario Carrara which are specific to setback requirements. Planning Board Ex-officio Jeff Rose reported that the Planning Board tabled the proposal; the Selectmen took no action.
- In response to an inquiry from Recreation Chair Bethany Craig the Selectmen discussed a conceptual October 31<sup>st</sup> “Spooky Walk” as presented by the Recreation Committee. The Board expressed their collective appreciation for the various recreation activities available to the community. Selectmen wondered if the activity could be scheduled on a weekend night; would a Town park location better serve the event for parking and access to the activity. The Administrator will invite Bethany to the October 18<sup>th</sup> Board meeting.
- Voted a \$1,000 donation to the Myers-Prescott-Olson Post 50 for their Building Fund to replace the aged roof. The Town provided similar support to the Brown & Knight VFW Post 8268 years ago.
- Established November 1<sup>st</sup> to convene the Capital Reserve Funding Committee to plan 2018 capital reserve fund appropriations and expenditures.
- Tabled review of the proposed 2018 Operating Budget until the Board’s October 18<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- Reviewed and approved Driveway Permits for M23/L1-10 and M23/L7, as well as an amended Financial Report of the 2016 Budget as requested by the Department of Revenue Administration and prepared by Vachon, Clukay & Company PC.

The meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Denise French  
Administrator