

TOWN OF BENNINGTON

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes of the Meeting – August 8, 2018

Selectmen James Cleary and David Hardwick Sr. were present as well as Deputy Town Administrator Kristie LaPlante. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

Police Chief Bret Sullivan was in to update the Board on the activities of his Department.

Starrett Road residents Elaine Flanagan, Scott Littlefield, Signe Haynes, and Alex Mason met with the Board to discuss drainage on Starrett Road; Highway Department employee Chris Davies was also in attendance. Elaine Flanagan spoke for the group, showing the Board of Selectmen a video of rocks and other materials washing down the road during recent heavy rains. Ms. Flanagan discussed the following:

- The swales that were recently paved on the road were not tacked, which is causing them to collapse in some places;
- The swales and pavement are damaged and/or washed away in some spots;
- Recommended the Town install a culvert at the intersection of Starrett Road and Bible Hill Road;
- During rain events the drainage at the bottom of Starrett Road doesn't work properly and sand and gravel deposits in the yard at #12 Starrett Road.

The Board of Selectmen noted that August has been an extremely rainy month with periods of torrential rainfall and some damage is to be expected with those types of rain events. Since the trees were removed at the top of Starrett Road and stone added at the corner several years ago, drainage on Starrett Road has improved. Chris Davies reported that the swales on Starrett Road were tacked when they were paved, although there is one spot where water got under the swale.

In the Road Agent's absence, Highway Department employee Chris Davies met with the Selectmen to discuss the following:

- Will be meeting with a cold patch representative next week to test their new material;
- Received permission from the Board to rent an excavator from Balcom Brothers and screener from Mathewson Companies to process winter sand. If time permits Chris would like to process two years worth of winter sand this year;
- Will be replacing the underdrains on Pierce Hill Road before the road is paved;
- When the paving company is in Town for Pierce Hill Road he will have them address the swales on Starrett Road;
- Met with a contractor on Onset Road about placement of a driveway culvert. Chris advised the contractor that the property owner has been served with a Cease and Desist from the Town and that installation of only a culvert would not be sufficient;
- Highway Department employees are signed up for classes through UNH T2;

The Selectmen acted on the following matters:

- Reviewed and approved the Board's July 11, 2018 Minutes.
- Reviewed and approved Payroll and Accounts Payable Registers for July 19, July 16, August 2, and August 9, 2018.
- Reviewed an Expenditure Report showing expenditures posted through July 31, 2018.

- Discussed unspent SB 38 Highway Block Grant Funding from 2017 and requested three quotes for installation of guardrails along the river on North Bennington Road near the Deering town line.
- Agreed to visit Evergreen and Sunnyside Cemeteries to assess the trees and flag trees that should be removed due to disease.
- Heard a report that the tree installed in the traffic calming island at the corner of School Street and Main Street may be diseased; Selectman Cleary will check out the tree and make a recommendation.
- Requested Pleasant Pond Landscaping to mow the traffic calming island in from of 35 Main Street.
- Reviewed a Building Permit for Map 21, Lot 6 which appears to allow for expansion of a pre-existing, non confirming use. The Selectmen approved the Building Permit but have requested the Code Enforcement Officer to meet with the property owners to establish a mutually agreed upon baseline of the property to use as a guide for any future permits and/or growth.
- Heard a report that Police Details have not been consistently reimbursed since 2015. The Board agreed that if the Police Department does not request or follow up with reimbursement from these companies then the Police Department will not participate in Police Details moving forward.

From 6:56 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. the Selectmen met in Nonpublic Session under RSA 91-A:3-II(c). Selectman Hardwick made a motion to enter into Nonpublic Session; seconded by Selectman Cleary. Both members voted to enter into Nonpublic Session. Also present during the Nonpublic Session was Deputy Administrator LaPlante. The group discussed a request made on behalf of an elderly resident for a lower tax assessment due to reported inability to pay their taxes. Because the property owner would not qualify for the Elderly Tax Exemption the Selectmen redirected the owner to the Welfare Director to discuss a Hardship Abatement.

From 7:00 p.m. until 7:03 p.m. the Selectmen met in Nonpublic Session under RSA 91-A:3-II(c). Selectman Cleary made a motion to enter into Nonpublic Session; seconded by Selectman Hardwick. Both members voted to enter into Nonpublic Session. Also present during the Nonpublic Session was Deputy Administrator LaPlante. The group discussed current Highway Department Staffing. No decisions were made.

From 7:03 p.m. until 7:10 p.m. the Selectmen met in Nonpublic Session under RSA 91-A:3-II(a). Selectman Hardwick made a motion to enter into Nonpublic Session; seconded by Selectman Cleary. Both members voted to enter into Nonpublic Session. Also present during the Nonpublic Session was Deputy Administrator LaPlante. The Selectmen reviewed and approved compensation for LaPlante when she assumes the Town Administrator position in October. The Board also discussed the spatial layout of the office and authorized LaPlante to move the map cabinet and relocate utilities if necessary.

The meeting adjourned at 7:16 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristie LaPlante
Deputy Town Administrator