

TOWN OF BENNINGTON

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes of the Meeting – September 24, 2019

Selectmen James Cleary, David Hardwick Sr., and Mark Mackesy were present as well as Town Administrator Kristie LaPlante. The meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m.

Town Clerk Debra Belcher met with the Selectmen to discuss her August 30, 2019 letter to the Selectmen reporting that the vacancy of the Deputy Town Clerk position has left their office unable to perform all of the duties offered by the Town Clerk's Office on occasions when the Town Clerk is absent. As such, Deb has requested the Selectmen to fill the vacant Deputy Town Clerk position. Deb shared with the Selectmen that she recently learned that the Assistant Town Clerk cannot participate or assist with the election process and that they cannot sign Vital Records documents; those tasks can only be completed by a Town Clerk or a Deputy Town Clerk. Deb was unable to provide an RSA or a clear reference for the Selectmen to review. The Selectmen took note of the Town Clerk's concerns and agreed to contact the State to discuss options for alternative arrangements.

Selectman David Hardwick reported to the Board that prior Road Agent Gary Russell had visited him and gave him a list of his personal property that was not available when he picked up his personal belongings on September 21<sup>st</sup>. Among the items were a creeper seat, a creeper, weld-on quick attachments for the rake, the wood stove and pipe, and a chain wrench. The Town Administrator will inquire of the Highway Department the whereabouts of this equipment. No decisions were made.

At 6:12 p.m. a motion was made by Selectman Mark Mackesy to enter in to Nonpublic Session under RSA 91-A:3-II(c) and seconded by James Cleary; all voted in favor of entering Nonpublic Session. Also present during the Nonpublic Session was Town Administrator Kristie LaPlante. The Selectmen reviewed three applications received for the Road Agent position and two applications received for the Highway Laborer position. The Selectmen agreed to leave the application period open for one more week. Selectman Cleary made a motion to reconvene the Public Session; seconded by Selectman Mackesy; all voted to reconvene the Public Session at 6:30 p.m.

Former Bennington residents Dennis McClure and Rob Lavoie met with the Selectmen to discuss their displeasure with the placement of the performance stage at Sawyer Park and their belief that it goes against the Sawyer Family's intentions when they gifted the property to the Town of Bennington in 1948. Mr. McClure and Mr. Lavoie also assert that the performance stage and electric restrict the property from being used as a baseball field. The Selectmen reviewed the Deed with Mr. McClure and Mr. Lavoie, which requires the property to be used as a public playground. The Selectmen agreed that if a baseball or softball league intends to use the field routinely in the future, the Selectmen will consider relocating the structure.

In other items on their Agenda, the Selectmen discussed the following:

- Reviewed and approved the Minutes of the Board's September 17, 2019 Meeting.
- Reviewed and approved the Payroll Register for September 26, 2019.
- Discussed the trees in the Contoocook River across from Alberto's Restaurant. Despite numerous attempts to contact Peter Lieschmann of the Milford-Bennington Railroad to obtain

permission to access the trees via the tracks, the Selectmen have received no response. The Selectmen asked the Town Administrator to obtain quotes for removing the trees using Antrim Road and the Contoocook River as access.

- Heard a report from the Town Administrator that the Joint Loss Management Committee met with Primex Risk Management Consultant Phil St. Cyr and conducted building tours of the Town Hall, Fire Station, VFW, Library, Highway Garage, and Transfer Station to identify deficiencies in advance of the Department of Labor's Health and Safety Inspection on October 2<sup>nd</sup>. The group identified several deficiencies and each Department will dedicate appropriate staff to remedy the deficiencies as soon as possible.
- At the recommendation of Primex, the Selectmen requested the Highway Department remove an old, dilapidated storage trailer located next to the sand/salt shed at the Highway Department. They Selectmen also requested the removal of the wood stove and piping in the Highway Garage.

There being no other business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:18 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristie LaPlante  
Town Administrator