

TOWN OF BENNINGTON

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes of the Meeting – March 17, 2020

Selectmen James Cleary, David Foster, and David Hardwick, Sr., were present as well as Town Administrator Kristie LaPlante. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. Mark Mackesy joined the meeting for a brief period.

Road Agent Hazen Fisk was in to meet with the Selectmen and provide an update on his Department:

- Upon request, motion was made, seconded, and unanimously voted to purchase a Self Leveling Construction Laser for the Highway Department at a package cost not to exceed \$800.
- With funding in place as a result of Town Vote on March 10th, the Highway Department would like to proceed with reconstruction of 1,350' of Durgin Road. Prior to starting the project, the Selectmen will need to decide if they will require a roadway bond from the owners of Map 22, Lot 11-C. The Selectmen declined to make a decision until they know the full scope of work and cost for that section of the roadway.
- Hazen and the Selectmen reviewed a draft list of projects the Highway Department intends to complete during the spring and summer.
- The Road Agent reported that he has received complaints from some property owners that the stump dump is not accessible when the gate to the Tri-Town Pit is locked. This led to a larger discussion about setting parameters on who can use it (if it is Bennington property owners or available to property owners from the Tri-Towns) and for what purpose (personal use or commercial use). The Selectmen agreed further research is required before any decisions can be made about unrestricted access to the Stump Dump.
- Earlier this month the Town switched Diesel Fuel vendors from Rymes to Irving Oil. The Town may switch all fuel deliveries to Irving Oil in the summer.
- The Road Agent has met with HP Fairfield and Donovan Springs to start gathering quotes to swap the dump body on the 2007 International.
- The Selectmen authorized the Highway Department to begin their summer schedule (work four 10-hour days) starting April 20th.
- The Road Agent was asked to evaluate what services they may be able to provide for the Water/Sewer Department as a result of the rate increase for Antrim Water/Sewer services.

The Selectmen reviewed and appointed the following Town Officials:

- Fire Chief – David Foster for one year
- Capital Reserve Funding Committee – James Cleary, Peter Eppig, David Foster, David P. Hardwick, Sr., and David McKenzie, each for one year
- Conservation Commission – Joseph MacGregor, Jon Manley, and Steve Willette, each for a three-year term
- Highway Safety Committee – Bret Sullivan and James Cleary, each for one year
- Newhall Park Board – David Parker for a three-year term
- Solid Waste Committee – David Parker, Jeffrey Rose, and Hazen Fisk, each for one year
- Board of Selectmen Chair – James Cleary for one year

The Town Administrator reported that a Disabled Veteran is moving to an apartment at 7 Cross Street and a portable handicap ramp will be required, which will encroach in to the Town's sidewalk by up to 6". Because the ramp is temporary in nature and is required for access to the residence, as a formality, the Selectmen voted to allow the property owner to lease up to 8" of the Town sidewalk in front of the entrance for a period of one year which can be renewed. In turn, the Selectmen will require an Indemnification Agreement and evidence of insurance from the property owner that holds the Town harmless from any real or perceived liability to the tenant, pedestrians, and damages to the ramp or building.

The Selectmen acted on the following matters:

- Heard a report from the Town Administrator that outlined an Emergency Management meeting held on March 15th to discuss the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Agreed to temporarily suspend Recycling during the COVID-19 pandemic. Also agreed to close the recycling building and swap shop.
- Received a final copy of the Water Department Emergency Response Plan.
- Received a draft of the Town's revised Safety Policy. The Selectmen will review the plan and provide comment at a future meeting.
- Signed the 2019 Equalization Municipal Assessment Data Certificate
- Signed Standard Veteran's Tax Credit Applications for owners of properties located at Map 7/Lot 80, Map 15/Lot 4-3, Map 7/Lot 30, Map 11/Lot 9, and Map 24/Lot 12.
- Signed a Totally and Permanently Disabled Veteran's Tax Credit Application for the property owner at Map 8/Lot 6.
- Signed a Driveway Permit for Map 10, Lot 74-01.
- Signed a Timber Tax for Operation # 19-041-10.

There being no other business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristie LaPlante, Town Administrator