

TOWN OF BENNINGTON

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes of the Meeting – September 30, 2009

Selectmen James Trow, Joseph Cuddemi, and Philip Germain were present as well as Administrator Denise French and Assistant to the Administrator Kristie LaPlante. Also attending the meeting were Chris Clough, Peter Martel, and Monadnock Ledger-Transcript reporter Josh Bond. The meeting was called to order at 5:34 p.m.

Road Agent Gary Russell met with the Board and discussed the following:

- The Highway Department had to hire Pine View Excavations to complete a town water dig after the Town's backhoe broke down; the hydraulic leak has been fixed and the line replaced.
- The Road Agent reported that the fence that was removed at 11 Cross Street as part of the TE Project was in disrepair prior to the dismantling. The Board discussed replacing the fence rather than repairing portions. The Road Agent will solicit estimates for replacing the fence.

The Board recessed the meeting from 6:05 p.m. until 6:40 p.m. while the Selectmen, Road Agent Gary Russell, and Town Administrator Denise French walked the downtown area with an eye on tree placement for the TE Project.

Liz Bedard and Jim Prescher met with the Board to present the Concord Regional Solid Waste/Resource Recovery Co-operative's plans to establish a Single Stream Recycling Facility in Concord. The Co-op is a nonprofit voluntary corporation that consists of 27 NH municipalities that is exploring the construction of the State's first single stream facility. The Co-op is in discussions with over 30 towns which have shown an interest in single stream recycling; the goal is to secure a minimum of 25,000 tons of recyclable materials before the Co-op commits to the project. The Board discussed single stream recycling and the cost savings that could be realized; no decisions were made.

The Board heard a report that the Planning Board is soliciting the Board of Selectmen's input to see if the Planning Board should continue to pursue the Workforce Housing Overlay District as mandated by the State; a 2009 Warrant Article seeking voter approval of the Workforce Housing Overlay District was denied by the voters 4-1. The Board of Selectmen encourage the Planning Board to conduct an inventory of existing apartments, consult the State formula, and identify zones within town that could benefit from Workforce Housing. The Selectmen also encourage the Planning Board to focus their attention on the Workforce Housing Overlay District, as opposed to the Small Wind Energy Systems Ordinance.

In other business before the Board, the Board took the following action:

- Heard a report that Barry White will be meeting with the Board on October 14th to present his preliminary findings of the process of regionalizing fire, police, and medical services; the Board asked that Mr. White be reminded that this is a preliminary presentation and the inclusion of department heads is not appropriate at this time.
- Clarified the Town's Personnel Policy regarding the use of vacation time. Vacation time is accrued on a calendar year basis and employees must use their vacation by December 31 of each year.

- Discussed secure access to Town Hall and the need to either create more keys to the building or change the locks. After much discussion, the Selectmen voted to purchase a new electronic keypad for Town Hall.
- Requested Town Counsel's advice regarding communications with a property owner whose property continues to be in violation of the Town's junk yard policies.
- Heard a report that a South Bennington Road excavation project appears to be exempt from the State and Town's Excavation Regulations. An Intent to Cut form will be requested from the property owner.
- Heard a report that LGC and Primex (the Town's insurance companies) conducted a review of all town buildings with members of the Joint Loss Management Committee. Based on the reviews, the Town has received a list of recommendations that require immediate action; the full report is forthcoming. Administrator French will work with the appropriate department heads to make sure the deficiencies that require immediate action are corrected.
- Accepted the donation of a 25' Christmas Tree from an Antrim resident.
- Accepted the donation of a Liberty Elm Tree from the Liberty Elm Tree Memorial project. The Board of Selectmen will work with the Conservation Commission and the VFW members to dedicate the elm at a celebration around Veteran's Day.
- Reviewed and approved the Accounts Payable Register and three Payroll Registers dated September 30, 2009.
- Reviewed and approved the Minutes of the Board's September 23, 2009 meeting.

With regard to the TE Project, the following was discussed:

- While the meeting was recessed from 6:05 p.m. until 6:40 p.m., the Selectmen, Road Agent, and Administrator walked the downtown area with an eye towards existing and proposed trees. Once back in session, the Board voted to eliminate a total of six trees from the project and voted to use elm trees, maple trees, and dogwood trees throughout the project.
- The Board voted to schedule a site visit at the School Street/Main Street and Main Street/Francestown Road intersections to test the intersection improvements with tractor trailer trucks.
- Voted to request the removal of curbing alongside the inside portion of Cross Street.
- Reviewed and approved FST Invoice 3 for Bid & Pre-Construction Support Services.
- Reviewed September 23, 2009 Construction Meeting Minutes.

From 9:55 p.m. until 10:26 p.m. the Selectmen met in Nonpublic Session under RSA 91-A:3II(a) with Assistant to the Administrator Kristie LaPlante. No decisions were made.

The meeting adjourned at 10:36 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Kristie LaPlante
Assistant to the Administrator