

TOWN OF BENNINGTON

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes of the Meeting – October 28, 2009

Selectmen Joseph Cuddemi and Philip Germain were present as well as Administrator Denise French. The meeting was called to order at 5:36 p.m.

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

- As stipulated in the advertisement for snow removal, a mandatory site walk is scheduled for October 29<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. It was jointly agreed to establish the policy of clearing snow from the sidewalks when there is a minimum of three inches of snowfall or at the end of the winter storm.
- Switzer Road turn-around will be posted "No Parking".
- Transfer Station vacation coverage by Highway Department employees was discussed. The Administrator will develop a roster of unused vacation days compared to the anniversary dates for all employees.
- Agreed to close the Transfer Station November 24<sup>th</sup>, Thanksgiving Eve.
- Agreed to the installation of a wood stove at the Highway Garage, dependant on the installation of hard-wired smoke detectors.
- The Road Agent will secure electrician quotes for the installation of emergency lighting and lit exit signs.
- The Code Officer will be asked to view the interior stairs at the Highway Garage and render his opinion as to whether they meet Life Safety Codes.
- The Road Agent will obtain estimates for the purchase of jack stands and barrel clamps for consideration by the Selectmen.
- Instructed the Administrator to respond to an Onset Road property owner who is concerned that a recent "Private Road" posting denotes a change in ownership of the Class VI portion of the road; it does not.
- This week's work project by the County inmates was exclusive to cemetery clean-up. It is probable the Road Agent will be able to schedule at least one week for the inmates to return for roadside debris cleanup.

At 7:26 p.m. motion was made, seconded and unanimously voted to enter into Nonpublic Session under RSA 91-A:3II(c). The roll call was: Germain –yes, Cuddemi – yes. Present were Selectmen Philip Germain, and Joseph Cuddemi as well as Joseph O'Brien. The group discussed Fire Department matters. No decisions were made. The Nonpublic Session adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

Fire Chief Allan Wilson, Deputy Chief Chester Heinzman and Forest Fire Warden Michael Roina met with the Selectmen and discussed the following:

- Bids for converting the old rescue vehicle into the forestry truck were reviewed. The first choice for retrofitting the vehicle is Donovan Equipment Company, followed by Hillsborough Ford; third choice is Cues Equipment. The estimated cost, including six new tires, is approximately \$10,000.

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- Chief Wilson stated that the Fire Department would pay any associated expenses if there are not sufficient funds remaining in the Rescue Vehicle Capital Reserve Fund. The old rescue vehicle is presently housed at a firefighter's home to ensure its security pending the retrofitting.
- The Administrator advised Chief Wilson that the purchase of the 2009 replacement rescue vehicle is within \$308.50 of the Fire Chiefs' and Board of Selectmen's agreed upon amount of \$167,576. The invoice for lettering the vehicle has not been received, although the anticipated expense was initially estimated at \$2,000.
- The Administrator requested model year and value for the Fire Department boat and trailer. The equipment remains uninsured pending receipt of this information. Also requested was a Bill of Sale for the utility trailer, which remains unregistered pending receipt of this information. The Chief reported the Department had trained with the boat at Whittemore Lake; NH Marine Patrol is willing to teach boater safety to the Department.
- Chief Wilson announced the resignation of Rescue Captain Kristen Jackson. He plans to promote Mike Hoiiris to fill the vacancy.
- Station cleanup is underway in accordance with recommendations the Joint Loss Management Committee received from the Town's insurance agents. Chester Heinzman volunteered his service to the Joint Loss Management Committee until his return to work.
- Fire Prevention activities were well received by the children.
- The entry key pad door lock to the Fire Station will be ordered.

At 9:11 p.m. motion was made, seconded and unanimously voted to enter into Nonpublic Session under RSA 91-A:3II(c). The roll call was: Germain –yes, Cuddemi – yes. Present were Selectmen Philip Germain, and Joseph Cuddemi as well as Fire Chief Allan Wilson. The group discussed Fire Department matters. No decisions were made. The Nonpublic Session adjourned at 9:43 p.m.

In TEP matters the Selectmen acted as indicated:

- As a result of an onsite exercise where a truck hauling a flatbed trailer drove through the proposed South Bennington/Route 31 intersection, Police Chief Steve Campbell, Road Agent Gary Russell and the Board of Selectmen voted to keep South Bennington Road wide enough for two lanes of traffic at each intersection with Route 31. Later in the meeting the Selectmen received confirmation that DOT has approved this plan modification.
- Reviewed Construction Meeting Minutes from October 21, 2009.
- Reviewed and approved the shop drawings for the planned replacement of the front entry steps at Town Hall. Earlier in the day Selectman Cuddemi authorized Van Dyke Construction to undertake the project at a total cost of \$9,000.

In other matters the Selectmen acted as indicated:

- Reviewed and approved the October 21, 2009 Selectmen meeting Minutes.
- Reviewed and approved the October 28, 2009 Accounts Payable (two) and Payroll Registers.
- Received and accepted the 2009 Preliminary Values, subject to Assessor's further review of the South Face Condominium values, with the understanding the Board will have one more week to review the values and make changes should circumstances warrant. A comparison report of 2008 and 2009 assessed values will be developed and delivered to each of the Selectmen.

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- Received the first Draft of the 2010 Budget which reflects an increase of \$29,205 in the Operating Budget.
- Established a meeting date of November 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. to convene the Capital Reserve Fund Planning Committee.
- Agreed that the Town should pay the requested \$400 propane deposit for a welfare client with the understanding that the Town will execute a lien for assistance against the property owned by the client.
- Reviewed and approved Building Permits for M12/L1D, M21/L2C and M22/L6.

The meeting adjourned at 10:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Denise French  
Administrator