

TOWN OF BENNINGTON

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes of the Meeting – March 31, 2010

Selectmen Philip Germain, Joseph Cuddemi and Steven Osienski were present as well as Administrator Denise French. Also attending the meeting was Peter Martel and Chris Clough. The meeting was called to order at 5:32 p.m.

Police Chief/Emergency Management Director Steve Campbell met with the Selectmen and discussed the following:

- A motion was made, seconded and unanimously voted to hire Josue Roman as a part-time police officer. Mr. Roman is currently certified for part-time police work.
- The replacement police cruiser has not been put into service.
- Bennington Police conducted a drug bust and arrested two individuals for multiple drug offenses.
- As Emergency Management Director Campbell reported closure of North Bennington Road at the Deering town-line and Bible Hill Road near North Bennington Road during the most recent rain event; a catch basin on Acre Street collapsed.

Library Trustees Lisa Shingler and Robyn Manley, accompanied by Library Director Leslie MacGregor and employee Jeannette Regis met with the Selectmen and discussed the following:

- Jeannette Regis was introduced to the Selectmen. Mrs. Regis has been hired by the Trustees as a substitute library employee.
- Chairman Germain administered the Oath of Office to Robyn Manley for a third term appointment as Library Trustee Alternate.
- Letters of appreciation were delivered to the Selectmen recognizing the efforts of Denise French, Kristie LaPlante, Gary Russell, Walter Kiblin, Gary Langlois and Hillsborough County DOC inmates during the recent flood event when the Library's basement was flooded.
- Restoration of portions of the Library's grounds was discussed; new grass and trees/shrubs planted under the TEP have a one year warranty. The Trustees reported they recently signed a contract for 2010 lawn care.
- It was agreed that a review of photocopying equipment would be beneficial to see if the Town Hall and the Library can save money by combining their needs.
- As a part of the summer reading program Library Officials have made arrangements for a magician to entertain at Pierce School on Saturday, July 24th at 6:00 p.m. This date coincides with the annual Recreation/Fire Department summer celebration.

In other matters the Selectmen acted as indicated:

- Reviewed and approved the March 17, 2010 Selectmen's Minutes.
- Reviewed and approved the March 24, 2010 Accounts Payable and Payroll Registers.
- Reviewed and approved the March 31, 2010 Accounts Payable and Payroll Registers.
- Heard a report that the Acre Street flooded basement at M7/L74 continues to appear to be a civil issue. The Administrator and Road Agent met with the property owner's legal counsel earlier in the day.
- Tabled acceptance of the draft audit documents pending further information.

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- Asked that a meeting with the Emergency Management Director, the Board of Selectmen and Lynn Heinzman be scheduled to jointly review Mrs. Heinzman's concerns outlined in her March 10th letter to Homeland Security and Emergency Management Director Christopher Pope.
- The Selectmen voted their approval for replacement of a mobile home, in kind, in the Village District.
- Accepted with regret the resignation of Transfer Station employee Donald Parker, effective April 3, 2010.
- Heard a report that health insurance premiums will increase 12.2%, effective July 1, 2010. The Local Government Center had originally estimated the premiums could increase by as much as 16.4%.
- Chairman Germain and Code Officer Peter Hopkins reported their findings upon inspection of the Champagne property as it relates to a court ordered cleanup. The Selectmen voted to authorize Mr. Champagne a one-week period of time to dispose of nonhazardous material at the Transfer Station without cost; tires are omitted from this disposal arrangement and are subject to fees for their disposal. A final visit is scheduled for Sunday, April 11th after 5:00 p.m. in advance of the April 14th Superior Court continuance.
- Received a written communication from Lynn Heinzman outlining how the Town can access a client database for Town residents; she also put forth contact information for the Hillsborough County Emergency Management Official. The information will be forwarded to Emergency Management Director Steve Campbell.
- Conservation Commission has confirmed their community cleanup day for April 17th at 9:00 a.m. This year the Commission plans to expand their activities to include beautification projects. The Selectmen signed documentation which will enable the Conservation Commission to receive free disposal bags and flower bulbs.
- Received a report that one of the state-owned computers in the Town Clerk's Office has a network security issue and utilizes the Town's Local Area Network to access the Internet. The Administrator will investigate a change to the router's firewall in an attempt to resolve the security issue.
- Selectmen Cuddemi and Osienski voted to approve a 2009 Tax Deferral after the March 1, 2010 filing deadline. A letter will be sent to the owner advising them of the absolute need to file future Tax Deferral Applications prior to March 1st or lose the opportunity to defer real estate taxes.
- The Selectmen voted to continue their lawn care business relationship with Pleasant Pond Landscaping.
- Location of a travel trailer parked near the South Bennington Road riverbank was discussed. The Selectmen asked that information be logged and residential use of the property noted if it occurs.
- Received notice of the April 27th SAC meeting at the SAU offices.
- Heard a report that an Antrim Bennington Food Pantry has been in existence for many years with minimal contact from Bennington residents. The Selectmen agreed to promote the Antrim Bennington Food Pantry as a source of food for those in need while also promoting support of the Pantry by those in a position to donate to the Food Pantry. As a first step a donation box will be setup in the Town Hall lobby to accept donations.
- Heard a report that the old rescue body was bartered for crushed gravel.
- Agreed to alter the Highway Department work schedule for the summer after meeting with the Road Agent at their April 7th meeting.
- Requested information from the Administrator regarding use of the upstairs gym at Town Hall by citizens promoting instructions for martial arts.
- Discussed with ZBA Chair Peter Martel procedures for processing land use applications.
- Tabled approval of an Intent to Excavate for M11/L16 pending Planning Board action.

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- Appointed the following members to the indicated positions/boards:
 - Deputy Health Officer – Charles Stevenson
 - Deputy Code Enforcement Officer – Charles Stevenson
 - Zoning Board of Adjustment – John Paradise for a one year term; Alternate Michael Osienski for one year; Alternate Melissa Clark for two years and Alternate Sam Cohen for three years.
- Reviewed, approved and signed:
 - ✓ Report of Appropriations Actually Voted
 - ✓ Veterans' Tax Exemption – M24/L7-1
 - ✓ Intent to Cut Wood – M11/L16
 - ✓ Excavation Tax – M11/L16
 - ✓ Timber Tax – M9/L2
 - ✓ Intent to Excavate (2009) – M3/L1
 - ✓ Intent to Excavate – M3/L1
 - ✓ Forest Fire Bill
 - ✓ Sign Permit – M13/L13
 - ✓ Demolition Permit – M16/L6
 - ✓ Building Permit – M3/L14
 - ✓ Building Permit – M11/L15A
 - ✓ Employee Time-off Request
 - ✓ Audit letter to LGC

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Denise French
Town Administrator