

1 **BENNINGTON SELECT BOARD MEETING**
2 **BENNINGTON TOWN OFFICES**
3 **205 SOUTH STREET**
4 **BENNINGTON, VERMONT 05201**

5
6 **MONDAY, JUNE 20, 2016**

7
8 MINUTES

9
10 BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Tom Jacobs, Chair (Arrived at 5:54 PM);
11 Donald Campbell; Jim Carroll; Jeanne Connor; Justin Corcoran; and
12 Jeannie Jenkins.

13
14 ABSENT: Michael Keane, Vice Chair.

15
16 ALSO PRESENT: Stuart Hurd, Town Manager; Melissa Currier, Finance
17 Director; Michele Johnson, Human Resources & Contracts Administrator;
18 and Terrance Morse, Water Resources Superintendent.

19
20 J. Corcoran called the meeting to order at 5:36 P.M.

21
22 **1. FY 2017 Water & Sewer Budget Work Session**

23 S. Hurd opened with a quick review of the Water Resources Budgets
24 Presentation that the Board previously received (see attached.) The Fund
25 budgets increase 2.6%/Water and 1.3%/Sewer respectively.

26
27 **WATER**

28 There was discussion regarding the water use, rates, and review of the
29 history regarding meters. Currently all commercial properties/commercial
30 mixed properties and multi-family unit properties are metered. Single
31 family dwellings are not; however, an owner has the option to be metered if
32 they purchase the meter and have it installed. Once completed, the Town
33 takes over ownership and maintains the meter. T. Morse gave a brief
34 history of the systems, infrastructure, rates and the Town's five year plan to
35 meet its depreciation schedule including system wide improvements.

37 There was a brief discussion regarding the PFOA's throughout the
38 community. A preliminary engineering study to run water to all properties
39 with wells contaminated by PFOA's estimated the costs to be
40 approximately \$25,000,000. The State of Vermont is currently working with
41 St. Gobain and pursuing them to pay for the entire project. Currently,
42 POET Systems are being installed on every well affected. The State is
43 pushing aggressively to have the Town's water line extended to these
44 properties and Town Water available by the end of 2017. They are looking
45 to have pipe in the ground by fall. As a result, the Town as redirected
46 paving funds that were slated in these areas.

47
48 T. Jacobs, Chair arrived from a previous meeting at 5:54 P.M.

49
50 T. Morse reviewed the Capital Asset Schedule with regard to purchases
51 proposed for the Water Fund. The new backhoe will replace a 1991
52 backhoe and the meter reader replaces a 12 year old unit.

53
54 The water/sewer rates sheet was reviewed.

55
56 There was discussion regarding users and it was asked if the new
57 anticipated users will offset the necessity to increase the rates. S. Hurd
58 recommended against that type of planning. He reminded the Board that it
59 promised the users that rates would not be increased more than 3% for the
60 next five years since the South End Water Project. Discussion continued
61 that 270 homes have wells contaminated with PFOA's and they will be
62 going on a Flat Rate. This will require 120,000 additional gallons per day of
63 the Town's water supply for the PFOA extension in the future.

64
65 Board members inquired about the budgeted decrease in account #41-
66 5980.760 UTILITIES-ELECTRIC and the #41-5900.860 *Transfer to General*
67 *Fund*. T. Morse explained the budget process and trending that he and the
68 Finance Director work on to prepare the budget and was comfortable with
69 the decreased amount for electricity. M. Currier explained that the Transfer
70 to General was the fund's share to support administrative support received
71 from employees within the General Fund.

72
73

74 SEWER

75 T. Morse reviewed the Capital Asset Schedule with regard to purchases
76 proposed for the Sewer Fund. He explained that because some of the
77 equipment is now being replaced rather than maintained, it allowed for a
78 reduction in Repairs and Maintenance.

79
80 S. Hurd discussed the major bond issue coming. The Town of Shaftsbury
81 has an interest in connecting to Bennington's system; however, it will need
82 for formalize a district and make a written detailed request. He further
83 discussed the Town's 1985 Compost Facility and the possibility to lease it
84 as a food composting facility. If this moves forward, it will be income for the
85 Sewer Fund. Also, the Wastewater Treatment Facility will have an Encore
86 net metering agreement that will reduce energy costs for the next twenty
87 years.

88
89 **Motion: D. Campbell made a motion to adopt the water and sewer
90 budgets with the rates as presented. J. Carroll seconded.**

91
92 **Discussion - D. Campbell discussed that he did not see much room to
93 make any changes. The Board asked S. Hurd to prepare some talking
94 points for the Board Members. He reminded that Board that the Water
95 Filtration Plant had a major upgrade in 2006; however, the Wastewater
96 Treatment Facility is now in need of a major upgrade.**

97
98 **Motion passed unanimously by all members present.**

99
100 Discussion followed on how the Town handles water and sewer
101 delinquencies, shut offs and payment agreements.

102
103 **2. 2016 Liquor License Application**

104 A 2016 Liquor License Application for the Northside Dairy Bar was
105 circulated to the Select Board for signatures.

106
107 **Motion: J. Carroll made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:06 PM.
108 J. Corcoran seconded. Motion passed unanimously by all members
109 present.**

110

111 Respectfully Submitted

112

113

114 Michele M. Johnson