

**BENNINGTON SELECT BOARD MEETING
BENNINGTON FIRE FACILITY
130 RIVER STREET
BENNINGTON, VERMONT 05201**

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2014

MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Sharyn Brush-Vice Chair; Tom Jacobs; Jim Carroll; Michael Keane; Justin Corcoran

Absent: Greg Van Houten- Chair; John McFadden;

ALSO PRESENT: Stuart Hurd, Town Manager; Dan Monks, Zoning Administrator & Assistant Town Manager; Mike Harrington, Economic & Community Development Director; Michelle Johnson, Human Resources & Contracts Administrator; Patrick McArdle – Rutland Herald; Keith Witcomb - Bennington Banner; Linda E. Bermudez – Secretary; (8) Citizens.

At 6:00 P.M., **Sharyn Brush** called the meeting to order.

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Sharyn Brush, recited by all.

At this time Sharyn Brush asked for a moment of silence to recognize the passing of Timothy Corcoran, the Bennington Town Clerk. She gave her condolences on behalf of the entire Select Board to the Corcoran family for this great loss.

Ms. Brush then asked that item #5 be moved up and addressed at this time

5. APPOINTMENT OF TOWN CLERK

Motion: Justin Corcoran motioned to appoint Cassandra Barbeau as Bennington Town Clerk. Jim Carroll seconded the motion.

Tom Jacobs expressed his support for this appointment. He stated the Town was very lucky to have strong, shining star like Cassandra working for the Town of Bennington. He is looking forward to working with her.

Michael Keane also expressed support. He stated this was a well-deserved appointment and it is exactly what Tim wanted.

Jim Carroll stated that Tim Corcoran had great respect and believed in Cassandra's abilities.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously
(Greg Van Houten & John McFadden absent)

2. MINUTES – OCTOBER 27, 2014

There were no corrections for the minutes of October 27, 2014

Motion: Tom Jacobs motioned and Justin Corcoran seconded to approve the Minutes of October 27, 2014 as submitted. Motion passed unanimously (*Greg Van Houten & John McFadden absent*)

3. WARRANTS

The next warrants of FY'15 were reviewed. Michael Keane questioned a payment for RBC Gearboxes. The Manager noted this was a budgeted item. The Wastewater Treatment Plant has 32 Rotating Biological Contactors (RBC's). They are in the process of replacing each one on a rotating basis through the budget. Mr. Keane then questioned a payment for an extrication box. The Manager noted this is located on the front of the Fire Department truck that holds all the extrication equipment. This was also planned in the budget.

Sharyn Brush questioned a payment to clean the digesters. The Manager explained that at the Wastewater Treatment Plant there are several digesters. They have not been cleaned in 15 years and therefore in need of a good cleaning.

There were no further questions. Warrants were then circulated for signatures.

4. CITIZENS

No citizens stepped forward this evening.

5. APPOINTMENT OF TOWN CLERK

See appointment above

6. WESTERN NEW ENGLAND GREENWAY PRESENTATION

Bruce Lierman stepped forward to present. He is before the board this evening to ask for support for the Western New England Greenway. This would be part of a multi-segment, multi-state greenway (bike route) that would link New York City up through Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Vermont to Quebec, Canada. This group is seeking a US Bike Route designation. To receive that designation, each Town the route passes through must provide a letter of support. Pownal, Shaftsbury, & Arlington have already granted their support.

Once the official designation has been granted, the only other request would be permission by the Town to post signs guiding bikers along the route and/or to key tourist sites. Mr. Lierman noted that this is lucrative tourist addition, as Cyclers need to eat approximately every 10 miles and need places to stay every 40-50 miles. They also enjoy visiting local sites and points of interest.

Tom Jacobs asked if there would be a large increase in signage. Mr. Lierman noted that there would be some additional signage but this would all be at the cost of W.N.E.G. This is the most costly portion of this entire project and therefore would probably be a few years. Once the money has been raised to create the signs, the organization would come before the board requesting approval.

Motion: Michael Keane motioned and Justin Corcoran seconded to authorize the Town Manager to draft a letter of support for the Western New England Greenway US

Bike Route designation and sign on behalf of the Select Board. Motion passed unanimously (*Greg Van Houten & John McFadden absent*)

7. MANAGER'S REPORT

The Manager reviewed a memorandum from the Board of Listers stating there are currently no appeals pending. This was then circulated for signatures.

There was one new liqueur license application. Catamount Glass applied for a license so they may conduct periodic tastings at their facility.

The Manager noted that two of the tax sale properties still have occupants. At this point either a negotiated eviction or formal eviction must begin. This will delay the sale of these two properties and require an outlay of funds. The Town can move forward with the remaining property, as it is unoccupied.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

Jim Carroll expressed his condolences to the Corcoran family.

Sharyn Brush noted the Governor approved the lowering of flags in Tim Corcoran's honor until November 15th, 2014.

The Veteran's Day parade will be held tomorrow November 11th, 2014 at 11:00am down Main Street and will end at the Vermont Veteran's Home.

The overnight Parking Ban begins November 15th, 2014.

Dan Monks stepped forward to remind the public that FEMA's new flood plain maps are complete. They are available for review on-line at the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources. You may also view the physical maps at the Town Office. The most important factor is if you will NOW (newly) considered in a flood zone you can purchase flood insurance at a much cheaper rate than if you wait the 90 day map-approval time. Once that time is gone, the purchase of flood insurance will be much more expensive for those newly designated in the flood plain.

Sharyn Brush then noted there was need for Executive Session.

Motion: Justin Corcoran motioned to close the meeting and move into Executive Session. Jim Carroll seconds the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

9. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. Contract (2)

Respectfully submitted,

Linda E. Bermudez
Secretary