

1 **BENNINGTON SELECT BOARD MEETING**
2 **BENNINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT**
3 **118 SOUTH STREET**
4 **BENNINGTON, VERMONT 05201**

5
6 **MONDAY, JANUARY 18, 2016**

7
8 MINUTES
9

10 BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Thomas Jacobs, Chair; John McFadden,
11 Vice Chair; Sharyn Brush; Donald Campbell; Jim Carroll; Justin Corcoran;
12 and Michael Keane.
13

14 ALSO PRESENT: Stuart Hurd, Town Manager; Cassandra Barbeau,
15 Town Clerk; Mike Cutler, CAT-TV Videographer; Paul Doucette, Jr., Police
16 Chief & Public Safety Director; Michael Harrington, Economic and
17 Community Development Director; Michele Johnson, Human Resources &
18 Contracts Administrator; Daniel Monks, Assistant Town Manager &
19 Planning Director; Joan Pinsonneault, Director of Collection & Town
20 Treasurer; and Keith Whitcomb, Jr., Bennington Banner Reporter.
21

22 T. Jacobs called the meeting to order at 6:03 P.M. He referred to the
23 Town Manager's Budget Addendum (3) for FY 2017 and reviewed the three
24 actions to date from the prior budget work session meetings.
25

26 **1. F.Y. '17 Budget Work Session**

27 **A. General Fund Misc. Budgets**

28 T. Jacobs asked the Board for direction regarding the Bennington County
29 Regional Commission's (BCRC's) funding allocation request.
30

31 **Motion: S. Brush made a motion and J. Carroll seconded to accept**
32 **the BCRC's funding allocation request as presented. Motion passed**
33 **unanimously.**
34

35 T. Jacobs asked the Board for direction regarding the Bennington Free
36 Library's funding allocation request.
37

38 **Motion: S. Brush made a motion and M. Keane seconded to accept**
39 **the Bennington Free Library's funding allocation request as**
40 **presented.**

41
42 J. Corcoran noted that the state's minimum wage increase is the biggest
43 portion of the library's increase.

44
45 **Motion passed unanimously.**

46
47 T. Jacobs asked the Board for direction regarding the John G. McCullough
48 Free Library's funding allocation request. The library is seeking a \$4,100
49 increase.

50
51 **Motion: S. Brush made a motion and J. Carroll seconded to accept**
52 **the John G. McCullough Free Library's funding allocation request as**
53 **presented pending clarification on the payroll tax line item within the**
54 **budget.**

55
56 J. Corcoran spoke of the state's minimum wage increase and he would like
57 the agencies to deal with these types of mandates moving forward. His
58 concern is agencies can't continue to look to Bennington to fund these
59 types of increases through the Town's budget. D. Campbell spoke
60 regarding his previous suggestion of setting a guidelines policy for the
61 agencies moving forward that would also address the increases to their
62 requests. S. Brush suggested that any new information or changes should
63 be given to the agencies by the end of the summer to give them ample time
64 to prepare accordingly.

65
66 **Motion passed by six members with J. Corcoran opposed.**

67
68 T. Jacobs asked the Board for direction regarding the Village of North
69 Bennington's (Recreation) funding allocation request. S. Hurd spoke that
70 the Board agreed in the past to increase the annual allocation from \$5,000
71 to \$6,000 with the understanding that North Bennington will maintain the
72 Welling Field.

73

74 **Motion: S. Brush made a motion and D. Campbell seconded to**
75 **accept the Village of North Bennington's (Recreation) funding**
76 **allocation request as presented.**

77
78 There was discussion regarding how the taxing is done. Old Bennington
79 and North Bennington pay General Fund tax, contributing to the
80 Bennington Recreation programs. The Village of North Bennington
81 (Recreation) came to the Bennington Select Board years ago and asked
82 the Town to help support their program as citizens of Bennington also use
83 their programs.

84
85 **Motion passed unanimously.**

86
87 T. Jacobs asked the Board for direction regarding the Police Department's
88 request to add Electronic Control Devices (ECD's) to the budget. P.
89 Doucette gave a brief summary of what the \$21,500 will get the
90 Department. The implementation plan does not include the three
91 detectives. J. Carroll spoke of his original concerns about these devices;
92 however, is in favor and endorses the purchase and use of ECD's.

93
94 **Motion: J. Carroll made a motion and S. Brush seconded to accept**
95 **and endorse the Police Department's funding of \$21,500 to purchase**
96 **ECD's as presented.**

97
98 There was discussion with the Chief regarding spreading the
99 implementation over two years and whether the same equipment would be
100 available or if it would create a hardship and it will not. The life span of
101 this type of equipment is five years and the program will be maintained
102 annually in the budget for replacement based on the five years. The
103 Police Department will continue to use pepper spray as it has proven to be
104 very effective in situations involving multiple people.

105
106 **Motion passed unanimously.**

107
108 **B. Special Requests**

109 The Board discussed the increase for the Economic & Community
110 Development Budget for marketing and the increase for the Regional

111 Economic Development Initiatives. The Board sees this as seed money,
112 endorses moving forward; however, discussed concerns of where it will go
113 and Select Board approvals over such. After much discussion of the
114 allocation of the increases and the future processes pending, S. Hurd
115 suggested that the Board allocate \$15,000 to the Economic Development
116 Initiatives and place it in reserve. A reserve also requires Select Board
117 approval before spending. The creation of the reserve will allow an
118 opportunity to add to in the future.

119

120 **Motion: S. Brush made a motion and D. Campbell seconded to**
121 **increase the Economic Development budget for marketing by \$10,000**
122 **and to increase the Regional Economic Development Initiatives**
123 **marketing by \$15,000.**

124

125 J. McFadden spoke of his concerns of where the money will go. There
126 was discussion that the town will set initiatives where the money will go and
127 create a work plan to follow. This can be done within 30 – 60 days and M.
128 Harrington will present to the Board.

129

130 **Motion Amendment: S. Brush amended the motion and D. Campbell**
131 **seconded to increase the Economic Development budget for**
132 **marketing by \$10,000 and to increase the Regional Economic**
133 **Development Initiatives marketing by \$15,000 with a Town staff**
134 **initiatives and work plan presentation within 60 days.**

135

136 There was additional discussion regarding the reserve and date(s) for the
137 presentation. S. Hurd suggested February 8th or 22nd if the Board was
138 looking for the presentation before the 2016 Annual Town Meeting.

139

140 **Motion passed unanimously.**

141

142 S. Hurd spoke of the capital plan that includes the capital projects over the
143 next five years and will get the information to the Board by the end of
144 March or the beginning of April.

145

146 **C. Executive Session**

147 **A. Personnel**

148 **Motion:** J. Corcoran made a motion and S. Brush seconded for the
149 **Board to enter into Executive Session to discuss personnel. Motion**
150 **passed unanimously.**

151
152 The Board entered into Executive Session at 7:20 PM.

153
154 **D. Finalize Salaries & Budget**

155
156 The Board came out of Executive Session at 8:44 PM.

157
158 **Motion:** S. Brush made a motion and J. McFadden seconded to
159 **increase the Town Manager’s annual salary by \$2,694.64. Motion**
160 **passed unanimously.**

161
162 **Motion:** S. Brush made a motion and M. Keane seconded to increase
163 **the Town Clerk’s annual salary by \$1,540.44. Motion passed**
164 **unanimously.**

165
166 **Motion:** S. Brush made a motion and J. Carroll seconded to increase
167 **the Town Treasurer’s annual salary by \$271.80. Motion passed**
168 **unanimously.**

169
170 **Motion:** S. Brush made a motion and J. Corcoran seconded to
171 **adjourn the meeting. Motion passed unanimously.**

172
173 The meeting adjourned at 8:48 P.M.

174
175 Respectfully Submitted

176
177
178 Michele M. Johnson