

1 BENNINGTON SELECT BOARD MEETING
2 BENNINGTON FIRE FACILITY
3 MULTI-PURPOSE ROOM – 3RD FLOOR
4 130 RIVER STREET
5 BENNINGTON, VERMONT 05201

6
7 MONDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2007

8
9 MINUTES

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11 BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Lodie Colvin-Chair; John Zink-Vice-Chair; Matt
12 Maroney; James Gulley; Chris Oldham and Jason Morrissey.

13
14 ALSO PRESENT: Stuart Hurd-Town Manager; Scott Murphy-Director of Economic &
15 Community Development; Steve Love; Neal Goswami-Bennington Banner and Nancy
16 Lively-Recording Secretary.

17
18 1. EXECUTIVE SESSION

19 A. PERSONNEL

20 At 6:40 P.M., the Board met in Executive Session to discuss Personnel.

21
22 At 7:00 P.M., Lodie Colvin called the meeting to order.

23
24 2. MINUTES – OCTOBER 22, 2007

25 *James Gulley moved and Chris Oldham seconded to approve the Minutes of*
26 *October 22, 2007 as submitted. The motion carried unanimously.*

27
28 3. WARRANTS

29 The warrants were circulated for signatures after Mr. Hurd answered Board
30 questions on the highway operating supply, Capitol Tree fund request, agency funding and
31 the grievance interpreter.

32
33 4. CITIZENS

34 None.

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36 5. SUPPORT LETTER – NEW USS BENNINGTON

37 Ms. Colvin read the Letter of Support to have a third fighting ship named after the
38 Battle of Bennington. Mr. Hurd added that the USS Bennington Association is an active
39 association of former crew members and were instrumental in obtaining the Ships Bell that
40 stands in front of the Town Offices. The Association frequently supports the Town with
41 memorial services at the Bell and are “our ambassadors to the world”. A member of the
42 Association will donate a painting of the USS Bennington carrier to the Town and the
43 Town will contribute \$150 to the making of mugs to be handed out to veterans on the way
44 to Washington, D.C. with the Capital Tree.

45 *James Gulley moved and John Zink seconded to sign the USS Bennington Letter*
46 *of Support as presented. The motion carried unanimously.*

47 6. F.Y. '07 AUDIT PRESENTATION

48 Steve Love reviewed the FY07 Draft Audit with the Board noting the following
49 highlights:

- 50 • For three consecutive years no adjustments to the Towns accounting records were
51 required as a result of the audit.
- 52 • The Town's combined net assets were \$30,396,566 at June 30, 2007, a decrease of
53 \$1,249,589 from last year.
- 54 • During the year, the Town's governmental activities' net assets decreased by
55 \$835,303. Beginning net assets were restated to include infrastructure of
56 \$14,041,319.
- 57 • Net assets for the Town's business-type activities decreased by \$414,286.
- 58 • Total assets at June 30, 2007 are \$40,757,325 – with Governmental Activities at
59 \$25,418,355 and Business-type Activities at \$15,338,971.
- 60 • All fluctuations are offset on the other side.
- 61 • Financial position has improved with no significant deficiencies – an overall good
62 job.

63

64 7. APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

65 *Jason Morrissey moved and James Gulley seconded to appoint Ryan Morse to*
66 *the Development Review Board to complete the term vacated by Richard Owens. The*
67 *motion carried unanimously.*

68

69 8. MANAGER'S REPORT

70 Mr. Hurd noted that this is the first year in the last 15 years that the Town has
71 operated at a loss and he will explain the reason why to the public in the near future.

72 Mr. Hurd reported that there is a potential anonymous donation of \$50,000 to help
73 with the skate park at the Leonard J. Black Memorial Park. Mr. Hurd hopes that the Board
74 would designate a similar reserve amount of \$50,000 for improvements to the Park as we
75 did last year. When combined with the donation, the Town would be well on the way to
76 establishing a fund to support the Park.

77 In addition, estimated operation costs with the Park fully operational, including
78 basketball courts, etc., for 210 days/year at 12 hours/day, would cost \$104,160. If we
79 charge \$1/hour for use of the skate facility and an estimated 30 skaters/hour visit the
80 facility throughout the day, total income would be \$75,600. Additional funds would be
81 generated by rentals, memberships, and other sales. As time goes by, grant opportunities
82 will be able to be utilized to augment our funding sources.

83 Mr. Maroney, Mr. Oldham, Mr. Zink and Mr. Gulley would all like to put the Park
84 concept to a vote in the spring.

85 It was the consensus of the Board to have the reserve fund a separate line item on
86 the ballot with the amount to be further discussed at budget time.

87 Mr. Hurd has instructed his department heads to develop a level funded budget for
88 FY09 with health care costs only increasing a little over 6%.

89

90 9. OTHER BUSINESS

91 Mr. Gulley would like Mr. Hurd to contact the forester about cutting the mature
92 trees on our wood lots.

93 Mr. Gulley asked what the boundaries of the Growth Center are, and Mr. Hurd
94 answered that it surrounds the downtown historic district. He will get the exact areas that
95 are covered for the Board.

96 Mr. Zink thanked all of the Veteran's Day Parade participants.

97 Mr. Morrissey reminded everyone to pay their taxes on November 13th and would
98 like all tax deadlines to be well publicized in the future. Ms. Colvin added that the Town
99 is willing to work with anyone that is not able to pay the entire amount of their taxes
100 tomorrow.

101 Mr. Oldham asked about resurrecting the Recreational Committee, and Ms. Colvin
102 suggested that the Board consider it for discussion at the next meeting.

103 Ms. Colvin noted that the winter parking ban begins on November 15th.

104 Ms. Colvin asked about the stop sign issue at Benmont Avenue and County Street,
105 and Mr. Hurd stated that there are different standards for a three way stop sign than there
106 are for a light. The Transportation Planner at the Regional Commission will look at the
107 study that we had done previously and report back after Thanksgiving. He will also be
108 starting the Silver Street / Grandview Street study within a week.

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110 10. EXECUTIVE SESSION

111 A. CONTRACTS

112 B. PERSONNEL

113 *At 8:30 P.M., James Gulley moved and John Zink seconded to go into Executive*
114 *Session to discuss Contracts and Personnel. The motion carried unanimously.*

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117

118 Respectfully submitted,

119 Nancy H. Lively

120 Secretary

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