New Belmont building inspector hired by selectmen

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BELMONT — Selectmen in Belmont approved the hiring of the town's new building inspector/code enforcement officer/health officer on Monday evening.

Moving up from the southern part of the state will be Steven J. Paquin, who is set to begin work later this month.

The town offered Paquin a conditional offer of employment on July 24, contingent upon his completion of a motor vehicle record check and criminal background check.

Paquin's starting salary will be $50,055.65, or $24.07 per hour, and will increase to $51,056.76, or $24.55, after he completes his six-month probation period. Paquin is replacing a position that became vacant after the former building inspector/code enforcement officer, Steve Dalton, died earlier this year.

In other business, selectmen voted to enter into a crossing agreement with the state Department of Transportation to allow work to begin on the sewer pump replacement project in the Winnisquam area.

At Town Meeting in March, votes agreed to spend up to $1.5 million to replace and install five
wastewater pumps. Town Administrator Jeanne Beaudin said the town needed to formulate a crossing agreement between the town and the state to be able to have construction vehicles cross over the tracks during the project.

"[The] DOT requires that the town take all liability of the tracks during the project," Beaudin said. "We had to do something similar when the town was doing work down at the town beach."

In other news, the Board asked a number of surrounding towns earlier this year if they would be interested in jointly purchasing a fire boat for the five communities in the Winnisquam area.

Selectmen received a letter on July 26 from the Town of Sanbornton, stating that because of the present economic times, the town would not be able to offer any financial support in the project. The town has not received any other formal letters from Laconia, Meredith, Tilton, or Northfield.

Selectmen were provided with an update on the Belmont Recreation Alternative Trail Team, also called BRATT, trail project, with Beaudin announcing that the town still needs $17,000 before any more progress can be done.

She said the project has not been sent out to bid yet because the remaining funds need to be in the bank to pay for engineering costs.

Selectman Ron Cormier asked what section still needed engineering done. Beaudin said there was a small section behind the Osborne’s Agway that needs to be surveyed before they can go to bid.

Beaudin said the project is being funded 80/20 from the government grants. Selectmen agreed that the project has been a long and tedious one.

In other business, the town will be looking to possibly relocate the bottom entrance of the Corner Meeting House from the side of the building to the area facing the parking lot.

Beaudin said the pitch of the roof is rather steep and, during the winter, snow can come off at a very fast rate, and could cause injury to people if they are underneath that section. Beaudin said if there is money in the Buildings and Grounds Improvement Capital Reserve, that the town should look into getting it fixed this year.

Selectmen appointed two members to the Heritage Commission on Monday evening. Resident Alyce Jewell will serve a two-year term until March 2014, and resident Kelly Rolfe will serve a one-year term until March 2013. Currently there are four people on the Heritage Commission, with one member being the representative from the Board of Selectmen.

Lastly, Belmont Fire Chief David Parenti announced the sale of tickets for the fire department’s annual Old Home Day Chicken BBQ. Tickets can be purchased at the station during for $9, with money being raised to benefit the Fireman’s Association.

The next selectmen’s meeting will be Monday, Aug. 20 at 5 p.m.