

APPROVED MINUTES
SELECTBOARD MEETING
TOWN OF BENSON, VT
November 28, 2022, 7pm

Selectboard:

Guy Charlton (Chair), Jack Helm, Ron Stewart Jr., John Hill, and Brad Barrett

Others:

Heidi Chandler (Town Clerk/Treasurer) Carrie LaFond (Selectboard Assistant)

Public: Steve Murray, Caleb Parker, Bob Ambrozaitis, Jon Dodd

Call to Order: Guy Charlton (Chairman) called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

Motion by Ron Stewart Jr., second by Brad Barrett to allow Ted Brady from VLCT to be added to the agenda, John Hill abstained, motion passed

Amendments To Agenda:

Added Ted Brady VLCT

VLCT:

Ted Brady from VLCT gave a presentation on what VLCT has to offer the Town including several different training opportunities and the Town should apply for a loss control grant

Approved Agenda:

Motion to approve the agenda as amended was made by Jack Helm and seconded by John Hill, motion was passed

Public Comment:

Caleb Parker informed the Selectboard that the Library was also using the conference call system because it sometimes hard to get everyone together.

Bob Ambrozaitis asked what was happening with the graders and questioned why the town needs so many trucks. Answer: the old grader is to be fixed (the town is not putting any cost towards fixing it) and sold and the rental is getting returned as of 11/28/22. The truck purchased at auction was purchased not knowing if the other dump truck was going to get fixed or when and it does not cost the Town to have a extra truck. Insurance is a blanket policy.

Fire Department:

- Dave Bartholomew question what the Fire department's liability is for traffic control and would like to get legal advice.

Motion by John Hill, second by Jack Helm to allow Dave Bartholomew to contact the Town Attorney to find out the Fire department's liability in traffic control, motion passed

- Also, Dave Bartholomew stated if the Town does go with a different transport company for ambulances the First Response needs to be notified because they must sign an agreement with the transport service provider.

Approve Selectboard Minutes:

Motion by John Hill, second by Jack Helm to add the following to the minutes on November 14/22, Jon Dodd spoke about making changes to the minutes after they have been posted and after the agenda had been approved could cause the Town to be sued, motion passed

Motion to approve November 14, 2022 Selectboard minutes as amended by John Hill second by Ron Stewart Jr., Motion passed.

Motion to approve November 16, 2022, Selectboard minutes as amended by Brad Barrett second by Ron Stewart Jr., Motion passed.

Motion to approve November 21, 2022, Selectboard minutes as presented by John Hill second by Ron Stewart Jr., Motion passed.

Pay Bills:

Motion by John Hill to pay regular bills to the amount of \$46,586.46 and regular Payroll in the amount of \$3,786.15, second by Ron Stewart Jr., motion passed

Motion by John Hill to pay Highway Payroll in the amount of \$4,684.03, second by Ron Stewart Jr., motion passed. Brad Barrett abstained from the motion.

Animal Control Officer:

The dog complaint on Stage Road has been resolved

Highway Department:

Road Foreman: Brad Barrett

The bid results from the equipment auction the town purchased equipment at are as followed:

John Deer Grader \$41,100
International Dump Truck 12,900
Loader Tires \$3,800

- The '04 Truck is being put back together
- Working on fixing rd. signs
- Mack truck back, working on hydraulic lines

- Have a credit of 272 tons of gravel with Casella
- Would like to have the name changed from Skilled Mechanic to Heavy Equipment Operator in the PayScale. (This is the parttime position)

Motion by Jack Helm and second by John Hill to change the name from Skilled Mechanic to Heavy Equipment Operator for the PayScale, Motion passed

Motion by Guy Charlton (Chair) to close Hulett Hill Rd from 5:45 to 7:00 and Stage Rd from Hulett Hill Rd to Lake Rd from 5:00pm to 7:00pm on December 3rd for the tractor parade, second by John Hill, motion passed

Overweight Permits:

Motion by Ron Stewart Jr. for the Chair Guy Charlton to sign the Overweight permits for JC Rendering and DFA, second by Jack Helm, motion passed.

Transfer Station:

Two dumpsters went out this week

Town Garage: Nothing

Town Clerk Report:

- Heidi Chandler Town Clerk/Treasurer provided the board with a current profit and loss and current highway budget.
- Suggested looking into municipal energy grants
- Need to update authorized purchasers for tractor supply
- Questioned whether groups requesting funding must have a petition for Town Meeting

Motion by John Hill, second by Brad Barrett that any group requesting funds from the Town must file a petition, motion passed

Motion by John Hill, second by Ron Stewart Jr. that Brad Barret and Dave Bartholomew be listed as authorized purchasers at Tractor Supply, motion passed.

Motion by Brad Barrett, second by Ron Stewart Jr., the Selectboard meeting scheduled for December 26th be moved to December 27th, motion passed.

Follow up From Previous Meetings:

John Hill informed the board that after doing to research; a police officer can not wok as an independent in town, they must have a department. Suggested reach out to Fair Haven again to see if they are willing to do the administrative portion.

Old Business:

Motion by John Hill to approve the changes to the Road Foreman job description, second by Ron Stewart Jr, Motion passed Brad Barrett abstained from the motion

Motion by John Hill to approve the changes to the Skilled Labor job description, second by Ron Stewart Jr, Motion passed

Motion by John Hill to approve the changes to the Road Commissioners job description, second by Ron Stewart Jr, Motion passed Brad Barrett abstained from the motion

Motion by John Hill to table the Personnel Policy until the next meeting, second by Ron Stewart Jr., motion passed.

Listers: Tabled until the next meeting by Chair Guy Charlton

New Business:

Motion by Guy Charlton (Chair) to send out request for proposals for Ambulance transport services, second by John Hill, motion passed

Motion by Ron Stewart Jr, to move \$57,800 from the Equipment Reserve Fund to the Checking account to pay for purchase made at the equipment auction, second by Guy Charlton (Chair), motion passed. Brad Barrett abstained from the motion.

Discussion on the possibility of having zoom meetings as an alternative to the conference call. John will investigate cost and details

Correspondence:

Sam Bartholomew Email- The board has voted to send out RFPs for Ambulance service. Fair Haven will probably come back as the best deal but the only way to know is to get quotes

Daphne Bartholomew Email- Very few people were taking advantage of the conference call system and the board is looking into zoom.

Jen Parch-Whitehurst Email- Discussion on pictures of puddling and if it is the towns responsibility

Motion by Jack Helm, second by Ron Stewart Jr. to send a copy of the driveway permit form to Jen Partch--Whitehurst and suggest she seek immediate remedy privately, motion passed

Selectboard Members' Round Table: None

Executive Session:

Motion by John Hill to move into executive session for an issue that the board has determined that premature public knowledge would clearly place a person involved at a substantial disadvantage. Second by Jack Helm, Motion passed

Motion by John Hill to move into executive session per 1. V.S.A 313 (a) (3) for the purpose of appointment or evaluation of a public officer or employee at 10:11 pm Second Jack Helm,
Motion passed

Motion by John to request that the Treasurer not enter data for paying bills (invoices or packing slips) until the bills are approved by the Selectboard, second by Jack Helm, motion passed

Out of exec session at 10:43PM

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn at 10:45 by Ron Stewart, Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted.
Carrie LaFond
Selectboard Assistant