

APPROVED MINUTES  
SELECTBOARD MEETING  
TOWN OF BENSON, VT  
December 12, 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:** Wayne Fletcher, Lois Tren, Ben Bartholomew, Joe Gunther

**Call to Order:** Guy Charlton (Chairman) called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

**Amendments To Agenda:**

Move Listers up after public Comment in the Agenda

Add Joe Gunter- FH Town Manager

**Approved Agenda:**

Motion to approve the agenda as amended was made by John Hill and seconded by Ron Stewart Jr., motion was passed

**Public Comment: None**

**Listers:**

- Lois Tren explained the importance of a new town wide appraisal Se letter dated 12/12/22
- Should be budgeting \$15,000 to pay for the reappraisal from an outside source.

Question by Jack Helm, Do we have to have a Town wide re-appraisal?

Answer: Yes, it's the law. Lois Tren will send the information that backs this up to the selectboard assistant to forward.

**Fire Department:**

- Ben Bartholomew reminded the board election of officers for the Fire department would be Wednesday 12/14/22

**Approve Selectboard Minutes:**

Motion to approve November 28<sup>th</sup>, 2022, Selectboard minutes as presented by John Hill second by Brad Barrett., Motion passed.

**Pay Bills:**

Motion by John Hill to pay regular bills to the amount of \$31,601.00 and regular Payroll in the amount of \$5,253.10, second by Brad Barrett., motion passed

Motion by John Hill to pay Highway Payroll in the amount of \$4,345.09, second by Ron Stewart Jr., motion passed. Brad Barrett abstained from the motion.

**Animal Control Officer:** Nothing

**Highway Department:**

**Road Foreman: Brad Barrett**

- Greased the new grader and went through it, ran it for 6 hrs. (very pleased)
- Worked on brush
- TPS sensor on Truck not working
- Worked on plowing, scraping, and sanding
- Salt supply-ok
- All trucks are back
- Volvo purchased VT Mack so it will be staying in business
- Paperwork all set to be reimbursed for the completed grants and aide projects

**Joe Gunther FH Town Manager:**

- Presented the board with the option of shared expense of a Rd side mower that the Town of Fair Haven owns

**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.
- Questioned the Motion from the previous meeting that the Town Clerk/Treasure does not enter any bills until the Selectboard had approved them.

### **Follow up From Previous Meetings:**

Motion by John Hill, second by Jack Helm that all invoices need to be reviewed and approved by a Department Head before being entered with the exception of normal operation invoices, motion passed.

Motion by Guy Charlton (Chair), second by Jack Helm to correct the total amount of bills from the 11/28/22 warrant to be \$42,643.78 due to the overpayment of Rutland County tax, motion passed

Zoom meetings free up to 45 minutes then fees go to \$15-\$150/ year depending on what apps are used. John Hill to investigate exactly what the town would need.

### **New Business**

- Reviewed draft of Personnel Policy stopped at section 14 agreed by consensus to review the rest independently and be ready to review at the next meeting.

Motion by Brad Barrett to authorize the Chair to sign the notice of intent for the Municipal Roads General Permit Renewal, meeting, second by John Hill, motion passed.

### **Correspondence:**

Sam Bartholomew Email- The Selectboard feels who the RFPs for ambulance service was sent to is confidential, bids were sent to non-ambulance services to see if they would like to expand their services, An RFP will be sent to Fair Haven Ambulance Services

Jon Dodd Email- The conference call system is only free to the public not the Town and the Selectboard continues to look at the possibility of Zoom meetings

### **Selectboard Members' Round Table:**

- Question where the Town is at with regards to upgraded internet, Answer: Consolidated probably best bet, still looking into other companies as well.
- The Highway needs a tablet compatible with the State programs by April and the computer at the highway department still having issues (john Hill to look into).
- John Hill to gather more information about a buyout for employees that do not take the Town health insurance.
- Suggestion to bring the proposal to Fair Haven Ambulance service the fee for ambulance service be based on per call from previous year instead of per resident of towns. Benson had 47 calls, Hubbardton 58, West haven 28 and Fair Haven 350.

**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

Out of exec session at 9:42 PM with No action taken

**Adjournment:**

Motion to adjourn at 9:43 by Ron Stewart, Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted.  
Carrie LaFond  
Selectboard Assistant