

APPROVED MINUTES
SELECTBOARD MEETING
TOWN OF BENSON, VT
January 23rd, 2023, 7pm

Selectboard:

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

Others:

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

Public: Steve Murray, Lois Trenn, Sue Brown, Sandra Owen, Samantha Lendway, John Lendway, Scott Messer, Victoria Flynn, Rod Ethier

Call to Order: Guy Charlton (Chair) called the meeting to order at 7:14pm.

Amendments To Agenda:

Add Town Meeting Warning
Add Sue Brown- Benson Family Day
Move up Rod Ethier

Approved Agenda:

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

West Haven Transfer Station- Rod Ethier:

Rod Ethier from The Town of West Haven asked the selectboard if the Town of Benson would be willing to take their trash that is currently going to the Town of Fair Haven.

The Selectboard will investigate costs and the permitting to see if it is cost effective or even possible under the current permit.

Sandra Owen:

Sandra Owen asked the Select Board what their stance was on the Boy scout camp being sold and the public loosing access to the Lake. Sandra Owen expressed the importance of free recreation in the area and informed the board the Town of Orwell is also concerned possibly the two Towns should work together on the issue. Also maybe put pressure on The State of Vermont to reconsider as a park.

Discussion on the Pos and Cons of a private purchase vs a nonprofit agency purchasing the property.

Motion by John Hill to setup a meeting with the Town of Orwell to discuss the future of the boy scout property, second by Brad Barrett. Motion passed.

Benson Family Day Sue Brown:

Sue Brown put an article out for Town Meeting day requesting \$2,500 for family day. Vendors are very expensive and not a lot of vendors donate. The Family Day committee would like to be able to offer more things to do and the extra money would make that possible. They have tried several fundraises with very little support.

Listers: Tabled

Public Comment:

Lois Trenn questioned why the Creamery lease was to be terminated and stated a case on behalf of the individual renting the creamery. Suggested maybe raising the rent to cover costs.

Approve Selectboard Minutes:

Motion to approve January 9th, 2023, Selectboard minutes as Presented by John hill., second by Ron Stewart Jr. Motion passed.

Motion to approve January 17th, 2023, 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 \$84,795.21 and regular Payroll in the amount of \$5082.83, second by Ron Stewart Jr, motion passed.

Motion by John Hill) to pay Highway Payroll in the amount of \$6,685.70 second by Jack Helm., motion passed. Brad Barrett abstained from the motion.

Fire Department: None

Highway Department:

Road

- Very busy with the past storms salting and clearing the roads.
- John Hill mentioned the use of the Benson Blabber with the iPad and storm updates was a great idea and the iPad the Highway department needs is on sale.

Motion by Ron Stewart Jr. for John Hill to purchase the iPad for the Highway Department, second by Jack Helm, motion passed.

Transfer Station:

- Recycling dumpster out this week
- Demolition dumpster will go out this week.
- Power steering on the backhoe needs to be fixed.

Town Garage: Nothing

Town Clerk Report:

- Heidi Chandler Town Clerk/Treasurer provided the board with comparative budget from the meeting on January 22, 2023, and Highway Profit and Loss

Library: Tabled

Excess Weight Permits:

New Port Sand and Gravel is requesting an excess weight permit

Motion by Brad Barrett for the (Chair) Guy Charlton to sign the excess weight permit for Newport Sand and Gravel, seconded by Ron Stewart Jr., motion passed unanimously.

Certification of Highway Miles:

Motion by John Hill for the (Chair) Guy Charlton to sign the Certificate of Highway miles, seconded by Jack Helm, motion passed unanimously.

Appointment Youth League: Tabled until after Town Meeting

Planning Commissioner:

- Steve Murray presented for Cheryl Murry information from the planning commissioners, letter in file. It was also presented that a Town Face book page would be beneficial and can be set up without comments being allowed.
- Looking for Reps for the Town planning commission. Ted Kellogg and Steve Murray have volunteered.

Motion by Brad Barrett for Ted Kellogg and Steve Murray to be the Town planning reps until March when the board is reorganized, second by Jack Helm, Motion passed.

Motion by John Hill for Cheryl Murray to set up a Facebook page for the Town of Benson with limited access, second by Jack Helm, Motion passed.

Petitions:

Motion by John Hill to put the petitions that have been revived on the warning for Town Meeting, second by Jack Helm, motion passed.

Municipal Energy Resilience Program:

- Previously submitted by Town Clerk

Budget Review- Tabled until Monday 1/30/23.

Town Meeting Warning:

Motion by John Hill shall the town raise, appropriate and expend up to \$15,000 for an outside audit, second by Ron Stewart Jr, opposed by Jack Helm, motion passed.

Motion by John Hill shall the town raise, appropriate and expend up to \$5,000 for a reserve fund for an outside audit, second by Ron Stewart Jr, motion passed.

Follow up From Previous Meetings:

- John Hill is drafting a Purchase order plan.

Old Business:

- Question about internet access and who the town will be going with? Answer: looks like Consolidated for all of Rutland County

New Business

- Jack Helm presented the board with another option for a Town garage other than the current plan.
- Discussion on looking into a new plan for a town Garage with the possibility of having a General Contractor.

Correspondence: None

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 9re:20 pm Second Jack Helm, Motion passed.

Out of Exec session at 10:02PM

Motion to authorize Guy to hire an investigator by John. Second by Brad. Motion passed.

Motion to review personnel policy by John. 2nd by Jack. Motion passed.

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn by Ron at 10:05PM

Respectfully submitted.

Carrie LaFond

Selectboard Assistant