

APPROVED MINUTES  
SELECTBOARD MEETING  
TOWN OF BENSON, VT  
January 30th, 2023, 7pm

**Selectboard:**

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

**Others:**

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

**Public:** Stacey Guyette, Amanda Bartholomew, Brooke Bartholomew, Lynn Bowen, Lois Trenn, Caleb Parker, Robert Bizek, Steve Murray, Cheryl Murray, Dave Bartholomew

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

**Approved Agenda:**

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

**Public Comment:**

Question about why a private detective was hired by the Town. Answer: A Fire Department personnel matter.

Question about why there was a motion to not print names of delinquent taxes and names and salary of Town employees. Answer: The board was attempting to give more privacy to individuals. The information is always available upon request.

The Auditors feel there should be full disclosure and the names of individuals with delinquent taxes will be published with amounts and because the Town report is already prepared names and salaries will be published this year and next year salaries will be published by position.

The Auditors also stated the Auditors report is the only report required by statute.

Motion by Jack Helm to rescind the motion that names not be published in the Town report for salaries and delinquent taxes, second by John Hill, motion passed.

**Budget Reviews:**

Continued to review budgets of the General Fund and Highway Budget

Motion by Guy Charlton (Chair) to raise the amount allotted for gravel expense by 75,000 making it 150,000 for a total highway budget of \$538,944, second by John Hill, motion passed

Discussion on whether the Town meeting should be a floor vote or Australian ballot due to the Covid meeting laws still being an option.

Motion by John Hill to move forward with the floor vote for Town meeting, second by Jack Helm, motion passed.

Discussion on where the figures came from for the budget of \$15,000 to have an outside audit. Answer from an individual that does audits.

Motion by John Hill to sign the warning for the annual Town meeting on March 7, 2023, second by Jack Helm, motion passed.

Motion by John Hill to review the Annual select board report, second by Jack helm, motion passed.

Discussion on the dedication of the Town Report.

**Adjournment:**

Motion by Ron Stewart Jr. to adjourn at 8:25 second by Jack Helm. Motion passed

Respectfully submitted.  
Carrie LaFond  
Selectboard Assistant