

APPROVED MINUTES  
SELECTBOARD MEETING  
TOWN OF BENSON, VT  
January 9th, 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)

**Public:** Steve Murray, Dave Bartholomew, Caleb Parker

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

**Amendments To Agenda:**

Move Fire Department and Executive Session Up

Add Registration of Equipment bought at Auction

Add Grading Bids

**Approved Agenda:**

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

**Public Comment: None**

Caleb Parker expressed how good a job the road crew is doing

**Fire Department:**

- Dave Bartholomew presented first draft fire department budget
- Dave Bartholomew (Fire Chief) presented the election of officers as followed: Dave Bartholomew -Fire Chief, Ben Bartholomew -Asst Fire Chief, Sam Bartholomew- Captain, Adam Stewart-Captain

Motion by Brad Barrett to accept the appointment of officers for the Fire Department, seconded by Ron Stewart Jr., motion passed

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 7:20 pm Second Jack Helm, Motion passed

Out of Executive session at 7:45pm

Motion by Brad Barrett to accept the resignation of Ben Bartholomew from the Fire Department, seconded by John Hill, motion passed.

Motion by Brad Barrett for the Chair Guy Charlton and Fire Chief Dave Bartholomew to seek legal counsel, seconded by John Hill, motion passed.

**Approve Selectboard Minutes:**

Motion to approve December 27<sup>th</sup>, 2022, Selectboard minutes as amended by Ron Stewart Jr., second by John Hill, Motion passed.

Motion to approve January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023, Selectboard minutes as presented by Ron Stewart Jr., second by John Hill, Motion passed

**Pay Bills:**

Discussion on not paying the CARQUEST invoice and the IRS bill. Felt the IRS penalty could be resolved by phone and the Carquest not signed off. Bills that come in after 12:01 on Monday will be processed the following meeting

Motion by John Hill to pay regular bills to the amount of \$29,596.66 less (\$810.19) IRS and regular Payroll in the amount of \$,5,749.77, second by Jack Helm, motion passed

Motion by Guy Charlton (Chair) to pay Highway Payroll in the amount of \$5,419.05 second by Ron Stewart Jr., motion passed. Brad Barrett abstained from the motion.

**Animal Control Officer:** Nothing

**Highway Department:**

**Road Foreman: Brad Barrett**

- Warm temperatures have the water running, used grader to open culverts and ditches
- Serviced loader
- Started chipping/ cleaning up storm debris
- East Rd where black top meets dirt needs a little work
- Will be working on the undermine on S. Stage Rd

### **Equipment Registration:**

Motion by Guy Charlton (Chair) for John Hill to sign the registration paperwork for the new equipment bought at the auction, second by Jack Helm, motion passed

### **Grading Bids:**

Previously before a grader was purchased the town put out an RFP for grading the town roads, there was no response.

### **Transfer Station:**

- Squirrels will not be accepted at the transfer station- except for the one that already came in a bag but decided to leave.
- Metal dumpster going out this week

### **Town Garage:**

Bids for Concrete- Only on bidder decided to continue the search

Question- is the Town on the hook for the metal building ?Answer: Only once production is started

Question When there was a discussion with Leonard Lussier about variance did he sign anything? Answer: yes, with a 10' setback

### **Town Clerk Report:**

- Heidi Chandler Town Clerk/Treasurer provided the board with a current profit and loss and current highway budget.
- CD for Town Salt shed renewal – Tabled until next meeting

Motion by Brad Barrett or the Chair Guy Charlton to sign transfer paperwork to transfer the cost of the rented grader from the equipment reserve fund to contracted services

**Budget Review-** Tabled until Monday 1/16/23

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

- 47 residents responded to the letter inquiring about internet speed and 44-45 of them reported lower speeds than the FCC had listed. Information will be passed on to the communications district

Personnel Policy- Tabled until next regular meeting

### **Old Business:**

Lister letter to be discussed during the next budget meeting

Discussion on should the Town have a GC for the garage project

**New Business**

2022 Equalization Study Results- See letter in file

**Correspondence:** None

**Selectboard Members' Round Table:** None

**Adjournment:**

Motion by Ron Stewart Jr to adjourn at 9.:25 second by Jack Helm. Motion passed

Respectfully submitted.  
Carrie LaFond  
Selectboard Assistant