

APPROVED MINUTES
SELECTBOARD MEETING
TOWN OF BENSON, VT
February 21st, 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, Jerod Glover, David Bartholomew, Lois Trenn, Lynn Bowen, Brian Tursi, Norma Philips, Jon Dodd

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

Approved Agenda:

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

Amendments to the Agenda:

Add Approve Assistant Moderator
Add Listers Correspondence

Public Comment:

Question was asked if ATVs are allowed on Hulett Hill Rd, **Answer:** Yes, according to the current Traffic and Parking Ordinance

Discussion about ATVs riding around in the Cemetery, Warden Daversa has been notified and will be on the lookout.

Approve Selectboard Minutes:

Motion to approve February 6th, 2023, Selectboard minutes as presented by John Hill., second by Ron Stewart Jr. Motion passed.

Motion to approve February 13th, 2023, Selectboard minutes as presented by John Hill., second by Ron Stewart Jr. Motion passed.

Pay Bills:

Discussion on regular bills

Motion by John Hill for Guy Charlton (Chair) to sign the invoice from Cheryl Murray that was not previously signed, second by Ron Stewart Jr., Motion passed.

Motion by John Hill to pay regular bills as amended (Wallingford Stone to be charged as winter sand not salt and The Mac invoice to be charged as parts) in the amount of \$34,376.92 and Payroll in the amount of \$6,123.35, second by Ron Stewart Jr, motion passed

Motion by John Hill to pay Highway Payroll in the amount of \$4,926.62 second by Jack Helm, motion passed. Brad Barrett abstained from the motion.

Highway Department:

Road Foreman Brad Barrett:

- Sand and gravel trucked in
- Stone from Browns quarry put on the East Rd
- Worked on welding the excavator track, plan to repack piston.
- Working on cutting trees and storm clean-up

Transfer Station:

- Discussion on West Haven coming to the Benson Transfer station, need more information before a proposal can be sent to W. Haven
- Looking into the current Permit to find out weight limit on electronics.
- Extra dumpster would be beneficial for storage to ensure dumpsters go out completely full.

Town Clerk Report:

- Heidi Chandler Town Clerk/Treasurer there are several excess weight permits coming in and should be on the agenda for the next couple of meetings.
- Town reports have been mailed out.

Jon Dodd – Town Wide Reappraisal Discussion

Jon provided the selectboard with a legislative report on reappraisal.

Discussion on town wide reappraisal and is it necessary, should the Town wait until the State mandates it. Also, should the town really be spending the money on a reappraisal if not mandated.

Lois Trenn explained why the town should have a town wide reappraisal, the CLA (common level appraisal) would improve, and taxes could go down.

*See letters in file

Motion by John Hill to table the discussion on Town wide reappraisal until seek legal counsel, second by Ron Stewart Jr., motion passed, Jack Helm abstained.

Michael Bandler- Health Department appeal- Tabled until Special meeting February 22, 2023

Follow-up from Previous Meetings:

- Purchase order- reviewed possible Purchase order form and procedures (tabled for discussion until after selectboard reorganization)

Old Business:

- Personnel Policy Review: agreed by consensus to have Attorney Jim Barlow review draft of personnel policy.
- Creamery: Tabled until next meeting

Motion by Guy Charlton (Chair) seconded by John Hill to appoint Jayme Purdy as an Assistant Moderator, motion passed.

Discussion on putting together another RFP for the Town garage and have a General Contractor for the project.

New Business

Correspondence:

Letter From Listers

Email- Sam Bartholomew

Round Table:

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 9:45 pm Second Ron Stewart Jr., Motion passed.

Out of Executive Session at 10:20 PM.

Motion to authorize Guy Charlton (Chair) to go back to the investigator for clarifications/corrections on report by John Hill, second by Ron Stewart Jr., motion passed

Motion not to share the report with any individuals by John Hill, second by Ron Stewart Jr., motion passed.

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn at 10:30, Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted.

Carrie LaFond

Selectboard Assistant