

APPROVED MINUTES
SELECTBOARD MEETING
TOWN OF BENSON, VT
MARCH 20th, 2023, 7pm

Selectboard:

Linda Peltier (Chair), Brad Barrett, Guy Charlton, Jerod Glover, Tom Bartholomew

Others:

Heidi Chandler (Town Clerk/Treasurer) and Carrie LaFond (Selectboard Assistant)

Public:

Lois Trenn, Norma Philips, Steve Murray, Cheryl Murray, Lyndon Austin, Jeremy Coan, Ron Stewart, Adam Stewart, Jack Helm, Wayne Fletcher, Nancy Elkington, Dave Bartholomew

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

Approved Agenda:

Motion to approve the agenda as presented was made by Brad Barrett and seconded by Guy Charlton, motion was passed.

Fire Department:

- Dave Bartholomew notified the board of two new Fire Fighters Dana Stewart and Jeremy Coan. Also, Dave asked for Lynden Austin to be considered as the Forest Fire Warden.

Motion by Brad Barrett to accept Dana Stewart and Jeremy Coan as new Firefighters, second by Guy Charlton, motion passed.

Public Comment:

- A question was asked, where is the Town is at with the garage project? Answer: The Town will be moving forward with the project.

Approve Selectboard Minutes:

Motion to approve March 6th, 2023, Selectboard minutes as amended by Brad Barrett, second by Guy Charlton, Linda Peltier (Chair) abstained, motion passed.

Motion to approve March 13th, 2023, Selectboard minutes as presented by Tom Bartholomew, second by Jerod Glover, motion passed.

Pay Bills:

Motion by Brad Barrett, second by Jerod Glover to table bills until later in the meeting, motion passed.

Board of Liquor Control:

Motion by Guy Charlton to recess as the Selectboard and reconvene as the Board of Liquor Control, second by Brad Barrett, motion passed.

Motion by Brad Barrett, second by Guy Charlton for the Linda Peltier (Chair) to sign the liquor license applications for The Wheel Inn, Wheel Inn Catering and Wheel Inn outside venue, motion passed.

Motion by Linda Peltier (Chair) to recess as the Board of Liquor Control and reconvene as the Selectboard second by Tom Bartholomew, motion passed.

Overweight Permits:

Motion by Brad Barrett to authorize Linda Peltier (Chair) to sign the overweight permits, second by Guy Charlton, motion passed. Excess weight permits for (Dundons, Trombley Construction, Beacon Sales Acquisition, J & D Booska Trucking, Riggs Distler & Company, Panoramic Landscaping, D & F Excavation, Consolidated Communications, Weston Pulp Wood and Orwell Sand and Gravel).

Health Department: Tabled (Parties not present)

Highway Department:

Road Foreman Brad Barrett:

- Need to meet with Mike Mullen about paving projects.
- Culverts have been ordered that need replacing.
- Need to meet with Rutland Regional Planning to go over Erosion control plans for the upcoming year.
- Need to meet with Brian Sanderson on municipal highway grant and talk about line striping.
- Keeping an eye on Roads that may need to be posted.
- Trailer needs to be registered.
- Salt shed getting replenished.
- Started working on patching holes.
- Trees need to be cut on Temple Rd

Transfer Station:

- West Haven voted down coming to the Benson Transfer station.
- Hubbard's brought a tarp for the recycle dumpster.

Town Clerk Report (Heidi Chandler)

- John Hill has turned in his keys.
- Adam Stewart started paperwork for the constable position.
- Provided the board with a comparative budget.

Follow-up from Previous Meetings: Nothing

Old Business:

- Personnel Policy- Tabled until April 17th, 2023. allowing time to review previous and proposed changes.

New Business:

- Social Media Copies were distributed and will be discussed at a future meeting.
- Appointments 2023- Tabled until April 17th, 2023.
- Budget Review
 - Set up a file for all budget related material.
 - Start a committee to go over budget numbers for each department.
 - Highway-Tom Bartholomew
 - Selectboard- Jerod Glover
 - Fire Dept and Town Office- Linda Peltier
 - Community Hall, Transfer Station, and Zoning-Jerod Glover
 - Payroll Taxes- Guy Charlton
 - Listers- Brad Barrett

Budget Reviews should be completed and ready for April 3rd's SB Meeting

- Need to warn meeting for April to vote in May.

Question was asked can the Town vote Australian budget? - Answer: No since previous Town meeting was a floor vote, the re-vote must be a floor vote. For a change in how future town meetings are held, a vote must be warned and voted on at a town meeting.

- Security -Keypad System for Town Office

Motion to table security keypad for the Town Office, second by Jerod Glover, motion passed.

- Electronic Recording of Meetings

Motion to table electronic recording of meetings by Guy Charlton, Second by Brad Barrett, motion passed.

Correspondence:

- Resignation letter Kate Hill

Motion by Guy Charlton, second by Brad Barrett to accept Kate Hill's resignation from the Benson Bulletin with regret, motion passed.

The Selectboard thanks Kate Hill for service on the Benson Bulletin.

Round Table:

Discussion on what should be on the agenda and what the "Round Table" is for on the agenda. The Board decided by consensus to put unfinished items under old business and do away with follow-up. The board decided by consensus the cut off for items to be put on the agenda will be Friday afternoon and only emergency items will be added to the agenda at the beginning of the meeting.

Pay Bills:

Motion by Brad Barrett to pay regular bills in the amount of \$532,284.14 and Payroll in the amount of \$7,188.00 second by Guy Charlton, motion passed.

Motion by Guy Charlton to pay Highway Payroll in the amount of \$6,626.67 second by Jerod Glover, motion passed. Brad Barrett abstained from the motion.

Executive Session:

Motion by Guy Charlton 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 Linda Peltier, Motion passed.

Motion by Guy Charlton 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 9:00 pm Second Jerod Glover., Motion passed.

Out of Executive session at 9:35 PM

Motion by Brad Barrett, second by Jerod Glover to contact the Diligence Agency and ask them to send a letter to the parties involved in the investigation that the investigation is complete as of February 11th, 2023, motion passed.

Motion by Brad Barrett, second by Jerod Glover to purchase a lockbox with two keys for storing sensitive material in the vault, one key will be retained by the Chair and one by the Constable, motion passed.

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn by Tom Bartholomew at 9:38 PM. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted.

Carrie LaFond

Selectboard Assistant