

APPROVED MINUTES  
SELECTBOARD MEETING  
TOWN OF BENSON, VT  
April 17<sup>th</sup>, 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:**

Norma Philips, Steve Murray, Cheryl Murray, Ron Stewart, Wayne Fletcher, Nancy Elkington, Robert Ambrozaitis, Douglas Yaremchuk, Janet Ladd, Dylan Welch, Marissa Lamoureux, Scott Harris

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

**Approved Agenda:**

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

**Public Comment:**

- Ron Stewart asked for clarification on the Constable position. Is the Constable position paid or a tank of gas a month? Does the Town pay for Training? Is the Animal Control position included in Constable? Answers: The Constable will be paid \$13.55/Hr., looking into training and a Job description is being worked on.
- Ron Stewart volunteered to be considered as the Animal Control officer when job descriptions are figured out.
- A question was asked about what was going to be done about Park Hill, it is still very rough.
- Cheryl Murry informed the board that Rutland Housing Trust has contacted the town about the feasibility of a multi-unit housing development within the village. The development would have to be a minimum of 4 units to be eligible for funding. Questions asked about the Sewer allocations if there were enough and would this use up the remaining allocations. More information is needed.

**Approve Selectboard Minutes:**

Motion to approve April 3<sup>rd</sup> Selectboard minutes as presented by Tom Bartholomew, second by Jerod Glover, motion passed.

Motion to approve April 10<sup>th</sup> Selectboard minutes as presented by Brad Barrett, second by Jerod Glover.

## **Pay Bills:**

Motion by Jerod Glover to pay regular bills in the amount of \$43,730.27, second by Guy Charlton, motion passed.

Motion by Jerod Glover to pay regular payroll in the amount of \$ 6,589.71, second by Tom Bartholomew, motion passed.

Motion by Jerod Glover to pay Highway Payroll in the amount of \$4,438.98, second by Tom Bartholomew, motion passed. Brad Barrett abstained from the Vote.

## **Overweight Permits:**

Motion by Brad Barrett to authorize Linda Peltier (Chair) to sign the overweight permits, second by Jerod Glover, motion passed. Excess weight permits for S & J Stearns, Park Valley View Trucking, Bell Vallance Trucking

## **Highway Department:**

### **Road Foreman Report**

- Mike Mullen (Pike) went over 144 to give a quote for paving of \$99,923.60 with an extra \$10,000 could go to the Hubbardton line.

Motion by Tom Bartholomew to accept the quote from Pike for paving on Route 144 and use the \$10,000 carry over to complete to the Hubbardton line, second by Jerod Glover, motion passed.

- Innovative gave a quote for the Calcium Chloride of \$1.09/gallon.

Motion by Guy Charlton to accept the quote from Innovative for calcium Chloride at \$1.09/gallon, second by Jerod Glover, motion passed.

- Brad Barrett also presented the Board with the Nims Adoption agreement and the Local emergency Management Plan form for signing.

Motion by Guy Charlton to accept the Nims agreement, second by Jerod Glover, motion passed.

- The Road crew continues to work on grading.
- Guy Charlton mentioned the grant for the blower needs to be decided quickly. The blower must be purchased prior to June 1<sup>st</sup>, or the grant will expire. Discussion on how much a blower will cost, the town must match 20%.

## **Transfer Station**

- Two dumpsters out this week, the metal dumpsters will go out in two weeks, cut up weightlifting equipment so it would fit in the dumpster.

## **Town Clerk Report**

- The back deck needs painting and grip strips- Heidi to get a quote.
- Also, the roof needs some repairs.

- The Cd for the reappraisal funds needs to be renewed, should the CD be invested like the Salt shed? Answer- The Trustees of Public funds need research possibilities. Discussion on how to handle the CD.

Motion by Guy Charlton, second by Jerod Glover to put both CDs for the reappraisal fund into the reappraisal savings, motion passed.

- There is no budget line item for Constable, so today's pay went under the Animal Control Officer line item.

### **Old Business:**

- **Social Media Policy**

- 1) Questions asked about what can be posted, The Moderator will set the parameters and the Administrator will be the only one to set topics.

Motion by Guy Charlton to designate bensonvermont.gov as the official Town website, second by Jerod Glover, motion passed.

Motion by Jerod Glover, Second by Brad Barrett to designate Cheryl Murray and Heidi Chandler as Administrators and Brad Barrett s moderator for the official website, motion passed.

Motion by Guy Charlton, second by Jerod Glover to adopt the social media Policy, motion passed.

- **Personnel Policy**- Tabled
- **Town Sign**-Tabled Tabled (Clarification on quote)
- **Limits for Correspondence Town Attorney**

Motion by Jerod Glover, second by Brad Barrett for Linda Peltier (Chair) to be the sole contact for the Town's Attorney, motion passed.

### **New Business:**

- **Dog Nuisance Complaint**

- 1) Residents from 3305 Stage Road came to the board to express their concerns about a dog nuisance problem they are experiencing (barking, not staying in yard), has been going on 3 years.
- 2) The Selectboard advised the residents they need a formal complaint in writing before any action can be taken.

- **Scholarship Committee**-Tabled (Brad, Linda and Heidi will be looking at applicants)

- **Appointments**

- 1) Discussion on Editor for the newsletter and how the newsletter should be available. Chery Murray considering being the editor id the newsletter went out every two months.
- 2) Decision by Consensus to recommend Lynden Austin for Forest Fire Warden.

- **Local Emergency Management Plan**- Discussed and signed in Road Foreman report.
- **Reappraisal Fund CD**: Discussed under Town Clerk report.

- **Transfer of Expenses for Tires and Grader Rental**

Discussion on the purpose of Equipment fund.

Motion by Tom Bartholomew to transfer \$17,598.20 from the equipment reserve fund for the purchase of tires and rental of grader back to the highway expense, second by Jerod glover, one opposed, motion passed.

- **Set Budget Revote date.**

Discussion to have a special meeting on April 24<sup>th</sup> to complete budget reviews. Tentative Town meeting scheduled for June 3<sup>rd</sup> at 10:00 am

**Correspondence:** “

- Letter from the Cemetery Commissioners to have “Bob A Do It” used as a p preferred vendor for mowing of the Cemeteries and Artistic Memorials as a preferred vendor for straightening stones. (See letter in file).

Motion to accept “Bob A Do It” and Artistic memorials as preferred vendors by Jerod Glover, second by Tom Bartholomew, motion passed.

**Adjournment:**

Motion to adjourn by Brad Barrett at 9:44pm, second by Guy Charlton

Respectfully submitted.

Carrie LaFond

Selectboard Assistant