

APPROVED MINUTES
SELECTBOARD MEETING
TOWN OF BENSON, VT
April 3rd, 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, Ron Stewart, Adam Stewart, Jack Helm, Wayne Fletcher, Nancy Elkington, Terry Stewart, Lee Chapman, Robert Ambrozaitis, Lynn Bowen, Wesley Bowen, Douglas Yarmchok, John Hill, Lois Trenn,

Call to Order: Linda Peltier (Chair) called the meeting to order at 7:20 pm.

Approved Agenda:

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

Public Comment:

- John Hill, CUD representative gave an update on the highspeed internet. Grants should cover most of the cost for VT leaving around a \$400,000 short fall, it appears arpa money will not be able to be used since it is Town specific. The contract should be signed with Consolidated in the next 30-60 days with construction starting in 2024.
- A question was asked if the newly elected board has had any secret meetings... Answer: The board has not had any secret meetings.
- Question asked why are there three Town clerks? Answer: Heidi is the Town Clerk; Lisa Fontaine is the Assistant and Daphne Bartholomew helps but is not on payroll.
- A question was asked about the Town Garage progress. Answer, The Town Garage will be addressed, however the budget is a priority right now.
- John Hill read a letter to the board in regards the I Pad he purchased for the Town Highway department (See letter in file).
- Jack Helm asked if there were other funds the Town has that could be invested in Treasury bills for higher interest like the Salt Shed fund was.
- Jack Helm presented the board with a petition to revote the budget.
- Discussion on the millings that were put down on Park Hill. Brad Barret assured everyone they would never go home for the day and leave a road impassable. The millings are going to be covered with gravel, the project was not complete. The millings need to be moved from the spot they were stored in, a volunteer helped truck them.

Approve Selectboard Minutes:

Motion to approve March 20^h, 2023, Selectboard minutes as presented by Jerod Glover, second by Tom Bartholomew, motion passed.

Pay Bills:

Motion by Linda Peltier (Chair) to pay regular bills in the amount of \$10,664.81 second by Tom Bartholomew, motion passed.

Motion by Tom Bartholomew to pay regular payroll in the amount of \$6,701.66 second by Jerod Glover, motion passed.

Motion by Tom Bartholomew to pay Highway Payroll in the amount of \$4,265.12 second by Jerod Glover, motion passed. Brad Barrett abstained from the motion.

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 (DFA Logistics, Lake Champlain fuel, MJB excavation, Cam precast and Champlain Valley Plumbing and Heating).

Highway Department:

Road Foreman Brad Barrett:

- Three or four culverts to be replaced on South Stage Rd. and hopefully pave in '24.
- 144 paving this summer with the apron being done on to the East Rd
- Paperwork ready to register trailer.
- Specs obtained for the I Pad
- Thursday Highway personnel will be in class for Dig safe.
- Discussion on summer hours
- Millings need to be off the property they were stored on by mid-April.

Transfer Station:

- Letter from the Town of West Haven regarding the vote being defeated to join the Benson Transfer station

Town Clerk Report (Heidi Chandler)

- Heidi Chandler Town clerk noted the following changes to the orders.
 1. Go Daddy bill paid September 16, 2022, in the amount of \$99.99 was reversed and paid as \$139.98 on October 17th, 2022 for a better deal.
 2. Norton bill paid March 8th was reversed out to \$0.00.

- Question: Should Cheryl Murray be paid on Payroll or as Subcontractor with a 1099 for the maintenance on the website and Facebook page. Answer: 1099

Old Business:

- Linda Peltier (Chair) expressed the Selectboard Training was very informative.

New Business:

- Benson Village renewal application and resolution are due by April 3rd, 2023, the village cannot receive any grants without this being done. Cheryl Murray put the application together with the planning board and updated the village map with changes such as the Village store not being there anymore. Cheryl also contacted the State of VT and received permission to submit it one day late pending approval due to the selectboard meeting being on April 3rd and the application not being completed for previous meetings.

Motion by Tom Bartholomew to approve the renewal of the Town of Benson's designation as a Village Center, second by Jerod Glover, motion passed.

- Social Media Policy: Discussion on the need for a social media policy. Cheryl Murray has put together a policy. The board will review the policy for the next regular meeting.
- Otter Creek CUD Appointment:

Motion by Guy Charlton to appoint John Hill as the Otter Creek CUD representative, second by Jerod Glover, motion passed.

Motion by Linda Peltier (Chair) for Steve Murray to be the Alternate Otter Creek CUD representative, second by Jerod Glover, motion passed.

- Budget Review- Discussion on timeline. Guy Charlton to verify timeline for acting on Petition.

Motion by Jerod Glover to have a Special Meeting April 10th, 2023, for budget review purposes, second by Tom Bartholomew, motion passed.

Correspondence:

- Letter John Hill regarding I Pad
- Letter from Town of West Haven- No Vote to join Benson Transfer Station
- Letter from Marcia Anderson to continue being on the Town Hall committee.

Round Table:

Discussion to hire Green Screen to put the Town of Benson sign back up on 22a.

Brad Barrett – there is a grant for the Town to purchase leaf blower for \$5,600 the Town's cost would be 20% and the deadline is at the end of June, or the grant is no longer available.

Jerod Glover provided the board with a lock box with 2 different keys, one for the constable and one for the Chair for sensitive documents to be stored in the vault.

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn by Brad Barrett at 8:54 pm, second by Tom Bartholomew

Respectfully submitted.
Carrie LaFond
Selectboard Assistant