

APPROVED MINUTES
SELECTBOARD MEETING
TOWN OF BENSON, VT
May 1st, 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:

Caleb Parker, Norma Philips, Steve Murray, Cheryl Murray, Ron Stewart, Wayne Fletcher, Nancy Elkington, Douglas Yaremchuk, Dylan Welch, Manssa Lamoureux, Jon Dodd, Jack Helm, Barbara Burlett (Delinquent Tax Collector)

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

Approved Agenda:

Motion to approve the agenda as amended was made by Guy Charlton and seconded by Jerod Glover, motion was passed.

Amendments to Agenda:

Animal Control Officer Added

Constable discussion -Tabled

Dog Nuisance Tabled until 5/15/23 @ 6:30

Public Comment:

A question was asked if a Certified letter would be mailed regarding the Dog Nuisance? Answer: Yes, to all parties involved

The Delinquent tax collector asked can the Selectboard set a policy to send tax bills to new owners of property that a purchased after the April 1st deadline? Answer: The Board would have to investigate the particulars of making a policy however the Town Clerk does try to send out a courtesy copy to new owners

Caleb Parker thanked the road crew for grading the road.

Approve Selectboard Minutes:

Motion to approve April 17th Selectboard minutes as amended by Tom Bartholomew, second by Jerod Glover, motion passed.

Motion to approve April 24th Selectboard minutes as amended by Jerod Glover, second by Brad Barrett, motion passed.

Pay Bills:

Motion by Jerod Glover to pay regular bills in the amount of \$111,443.06, second by Tom Bartholomew, motion passed.

Motion by Jerod Glover to pay regular payroll in the amount of \$ 7,433.97, second by Brad Barrett, motion passed.

Motion by Tom Bartholomew to pay Highway Payroll in the amount of \$4,862.58, second by Jerod Glover, 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 Guy Charlton, motion passed. Excess weight permits for AmeriGas.

Highway Department:

Road Foreman Report

- The grader has been repaired, the solenoid was frozen, not a major repair.
- Grading on Glen, Carter and Temple Road and Orwell helped with their grader on Carter Road
- Working on more grading next week
- Brush mower out for repair
- Leaf Blower would cost \$6,700 and the State grant will cover \$5,600.

Motion by Tom Bartholomew to approve the Highway Foreman to purchase the PTO driven blower for \$6,700 of which a State Grant will cover \$5,600, second by Guy Charlton, motion passed, Brad abstained from the vote.

A question was asked What is the point of the roadside mowing? Answer: To keep the brush pushed back away from the road. The Road Foreman is looking into a different type of mower that would chip the brush as it is cut so that it would look a lot better however the way it looks when currently mowed is only temporary.

Transfer Station

- Two dumpsters out this week
- Broke hydraulic line on the backhoe and three more lines need replacement.
- Reminder this weekend is green up day and bags are available at the Town office, regular bags may be used if they do not have household garbage in them. Bags will be picked up on Monday or can be brought to the transfer station.

Public comment: There is construction debris on Park Hill and North Lake Road.

Town Clerk Report

- There was an event at the Town Hall this past weekend and the toilet did not get checked “as required in the rental agreement” and the toilet kept running and ran the well dry. The question was asked if the call for the Plumber could be deducted from the rental deposit? Answer: By consensus the Selectboard agreed the plumber call could be deducted from the deposit.

- May 19th the warning for the Town meeting will be published in the paper.

The Selectboard agreed by consensus to have the warning published in the paper on May 19th only.

Highway Department Continued:

Cheryl Murray gave an update on the 22a project.

- 50% of the landowners have been contacted about the right of way.
- The Mill Pond – Lake Rd intersection will have four lanes.
- The State will be Upsizing 4 culverts one will temporarily close 22a.
- The construction is still two years down the road.
- DMV is looking into putting in a truck pull off by Fyles that would just have a sign and a light not a scale.
- There will be funding for dust control and gravel when the road is temporarily closed.
- Advertising for bids July 1st of 2025 with construction in 2026

Old Business:

- **Personnel Policy**- Tabled
- **Animal Control** -Tabled until May 15th (two applicants)
- **Constable**-Tabled until May 15th

New Business:

Schedule Town Meeting Preparations-

- Discussion on how best to present the budget.
- A summary will be put in the Benson Bulletin.
- Each board member that researched a particular department will be prepared to answer question on the department they reviewed.
- Decision by consensus to have a special meeting Monday May 8th to continue discussion on Town Meeting

Correspondence:

- Letter From Dylan Welch, Marris Lamoureux (Dog Nuisance)- Tabled until May 15th for a hearing
- Email Sam Bartholomew- Discussion on having a conference call system put back into place tabled until June.

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn by Jerod Glover at 9:15pm, second by Brad Barrett

Respectfully submitted.

Carrie LaFond

Selectboard Assistant

