

APPROVED MINUTES
SELECTBOARD MEETING
TOWN OF BENSON, VT
May 15th, 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, Steve Murray, Cheryl Murray, Ron Stewart, Torrie Stewart, Adam Stewart, Wayne Fletcher, Nancy Elkington, Douglas Yaremchuk, Jamie Longtin, Lois Trenn, Mark Johnson, Barbara Noyes-Pulling, Carrie Becker, Paul Schroeder

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 Guy Charlton and seconded by Jerod Glover, motion was passed.

Public Comment:

A Question was asked if the millings that were put down on Sunset Lake Rd were going to be smoothed out? Answer: yes, they will be back to smooth out.

Approve Selectboard Minutes:

Motion to approve May 1st Selectboard minutes as presented by Jerod, second by Brad Barrett, motion passed.

Motion to approve May 8th Selectboard minutes as presented by Jerod Glover, second by Tom Bartholomew, motion passed.

Rutland Planning Commission:

Barbara Noyes- Pulling asked the Selectboard for support for her to apply for an erosion control water quality grant. This would be a design implementation block grant with no cost to the Town. This would be for design purposes only for water quality issues and erosion.

A question was asked if the Lake was going to be privatized? Answer: No

Motion by Brad Barrett, second by Guy Charlton for the Chair to sign a letter of support for Barbra Noyes- Pulling to apply for a design implementation block grant for Sunset / Sunrise Lake.

Library Grant:

Carrie Becker asked the Selectboard for approval to apply for a few small grants for the library which would total around 10,000 for the year. The grant would be for software updates, supplies, and an outreach program. There would be no cost to the town.

The Selectboard decided by consensus to support Carrie Becker in applying for grants for the library.

Listers:

Lois Trenn with the Listers asked the Selectboard to sign an extension for the Grand List. There is new software that is causing issues and they may not need the extension however they would like to error on the side of caution.

Motion by Guy Charlton, second by Jerod Glover for the Chair to sign the 30-Day extension request for completing the Grand list, motion passed.

Board of Sewer Commissioners:

Motion by Brad Barret to adjourn as the Selectboard and reconvene as the Board of Sewer Commissioners, second by Guy Charlton, motion passed.

Discussion that more information is needed before an allocation can be made.

Motion by Brad Barret to adjourn as the Board of Sewer Commissioners and reconvene as the Selectboard, second by Guy Charlton, motion passed.

Pay Bills:

Motion by Guy Charlton to pay regular bills in the amount of \$48,249.00, second by Jerod Glover, motion passed.

Motion by Guy Charlton to pay regular payroll in the amount of \$5,969.53 second by Jerod Glover, motion passed.

Motion by Guy Charlton to pay Highway Payroll in the amount of \$5,011.76, second by Jerod Glover, motion passed. Brad Barrett abstained from the vote.

Overweight Permits: Tabled

Highway Department:

Road Foreman Report

- Grading for one pass is done on all roads except two and that should be completed hopefully by Wednesday.
- Using the mower with the blower attachment on Hulett Hill Road and it's doing a great job, nice and clean.
- Emergency culvert job on East Rd, hope to be done by the end of the week, first response will be notified when the road needs to be closed.
- Mack is at Avalanche being repaired.
- No internet this past week at the garage, causing problems getting State information and reports.
- Thank you to Wayne Fletcher for all the help with picking up for Green-up day.
- Tires seem to be an issue on Green up day- Possibility of looking into a free tire disposal day.

Linda Peltier stated she took a ride down Lake Rd and Temple School Road, and it looks the best it ever has.

Transfer Station

- Both recycling and trash dumpsters went out this week
- Need to investigate a mesh cover for the dumpster, birds are scattering trash when it's not covered. Decision by consensus to get the tarp to cover the dumpster.

Town Clerk Report

- Thank you to Jan Bureson for the \$200.00 donation to the Scholarship committee.
- Provided highway profit and loss statement.

Old Business:

- **Constable**- Discussion on the responsibilities and limitations of the Constable position.
 - 1) Adam Stewart would have to have 50 hours of training for level one, 58 hours for level 2 and 792 hours for level three with mentoring and field service requirements by then his term would be up. Further discussion that one person should not be going to houses alone. The Constable is very limited as to what he/she can perform for duties.
 - 2) Discussion on hiring an outside qualified agency to handle law enforcement needs.
 - 3) Other Towns have done away with the Constable position.
 - 4) Need more information if the constable position is required by the State.
 - 5) No action taken- Tabled for more information.
- **Animal Control** -Tabled

New Business:

Town Garage Planning

- Discussion on changing the plan for the town garage to be a 2 bay instead of a 3 bay.

Letter read into the Minutes by Guy Charlton: (See Letter on file).

Motion by Tom Bartholomew to change the Town Garage plan to a two-bay garage instead of a Three bay, second by Jerod Glove, Brad Barrett abstained, Guy Charlton opposed, motion passed.

Correspondence: None

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn by Brad Barrett Second by Jerod Glover at 9:03

Respectfully submitted.

Carrie LaFond

Selectboard Assistant