

APPROVED MINUTES  
SELECTBOARD MEETING  
TOWN OF BENSON, VT  
May 30<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:**

Wayne Fletcher, Chad Fleury, Jack Helm, Jon Dodd, Steve Murray

**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 Brad Barrett and seconded by Jerod Glover, motion was passed.

**Amendments to the Agenda:**

Added the following:

Planning Commission Letter

Forest Fire Warden Letter

Community Hall Community Appointment

Select board schedule.

**Public Comment:**

Jon Dodd pointed out that when the voters voted on the town garage project there was a specific package that was presented to the voters that included a garage with three bays.

**Approve Selectboard Minutes:**

Motion to approve May 15<sup>th</sup> Selectboard minutes as presented by Tom Bartholomew, second by Jerod Glover, motion passed.

Motion to approve May 22<sup>nd</sup> Selectboard minutes as presented by Tom Bartholomew, second by Jerod Glover, motion passed.

**Board of Sewer Commissioners:**

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

- Discussion that a current Sewer Ordinance could not be found and should be updated.
- Discussion that in previous minutes there was a motion that sewer allocations that had not been hooked up within a two-year period were eligible to be renewed for one year however after that the allocation would go back to the Town.

- Discussion on how many gallons the Benson School is discharging to the wastewater treatment plant, and it was decided to look at the water usage during maximum capacity to use as a calculation.
- Discussion on the current capacity of the Wastewater Plant.

Motion to approve a sewer allocation to Raymond Balch by Tom Bartholomew, second by Jerod Glover, motion passed.

Decision by consensus to not approve any more allocations until existing ones were reviewed and capacity was confirmed.

Motion by Brad Barrett to investigate all sewer allocations that have been granted and send letters to the individuals that have allocations that have not been hooked stating they will need to start paying sewer fees if they intend to hook up to the town sewer or relinquish their allocation., second Jerod Glover, motion passed.

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

**Dog Complaint:**

Chad Fleury of North Lake Rd stated that his neighbor’s dog has been coming into his yard and defecating and he is afraid his small dogs are going to be injured by the large dog. He also stated he has been chased by the dog while he was driving his side by side. He has let the owner know he is uncomfortable with the situation.

Linda Peltier advised the Town of Benson does not have a leash law however the circumstance does seem to fit under the nuisance dog provision in the dog ordinance.

Decision by consensus to send the Owner a registered letter regarding the nuisance dog complaint.

**Pay Bills:**

Motion by Guy Charlton to pay regular bills in the amount of \$47,220.25, second by Jerod Glover, motion passed.

Motion by Guy Charlton to pay regular payroll in the amount of \$5,492.86 second by Jerod Glover, motion passed.

Motion by Guy Charlton to pay Highway Payroll in the amount of \$4,577.31, second by Jerod Glover, motion passed.

Brad Barrett abstained from the vote.

**Overweight Permits: Tabled**

**Highway Department:**

**Road Foreman Report**

- Finished up grading.
- Chipping and brush cutting, and ditches stoned on Stoney Point Rd. and made a turn around.
- Two culverts put in on South Stage Road
- East Road Culvert completed.
- Continuing to work on ditching.
- Paving on 144 completed and corners are going to be edged.
- Mac is still out for repair.

Tom Bartholomew stated that more documentation is needed to keep track of the roads and requested a spread sheet be established. Selectboard Assistant will investigate this.

### **Transfer Station**

- Trash dumpsters went out last week and the metal dumpster and recycling will be going out this week.

### **Town Clerk Report**

- Provided budget reports for the Highway and General fund.
- Income from the trailer sales still needs to be updated.

### **Old Business:**

- **Animal Control** -Tabled
- **Constable** – Tabled
- **Storage Trailer**- Discussion if the storage trailer is still needed, decided it was not there is enough room elsewhere for storage.

Motion by Tom Bartholomew, second by Jerod Glover to terminate the rental of the storage unit at the town garage, motion passed.

### **New Business:**

#### 1. Planning Commission:

Motion by Brad Barrett to appoint Cheryl Murray to the Rutland Regional Planning Commission with John Hill as an Alternate Representative, second by Tom Bartholomew, motion passed.

#### 2. Community Hall Committee:

Motion by Tom Bartholomew to appoint Norma Philips to the Community Hall Committee, second by Jerod Glover, motion passed.

#### 3. Selectboard Schedule:

- Discussion that a schedule and calendar need to be made with all deadlines that need to be kept. The Selectboard Assistant will start a calendar of known deadlines.
- Discussion of whether the Town would benefit from a Town Administrator position. No action taken.
- Discussion on implementing an equipment replacement schedule. No action taken.
- Discussion for a need to prioritize projects. No action taken.

### **Selectboard Schedule:**

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

### **Correspondence:**

Letter from the Agency of Natural Resources for reappointment form for Forest Fire Warden

Motion by Tom Bartholomew second by Guy Charlton to respond to the Agency of Natural Resources that Robert St Peter will not be recommended for Forest Fire Warden and the town will support the Fire department's recommendation of Lyndon Austin, motion passed.

**Adjournment:**

Motion to adjourn by Brad Barrett Second by Tom Bartholomew at 8:45

Respectfully submitted.

Carrie LaFond

Selectboard Assistant