

APPROVED MINUTES
SELECTBOARD MEETING
TOWN OF BENSON, VT
June 26th, 2023, 7pm

Selectboard:

Linda Peltier (Chair), Guy Charlton, Jerod Glover, Tom Bartholomew, Brad Barrett

Others:

Heidi Chandler (Town Clerk/Treasurer) and Carrie LaFond (Selectboard Assistant)

Public:

Jack Helm, Ron Stewart Jr., Wayne Fletcher, Christa Jourdan, Julia Austin, Lyndon Austin, Jean McKeever, Barbra Noyes Pulling, Devon Neary, Jon Dodd, Caleb Parker, Steve Murray, Cheryl 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 Guy Charlton, motion was passed.

Amendments to the Agenda:

Added:

- 1) Transfer Station Attendant Resignation
- 2) Return Letter Dog Complaint
- 3) Move Devon Neary up on the agenda.
- 4) Forest Fire warden Form

Public Comment: None

Devon Neary RRPC-

(See attached handout)

- Devon Neary discussed funding available for Towns that qualified based on need. Benson was second on the list. Money can be used for projects listed on the handout. A needs assessment can be part of the funding. Devon would follow up in August to see if the Town had any interest in the program.

Approve Selectboard Minutes:

Motion to approve June 12th Selectboard minutes as amended by Jerod Glover, second by Guy Charlton, motion passed.

Pay Bills:

Motion by Tom Bartholomew to pay regular bills in the amount of \$33,254.26, second by Guy Charlton, motion passed.

Motion by Guy Charlton to pay regular payroll in the amount of \$6,351.34 second by Tom Bartholomew, 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 vote.

Overweight Permits: None

Highway Department:

Road Foreman Report

- Small break down on the grader, all fixed, idler
- Working on roadside mowing
- Rain is keeping the crew from grading, hope to get back to it soon.
- Ditching on Turkey Farm Rd.

Transfer Station

- Garbage dumpster out at the end of the week
- Almost done with grading in the parking lot for easier plowing
- Setting the blocks with the excavator as soon as possible

Wes Bowen has resigned from the transfer station.

Motion by Jerod Glover, Second by Guy Charlton to accept Wes Bowens resignation from the transfer station with deep regret, motion passed.

- Position for the transfer station attendant will be posted on the Town Website, Town Facebook, G & L Store, Wheel Inn, and Town office.

Town Clerk Report

- Received a thank you note from Elizabeth Munger for the scholarship.
- Discussion on putting a book drop off box near the Town office- No action taken need more information on where the books go, and how often they would get picked up and what type of vehicle picks them up.
- Provided budget reports for the Highway and General fund.
- Would like to investigate purchasing a new air conditioner.
- Discussion of the energy program could help with this however this is a year out.

Motion by Jerod Glover to add not to exceed \$500.00 to the end of the year expenses for the purchase of a new air conditioner, second by Brad Barrett, motion passed.

Old Business:

- **Dog Complaint Letter-** Certified letter regarding the dog complaint was returned refused.
- **Wage Rates '23-'24-**

Motion by Tom Bartholomew, second by Jerod Glover to increase all hourly wages by 5 percent, motion passed.

New Business:

- **Selectboard Schedule-**
 - 1) Tom Bartholomew met with Brad Barrett, and they have some reports that should provide the information to track which roads have gravel put on them and how much.
 - 2) Sill looking into information on Sewer allocations.
 - 3) Need to stay on track for the garage construction items A, B and C, from the selectboard schedule still set for August,
 - 4) Should have a highway maintenance policy in July.

5) In contact with VLTC for more information on the difference between a Town Manager, Town Administrator, and a Facilitator. Also contacting small Towns in the area to see how they handle Management.

- **Sunset Lake Rd Grant Letter:**

Barbra Noyes Pulling informed the Selectboard the preliminary and final design may be able to be combined.

Motion by Jerod Glover, second by Guy Charlton for the selectboard to sign the letter of support for Barbara Noyes Pulling to apply for the Design Implementation Block Grant for Sunset and Sunrise Lake, motion passed.

- **Forest Fire Warden:**

The Benson Fire Depart presented a letter of support recommending Lyndon Austin for the appointment of Forest Fire warden, appointment form has been filled out, signed by the selectboard, and will be returned to the Agency of Natural Resources.

- The Benson Fire department has approved Julia Austin as a new Firefighter.

Motion by Brad Barrett, second by Guy Charlton to approve Julia Austin as a new volunteer fire fighter for the Benson Fire Department, motion passed, Jerod Glover abstained from the vote.

- **Library Committee:**

Motion by Brad Barrett, second by Tom Bartholomew to appoint Robin Wilson to the Library Committee

- **Benson Beautification Brigade- Jean McKeever:**

The Benson Beautification Brigade will be working on outside improvements to the Town office and playground. Currently they would like to plant some flowers and a few trees in front of the office using funds from the playground fund and additional funds donated by Jena McKeever.

Motion by Tom Bartholomew, second by Brad Barrett to approve the proposal of the Benson Beautification Brigade, motion passed,

- **Arpa Funds-**

\$267,000 available, some has been committed to the Town garage, some to the Repeater for the Fire department tower.

- **Year End Funding**

Motion by Brad Barrett, second by Guy Charlton to have Brad Barrett, Tom Bartholomew, and Jerod Glover stop at the Office on Thursday June 29th, 2023 (at different times) to sign off on the final bills for year end so that checks can be printed on Friday June 30th, 2023.

Correspondence:

- Library Committee Volunteer
- Agency of Natural Resources Inspection report for the Wastewater Treatment Facility- All items acceptable

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn by Brad Barrett, second by Jerod Glover at 8:50

Respectfully submitted.

Carrie LaFond

Selectboard Assistant