

WARNING
MAY 27, 2023
FOR THE BENSON SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

The legal voters of the Town of Benson in the County of Rutland and the State of Vermont are hereby warned and notified to meet at the Community Hall in said Town on the 27th of May, 2023, at 10 a.m. to transact the following business:

- Article 1: Shall the Town vote to approve the expenditure of \$433,690 for the General Fund Budget of which \$278,303 shall be raised by taxes?
- Article 2: Shall the Town vote to approve the expenditure of \$799,270 for the layout, repair and maintenance of Town Highways of which \$538,944 shall be raised by taxes?
- Article 3: Shall the Town of Benson adopt its General Fund Budget Article and Town Highway Budget Article by Australian ballot pursuant to 17 V.S.A. § 2680(c)?
- Article 4: To transact any other business proper to be done at the Special Town Meeting.
- Town Garage Discussion
 - ARPA Funding Discussion

Dated at Benson, Vermont this 24th day of April, 2023.

<u>Linda R. Peltier</u>	Linda Peltier
<u>Guy M. Charlton</u>	Guy Charlton
<u>Brad Barrett</u>	Brad Barrett
<u>Jerod Glover</u>	Jerod Glover
<u>Thomas A. Bartholomew</u>	Thomas Bartholomew

2023-2024 BUDGET SUMMARY

	To Date	2022-2023 Budget	Proposed 2023-2024
<u>GENERAL FUND</u>			
<u>General Selectboard Expenses</u>	67,420.72	99,107.00	99,600.00
<u>Town Office Expenses</u>	31,322.21	41,190.00	40,970.00
<u>Community Hall Expenses</u>	7,227.59	12,550.00	12,370.00
<u>Transfer Station Expenses</u>	60,083.74	81,100.00	77,300.00
<u>Town Officers</u>	73,513.36	77,900.00	83,800.00
<u>Payroll Expenses</u>	47,883.65	65,900.00	56,400.00
<u>Fire Department</u>	42,323.70	56,700.00	61,000.00
	329,774.97	434,447.00	431,440.00
<u>Zoning Expenses</u>	1,345.10	2,250.00	2,250.00
Total Expenses	331,120.07	436,697.00	433,690.00
<u>Less Anticipated Income</u>		123,825.00	120,025.00
<u>Less Carryover</u>		25,546.00	35,362.00
GENERAL FUND RAISE BY TAXES		287,326.00	278,303.00
<u>HIGHWAY FUND</u>			
<u>Personnel</u>	110,311.50	126,700.00	136,500.00
<u>Operating</u>	60,335.91	48,050.00	65,070.00
<u>Equipment Service/Parts</u>	79,455.35	72,000.00	78,700.00
<u>Road Work</u>	99,410.54	115,500.00	120,500.00
<u>Road Materials</u>	201,098.96	263,500.00	348,500.00
<u>Equipment Loans</u>	0.00	0.00	0.00
<u>Equipment Reserve Fund</u>	20,000.00	20,000.00	50,000.00
Total Expenses	570,612.26	645,750.00	799,270.00
<u>Less anticipated State Aid</u>		116,000.00	124,000.00
<u>Less carryover</u>		18,614.00	136,326.00
HIGHWAY FUND RAISE BY TAXES		511,136.00	538,944.00
TOTAL TO BE RAISED BY TAXES		798,462.00	817,247.00

Town of Benson
HIGHWAY BUDGET REPORT

	2022-23 To Date	2022-23 Budget	2023-24 Budget
Highway Expenses			
Equipment Services/Parts			
Parts	17,110.87	15,000.00	20,000.00
Service/repair	36,682.66	30,000.00	35,000.00
New Plow	0.00	0.00	8,700.00
Tires for 2010 Wheel Loader	3,800.00	12,000.00	0.00
Tires,chains, edges, shoes &bits	21,861.82	15,000.00	15,000.00
Total Equipment Services/Parts	79,455.35	72,000.00	78,700.00
Operating			
Building Maintenance	1,528.60	2,000.00	2,000.00
Electricity	1,937.06	1,700.00	1,700.00
Gas and diesel fuel	35,079.45	25,000.00	40,000.00
Heating fuel	4,891.62	5,000.00	5,000.00
Sewer	370.00	350.00	370.00
State Permitting/Compliance	4,240.96	2,000.00	2,000.00
Telephone/Internet	1,614.60	2,000.00	2,000.00
Tools & Supplies	10,673.62	10,000.00	12,000.00
Total Operating	60,335.91	48,050.00	65,070.00
Personnel			
Highway Payroll			
Highway overtime wages	10,718.68	9,000.00	9,000.00
Day Labor	12,145.00	18,500.00	24,000.00
Highway wages	85,306.25	96,000.00	100,000.00
Total Highway Wages	108,169.93	123,500.00	133,000.00
Training/Pre-Employment	0.00	200.00	500.00
Uniforms	2,141.57	3,000.00	3,000.00
Total Personnel	110,311.50	126,700.00	136,500.00
Reserve Equipment Fund	20,000.00	20,000.00	50,000.00
Road Materials			
Calcium chloride	13,251.66	25,000.00	30,000.00
Culverts	28,602.33	10,000.00	15,000.00
Gravel & Stone	14,264.70	75,000.00	110,000.00
Hauling	70,012.53	65,000.00	105,000.00
Sign Maintenance	851.63	1,500.00	1,500.00
Winter salt	49,016.16	55,000.00	55,000.00
Winter sand	25,099.95	32,000.00	32,000.00
Total Road Materials	201,098.96	263,500.00	348,500.00

Town of Benson
HIGHWAY BUDGET REPORT

	2022-23 To Date	2022-23 Budget	2023-24 Budget
Highway Expenses			
Road Work			
Contracted Services	23,505.70	15,000.00	20,000.00
Cold patch	74.40	500.00	500.00
Paving/Crack Sealing (Town Share)	75,830.44	100,000.00	100,000.00
Total Road Work	99,410.54	115,500.00	120,500.00
TOTAL HIGHWAY BUDGET EXPENSE	570,612.26	645,750.00	799,270.00
GRANT PROJECTS			
[East Road Culvert	7826.19]*		
*Not grant funded. Expenses reallocated to budget accounts)			
Grants-in-Aid FY23 (Mill Pond/Howard Hill)			
Disbursements	11,601.48		
Total Reimbursement Received	14,800.00		
Reimbursement for In-Kind Contribution	3,198.52		
EQUIPMENT FUND TRANSACTIONS			
Auctions International:			
2004 John Deere Grader	41,100.00		
2013 International Dump Truck	12,900.00		
Fees	35.00		
	54,035.00		
TOTAL HIGHWAY DISBURSEMENTS	636,248.74		

Grey shaded area over budget

Highway budget

1. There is a revised budget with attached highway information.
2. The Highway budget has the current budget expenditures, current budget, and proposed budget.
3. The total budget amount is the same as the Town Report Budget with changes to the gravel line item and the hauling line item.
4. Line-item Budget increases – Justified by current year expenditures in most cases.
5. Three-line items require some explanation.

Reserve Equipment Fund increased by \$30,000 to \$50,000.

The balance at the beginning of the fiscal year was \$136,000.

\$54,000 was spent during the year leaving a balance of \$82,000.

Last year's appropriation of \$20,000 and this year's requested appropriation of \$50,000 will increase the fund to \$152,000.

The estimated useful life of our equipment listed on the next page demonstrates the anticipated use of this funding soon.

The Board is considering changes to our equipment replacement policy.

Gravel increased by \$35,000 from the prior year to \$110,000.

This budget has been the same for the past three years. We estimate the \$75,000 budget would have purchased 8000 tons of gravel three years ago. Adjusting for inflation 8000 tons of gravel will cost an estimated \$110,000 for the next budget year. We believe 8000 tons of gravel a year will be required to keep our roads in their current condition. Estimating is complicated by different and changing prices from different vendors and the Town's changing requirements. This line item also includes stone.

This budget is expected to provide approximately the same amount of gravel for the roads as last year. We plan to improve our data system to enable improved budget estimates.

Hauling increased by \$40,000

This estimate is based on our current hauling prices as a result of inflation.

Future Budget Comments

1. **We expect this year's highway budget balance at the end of the year to be close to zero. There will be no surplus to reduce next year's tax rate.**
2. **One should expect an increase in the amount raised by taxes for the highway budget in future years. There are sections of many of our roads needing major improvements. The band aid approach will only work for so long.**
3. **An article for a specific road improvement project will likely be in the next Town Meeting warning.**

Roads

We have 12.3 miles of paved road, 39.3 miles of gravel roads plus 4.1 miles of class four road.

Better back roads - re-gravel 2 to 3 inches every five years. (8 miles per year)

Two inches of gravel 1000 tons per mile (8000 tons for eight miles).

Three inches of gravel 1500 tons per mile (12,000 tons for 8 miles)

Gravel Budget - budget for last three years has been \$75,000 each year with no adjustment for inflation and not based on gravel quantity.

In the summer of 21 we were paying Casella \$9 a ton 8000 tons for \$75,000.

Their most recent cost sheet lists \$15 a ton 5000 tons for \$75,000.

Vehicle Equipment List

March 2023

<u>Vehicle</u>	<u>Purchase Date</u>	<u>Purchase Price</u>	<u>Useful Life Guess</u>
Grader	11/26/1999	\$124,800	Salvage
2000 Komatsu Excavator	7/3/2007	\$55,000	~2 YEARS
New Bucket	9/3/2013	\$3000	
2010 Caterpillar Wheel Loader	4/1/2010	\$122,000	3 Years (16,000 miles)
2004 Int. Dump Truck	12/1/2011	\$43,500	2 years (95,000 miles)
New Dump Body	3/2015	\$29,900	
Replacement Plow	4/2014	\$7,000	
2016 Int. Dump Truck	7/1 2015	\$172,000	4 years (93,000 miles)
2017 Dodge Pickup	7/1/2017	\$40,000	3 years (55,000 miles)
Fittings		\$4,500	
Sander	12/2021	\$5,500	
2012 Kubota Tractor/Mower	2019-20	\$20,000	2 years (needs help)
2009 Mack dump truck	2019-20	\$55,000	3 years (173,000 miles)
Plow	1/2020	\$7,000	
Trail Boss 20 Ton Trailer	10/2021	\$6,700	10 years
2004 John Deere Grader	11/2022	\$41,000	5 years
2013 Int. Dump Truck	11/22	\$12,900	3 years (85,000 miles)