APPROVED MINUTES
SELECTBOARD MEETING
TOWN OF BENSON, VT
July 24th, 2023, 7pm

Selectboard Present:

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

Others Present:

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

Public Present:

Jack Helm, Jon Dodd, Steve Murray, Jamie Longtin, Nancy Elkington, Lyndon Austin, Barbra Noyes-Pulling, Norma Phillips, Lois Trenn, Sue Brown

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 Jerod Glover and seconded by Brad Barrett, motion passed.

Public Comment:

- Lyndon Austin informed the Selectboard that he has confirmation from Larz Lund that he has been appointed the new Forest Fire Warden and asked that the Town website be updated with his contact information.
- Anyone needing the Animal Control Officer needs to call Ron Stewart at his home phone number 802-537-3542
- Sue Brown gave an update on Benson Family Day and asked for the following road closures for the block party Saturday night and the parade Sunday.

Motion by Guy Charlton to make Stage Road at the Corner of Hulett Hill Road one way down to the intersection of Stage and Lake Road one way from 5:30 pm August 5th to 10:30pm, second by Brad Barrett, Motion passed.

Motion by Guy Charlton to make Stage Rd from the intersection of Lake Rd up through Hulett Hill Rd one way from 9:30 to 11:00 on August 6th and shut the road down entirely from 11:00 to 12:00, second by Brad Barrett, Motion passed.

- Everyone is very happy the Fire Department will be hosting the barbecue this year.

Barbra Noyes Pulling- Sunset Lake Rd Grant:
- Still working on the Grant for Sunset Lake Design and the state is require Towns operate and maintain the project when complete if the Town approves the project.

Motion by Jerod Glover for the Selectboard to sign a letter of commitment to provide operation and maintenance of the designed project for Sunset Lake if the project is approved, second by Guy Charlton, motion passed.

Approve Selectboard Minutes:

Motion to approve July 10th Selectboard minutes as amended by Jerod Glover, second by Brad Barrett, motion passed.

July 10th Amendments: (3) spelling corrections and Lisa Fontaine has reduced her hours not resigned as Town Clerk Assistant.

- Town Clerk would like to appoint Karina Jutzi as an additional Assistant town Clerk/Treasurer and a question was asked about how many hours would be put in with an additional Assistant Town Clerk/Treasure? **Answer:** The position should not exceed 22hrs a week.
- Question was asked does the Assistant Town Clerk have to be bonded? **Answer:** No, bonding falls under the Town Clerk.

Motion to approve July 17th Selectboard minutes as presented by Brad Barrett, second by Jerod Glover, motion passed.

Pay Bills:

Motion by Guy Charlton to pay regular bills in the amount of $113,017.90, second by Tom Bartholomew, motion passed.

Motion by Guy Charlton to pay regular payroll in the amount of $5,162.46, second by Brad Barrett, motion passed.

Motion by Guy Charlton to pay Highway Payroll in the amount of $5,644.85, second by Tom Bartholomew, motion passed, Brad Barrett abstained from the vote.

Highway Department:

Road Foreman Report

- Ditching on Frazier Hill and Turkey Farm Road
- Need to ditch the West side of Town.
- Starting the grant project on Money Hole Rd
- Mower needs some parts.

Transfer Station

- Three dumpsters went out in the past week and demolition will have to go out this week.
- Closing date for applications for the transfer station will be 7/31/23.

Town Clerk Report

- Need a SWAC representative.
- (5) more dogs have been registered since letters went out

Old Business:

- Jamie Longtin Sunset Lake:
  (a) 5 Towns are in support of the 1,000-foot wake buffer Jamie Longtin is asking the selectboard to write a letter of support for the 1,000- foot buffer that would take Sunset Lake off the list of wake boat use.
  (b) Sunset Lake is the smallest of the lakes that could have wake boats if the 1,000-foot buffer is not put in place.
  (c) Concern for safety of swimmers and small boats due to wake boats.
  (d) There has not been a study on the effects the wake boats would have on eroding the banks.

(e) Question was asked are other boaters in favor of allowing wake boats on Sunset? Answer: No there was no public present to

(f) Also, there was a question of who would enforce the wake buffer at 500 feet? **Answer:** Not answered.

(g) Jered Glover brought up people wishing to launch wake boats would have to get land owner permission for an adequate launch area.

(h) Guy Charlton questioned whether the retaining wall that was put in would hold up to the pounding of wake boats.

Motion by Guy Charlton to send in a letter of support in favor of the 1,000-foot wake buffer, second by Tom Bartholomew, two opposed, tie broken by Linda Peltier (Chair), motion passed.

- Police Assistance:
  (a) The selectboard needs to outline the services they are looking for before going to the Selectboard in Fair Haven, suggestion was made to look at the previous contract Benson had with Fair Haven. Board members to bring ideas to the next meeting.

- CUD- No update

New Business:

- **Set Tax Rate:**
  (a) Motion by Guy Charlton to set the Homestead tax rate with the municipal rate at 0.8667, the local agreement at 0.0008, for a total of 2.1933 (which includes education tax of 1.3255), second by Jerod Glover, motion passed.
  (b) Motion by Brad Barrett to set the Non-Homestead tax rate with the municipal rate at 0.8667, the local agreement at 0.0008, for a total of 2.4407 (which includes education tax of 1.5732), second by Jerod Glover, motion passed.

Correspondence: Letter from Cynthia Burns- Culvert

- Cynthia Burns is requesting a culvert be put in. The Selectboard will have the Road Foreman monitor the situation for a bit before making any sort of decision.

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn by Brad Barrett at 8:40, second by Guy Charlton, motion passed.

Respectfully submitted.
Carrie LaFond
Selectboard Assistant