

APPROVED MINUTES
SELECTBOARD MEETING
TOWN OF BENSON, VT
August 21st, 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, Norma Phillips, Lois Trenn, Sue Brown, Wayne Fletcher, Ron Fredette, Robert Fredette, Rebecca St. Peter, Jon Dodd, Elwin and Yavonne Smeed

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 Guy Charlton, seconded by Jerod Glover, motion passed.

Public Comment:

- Jack Helm asked to be on the agenda for the next regular meeting to discuss the Standard operating procedures at the transfer station (specifically the new rule that everything that is brought in needs to be in a receptacle at the end of the day). Jack had pictures of items that had been repurposed and the value was approximately \$2,000 and cost the town less in disposal fees.
- Rebeckah St Peter voiced her concerns regarding “an employee of the Town” and gave a document to the board. Guy Charlton said the document could contain personal information and should be discussed in executive session if discussed at all.
- Ron Fredette voiced his concerns that the Highway department has routed water on to his property while ditching and supplied the Selectboard with a map. Also stated trees have been tipped over and left. The Selectboard needs to gather more information and have a discussion before making any further decision or acting.

Listers:

- The State of Vermont made an error with an Veteran exemption that needs to be corrected for the Grand List.

Motion by Guy Charlton to authorize the Listers to correct the Grand List based on what was presented to the Selectboard, second by Jerod Glover, motion passed.

Approve Selectboard Minutes:

Motion to approve August 7th Selectboard minutes as amended by Tom Bartholomew, seconded by Jerod Glover, motion passed.

Amendments to Minutes:

- Inspection from the State of Vermont did not find any problems with the Towns spillway at Sunset Lake

Motion to approve August 14th Selectboard minutes as presented by Tom Bartholomew, seconded by Jerod Glover, motion passed.

Pay Bills:

Motion by Brad Barrett to pay Regular Bills in the amount of \$19,889.72 second by Guy Charlton, motion passed.

Motion by Guy Charlton to pay Regular Payroll in the amount of \$4,675.92 second by Jerod Glover, motion passed.

Motion by Guy Charlton to pay Highway Payroll in the amount of \$4,656.35, second by Jerod Glover, motion passed, Brad Barrett abstained from the vote.

Highway Department:

Road Foreman Report:

- Finished with winter sand
- Waiting on parts for mower
- Graded on the East side of Town.
- Grant project on Root Pond Rd. after Labor Day
- Getting the trucks ready for winter
- Cold Springs Road will be worked on after the grant project.

Transfer Station:

- Demolition dumpster and recycling out, transfer station.
- Calling Maple Leaf Mechanical for freon removal

Town Clerk Report:

- Treasury bond rate is 5.3%, the salt shed will be in a money market until approval to re-invest in a treasury bond.
- Received a check for \$7,000 from the sale of the old grader.
- Reminder the meeting that would have been scheduled for Labor Day will be held the next day on Tuesday.
- Daphne is acting assistant Town Clerk/ Treasurer

Motion by Tom Bartholomew to reinvest the Salt shed money into a treasurer bond for six months, second by Guy Charlton, motion passed.

Old Business:

1. Police Assistance in Town: **Tabled**
2. Selectboard Schedule:
 - Tom Bartholomew believes the Town should investigate a Town Administrator this fiscal year.
3. Garage Update:
 1. Gary Freeguard has been recommended by a few different people.
 2. Need Clarification on the Following:
 - Radiant heat and wall heaters
 - Drain- oil separator.
 - Permitting regulations
 - Final grades
 - Dual level floors
 - Drainage plains including footings.
 - Property lines
 - Tom to speak with Sherry Young about permitting and engineering for drains.
 - Need a floor plan drawn up.
 - Tom Bartholmew will get together with Gary Freeguard about scheduling, rough cost estimates and floor plan drawing.
4. Sewer Allocation: (See Notes from Tom Bartholomew in file).
 - Review of Tom Bartholomew's notes on Sewer allocations.
 - Tom Bartholmew recommends \$100.00 sewer allocation fee and no other charges until they property is hooked into the Town Wastewater Plant
 - Need to be consistent with all fees and handling on property that is no longer using the wastewater treatment facility.
 - Need to draft a new policy.
5. Brown Property -Town Right of Way:
 - Jack Helm presented the board with his findings of the highway and the Brown property, (see letter in file). The highway department was within the Town's right of way.

New Business:

1. Amendments to Procurement Policy:
 - Tom Bartholmew suggested adding Design Build Construction projects to the professional service section of the procurement policy.

Motion by Tom Bartholmew to Amend the Professional Service section of the Procurement policy to include Design Build Construction Services, second by Jerod Glover, motion passed.

2. Forest Fire Warden:

- Lyndon Austin has resigned as the Forest Fire Warden.

Motion by Guy Charlton to accept the resignation from Lyndon Austin and the Forest Fire Warden with sincere regret, second by Jerod Glover, motion passed.

Correspondence:

Addressed under Forest Fire Warden

Executive Session:

- Review Applications for Transfer Station

Motion by Jerod Glover to move into executive session for an issue that the board has determined that premature public knowledge would clearly place a person involved at a substantial disadvantage. Second by Tom Bartholomew, Motion passed.

Motion by Jerod Glover to move into executive session per 1. V.S.A 313 (a) (3) for the purpose of appointment or evaluation of a public officer or employee at 8:51 pm Second Tom Bartholomew, Motion passed.

- Out of Executive session at 9:05

Motion by Guy Charlton to schedule interviews with (4) candidates for Transfer Station Attendant. Interviews should be at 10-minute intervals, starting at 6 pm in Executive session on Tuesday, September 5, second by Tom Bartholomew, motion passed.

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn by Brad Barrett at 9:07pm.

Respectfully submitted.
Carrie LaFond
Selectboard Assistant