

APPROVED MINUTES
SELECTBOARD MEETING
TOWN OF BENSON, VT
August 7th, 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, Nancy Elkington, Lois Trenn, Sue Brown, Wayne Fletcher, Michele 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 Brad Barrett, seconded by Guy Charlton, motion passed.

Public Comment:

Michele Brown questioned if Ditching was taking place past their house? **Answer:** Not by the Town, a private Contractor is in the area working.

Michele Brown asked if a handicap sign could be put up near their property? **Answer:** Yes, at the corner before the extension at Frazier Hill and Turkey Farm Rd.

Question was asked if the private contractor working in the area had an overweight permit? **Answer:** No, and the Town does not have a way of enforcing it.

Linda Peltier (Chair) Wanted to thank everyone involved in Benson Family Day, "The parade was awesome, and the Fire department did a great job with the Barbeque, all of the hard work is appreciated".

Approve Selectboard Minutes:

Motion to approve July 24th Selectboard minutes as amended by Brad Barrett, seconded by Guy Charlton, motion passed.

Pay Bills:

Motion by Brad Barette to pay regular bills in the amount of \$25,225.04, second by Jerod Glover, motion passed.

Motion by Brad Barrett to pay regular payroll in the amount of \$4,269.81 second by Jerod Glover, motion passed.

Motion by Guy Charlton to pay Highway Payroll in the amount of \$5,838.77, second by Jerod Glover, motion passed, Brad Barrett abstained from the vote.

Highway Department:

Road Foreman Report:

- Waiting on parts for mower
- Problems with Beavers
- Opened culverts and put in new screens on them on N. Lake RD
- Used some millings for road repairs.
- Ditching on Frazier Hill
- East Rd next week and Grant project on Root Pond Rd

Transfer Station:

- Reviewed Job Description

Motion by Jerod Glover, Second by Brad Barrett to accept the Transfer Station Job description dated August 7th2023, motion passed.

- Discussion on who and when the freon should be taken out of the appliances at the transfer station. Selectboard Assistant will contact the Town of Fair Haven to see who they use and possibly set up the same schedule.
- Reviewed Standard Operating Procedures for the Transfer Station

Motion by Brad Barrett to accept the Standard Operating Procedures for the Transfer Station, second by Jerod Glover, motion passed.

Town Clerk Report:

- Inspection from the State did not find any problems with the Town's spillway at Sunset Lake.
- Letter out to Barabra Noyes for Sunset Lake Grant
- Tax Bills out
- Fire King is sending a refund of \$350.00 because they did not deliver the new filing cabinets inside.
- Jack Helm asked about the status of the salt shed treasury bond. **Answer:** The Town Clerk will investigate it.
- Question was asked if the Auditors should come to the next meeting to discuss investing in treasury Bonds.
- Clarification, the Trusty of Public Funds are limited to monitoring the Cemetery funds and releasing the interest that can be used as needed.

Old Business:

- Decision on Old Grader:
 1. The Grader has been transported to Winmill and has been sitting there.
 2. A company from NY was contacted and they could not give the old grader a value.
 3. Individual has offered to buy the old grader for \$7,000.

Motion by Jerod Glover, second by Guy Charlton to sell the old grader for \$7,000 and pay Winmill for the transportation to their lot, motion passed.

- Police Assistance in Town:
 1. There is \$8,000 in the budget for police assistance.

2. Linda Peltier (Chair) and Jerod Glover to contact Joe Gunther Town Manager of Fair Haven to discuss contracting with the Town of Fair Haven for police coverage.
- Selectboard Schedule/Town Garage:
 1. Tom Bartholmew took a tour of Town garages in the area.
 2. All had heated storage for winter equipment.
 3. 16' Ceilings
 4. None of the garages had radiant heat.
 5. Drain and Oil separator recommended.
 6. Opinions were that the Town could probably do a 3 bay for the cost.
 7. Gary Fregard willing to come to the Town to talk about building the garage.
 - Sewer allocation- Board needs to look at information that was provided by Tom Bartholmew - Tabled until next regular meeting.

Decision by consensus to have Gary Freeguard come and speak to the board about building the Town garage and hold a special meeting at Gary Fregard's convenience.

New Business:

- New Truck Purchase:
 - 1) The State uses a 7–8-year rotation for equipment.
 - 2) Need reliable trucks.

Motion by Tom Bartholomew to purchase a new International truck with accessories not to exceed \$275,000 in 2025, second by Jerod Glover, motion passed.

Correspondence:

Email from Jan Brown concerning damage to their property:

- Discussion to have a disinterested party go out and establish the center line of the road and measure the towns right of way.
- Jack Helm will go out and measure the road and right of way and report back to the board, matter tabled until the right of way is established.
- Linda Peltier (Chair) will inform the Browns of the steps being taken.

Executive Session:

Motion by Brad Barret, second by Jerod Glover to table Executive session until next regular meeting.

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn by Brad Barrett at 9:14 pm, second by Guy Charlton, motion passed.

Respectfully submitted.
Carrie LaFond
Selectboard Assistant