

APPROVED MINUTES
SELECTBOARD MEETING
TOWN OF BENSON, VT
OCTOBER 30th, 2023, 7:00pm

Selectboard Present:

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

Others Present:

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

Public Present:

Robert Bizek, Jon Dodd

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 Jerod Glover, seconded by Brad Barrett, motion passed unanimously.

Amendments to agenda: Added Municipal Grant Under New Business

Robert Bizek:

- Discussion on investing in Treasury Bonds, Robert Bizek supplied an article “The Bond market is back” (see file).
- Question- Is the Town investing legal? Answer: “Not an attorney”, but Municipalities do invest.
- Discussion that the Town should not have more than \$250,000 in one bank.
- No Action Taken

Public Comment: None

Approve Selectboard Minutes:

Motion to approve October 2nd Selectboard minutes as amended by Tom Bartholmew seconded by Jerod Glover, motion passed unanimously.

Pay Bills:

Motion by Guy Charlton to pay Regular Bills in the amount of \$23,713.34 second by Jerod Glover, motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Guy Charlton to pay Regular Payroll in the amount of \$5,865.24 second by Jerod Glover, motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Guy Charlton to pay Highway Payroll in the amount of \$4,572.20 second by Gerod Glover, motion passed, Brad Barrett abstained from the vote.

Highway Department:

Road Foreman Report:

- Working on hauling in gravel and grading roads
- One truck at Viking for Hydraulics and one at Avalanche for repair.

Town Clerk Report:

- Transfer for the Treasury Bonds done Monday.
- Presented a sheet with VLTC membership dues.
- Reported Rasco is the only property that was up for tax sale that has not paid. Town Clerk suggests working out a payment plan.
- Discussion on the process for Petitions- Tabled for more information.

Transfer Station:

- All the dumpsters went out.
- Guy greased the backhoe; the oil needs to be checked regularly; there is an oil leak.

Old Business:

Town Administrator

- Tom Bartholomew has contacted VLCT, and they provided descriptions of the difference between a Town Manager and a Town Administrator.
- Most Town Administrators are full time; however, it might be better to start low maybe 20 hours a week.
- Tom Bartholomew will continue to investigate the roles and salary for a Town Administrator
- Discussion on where the Town Administrator would work out of.
- No Decision made at this time.

Town Garage

- Tom Bartholmew supplied the Board with a preliminary layout for the Town Garage (see file).
- Discussion on not having a separate office inside the new garage.
- Current cost would be \$440,000 for a steel building without the site work, demolition, oil separator, and separate office space.

Motion by Brad Barret authorizing Tom Barthlomew to obtain a detailed budget from Gary Freeguard for a steel building that is 52' x 72', second by Guy Charlton, motion passed unanimously.

New Business:

Wastewater Permit Renewal: Tom Bartholmew will investigate what needs to be done for the renewal that needs to be completed in December.

Municipal Planning Grant: Linda Peltier has looked at possibilities for this grant and is recommending the Town wait for the next round, the projects that need to be done are not eligible.

Correspondence: None

Further Discussion:

- Jerod Glover reported the Picnic Tables are finished and being stored at the Firehouse.
- Brad Barret applied for a safety grant, and it looks like they will be receiving all the items they applied for.
- Look at other funds for the next regular meeting to possibly invest into Treasury Bonds
- Town Clerk to investigate if the deposits at the Orwell bank are collateralized deposits.

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn by Brad Barrett; 9:00pm.

Respectfully submitted.

Carrie LaFond

Selectboard Assistant

Documents referenced in these minutes can be found at the Benson Town Office.