

APPROVED MINUTES  
SELECTBOARD MEETING  
TOWN OF BENSON, VT  
November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023, 7:00pm

**Selectboard Present:**

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

**Selectboard Absent**

Guy Charlton

**Others Present:**

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

**Public Present:**

Jon Dodd, Lynn Bowen, Nany Elkington, Lois Trenn, Jack Helm, Norma Phillips, Steve Murray, Douglas Yaremchuk, Sady Brown

**Call to Order:**

Linda Peltier (Chair) called the meeting to order at 7:08pm.

**Approved Agenda:**

Motion to approve the agenda as amended was made by Tom Bartholomew, seconded by Jerod Glover, motion passed unanimously.

Amendments to agenda: Added CUD under Town Clerks Report

**Storm Water Project:**

- Sady Brown discussed a possibly Storm Water Project for Phosphorus remediation and asked the board if they were interested in pursuing.
- The Board is willing to get more information.

**Public Comment:** None

**Approve Selectboard Minutes:**

Motion to approve October 30th Selectboard minutes as presented with grammar corrected by Jerod Glover, seconded by Tom Bartholomew, motion passed unanimously.

**Pay Bills:**

Motion by Brad Barrett to pay Regular Bills in the amount of \$34,268.53, second by Tom Bartholomew, motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Brad Barrett to pay Regular Payroll in the amount of \$4,544.62, second by Tom Bartholomew motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Tom Bartholomew to pay Highway Payroll in the amount of \$4,953.84, second by Jerod Glover, motion passed, Brad Barrett abstained from the vote.

## Highway Department:

### Road Foreman Report:

- Grading Roads as long as weather permits
- New Chloride system provided by the supplier of Chloride.
- Working on hauling in gravel
- Mac at Avalanche for repair.
- Discussion on the beaver problem at North Transfer Station Rd, the Culvert is clogged and washed out the road. Someone took the screen that was keeping it from becoming clogged. The State of Vermont is now involved with the beaver issue.

**Transfer Station:** Nothing

### Town Clerk Report:

Motion by Jerod Glover second by Tom Bartholmew to correct the Minutes from October 2, 2023, to have highway payroll amount as \$6,314.42, Brad Barrett abstained, motion passed.

- Review Process for Petitions and Articles
  1. Jon Dodd provided the Selectboard with forms that could be used for Social Service Petitions. Discussion on the form – Tabled until the next meeting for review.
- Insured/Uninsured Deposits-
  2. Town Clerk informed the board that Orwell does not have Collateral Insurance for deposits greater than \$250,000.
  3. The Selectboard asked the Treasurer to come up with a plan to not have deposits greater than \$250,000 at one place that are not insured.
  4. Discussion on how to proceed with excess deposits in one Bank that might not be insured.
  5. Linda Peltier (Chair) will follow up with the Orwell bank for clarification on deposit insurance.

### Communications Union District-

Motion by Brad Barrett to accept John Hill's resignation as the Otter Creek Communications Representative with regret, second by Tom Bartholomew, motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Brad Barrett to appoint Steve Murray as the Otter Creek Communications Representative and Lynn Bowen as the alternate, second by Jerod Glover, motion passed unanimously.

### Old Business:

#### Town Administrator

- Tom Bartholomew provided a handout of possible duties for a Town administrator.
- Discussion on areas that need the most help.

- Question was asked if town administrator was the only title being explored? **Answer:** Town Administrator has less authority than a town manager.
- Question has other Towns been contacted to see how they handle this position? **Answer:** this position would be made unique to the town's needs.
- More information is required before a decision is made.

#### Town Garage

- Tom Bartholmew has spoken with Gary Freeguard and is waiting for a detailed budget.
- The Note for the town garage is still active at the Orwell Bank.

#### Funds Available for Treasury Bonds/6 Months only not 3 Months

- Tom Pile informed the Town Clerk there are no treasury bonds available at the dollar amount requested for a three-month term only six months.

Motion by Tom Bartholomew, second by Jerod Glover to invest \$90,000 of the equipment fund and \$100,000 of the ARPA funds in a six-month treasury bond if the rate is at least 5 %, motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Jerod Glover, second by Brad Barrett to invest \$60,000 of the Fire Departments equipment fund in in six-month treasury bond, motion passed unanimously.

#### Law Enforcement Update

- Town of Fair Haven has not been responsive, Jerod Glover suggests looking into the Sheriffs Office for town coverage.
- Jerod Glover to contact the Rutland County Sheriffs Office to see about some law enforcement coverage for the town.

#### Sewer Allotments

- Review of the handout provided by Tom Bartholomew for a sewer policy (see file).
- Discussion on how to handle burned out buildings.
- Further discussion at the next meeting.
- Selectboard Assistant to follow up with a draft permit form.

#### Status of Wastewater Permit Renewal

- Tom Bartholomew is working on the Wastewater Treatment permit renal that is due in December. A renewal application was not filed the last time, the permit was renewed without it.

#### **New Business:**

#### Appoint Rutland Regional Emergency Team

Motion by Tom Bartholmew, second by Brad Barrett to appoint Paul Davoren as director and Jerod Glover as management coordinator for the Rutland Regional Emergency Team, motion passed unanimously.

#### **Correspondence:**

Department of Fish and Wildlife

Motion by Tom Bartholmew, second by Brad Barrett for the Chair to sign the from the Vermont Fish and Wildlife for VDFW to acquire the timber rights of the land owned by A Johnson Co Inc Pond Woods, motion passed unanimously.

**Adjournment:**

Motion to adjourn by Brad Barrett; 8:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted.

Carrie LaFond

Selectboard Assistant

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