

APPROVED MINUTES
SELECTBOARD MEETING
TOWN OF BENSON, VT
November 27th, 2023, 7:00pm

Selectboard Present:

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

Selectboard Absent

Brad Barrett

Others Present:

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

Public Present:

Jack Helm

Call to Order:

Linda Peltier (Chair) called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

Approved Agenda:

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

Public Comment: None

Approve Selectboard Minutes:

Motion to approve November 13th Selectboard minutes as presented with grammar corrected by Jerod Glover, seconded by Tom Bartholomew, motion passed unanimously.

Pay Bills:

Motion by Guy Charlton to pay Regular Bills in the amount of \$22,079.26, second by Tom Bartholomew, motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Guy Charlton to pay Regular Payroll in the amount of \$3,842.53, second by Tom Bartholomew motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Guy Charlton to pay Highway Payroll in the amount of \$4,930.35 second Tom Bartholomew, motion passed unanimously.

Highway Department: Road Foreman Absent

Transfer Station:

- Need information for Maple Leaf Mechanical for the freon to be taken out of the refrigeration units.
- Guy Charlton did some repair work to the backhoe, and it is now usable again.

- **Question?** What is the process for repairing equipment when something breaks at the transfer station? **Answer:** Guy Charlton or Brad Barrett will make repairs and regular maintenance will be performed by the Transfer Station Attendant.

Town Clerk Report:

- **Town Clerk/Treasurer** supplied the board with emails from following up on excess deposits at the Orwell Bank that may not be insured. (See file)
- Linda Peltier contacted the Orwell Bank and the likely hood of the Bank failing and deposits not being covered is very low do the fact that they sweep deposits.
- Energy Audit will be performed on December 20th for both the Town Office and the Town Hall.

Motion by Tom Bartholmew, second by Jerod Glover to approve the Social Service Appropriations Policy, motion passed unanimously.

Old Business:

Town Administrator

- Further discussion on the need for a Town Administrator and the areas the Administrator would focus on.

Motion by Tom Bartholomew to hire a person to manage and supervise various town programs, second by Jerod Glover, motion passed with the Chairs vote.

Town Garage

- Still waiting for an update from Gary Freeguard.
- The Town will have to supply a deposit before the company will supply any plans.
- No Action taken at this time.

Law Enforcement Update

- Town of Fair Haven has still not been responded, Jerod Glover is in contact with the Castleton Police Department, it appears they would want a commitment to patrol at least 20 hrs. a week because they would be increasing their staff to accommodate Benson.

Sewer Allotments

- Discussion on what the fees for a sewer permit allocation should be and how buildings that have been destroyed should be handled and the sewer connection plugged.
- Agreed by consensus the Allocation fee would be \$100.00 for a two-year period and a \$50.00 fee for one time one year extension.
- Tom Bartholomew to continue working on a Sewer Ordinance and Permit Application

Status of Wastewater Permit Renewal

- Wastewater Permit renewal form is completed.

Motion by Tom Bartholomew, Second by Guy Charlton for Linda Peltier (Chair) to sign the wastewater permit renewal form, motion passed unanimously.

New Business: None

Correspondence:

Email Yavonne Smead

- The Town will be plowing Turkey Farm Road and turning around at the Butler property.
- The Boards stands with the findings of the Tax abatement hearing.

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn by Jerod Glover, Second by Guy Charlton 8:46 pm.

Respectfully submitted.

Carrie LaFond

Selectboard Assistant

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