

APPROVED MINUTES
SELECTBOARD MEETING
TOWN OF BENSON, VT
DECEMBER 11th, 2023, 7:00pm

Selectboard Present:

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

Others Present:

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

Public Present:

Jack Helm, Wayne Fletcher, Tom Pyle, Robert Bizek, Adam Stewart, Steve Murray

Call to Order:

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

Approved Agenda:

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

Amendments to the Agenda: added Tom Pyle under Public Comment

Public Comment:

- Tom Pyle informed the Board the treasury bonds the board wanted to invest in are no longer available; \$100,000 for the ARPA funds at 6 months and \$90,000 for the equipment fund. The Salt Shed funds were previously invested and they are set to mature in March of '24.
- Discussion on the proper way to invest these funds, either CD'S or Money Market Funds.
- Suggestion that an investment policy be put in place. Robert Bizek is willing to help draft an investment policy.

Motion by Tom Bartholomew seconded by Jerod Glover to have the uninvested funds currently in a money market be returned to the Town and leave the Salt shed funds in a treasury bond until maturity, motion passed unanimously.

Listers: Tabled No one to speak on topic.

Forest Fire Warden:

- Lyndon Austin has rescinded his resignation as Forest Fire Warden
- Adam Stewart relayed the Fire Department normally makes a recommendation for Forest Fire Warden but ultimately the position is State appointed.
- The Board decided by consensus that Lyndon Austin will remain the Forest Fire Warden; however he needs to reapply to the Fire department to be re-instated as a fire fighter.

CUD Update:

- Steve Murray gave an update on the fiber internet progress (see Minutes from CUD meeting in file).
- Go Net Speed has until December 20th to provide a build plan.
- Go Net Speed has relayed they could potentially have project completed in one year.
- Go Net Speed has the Grant for providing fiber.

Approve Selectboard Minutes:

Motion to approve November 27th Selectboard minutes as presented with grammar corrected by Jerod Glover, seconded by Tom Bartholomew, motion passed unanimously.

Motion to approve December 4th 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 \$46,452.62, second by Jerod Glover, motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Guy Charlton to pay Regular Payroll in the amount of \$ 6,614.62, second by Jerod Glover motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Guy Charlton to pay Highway Payroll in the amount of \$5,170.94 second by Jerod Glover, Brad Barrett abstained from the vote, motion passed.

Highway Department:

- The Road Foreman wishes to thank the Town of Bridport for supplying parts to refurbish (2) wings.
- The MAC is back and running.
- Brining in more gravel this week
- The loader needs to be serviced.
- One more truck to be serviced.

Transfer Station:

- Power steering needs to be fixed in the backhoe, Brad, and Guy to investigate getting it fixed.
- Request for the Transfer station Attendant to give an update at the next regular meeting.

Town Clerk Report:

- BROCC is requesting to be on the ballot for a donation of \$2,000, same as last year.
- Southwest Council on Aging requested to be on the ballot for a donation of \$900.00, same as last year.
- Lauren Mohan will be working part time as the Assistant town Clerk/Treasurer, approximately 10 hrs. as the Assistant Town Clerk and 4 hrs. as the Assistant treasurer.
- Still trying to find someone to do the outside audit.

Old Business:

Town Administrator

- Tom Bartholomew I working on a description.
- No Action taken at this time.

Town Garage

- Reviewed the contract between the Town of Benson and Gary Freeguard to build the Town garage (supplied by the Town Attorney).
- Discussion on Builders Risk for the Town Garage

Motion by Tom Bartholmew, second by Jerod Glover to approve the Contract between Gary Freeguard and The Town of Benson for Building the new town garage, motion passed unanimously.

- Discussion on using ARPA funds for the garage.

Motion by Brad Barrett, second by Guy Charlton to temporarily use \$75,000 of ARPA funds for the down payment for construction of the garage and to be paid back later, Poll the Board- Guy – yes, Brad- Yes, Linda-Yes, Tom -Yes, Jerod-Yes, motion passed unanimously.

Sewer Allotments

- Decision by consensus to not grant any further sewer allocations until a policy and permit form are in place.

New Business:

Budget Planning Schedule

- Decision by consensus to have “Budget only meetings” the Mondays following a regular meeting starting December 18th.

Vermont 250th Anniversary Resolution- Tabled

Correspondence:

Barbra Noyes Pulling E mail -Sunset Lake grant.

- Read No action taken.

Lyndon Austin- E mail-

- Covered under Forest Fire Warden

Dana Kaplan E mail- Boy scout Camp

- Agreed to set up a meeting after budgets are completed.

Lisa Kolb Email- Hazard Mitigation Planning

- No action taken.

Jeremy Gildrien E mail -MERP Update

- No action taken.

Northern Great Dane Rescue- Donation Support request

- No action taken at this time.

Regional Ambulance

- Decision to ask Tom Newman, Sam Bartholomew, and David Bartholomew to come to the next regular meeting for an update on ambulance services.

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn by Bradd Barrett at 9:23 pm.

Respectfully submitted.

Carrie LaFond

Selectboard Assistant

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