

APPROVED MINUTES
SELECTBOARD MEETING
TOWN OF BENSON, VT
DECEMBER 26th, 2023, 7:00pm

Selectboard Present:

Linda Peltier (Chair), Jerod Glover, Guy Charlton

Selectboard Absent:

Tom Bartholomew, Brad Barret

Others Present:

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

Public Present:

Jack Helm, Adam Stewart, Terrie Stewart, Ron Stewart Jr., Lyndon Austin, Elizebeth Austin, Jeff Washburn, Krista Glover, Ben Bartholmew, David Bartholmew, Robert St. Peter, Sue Brown, Norm Brown, Adam Marzean, Heath Perkins

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 Guy Charlton, seconded by Jerod Glover, motion passed unanimously.

Amendments to the Agenda: Tabled (Sewer Allotments, Town Administrator, VT 250th Anniversary Resolution) added discussion on budget meeting schedule.

Linda Peltier will be unable to attend the next scheduled budget meeting, discussion that budget reviews need to continue, and the next budget meeting will be January 2nd 2024 at 7pm.

Listers:

Lois Trenn supplied correspondence from the Town Attorney regarding the contract for the town wide reappraisal with NEMREC. Lois recommended the contract be signed by the Selectboard.

Motion by Jerod Glover second by Guy Charlton for the board to sign the contract with NEMREC for a town wide reappraisal, Motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment:

Robert St Peter question why it was taking so long for the new rescue truck to be completed. Answer: Two garages had been contacted to work on it, Dave Bartholomew will complete work as soon as possible (which will be done at considerable cost savings).

Question was asked if the generator from the old truck will be put on the new rescue truck? Answer: No

Approve Selectboard Minutes:

Motion to approve December 11th Selectboard minutes as presented with grammar corrected by Jerod Glover, seconded by Guy Charlton, motion passed unanimously.

Motion to approve December 18th Selectboard minutes as presented by Jerod Glover, seconded by Guy Charlton, motion passed unanimously.

Pay Bills:

Motion by Guy Charlton to pay Regular Bills in the amount of \$31,035.10, second by Jerod Glover, motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Guy Charlton to pay Regular Payroll in the amount of \$ 5,126.59, second by Jerod Glover motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Guy Charlton to pay Highway Payroll in the amount of \$6,961.09 second by Jerod Glover, motion passed.

Highway Department:

- No Report Rd Foreman absent.

Transfer Station:

- Greg Fontaine has made two calls to Maple Leaf Mechanical for freon removal, and they have not gotten back to him. It was suggested that he contact Kevin Brown and he will.
- Dumpsters were not picked up on time for Saturday, they are on the way.
- Backhoe still being repaired.
- Guy has been a tremendous help.

Fire Department:

Motion by Linda Peltier to accept the Fire Departments nomination of officers (Fire Chief- David Bartholomew, Assistant Fire Chief- Adam Stewart, Fire Captains Jerod Glover, and Sam Bartholomew), second by Guy Charton, Jerod Glover abstained from the vote, Motion passed. * This Motion re-visited on 1/8/24 With a majority of the board present

Town Clerk Report:

- Slate Valley Cares has asked for the same amount of support as last year \$2,000.

Motion by Jerod Glover, second by guy Charlton to put an article of support for Slate Valey Cares in the amount of \$2,000 at the annual town meeting, motion passed unanimously.

- Rosco property taxes have been paid in full.

Old Business:

Town Administrator-

Motion by Guy Charton, second by Jerod Glover to table the discussion on Town Administrator, motion passed unanimously.

Town Garage-Nothing New

Sewer Allotments-Tabled

Vermont 250th Anniversary Resolution- Tabled

Hazzard Mitigation- The Town has been signed up to receive more information.

Motion by Guy Charton, seconded by Jerod Glover to move Hannah Brown discussion to the end of the agenda, motion passed unanimously.

New Business:

Hannah Brown, Norm Brown, Martin Hutchins-

Norm Brown supplied pictures of flooding (see file) that had taken place near Hannah Browns property and asked what could be done. Answer: Agency of Natural Resources will have to be contacted because the stream that overflowed has fish in it. Also, it is believed that the fence that has fallen is holding up the water. Action- Linda will speak with Brad Barrett. Suggestion that the landowner of the fence be contacted as well. Also, the culvert on North Stage Rd is still plugged. Action- This will be conveyed to Brad Barrett.

Ambulance Update-

Dave Bartholomew recommends that any support for ambulance service by the Town of Benson go to the Fair Haven rescue squad. They have been building their team and would certainly be the first to respond.

Correspondence:

Email- Yavonne Smead- email- Action- Invite to the next regular meeting

RRPC Annual Report- Action- waiting for report not attached to email.

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn by Jerod Glover at 7:45pm.

Respectfully submitted.

Carrie LaFond

Selectboard Assistant

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