

APPROVED MINUTES  
SPECIAL SELECTBOARD MEETING  
TOWN OF BENSON, VT  
JANUARY 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024, 7:00pm

**Selectboard Present:**

Linda Peltier, Jerod Glover, Guy Charlton, Tom Bartholomew, and Brad Barrett

**Others Present:**

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

**Public Present:** Jack Helm, Wayne Fletcher, Ben Bartholomew, Dave Bartholomew, Jeff Washburn, Jean Volis, Kerry Dunseeth

Dave Bartholomew

**Call to Order:**

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

**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 Fire Department and Outright VT

**Public Comment:**

Jack Helm presented the selectboard with a petition for using arpa funds for the Town garage and asked the board if they plan to support the petition "Shall the Town vote to expend \$250,000 (Two Hundred and Firty thousand Dollars) of ARPA funds on construction of a new highway garage. Said funds be used to reduce the amount of money to be borrowed".

Answer: need more time to investigate what is available for ARPA funds. Town Clerk will verify signatures on the petition are registered voters.

Further discussion on the petition tabled until budget review of garage.

**Budget Review**

- Discussion of the highway budget- Town Clerk to have a budget sheet with updated numbers for the next meeting.
- Another pass at the General Funds, Salaries to be discussed in executive session, budget to be wrapped up at the next regular meeting.

**Fire Department:**

- Motion by Brad Barrett seconded by Guy Charlton to accept the Fire Departments vote of Ben Bartholomew as a fire fighter, Tom Bartholomew and Jerod Glover abstained, motion passed. Motion voted by Linda Peltier (Chair), Guy Charlton and Brad Barrett

**Outright VT:**

- Outright VT is purchasing the former boy scout camp and would like to have a forum or come to a selectboard meeting to fill in the public on plans and answer any questions.
- Action: Outright VT will be invited to a selectboard meeting in February when budgets are completed.

**Executive Session:**

Motion by Jerod Glover to move into executive session for an issue that the board has determined that premature public knowledge would clearly place a person involved at a substantial disadvantage. Second by Linda Peltier, Motion passed.

Motion by Jerod Glover to move into executive session per 1. V.S.A 313 (a) (3) for the purpose of appointment or evaluation of a public officer or employee at 8:35 pm Second Guy Charlton, Motion passed.

Out of Executive Session at 9:08 PM.

Motion by Guy, second by Jerod Glover to authorize payroll corrections at 9:09 motion passed, Brad Barrett abstained.

Motion by Jerod Glover to move into executive session for an issue that the board has determined that premature public knowledge would clearly place a person involved at a substantial disadvantage. Second by Guy Charlton, Motion passed.

Brad Barrett left the selectboard meeting prior to the second executive session.

Motion by Jerod Glover to move into executive session per 1. V.S.A 313 (a) (3) for the purpose discussion on salaries at 9:10 pm Second Guy Charlton, Motion passed.

Out of executive session at 9:54 motion by Jerod, second by Guy

Linda Peltier (Chair) made a motion at 9:55, second by Jerod to offer 3.5% increase in salaries for 2024-2025 budget. Motion passed.

**Adjournment:**

Motion to adjourn by Jerod Glover, second by at 9:59pm.

Respectfully submitted.  
Carrie LaFond  
Selectboard Assistant

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