

APPROVED MINUTES  
SELECTBOARD MEETING  
TOWN OF BENSON, VT  
JANUARY 8<sup>h</sup>, 2024, 7:00pm

**Selectboard Present:**

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

**Selectboard Absent:**

Jerod Glover

**Others Present:**

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

**Public Present:**

Jack Helm, Adam Stewart, Jeff Washburn, Ben Bartholomew, Sue Brown, Norm Brown

**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 Tom Bartholomew, motion passed unanimously.

**Amendments to the Agenda:**

Tabled 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary Discussion

**Public Comment:**

- Sue Brown would like to have the Benson Family Day Committee sell bake goods at Town meeting for a fund raiser for Benson Family Day.
- Norm Brown asked what was being done about the flooding on lower Stage Rd. Answer: A new larger culvert has been put in and a cross culvert has been recommended to divert the storm water flow away. The Cross culvert would need to be engineered and approved by the State of Vermont.

Board agreed by consensus for The Benson Family Day committee to sell baked goods at town meeting.

**Approve Selectboard Minutes:**

Motion to approve December 26<sup>th</sup> Selectboard minutes as amended with regular payroll corrected by Guy Charlton, seconded by Linda Peltier, motion passed unanimously.

Motion to approve January 2<sup>nd</sup> Selectboard minutes as presented by Brad Barrett, seconded by Guy Charlton motion passed unanimously.

**Pay Bills:**

Motion by Guy Charlton to pay Regular Bills in the amount of \$52,718.30, second by Brad Barrett, motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Guy Charlton to pay Regular Payroll in the amount of \$ 4,552.08, second by Brad Barrett motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Guy Charlton to pay Highway Payroll in the amount of \$7,521.48 second by Tom Bartholomew, motion passed, Brad Barrett abstained from the vote.

## **Highway Department:**

### Rd Foreman Report

- Mail box do occasionally get damaged from the plow, The Town is not responsible for this damage. There are regulations as to how far from the road mailboxes are supposed to be. Other Towns in the areas do not cover mailbox damage. \* Please see Winter Ordinance
- All kinds of vehicles were in the way when the plows tried to go through the roads, the Winter Parking Ordinance will be posted at the locations the agenda is posted and is available at the Town office.
- There is not enough funding for gravel.
- All equipment is in good shape currently, no break downs
- VLTC inspector wants to come inspect the garage
- VTRANS assessed the damage of the flooded roads to be approximately \$400,000
- Rutland County reached the thresh hold for FEMA relief, but there have not been any decisions made yet.
- Discussion that ever road in town needs 10” of gravel they are all sinking
- Suggestion that the Town put a roller on behind the excavator to compact the gravel as it is being put down
- Discussion on getting a wheeled grader or contracting grader services
- Any highway issues should be directed to the phone at the Town garage 802-537-2722, not individuals’ cell or home phone.

### New Truck

- The new truck will be ready sooner than thought- discussion to see if Viking can install the equipment earlier than fall.
- Discussion on the best way to fund the new truck, VT State Equipment Loan, Orwell Bank, ARPA funds., International.

Motion by Brad Barrett, second by Guy Charlton to proceed with the application for a VT Municipal Equipment loan, motion passed unanimously.

## **Transfer Station:**

- Backhoe is all fixed and returned to the transfer station

## **Fire Department:**

Motion by Brad Barrett 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 Tom Bartholomew, Motion passed.

### **Town Clerk Report:**

- Need to have Overweight Permits on the Agenda
- Need to make a decision on the dedication of the Town Report
- Would like to hire a Book Keeper for 10 hrs. a week- (To be discussed at budget meeting)
- Discussion on Act 76 and how much the employee and Town would contribute, no action taken.

Motion by Guy Charlton, second by Brad Barrett to put an article of support for Benson Family Day in the amount of \$2,500 at the annual town meeting, motion passed unanimously.

### **Old Business:**

#### Town Administrator

- Tom Bartholomew provided the Select board with a draft job description for a Town Administrator
- Question was asked why the Fire Department was not included as a department the Town administrator would oversee. **Answer:** The Fire department has its own organization.
- Question was asked would it be better for the Town Administrator to be salaried rather than hourly. **Answer:** Need more information
- Tom Bartholomew to further investigate the cost of this position.

#### Sewer Allotments

Motion by Guy Charlton to recess as the Selectboard and reconvene as the Board of Sewer Commissioners, second by Brad Barrett, motion passed.

Motion by Guy Charlton, second by Brad Barrett to approve the building sewer connection policy, motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Guy Charlton, second by Brad Barrett to approve the sewer connection permit form, motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Guy Charlton to adjourn as the Board of Sewer Commissioners and reconvene as the Selectboard, second by Guy Charlton, motion passed.

#### Vermont 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Resolution- Tabled

Hazard Mitigation- Selectboard Assistant to attend the Google Teams meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup> for more information.

#### **New Business:**

Motion by Guy Charlton, second by Brad Barrett to put an article of support for VNA Hospice in the amount of \$1,400 at the annual town meeting, motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Guy Charlton, second by Brad Barrett for the Select Board to approve the annual certificate of highway mileage for February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024, motion passed unanimously.

**Correspondence:**

Health Inspector Email

- The Board read the email- No Action to be taken.

Hazard Mitigation Email

- Selectboard Assistant will attend the google teams meeting and report back.

Jack Helm Email-

- Suggestion to put more money in the budget for gravel and road repair and outside service contracting.
- Cost to rebuild roads in town is approximately \$35/Foot.

\*Tom Bartholomew would like to put on record that he does not intend to run again for a Select Board position.

**Adjournment:**

Motion to adjourn by Brad Barrett at 8:57pm.

Respectfully submitted.

Carrie LaFond

Selectboard Assistant

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