

APPROVED MINUTES
SPECIAL SELECTBOARD MEETING
TOWN OF BENSON, VT
FEBRUARY 1ST, 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, Jon Dodd

Call to Order:

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

Approved Agenda:

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

Amendments To the Agenda:

Added – Sign Labor and Industry permit application.

Town Report Dedication

Public Comment:

- Question was asked what the Labor and Industry permit was for? **Answer:** New Town Garage
- Question was asked, what was the Town’s attorney’s response to whether the Article pertaining to ARPA funds was mandatory or discretionary. **Answer:** The Attorneys response was if it were within the scope of the selectboard it was mandatory, discretionary would be if it does not pertain to the selectboard an example was given for discretionary “(a petition for world peace)”
- Questions regarding the budget. Why are the Treasurer’s wages showing an 8.6 % increase instead of 3.5% **Answer** The budget from the previous year did not include the 5.5 % increase that was approved after the change in Selctboard. The increase is reflected as last year’s 5.5% and this year’s 3.5% combined.
- Question was asked why the budget for Assistant Town Clerk/Treasurer went from a budget of \$7,000 to \$14,000. **Answer:** The actual cost for ’22-’23 was \$12,733. The board chose to be initiative-taking because not enough was budgeted prior.

Approve Budget:

Motion to approve the General Budget of \$505,280 of which \$364,27 to be raised by taxes by Jerod Glover second by Brad Barrett, motion passed unanimously.

Motion to approve the Highway Budget of \$807,620 of which \$667,445 to be raised by taxes by Jerod Glover second by Guy Charlton, motion passed.

- Discussion on the budget and percent increase to taxes
- Tom Bartholomew stated the board wished to perform the same services and costs have gone up.
- Jon Dodd thanked the board for all the work that they have done.

Approve Warning and Articles

Motion to approve the Warning for Town meeting day with the included articles by Guy Charlton, second by Jerod Glover, motion passed unanimously.

Labor and Industry Permit/Fee

Motion for Linda Peltier (Chair) to sign the labor and Industry permit for the Town Garage which includes an \$8/\$1,000 (\$ 3,704) permit fee (based on the cost of the project) by Guy Charlton, second by Jerod Glover, motion passed unanimously.

Town Report Dedication

- Several nominations for the Town Report dedication including Tom Bartholomew, Guy Chalton, The Fire Department, The Benson First Response and Sally Kubin. Tom Bartholomew and Guy Charlton do not wish to accept the nomination.

Motion by Guy Charlton, second by Brad Barrett to nominate Sally Cubin for the dedication of the Annual Town report. Motion passed unanimously.

- Brad Barrett thanked Tom Bartholomew for all his work with the highway department, Town Garage project and gravel estimates.

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn by Brad Barrett at 8:15pm.

Respectfully submitted.

Carrie LaFond

Selectboard Assistant

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