

APPROVED MINUTES
SELECTBOARD MEETING
TOWN OF BENSON, VT
FEBRUARY 5TH, 2024, 7:00pm

Selectboard Present:

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

Others Present:

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

Public Present:

Jack Helm, Ben Bartholomew, Yavonne and Elwin Smead, Carrie Becker, Barbra Hemingway, Devon Neary, Greg Poelker-McKee

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:

Add The Following:

Landmark Engineering Service Proposal

Library

Executive Session- Records request

Public Comment:

- Library is looking into a \$100,000 grant that would address structure improvements, ADA compliance, and energy efficiency.
- The library committee was thanked again for the events they have been hosting.

Rutland Regional Planning Commission

- Devon Neary and Greg Poelker-McKee updated the board on the Municipal Technical Assistance Grant
 1. The grant planning has broadened the scope of projects being approved.
 2. The board needs to make a list of possible projects, suggestions are pavilion, parking improvements at the community and Town Hall, drainage improvements near the town hall, possibility of some of the funding used as a grant match.

Yavonne Smead

Email from Yavonne Smead seeking answers to unresolved issues:

1. Tax abatement – The tax abatement decision that was made by the Tax Abatement board cannot be changed or altered by the selectboard. The next step would be legal action. The Smead's feel proper

protocol was not followed during the process. The Smead's and the board both realize there was a lack of communication, and the process should be smoother.

2. Frazier Hill Run Off- The Smead's have talked with Bad Barret and the road crew will go out and do some ditching when it warms up in hopes that this will divert the water from future run off. Brad stated the Smead's are very open and willing to work with the Town.
3. Turkey Farm Road Damage- The complaint by the Smead's is their organic compost pile was destroyed by the Town plowing. Logs were pushed up on the pile and the compost was pushed into the woods. The Town has found another turnaround so this will not happen in the future however the Smead's would like so compensation for the ruined compost. They estimate the damage to be \$5,000 with labor. No Action taken at this time.

Approve Selectboard Minutes:

Motion to approve January 22nd Selectboard minutes as amended by Jerod Glover, seconded by Guy Charlton, motion passed unanimously.

Motion to approve January 29th Selectboard minutes as presented by Jerod Glover, seconded by Guy Charlton motion passed unanimously.

Motion to approve February 1st Selectboard minutes as presented by Guy Charlton, seconded by Jerod Glover motion passed unanimously.

Pay Bills:

Motion by Guy Charlton to pay Regular Bills in the amount of \$21,104.18, second by Jerod Glover, motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Guy Charlton to pay Regular Payroll in the amount of \$ 4,570.84, second by Jerod Glover motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Guy Charlton to pay Highway Payroll in the amount of \$ 6,600.61 second by Jerod Glover, motion passed, Brad Barrett abstained from the vote.

Highway Department:

Rd Foreman Report

- Very wet January, used lots more material (sand and road salt).
- Working on cleaning out the garage and setting up the old rescue truck with all tools they might need while the garage is under construction. Thank you to the Fire Department for the use of the old rescue truck.
- Discussion on the possibility of leaving the one ton in the Fire Station loaded with salt for emergency from the time the old garage is demoed until the weather warms up.
- Landmark was on site for the oil separator and sewer permits.

Overweight Permits

Motion by Brad Barrett for Linda Peltier (Chair) to sign the excess weight permits for ALH Transportation, JC Render, and KSM and Son Construction, seconded by Jerod Glover, motion passed unanimously.

Transfer Station:

- Discussion on contacting Tredway Hauling and Repair for freon removal of the appliances.

Town Clerk Report:

- Warning done for Town Meeting
- Would like to see about getting a window over the front door.

Old Business:

Town Garage

- Labor and Industry permit has been sent in
- Division of Fire Safety has been on site and has approved the start of demolition.
- Tom Bartholomew will follow up with Landmark on questions from proposal for sewer permit and oil separator.
- Tom Bartholomew provided the board with an RFP for the demolition and sitework for the town garage.
- Need builders risk insurance prior to demolition.

1. Landmark Proposal

Motion by Brad Barrett, second by Guy Charlton for the Chair to sign the proposal for Landmark for the sewer permitting and oil separator work, motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Guy Charlton, second by Jerod Glover for the Town Clerk to write an order for Landmark in the amount of \$500.00, motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Guy Charlton, second by Jerod Glover for the Chair to sign amendment number two (2) for the Town Garage contract with Gary Freeguard, motion passed unanimously.

Hazard Mitigation Update

- The Hazard Mitigation plan will expire in October of 2024, there is grant money available to hire a consultant.

New Business:

- Brad Barette updated the board that he had spoken with Mike Mullen from Pike and the 22a project may be pushed out to '28.

Correspondence:

Email- Yavonne Smead

- Discussed earlier in the meeting.

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 Guy Charlton, Motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Jerod Glover, second by Guy Charlton that the Board enter Executive Session 1. V.S.A. § 313 (a)(1) for the purpose of discussing pending or probable civil litigation or a prosecution, to which the public body is or may be a party, at 9:14pm, motion passed unanimously.

Board left Executive session at 9:45

Motion by Brad to contact town lawyer with the question, is an investigative report completed for the town considered a part of a personnel file or a town file, seconded by Jerod, motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn by Brad Barrett at 9:49pm.

Respectfully submitted.

Carrie LaFond

Selectboard Assistant

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