

APPROVED MINUTES  
EMERGENCY SELECTBOARD MEETING  
TOWN OF BENSON, VT  
MARCH 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024, 5:30pm

**Selectboard Present:**

Linda Peltier, Jerod Glover, Guy Charlton, Jim Pritchard, and Brad Barrett

**Others Present:**

Heidi Chandler (Town Clerk/Treasurer), Carrie LaFond (Selectboard Assistant), James W. Barlow PLC

**Public Present:** Jack Helm, Jon Dodd, Norma Philips, Ron Stewart, and Terrie Stewart

**Call to Order:**

Heidi Chandler (Town Clerk/Treasure) called the meeting to order at 5:30m.

**Executive Session:**

Motion by Guy Charlton, second by Jerod Glover the Board enters Executive Session per 1. V.S.A. § 313 (a)(1) (F) to discuss confidential attorney-client communications for the purpose of providing professional legal services to the public body.

Motion by Guy Charton, second by Jerod glover to move into executive session for an issue that the board has determined that premature public knowledge would clearly place the Town at a substantial disadvantage, session to include Attorney James Barlow and (Town Clerk/ Treasure) Heidi Chandler, Motion passed unanimously.

In Executive Session at 5:33pm

Out of Executive Session at 6:08pm

**Action Taken:**

Motion by Jerod Glover, second by Guy Charlton the board authorize the Town Attorney James Barlow start the paperwork for a re-election of the one-year terms for selectboard, motion passed unanimously.

Brad Barrett suggested the co-chair Guy Charlton assume temporary responsibility as Chair until the matter of election is resolved, no objections.

**Approved Agenda:**

Motion to approve the agenda as presented was made by Brad Baret, seconded by Jerod Glover, motion passed.

**Public Comment:**

- Question was asked for clarification on the Attorneys recommendation for asking for a re-election for the one-year selectboard terms. **Answer:** The attorney is recommending starting the process to ask for a new election.

**Executive Session 2<sup>nd</sup> time**

Motion by Guy Charlton, second by Jerod Glover the Board enters Executive Session per 1. V.S.A. § 313 (a)(1) (F) to discuss confidential attorney-client communications for the purpose of providing professional legal services to the public body.

Motion by Guy Charton, second by Jerod Glover to move into executive session for an issue that the board has determined that premature public knowledge would clearly place the Town at a substantial disadvantage, session to include Attorney James Barlow, Motion passed unanimously.

In Executive Session at 6:30pm

Out of Executive Session at 6:41

**Action Taken:** Linda Peltier and Jim Pritchard will recuse their positions until a decision on the election has been made by the courts.

- Jack Helm will continue to pursue charges.
- Ron Stewart Jr. asked the board to put animal control issues on the next agenda.

### **Set Meeting Schedule:**

Motion by Jerod Glover to keep the same meeting schedule as last year; every other Monday at 7pm and if that date falls on a Federal Holiday the meeting will be on Tuesday after the holiday, second by Brad Barrett, motion passed.

### **Appointment of Offices**

- Selectboard Assistant will send out letters to current appointees asking them to remain in their positions and a non-response will be considered a yes for acceptance.

Motion by Brad Barrett, seconded by Guy Charton to appoint Jim Pritchard as the Road Commissioner, motion passed.

Accepted by Jim Pritchard

- Brad Barrett would also like to recommend Jerod Glover as the Emergency Management Coordinator- No acceptance at the meeting.

### **Set Meeting Protocol**

- Anyone wishing to be on the agenda needs to contact the Selectboard Assistant at [benonselectboardasst@gmail.com](mailto:benonselectboardasst@gmail.com) by the Friday before the next meeting.
- Jon Dodd volunteered to draft a revised meeting procedure policy.

### **Set Office Protocol**

- Discussion that documents have become unorganized and missing from the file cabinet containing the selectboard minutes. The records are public records but not open to the public to go through. Request for selectboard documents should be made to the Selectboard Assistant.

- Discussion that too many people have keys to the office.

Motion by Jerod Glover, second by Bradd Barrett for Guy Charlton (Acting Chair) to contact Royal Glass/ Security to investigate a touch pad lock for the front and backdoor that would have memory to record who asked the building and at what time, motion passed unanimously.

**Adjournment:**

Motion to adjourn by Brad Barrett at 7:20pm.

Respectfully submitted.

Carrie LaFond

Selectboard Assistant

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