

APPROVED MINUTES
SELECTBOARD MEETING
TOWN OF BENSON, VT
APRIL 15th, 2024, 7:00pm

Selectboard Present:

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

Others Present:

Heidi Chandler (Town Clerk/Treasurer), Carrie LaFond (Selectboard Assistant), Greg Poelker- RRPC

Public Present: Ron Stewart, Jan Ladd, JS Valois, Ben Bartholomew, Norma Philips, Jack Helm, Roxy Helm, Steve Murray, Cheryl Murray Yavonne and Elwin Smead, Lisa Chalidze, Jon Dodd, Dennis Lee, Devon Neary, Wayne Fletcher

Call to Order:

Brad Barrett (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 Linda Peltier motion passed unanimously.

Amendments to Then Agenda:

Tabled Outright VT
Added Fire Department
Moved Town Plan up in Agenda.

Town Plan:

- Cheryl Murray advised the board that the Town Plan needs to be updated by 2025.
- Planning Board is still short of one member.
- The Planning board will be meeting monthly.

Rutland Regional Planning Commission:

- Devon Neary gave an update on the process for updating the Flood Maps and Bylaws for FEMA
- See Handout in file.
- The Town needs to start thing about updating the bylaws.
- For NIFP Insurance eligibility the bylaws need to match the Federal bylaws
- A decision needs to be made on who will be working on updating the bylaws the board or Planning Commission

Outright VT- Tabled

Fire Department:

- The Fire Department has accepted a new member Dennis Lee

Motion by Linda Peltier to approve Dennis Lee as a new Fire Fighter, second by Jim Pritchard, motion passed.

Public Comment:

- Jon Dodd had sent in an email with deadlines for reporting and using ARPA funds as a reminder to the board and wanted to again make sure the board was aware of the deadlines.
- Yavonne Smead asked what could be done about neighbors that were draining water on to their property, concerned with contamination in her gardens and making their land unusable. Brad Barrett will investigate what can be done and who would oversee this issue.
- Wayne Fletcher inquired who oversaw cleaning and maintaining the storm drains in the village, Jim Pritchard felt they needed to be cleaned and have not been vacuumed out in some time. Question was asked if the State has standards on storm drains. Jim Pritchard will find out more information.

Approve Selectboard Minutes:

Motion to approve April 1st Selectboard minutes as amended by Linda Peltier, seconded by Jim Pritchard, motion passed unanimously.

Pay Bills:

Motion by Guy Charlton to pay Regular Payroll in the amount of \$6,715.09, second by Jerod Glover, motion passed.

Motion by Guy Charlton to pay Highway Payroll in the amount of \$4,929.55 second by Linda Peltier, motion passed, Brad Barrett abstained.

Motion by Guy Charton to pay Regular Bills in the amount of \$42,314.86, second by Jerod Glover, motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Guy Charlton to pay current construction bills in the amount of \$212,090 using \$200,000 from the activated loan and \$12,090.00 from the payroll account to be paid back by ARPA funds later.

- Discussion on using the payroll funds. Question was asked if there were restrictions on using payroll funds for anything but payroll. Answer: Money voted on can be moved within the lines the only restriction is Highway can not be moved to the general fund.
- Motion amended to the following:

Motion by Guy Charlton to pay current construction bills in the amount of \$212,090 using \$200,000 from the activated loan and \$12,090.00 from the general account to be paid back by ARPA funds later, second by Jim Pritchard. Poll board- Jerod- No, Linda-No, Jim- Yes, Guy -Yes, tie Broken by Brad Barret (Chair)-yes. Motion passed.

Highway Department:

Rd Foreman Report

- Replaced culverts on Goodrich and Cross Rd
- Ditching on same roads

- Been very wet hope to start some grading soon.
- Working on spot repairs
- Mac is back and repaired.
- Pick up is at Stones being repaired.
- Jim Pritchard ordered a bunch of culverts from Ballston Spa w/ only a \$345 delivery charge
- Need to return culverts borrowed from Orwell and Vermont AOT

Overweight Permits

Motion by Brad Barrett, second by Jerod Glover for Guy Charlton (Vice Chair) to sign the excess weight permits for, Cardinal Logistics Management, motion passed unanimously.

Town Garage Update

- Foundation in and materials on site, framing to begin this week.

Waste Water Allocation Town Garage-

- State has approved Waste Water Allocation/Permit
- Towns allocation form needs to be signed by the Chief Operator of the Waste Water Facility

Garage Payment -Done under paying of bills.

Transfer Station:

Review Inspection Report-

- The inspection report and Notice of Violation were reviewed. The documentation needs to be sent to the State immediately with the remedy of the violations. Guy Charlton has cleaned up around the fence and dumpsters and taken pictures. Heide Chandler (Town Clerk) has done the reports that need to be filed. The Selectboard Assistant will gather the documentation and send in the response to the State of Vermont
- Guy is getting up a dumpster for the transfer station (Green up day) for residents to dispose of tires in hopes that people will not be throwing them along the roadside, Car and pick up tires will be free, oversize tires will have a fee.
- The highway department and others helping spent a lot of time picking up tires that had been left on the roadside last year during green up day.

Town Clerk Report: Nothing to report currently.

Old Business:

Forest Fire Warden

- 3 Applications for Forest Fire Warden
- Fire Department had previously met and made a recommendation for Heath Perkins to be the Forest Fire Warden
- Heath has been with the department for 25 years and is looking to take on more responsibility.

Motion by Linda Peltier, second by Guy Charlton for the board to recommend Heath Perkins for the position of Forest Fire Warden, motion passed unanimously.

New Business:

Town Office Internet/Security- Tabled

Motion by Guy Charlton, second by Jim Pritchard to table internet and security, motion passed.

Public Works Administrator/Manager-

- Need to build a job description before continuing.

Town Plan- Tabled

Highway Plan

- Brad Barrett will be working on updating the Highway plan with the Road Commissioner Jim Pritchard and working on an equipment replacement plan.

Certificate of Codes and Standards- Tabled

Annual Fincial Statements- Tabled

Correspondence:

Jon Dodd- Email- Addressed under public comment.

Barbara Hemmingway- Letter

- Barbara Hemmingway sent in a letter of resignation from the library board.

Motion by Linda Peltier, second by Jerod Glover to accept the resignation from the library board by Barbara Hemmingway with deep regret, motion passed unanimously.

Dale Sweet – Letter

- Dale Sweet sent in a letter of resignation from the library board.

Motion by Linda Peltier, second by Jerod Glover to accept the resignation from the library board by Dale Sweet with deep regret, motion passed unanimously.

- Reminder Thursday is the next neighbor to neighbor event at the library.

Jean -Sebastion Valois Email-

- Email asking to be appointed to the planning commission vacancy.

Motion by Linda Peltier, second by Jerod Glover to appoint Jean -Sebastion Valois to the Planning Commission, motion passed unanimously.

Sam Bartholomew Email-

- Sam Bartholomew had questions pertaining to the paving to be done and the bid for the paving.
Answers:
- Bids Due- The end of the posting is April 18 the bids are due April 30th.
- The Money is coming from the Grant and the Paving budget.
- The Road Commissioner is working with Brian Sanderson from the State of Vermont to ensure standards are being met.
- The Road Foreman is not required and will not be doing a detailed budget, the budget is what it is and can be moved around between the different lines within the highway budget as needed.

Motion by Linda Peltier, second by Jerod Glover to add the response to the questions asked by Jean McKeever at the prior meeting be read into the minutes, motion passed (See attachment)

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn by Jerod Glover, second by Jim Pritchard at 9:00pm.

Respectfully submitted.

Carrie LaFond

Selectboard Assistant

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