

APPROVED MINUTES  
SELECTBOARD MEETING  
TOWN OF BENSON, VT  
APRIL 29<sup>th</sup>, 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)

**Public Present:** Sandra Owens, Janet Ladd, JS Valois, Ben Bartholomew, Norma Philips, Jack Helm, Roxy Helm, John Fedor, Jean McKeever, Robin Wilson, Stacey Guyette, Janie Robie, Fred Robie, Brooke Bartholomew, Charles Bartholomew, Kerry Dunseth, Yavonne and Elwin Smead, Outright VT Group with Dana Kaplan and Lisa Huttinger

**Call to Order:**

Brad Barrett (Chair) called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

**Approved Agenda:**

Motion to approve the agenda as presented was made by Guy Charlton, seconded by Jerod Glover motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Guy Charlton to move Gary Freeguard (Garage update to the beginning of the meeting)

**Garage Update:**

- Gary Freeguard stated the project was going well.
- Rough Grading and drainage is partially done.
- Starting to put up the structure this week.
- Completion possibly by early June instead of July
- Question was asked if R15 insulation was going to be put in the slab? **Answer:** No following the code the building is a modified storage facility.

Motion by Guy Charlton, second by Jim Pritchard to have the following statement read into the minutes: The Selectboard agrees that the structure being built at 598 Huelett Hill Road for the purpose of housing highway equipment was designed and permitted as a modified environmental storage building, motion passed unanimously.

**Outright VT**

- Dana Kaplan and Lisa Huttinger introduced the Outright VT group to the Selctboard and Public at the meeting.
- Outright VT is in the process of purchasing the "Boy Scout "property (Mid-May).
- They plan on making smaller Cabins further back into the property.
- Plan to keep the same caretakers of the property.
- Will continue with weed control for the lake.
- Plan to rebuild or fix the dam.

- Would like to work with the community to possibly establish some public access.
- Plan to join the Lake Association
- Question was asked will they be applying for Tax exemption? Answer: Yes, just like the Boy scouts had but they hope to add to the local community by parents and staff frequenting the stores and restaurant, building the local economy.
- Sandra Owens welcomed the outreach group to our community.
- John Fedor mentioned a good portion of the land will be in the Land Conservancy
- Jack Helm asked a question about what security measures were being taken. **Answer**-The staff is background checked and fully trained on de-escalation.
- Question was asked who the camp is open to? **Answer**: Not restricted, majority of campers will be from VT, ages 13-17, hope to turn the camp into a 3-season camp but will start as a summer camp.
- Question was asked about when the public would be able to use? **Answer**: The public use could look like walking trails; the campers and the public will not be able to occupy the same areas at the same time. The camp is in the early stages of looking at what public use could look like. Campers will not occupy the camp until most likely 2026.
- Question was asked about Parental involvement? **Answer**: Parents sign all permission forms and notified of any incidents.

**Cemetery:**

- Jan Ladd informed the Selectboard Farm animals got into Carter cemetery and damaged stones and made ruts.
- There is a \$27,000 carryover and the cemetery commissioners would like to use so funds to establish a clear right of way to the Carter Cemetery.
- Discussion on where the right- of -way
- Norma Philips read a letter into the minutes representing PFI (The Philips farm) see attached.

Motion by Linda Peltier, second by Guy Charlton to table the Right- of -way request for further investigation, motion passed unanimously.

**Public Comment:**

- Ted Kellogg addressed the board with his concerns regarding the garage construction and asked for it to be noted that he feels not insulating the slab sufficiently is a bad decision, suggested there be access in the ceiling where blown in insulation could be added in the future and provided the board with specs he recommends for garage doors.

**Approve Selectboard Minutes:**

Motion to approve April 15<sup>th</sup> Selectboard minutes as amended by Linda Peltier, seconded by Jerod Glover, motion passed unanimously.

Motion to approve April 22<sup>nd</sup> Selectboard minutes as amended by Linda Peltier, seconded by Jerod Glover, motion passed unanimously.

### **Pay Bills:**

Motion by Guy Charlton to pay Regular Payroll in the amount of \$5,386.10 second by Jerod Glover, motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Guy Charlton to pay Highway Payroll in the amount of \$4,549.32 second by Jerod Glover, motion passed, Brad Barrett abstained.

Motion by Guy Charlton to pay Regular Bills in the amount of \$25,241.35, second by Jerod Glover, motion passed unanimously.

### **Highway Department:**

#### Rd Foreman Report

- Day 7 of grading
- Dodge Pick up waiting for parts, Brad using personal truck in the meantime.

#### Overweight Permits

Motion by Linda Peltier second by Jerod Glover for Brad Barrett (Chair) to sign the excess weight permits for Cassella and DFA, motion passed unanimously.

#### Town Garage Update

- Done previously in meeting.

#### Certificate of Codes and Standards-Tabled

#### Annual Financial Statements-

Motion by Guy Charlton, second by Jim Pritchard for the board to sign the annual financial statements for the town highway, motion passed unanimously.

### **Transfer Station:**

#### Email Aric Brown-

- Email from Aric Brown the violations at the transfer station have been addressed and the violation is closed.

### **Clerk Report:**

- Provided an updated highway budget report.

#### Truck Loan Update

- Informed the board the State has increased the amount of the loan available for the town's truck loan at 2% and suggested they may want to increase the amount on the application.

Motion by Jerod Glover, second by Jim Pritchard to amend the loan amount with the State of VT to \$158,181, motion passed unanimously.

**Old Business:**

Appointments- Tabled

Town office Security-Tabled

Public Works administrator/Manager- Tabled

**New Business:**

Scholarships-

- Decision by consensus for Linda Peltier and Brad Barrett to review the scholarship applications and make a decision.

Appointments for Otter Creek Communications Representative

Motion by Linda Peltier, second by Guy Charlton to appoint Steve Murray as the Otter Creek Communications District representative and Lynn Bowen as the alternate, motion passed unanimously.

Rutland Regional Commission Forms-

Motion by Linda Peltier, seconded by Jerod Glover for Heidi Chandler (Town Clerk/Treasurer) to send in the forms for the Rutland Planning Commission digitally, motion passed unanimously.

**Correspondence:**

Tom Bartholomew Letter-

Motion by Linda Peltier, second by Jerod Glover to accept the resignation from the Planning Commission Board by Tom Bartholomew with deep regret, motion passed unanimously.

Sam Bartholomew Email-

- Brad Barrett and Jim Pritchard will prepare a response to Sam Bartholomew's email.

Ted Kellogg Letter-

- Ted Kellogg discussed his concerns with the garage during public comment.

**Adjournment:**

Motion to adjourn by Jerod Glover, second by Jim Pritchard at 8:25pm.

Respectfully submitted.

Carrie LaFond

Selectboard Assistant

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