

UNAPPROVED MINUTES
SELECTBOARD MEETING
TOWN OF BENSON, VT
May 13th, 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: Norma Philips, Jack Helm, Robin Wilson, Wayne Fletcher, J. S. Valois, Kerry Dunseth, Nancy Elkington, Jon Dodd, Gina Parker

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 Linda Peltier, seconded by Guy Charlton motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment: None

Benson Beautification Brigade:

- The Benson Beautification Brigade will be starting Phase two the plantings left of the front door of the Town Office
- The picnic tables are ready to be put out in front of the Town Office

Approve Selectboard Minutes:

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

Pay Bills:

Motion by Guy Charlton to pay Regular Payroll in the amount of \$6,609.20 second by Jerod Glover, motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Guy Charlton to pay Highway Payroll in the amount of \$4,488.04 second by Jerod Glover, motion passed, Brad Barrett abstained.

Motion by Guy Charton to pay Regular Bills in the amount of \$9,295.99, second by Jerod Glover, motion passed unanimously.

Highway Department:

Rd Foreman Report

- Finished the first round of grading.
- Roadside mower out and mowing
- Culvert and ditching on North Stage Road

Overweight Permits: None

Town Garage Update

- Framing up and the roof is started.
- Man- door is installed.
- Still on track for completion

Certificate of Codes and Standards

- Road Commissioner and Road Forman have completed the Certificate of Codes and Standards, and it has been filed

Truck Loan Update: Moved in agenda to Town Clerk

Transfer Station:

- Three dumpsters were filled from the tire collection, the third dumpster still has some room.
- Last year the Road Crew had to pick up 72 tires this year there were only 3.

Board of Sewer Commissioners:

- Request by Jeff Bown for an additional sewer allocation for their property.
- Discussion on the pumpstation on the property and what maintenance has been done and the capacity of the pumpstation.

Motion by Guy Charlton to recess as the Selectboard and reconvene as the Board of Sewer Commissioners, second by Blinda Peltier, motion passed.

Motion by Brad Barrett, second by Linda Peltier to send a letter to Jeff Bowen Sr. asking for the specifications of capacity and Maintenance records on the pumpstation prior to granting a sewer allocation, motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Guy Charlton to adjourn as the Board of Sewer Commissioners and reconvene as the Selectboard, second by Linda Peltier, motion passed.

Town Clerk Report:

- Provided updated budget reports.

Truck Loan Update

- The amendment to the Truck loan made at the previous meeting needs to be changed to \$118,635 not \$158,181.

Motion by Linda Peltier second by Guy Charlton to amend the loan amount with the State of VT to \$118,635 for the truck loan, motion passed unanimously.

Old Business:

Appointments-

Decision by consensus to accept the resignation of Ed Peltier with deep regret as the Zoning administrator.

- There are several vacant positions, the Selectboard Assistant will compile a list and get it posted.

Town office Security

- Tabled until May 28/2024

Public Works administrator/Manager-

- Linda Peltier provided a job description for a Public Works administrator/Manager and asked the board to review for the next meeting.
- Tabled until May 28, 2024

Playground Update:

- Boards are being cut for the merry-go-round Brady Stone and Carrie LaFond will do the repair and hopefully get it back in service very soon.

Carter St Cemetery:

- A meeting needs to be warned for the Commentary Commissioners, PFI and the Selectboard to discuss this issue.

New Business:

Local Emergency Plan:

- The Local Emergency Plan has been completed and filed.

Letter of Support for Grant:

- The Board will be asked to sign a letter of Support for the rebuilding of the Village Store in the near future, there is a grant being applied for rebuilding through USDA Rural Development

Correspondence:

Letter /Gina Parker

Motion by Linda Peltier, second by Jerod Glover to appoint Gina Parker as a Lister, motion passed unanimously.

Letter/ Library Commissioners

- The lock on the Town Hall door needs to be fixed, the library does not have proper handicap access at this point and the door needs to be able to be opened from the inside.

Email /Ron Stewart Jr.

Motion by Linda Peltier, second by Jerod Glover to accept the resignation from the position of Animal Control Officer by Ron Stewart Jr. with deep regret, motion passed unanimously.

Email /Lois Treen

- Lois Treen sent an email asking for a meeting on behalf of PFI regarding the Right of Way for Carter St Cemetery and other matters related to the cemetery.
- Linda Peltier to contact all parties and the Selectboard Assistant will warn the meeting.

Road Commissioner:

- Jim Pritchard met with Brain Sanderson to go over three projects in Town and possible grants for them.
 1. Stoney Point Project- hydraulic study needed.
 2. Stage Rd Paving- Need to knock down the ledge by Hathaway's and put some filter fabric in and 2 inches of gravel prior to paving.
 3. Sunset Lake Road Erosion problems will need a new culvert and some rip rap.
- Brian Sanderson sent a list of Engineers to contact for the hydraulic study.

The Road Commissioner also received three bids sent in for the 144 Culvert Replacement. The bid Opening results are:

1. Midnight Express \$1,710
 2. Taconic \$12,200
 3. Orwell Sand and Gravel \$5,380
- Discussion that Orwell Sand and Gravel had the second highest Bid however some items were left out of the lowest bidders price.

Motion by Jim Pritchard, seconded by Jerod Glover to award the 144 Culvert Project to Orwell Sand and Gravel, motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn by Jerod Glover at 7:55pm.

Respectfully submitted.

Carrie LaFond

Selectboard Assistant

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