

APPROVED MINUTES  
SELECTBOARD MEETING  
TOWN OF BENSON, VT  
JULY 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025, 6:00pm

**Selectboard Present:**

Guy Charlton, Jim Pritchard, Daryl Burlett, Brad Barrett

**Selectboard Absent:**

Daric Brown

**Others Present:**

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

**Public Present:** Jon Dodd, Wayne Fletcher, Amy Bartholomew, Jack Helm, Roxy Helm

**Call to Order:**

Brad Barrett (Chair) called the meeting to order at 6:00pm

**Approve Agenda:**

Motion to approve the agenda as presented was made by Guy Charlton, second by Daryl Burlett, motion passed unanimously

**Public Comment:** No Public Comment

**Coble Knoll Orchard/Amy Bartholomew:** Cobble Knoll Orchard will be hosting an event: hard cider tasting and music approximately 100 adults and children and questioned if the board needed to approve the event. **Answer:** They have applied for liquor permits so all set.

**Sue Brown /Benson Family Day:**

- Sue Brown requested road closures for Benson Family Day on August 10<sup>th</sup>
- Online store is open for Benson Family Day purchases

Motion by Guy Charlton, second by Daryl Burlett to close Hulet Hill Rd to one lane traffic going south from 9:30 until 12pm and Stage Rd to one lane going south from 10am-12pm, motion passed unanimously.

**Listers/ Out Right VT Appeal:**

- Listers have asked to have legal council for the Out Right VT tax appeal.

Motion by Guy Charlton, second by Jim Pritchard for the Listers to contact legal counsel for the Out Right VT tax appeal, motion passed unanimously.

**Approve Selectboard Minutes:**

- Motion to approve July 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025, selectboard minutes as presented by Guy Charlton, second by Daryl Burlett, motion passed, Brad Barrett abstained

**Pay Bills:**

Motion by Guy Charlton to pay Regular Payroll in the amount of \$5,484.94 second by Jim Pritchard, motion passed.

Motion by Guy Charlton to pay Highway Payroll in the amount of \$4,680.59 second by Jim Pritchard, motion passed, Brad Barrett abstained

Motion by Guy Charlton to pay Regular Bills in the amount of \$32,836.07, second by Jim Pritchard, motion passed.

**Highway Department:**

Road Foreman Report

- Road Erosion and culvert inventory is 50% complete by Rutland Regional Planning Commission
- Mack truck is at Avalanche waiting for a cable
- Working on culvert installations, almost complete
- Working on 2025 Grants In Aid project on East Rd large culvert installation
- 2026 Grants In Aid have been signed and sent in
- Storm drains will be vacuumed out in August

**Road Commissioner:**

Roadside Mower Purchase

Motion by Brad Barrett to hire Jim Pritchard to go to Bennington and pick up a culvert to be paid out of the Highway hauling fund, second Guy Charlton motion passed unanimously.

- Tractor/Mower was purchased at the Auction for \$31,395

**Transfer Station:**

- Nothing to discuss

**Board of Liquor Control:**

Motion by Guy Charlton to recess as the Selectboard and reconvene as the Board of Liquor Control, second by Jim Pritchard, motion passed.

Motion by Guy Charlton, second by Jim Pritchard to authorize the Town Clerk to approve second class liquor license for Cobble Knoll Orchard, motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Guy Charlton, second by Jim Pritchard to authorize the Town Clerk to approve special events liquor license for West Hill Cider, motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Guy Charlton to adjourn as the Board of Liquor Control and reconvene as the Selectboard, second by Jim Prichard, motion passed.

**Treasurer Report:**

- Discussion on trucking for the mower that was purchased at auction

Motion by Brad Barrett, second by Jim Pritchard to approve the trucking fee of \$2,600 for picking up the purchased mower to be paid out of the highway hauling fund, motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Jim Pritchard, second by Guy Charlton to authorize the Chair to sign the contract for the trucking company that will be picking up the purchased mower, motion passed unanimously.

- Fyles has sent in the paperwork for the pre-buy for propane

Motion by Daryl Burlett, second by Jim Pritchard to authorize the Chair to sign the pre-buy for propane from Fyles, motion passed unanimously

## **Town Clerk Report:**

### Amendments to Policies

Motion by Daryl Burlett, second by Jim Pritchard, to accept the amendments to the purchasing policy as required by the Federal Government, motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Daryl Burlett, second by Jim Pritchard to accept the amendments to the ethics policy as required by the Federal Government, motion passed unanimously.

### Year End Financials Discussion

- Discussion on the swing from June 30<sup>th</sup> the Highway budget which was going to be over budget to the actual year end showing a surplus of \$38,000.
- Explanation: income was received; The GL was cleared up from duplicate invoices.

### MERP Grant

- Daryl Burlett approved the only bid for the MERP Grant, motion made previous meeting authorizing him to do so.

### Grants in Aid Previously Signed by Brad Barrett

**Old Business:** None to Report

**New Business:** None to Report

**Correspondence:** Ed Peltier/ Zoning Administrator – Ed Peltier is willing to continue as the Zoning Administrator

Motion to appoint Ed Peltier as the Zoning Administrator by Jim Pritchard, second by Daryl Burlett, motion passed unanimously.

Thank you, Ed Peltier, for your service.

### **Executive Session Smead Matter:**

Motion by Brad Barrett, second by Guy Charlton for the Board to enter Executive Session 1. V.S.A. § 313 (a)(1) for the purpose of discussing an insurance matter that discussion of the issue in open session could result in placing someone at a substantial disadvantage, motion passed unanimously.

In Executive session at 7:06pm

Motion to come out of executive session at 7:20pm by Jim Pritchard, second by Daryl Burlett, motion passed unanimously.

- Decision by the board to leave the matter in the insurance company's hands
- No action taken by the board.

Motion to adjourn by Jim Pritchard at 7:20pm

Respectfully submitted,

Carrie LaFond

Selectboard Assistant

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