

APPROVED MINUTES
SELECTBOARD MEETING
TOWN OF BENSON, VT
August 4th, 2025, 6:00pm

Selectboard Present:

Guy Charlton, Jim Pritchard, Daryl Burlett, Brad Barrett, Daric Brown

Others Present:

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

Public Present: Jon Dodd, Jack Helm, Roxy Helm, Robin Wilson, Lisa Chalidze, Lynn Bowen, JS Valois

Call to Order:

Brad Barrett (Chair) called the meeting to order at 6:16pm

Approve Agenda:

Motion to approve the agenda as presented was made by Guy Charlton, second by Jim Pritchard, motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment:

- Guy Charlton made an announcement that public comments are welcome should be kept to the limits, as interruptions on every action prolongs the meeting. Suggested individuals with issues should be asked to be put on the agenda and come to the meeting prepared.
- Lisa Chalidze questioned if the board felt public input is positive? **Answer:** Yes, however the Select Board was voted in, and voters should have the confidence they are making proper decisions.
- Heidi Chandler asked to have it on record that she does not support the Select Board's decision to pay the mileage to the board members who went and looked at the tractor out of the regular budget as she believes it should have come out of the highway budget.

Approve Selectboard Minutes:

- Motion to approve July 21st, 2025, selectboard minutes as presented by Jim Pritchard, second by Daryl Burlett, motion passed, Daric Brown abstained.

Highway Department:

Road Foreman Report

- Mack truck is at Avalanche
- Working on taking down trees that needed to be removed on Lake and Stony Point Rds
- 2025 Grants in Aid project on East Rd and Crandall are complete
- New tractor/roadside mower has been delivered
- Ditching will continue when the grader returns from being repaired

Road Commissioner: Nothing

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 Eden Ice Cider, motion passed unanimously.

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

Transfer Station:

Training:

- Mandatory training Sept 29th for transfer station attendant

Scrap Metal Discussion -Tabled until next regular meeting for information

Pay Bills:

Motion by Guy Charlton to pay Regular Payroll in the amount of \$5,528.02 second by Jim Pritchard, motion passed.

Motion by Guy Charlton to pay Highway Payroll in the amount of \$4,774.59 second by Jim Pritchard, motion passed, Brad Barrett abstained.

Motion by Guy Charlton to pay Regular Bills in the amount of \$26,140.00, second by Jim Pritchard, motion passed.

Treasurer Report:

- Treasurer provided Treasurer's report, Selectboard will review and present questions if any at the next regular meeting

Town Clerk Report:

Tractor/ Generator Discussion

- The generator is supposed to be delivered on 8/5/25, funds to be paid out of the Emergency Management line
- Tractor to be paid for out of the Equipment line

Tax Rate

- Heidi Chandler (Town Clerk) presented the Board with an explanation of the tax rate (see minutes folder for rate sheet)

Motion by Daryl Burlett second by Jim Pritchard to accept the tax rate as provided by the Town clerk, motion passed unanimously.

LHMP Bill RRPC

- LHMP bill was approved to be paid in the orders.

MERP Architectural Contract Money

- Discussion that money can be borrowed from different accounts to pay for the MERP grant items and returned to the same account when refunded by the grant.

Contract with RRPC for \$15,000 MERP Grant

- Daryl Burlett feels the contract with RRPC to handle the paperwork for the MERP grant is not needed and would like to cancel the contract previously signed for \$15,000.

Motion by Guy Charlton, second by Brad Barret to cancel the contract with RRPC that was previously signed for \$15,000 for services pertaining to the MERP grant, motion passed unanimously.

Old Business: None to Report

New Business: None to Report

Correspondence:

Email- Jacki Ambrozaitis- Cow complaint

- The Selectboard has no authority over this issue.

Motion to adjourn by Jim Pritchard at 7:10pm

Respectfully submitted,
Carrie LaFond
Selectboard Assistant

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