

UNAPPROVED MINUTES
SELECTBOARD MEETING
TOWN OF BENSON, VT
SEPTEMBER 29th, 2025, 6:00pm

Selectboard Present:

Guy Charlton, Jim Pritchard, Daric Brown, Brad Barrett

Selectboard Absent:

Daryl Burlett

Others Present:

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

Public Present: Jack Helm, Roxy Helm, Jon Dodd, Nancy Elkington, Paul LaFond

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 Jim Pritchard, motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment:

- Jon Dodd supplied the board with some information on new municipal financing options in Vermont law that provide legislative bodies with more flexibility with creating and maintaining unassigned fund balances and the authority to borrow emergency response funds for up to five years of debt service (handout in SB minutes file).

Approve Selectboard Minutes:

Motion to approve September 15th, 2025, selectboard minutes as amended by Jim Pritchard, second by Guy Charlton, passed unanimously.

Highway Department:

Road Foreman Report

- Working on ditching and tree removal
- Cross culvert replaced
- East Road project completed
- Started grading and gravelling roads

Road Commissioner

- Question for Guy Charlton: who gave him permission to do the brush cutting on the bridges? **Answer:** Brad Barrett. Brad Barrett: said he had never hired him to do it. Discussion that Guy would have to have insurance of his own to continue. Decision by the board that a subcontractor would be required to do the brush trimming and going forward Brad Barrett would hire for all highway projects.

Motion by Jim Pritchard, second by Guy Charlton to amend the motion made September 15th to include the digging bucket in the purchase amount not to exceed \$9,200, motion passed, Daric Brown abstained.

(Previous motion 9/15/25) Motion by Daryl Burlett, second by Jim Pritchard, for Brad Barrett to purchase grizzly bars and a pressure washer and digging bucket for the garage out of the incoming grant funds of \$14,000 not to exceed \$9,200, motion passed unanimously.

Pay Bills:

Motion by Guy Charlton to pay Regular Payroll in the amount of \$6,896.69 second by Jim Pritchard, motion passed.

- Discussion that all departments were to be using the same payroll formatted time sheet. Selectboard Assistant to format a time sheet for all departments

Motion by Guy Charlton to pay Highway Payroll in the amount of \$5,820.29 second by Jim Pritchard, motion passed, Brad Barrett abstained.

Motion by Guy Charlton to pay Regular Bills in the amount of \$916,273.56 second by Jim Pritchard, motion passed, Daric Brown abstained.

Transfer Station: Reminder Oct 4th is Hazardous Waste Disposal Day at the Fair Haven Transfer station.

Treasurer Report:

- Supplied the board with current P&L for General fund and Highway

Town Clerk Report:

- The Blower test will be taking place on 10/6 and asked to have the Town office and Community Hall closed all day on that date.
- Textmygov discussion would cost \$1,500-\$1,800 annually and would send out emergency alerts. Does not recommend at this point.
- Questioned if there would be a change in the way appropriations were handled? **Answer:** Same process as last year petitions would only be required for new petitions or if requesting a change in amounts.
- Discussion that funds from the auction should be sent in within 30 days.

Old Business:

Animal Control Officer Discussion- Tabled until 10/13

Generator Discussion- Tabled until 10/13

Law Enforcement Discussion- Tabled 10/13

Salt Shed Estimates

- Selectboard Assistant supplied the Board with estimates from 2 companies for covers and blocks and an analysis of other municipalities that have recently built salt/sand sheds. (See SB minutes folder for spreadsheet)
- Discussion on coming up with a plan as to how to build the salt shed over a period of time.

Motion by Daric Brown, second by Guy Charlton to not apply for the State grant for the salt shed, motion passed unanimously.

New Business: None

Correspondence:

- Barbara Noyes Pulling- Email update on Sunset Lake planning grant (See SB Minutes Folder)
- Insurance Company Email- Smead decision (See SB Minutes Folder)

Motion to adjourn by Jim Pritchard at 7:00pm

Respectfully submitted,
Carrie LaFond
Selectboard Assistant

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