

APPROVED MINUTES
SELECTBOARD MEETING
TOWN OF BENSON, VT
OCTOBER 27th, 2025, 5:00pm

Selectboard Present:

Jim Pritchard, Daric Brown, Daryl Burlett

Selectboard Absent:

Guy Charlton, Brad Barrett

Others Present:

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

Public Present: Paul LaFond, Robin Wilson, Norman Cohen, Diane Drake, Lisa Chalidze, Joe Festa

Call to Order:

Motion by Jim Pritchard, second by Daric Brown for Daryl Burlett to conduct the meeting, motion approved.

Daryl Burlett called the meeting to order at 5:00pm

Approve Agenda:

Motion to approve the agenda as amended was made by Jim Pritchard second by Daric Brown, motion passed unanimously.

Amendments to the Agenda:

Added LHMP Approval under Public Comment

Norman Cohen- Vermont Declaration of Inclusion:

- Norm Cohen approached the Selectboard to sign a document stating that the Town of Benson is an Inclusive community.
- Discussion: the board wants to wait and see what the thoughts of the residents are. The document is to be posted on the Towns Website and Facebook page for comments.
- The Declaration of Inclusion to be added to the next agenda in hopes the public will have added some comments and the entire board be present.

Public Comment:

Motion by Jim Pritchard, second by Daric Brown to approve the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan, motion carried

Planning Commission:

Motion by Jim Pritchard, second by Daric Brown to table Planning Commission until November 10th, 2025

Approve Selectboard Minutes:

Motion to approve October 14th, 2025, selectboard minutes as presented by Jim Pritchard, second by Daryl Burlett, motion carried

Pay Bills:

Motion by Daryl Burlett to pay Regular Payroll in the amount of \$5,054.25 second by Jim Pritchard, motion carried

Motion by Daryl Burlett to pay Highway Payroll in the amount of \$5,209.31 second by Jim Pritchard, motion carried

Motion by Daryl Burlett to pay Regular Bills in the amount of \$21,647.76 second by Jim Pritchard, motion passed, Daric Brown abstained.

Highway Department:

Road Foreman Report- Foreman Absent

Road Commissioner

- Pressure washer on its way

Transfer Station:

- Joseph Festa is willing to be a substitute at the transfer station

Treasurer Report:

- Supplied the board with current Treasurer's report, Daryl Burlett signed it.
- Auditors will be working 10/29/25

Town Clerk Report:

Health Care Renewal

- Supplied information on new rates for Health Insurance to be discussed at the next meeting November 10th, 2025

Petitions for Allocations at Town Meeting

- Three petitions for allocations need to be approved to be put on the ballot for Town meeting

Motion by Daryl Burlett, second by Daric Brown to add Allocations for VNA \$1,400, ARC \$600 and RSVP \$150.00 to the ballot for Town meeting, motion carried

Gutters Town Office/ Town Hall

Motion by Jim Pritchard, second by Daric Brown to have gutters put on the Town Office and finish the Town Hall at an amount not to exceed \$4,000, motion carried

Old Business:

Animal Control Officer Discussion- Tabled

MERP Grant- Daryl Burlett supplied paperwork that has current numbers. There is a meeting on Tuesday 10/28 at 10:00am

New Business:

Budget Meeting Schedule-

- Discussion about having budget meetings during regular selectboard meetings
- Budget discussions to start the 2nd week of December
- Selectboard Assistant to reach out to Departments to get preliminary budgets
- Selectboard Assistant to contact Wastewater Operator and invite to the next meeting to discuss equipment replacement needs

Set Sewer Rates: Tabled until November 10th, 2025

Correspondence: None

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn by Jim Pritchard at 5:50pm

Respectfully submitted,
Carrie LaFond
Selectboard Assistant

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