

APPROVED MINUTES  
SELECTBOARD MEETING  
TOWN OF BENSON, VT  
NOVEMBER 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025, 5:00pm

**Selectboard Present:**

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

**Others Present:**

Carrie LaFond (Selectboard Assistant), Heidi Chandler (Town Clerk/Treasurer), Jeff Jordan (WWTF Operator)

**Public Present:** Paul LaFond, Robin Wilson, Norman Cohen, Diane Drake, Lisa Chalidze, Laura Nelson, Nancy Elkington, Steve Murray, Cheryl Murray, Jean McKeever, Marsha Cassel

**Call to Order:**

Brad Barrett (Chair) called the meeting to order at 5:00pm

**Approve Agenda:**

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

**Amendments to the Agenda:**

Added Email – Jack Helm

Added Email – Fair Haven Rescue

**Norman Cohen- Vermont Declaration of Inclusion:**

- Norm Cohen present to answer any questions about the Declaration of Inclusion
- Continued discussion on whether the Selectboard should sign the declaration or take it to the residents for approval
- Lisa Chalidze pointed out the board doesn't normally shy away from making decisions and expressed that board should be able to make the decision without bringing it to the residents.

**Planning Commission:**

- Cheryl Murray gave an update on the Town Plan
- Working on editing and Updating the Town Plan
- Currently working on the Energy Chapter and Cemetery mapping
- Once completed the Planning Commission will have a public hearing on the new Town Plan, then it will be submitted to the Selectboard and the Selectboard will have to have a public hearing on it as well. Both hearings will require 30 days' notice.

The Selectboard would like to thank Cheryl Murray for all the time she has dedicated to working on the Town Plan.

**Waste Water Facility Update- Jeff Jordan Operator**

- Jeff Jordan gave an update of possible projects that need to be addressed in the future which included new aeration blowers and expanded chemical building with a structure over the effluent pit.
- Discussion around combining the projects with the 20-year evaluation and lagoon cleaning with the support of clean water grant. Selectboard Assistant and Jeff will work on a plan.

- Discussion the Sewer rates have not been increased in two years and there is clearly a need for some capital funds for projects

**Set Sewer Rate:**

Motion by Daric Brown, second by Daryl Burett to set the 6-month sewer rate at \$215.00 per allocation, motion carried

**Public Comment:** None

**Approve Selectboard Minutes:**

Motion to approve October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2025, selectboard minutes as amended by Daryl Burlett second by Jim Pritchard, Brad Barrett abstained, motion carried

**Pay Bills:**

Motion by Guy Charlton to pay Regular Payroll in the amount of \$4,901.29 second by Jim Pritchard, motion carried

Motion by Guy Charlton to pay Highway Payroll in the amount of \$5,873.15 second by Jim Pritchard, motion carried, Brad Barrett abstained

Amended Motion by Guy Charlton to pay Regular Bills in the amount of \$42,534.64 (To include the purchase of pressure washer for \$3,600 from Granger) second by Daryl Burlett, motion carried

Motion by Guy Charlton to pay MERP Grant expense in the amount of \$ 602.51second by Jim Pritchard, motion carried

**Highway Department:**

Road Foreman Report

- Jeff and Wayne worked on grading and hauling in gravel and roadside clean ups
- Truck number 5 has had all the repairs to be ready for winter
- The Mack is at Avalanche for repairs
- Truck #1 is being prepared for winter
- Road crew is currently working on servicing all the small engines.
- Thank you to Jim Pritchard for the donation of the trash pump for water transfers

Road Commissioner

- Winter Maintenance- Jim will have someone come to have the trucks calibrated to optimize salt spreading
- Reminder that winter parking ban is in effect from November 1<sup>st</sup> through April 15<sup>th</sup>

**Transfer Station:**

- All of the freon has been taken out of the appliances and the yard has been cleaned up

**Treasurer Report:**

- Supplied by the board with current Profit and Loss Statement
- Working on getting the NEMRC software installed, payroll is in the new system.
- Lisa is working on the Treasurer Report and Profit and Loss statement
- Jim Barlow has raised his rates for attorney fees to \$200/hr.

**Town Clerk Report:**

Health Care Renewal

Motion by Daryl Burlett, second by Guy Charlton to stay with the same Health Care plan with Blue Cross, motion carried

### **Petitions for Allocations at Town Meeting**

- Board Approved of the allocation for Southwest Council on Aging to be put on the ballot at Town meeting day, they asked for the same amount \$900

### **Old Business:**

#### MERP Grant Discussion

- The library has been asked to fund \$15,000 of their \$25,000 grant to be used toward the improvements that need to be made to the library building
- Daryl is working on the estimate for re-structuring the Town office room.

### **New Business:**

**Set Sewer Rates:** Done previously in the meeting

### **Correspondence:**

Carrie Becker – Library Board Resignation

- The Board accepted Carrie Beckers' resignation with deep regret and thanked her for her service.

Eliza LuBrun- Work Force Development high school

- The high school is reaching out to municipalities with students that are available to work part time as part of a high school work training program

TDI New England Letter-

- TDI New England sent in a letter saying that they have applied for a Storm Water Permit

Email Jack Helm-

- Jack Helm Questioned why the Board was hiring a substitute transfer station attendant when Guy was hired by a previous board to be the transfer station attendant. Was Guy fired and if yes on what grounds? Daryl Burlett answered the questions. Guy has not been fired, he is still the transfer station substitute, but he felt due to Guy's age there should be another person trained.

Fair Haven Rescue Email-

- Fair Haven Rescue will be raising their rates and the amount for Benson will be \$69,154

### **Added Discussion-**

- Jim Pritchard led the discussion that Guy Charlton should be paid for the trimming that he previously did on the bridges

Motion by Daryl Burlett, second by Jim Pritchard to pay Guy Charlton for the 21 hours of trimming he did at a rate of \$22.82 Equipment Operator rate, motion carried

### **Adjournment:**

Motion to adjourn by Jim Pritchard at 6:45m

Respectfully submitted,  
Carrie LaFond  
Selectboard Assistant

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