

APPROVED MINUTES  
SELECTBOARD MEETING  
TOWN OF BENSON, VT  
DECEMBER 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025, 5:00pm

**Selectboard Present:**

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

**Others Present:**

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

**Public Present:** Paul LaFond, Robin Wilson, Norman Cohen, Diane Drake, Nancy Elkington, Marsha Cassel, Bonita Baldwin, Leah Csiszar, Christa Capozzola, Jack Helm, Cara Cassino, Jon Dodd, William Humphries, Jack Helm

**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 Daric Brown motion passed unanimously.

**Vermont Declaration of Inclusion:**

Motion by Guy Charlton to bring forward the Declaration of Inclusion and vote to sign, second by Jim Pritchard.

Discussion:

- Jim Pritchard shared that a resident had sent in an email stating it should be brought to Town meeting
- Guy Charlton felt it was the Board's responsibility to sign the declaration
- Daryl Burlett shared Orwell and Burlington had brought the declaration to the voters

Motion Vote- Poll of Board: Guy Charlton- yes, Daric Brown-No, Jim Pritchard- No, Daryl Burlett-No, Motion failed

Motion by Daric Brown to bring the vote to the residents at Town Meeting Day, second by Jim Pritchard, motion carried

Poll Vote: Guy- yes, Daric-Yes, Daryl-Yes, Jim- yes

**Public Comment:**

- Mr. Cohen thanked the Board for their time on the Declaration of Inclusion, and he would like to be able to speak at town meeting
- Jon Dodd gave a reminder that nonresidents could only speak at Town meetings if they were given permission.

Motion by Guy Charlton to move Law enforcement discussion prior to Approving minutes in the agenda, second by Daryl Burlett, motion carried

**Law Enforcement Discussion:**

- Chief Humphries from the Fair Haven Police Department asked the Board what they were looking for regarding law enforcement
- Discussion Benson has had law enforcement assistance on and off from Fair Haven since 2010
- The Town is looking for assistance in Animal Control and patrol presence in town
- Chief Humphries will bring the information gathered back to the Town of Fair Haven

Motion by Daryl Burlett, second by Jim Pritchard to Poll the board to see if there is an interest in pursuing law enforcement in town.

Poll: Guy – Yes, Jim- yes, Brad-yes, Daric-yes, Daryl- yes

Motion by Daryl Burlett, second by Jim Pritchard to contract with Fair Haven Police for law enforcement services starting January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026, until June 30, 2026, not to exceed a sum of \$5,000, motion carried.

#### **Approve Selectboard Minutes:**

Motion to approve November 24th, 2025, minutes as presented by Jim Pritchard, second by Guy Charlton, motion carried, Daryl Burlett abstained.

#### **Pay Bills:**

Motion by Guy Charlton to pay Regular Payroll in the amount of \$5,264.49 second by Jim Pritchard, motion carried.

Motion by Guy Charlton to pay Highway Payroll in the amount of \$5,848.07 second by Jim Pritchard, motion carried, Brad Barrett abstained.

Motion by Guy Charlton to pay Regular Bills in the amount of \$43,449.50 second by Jim Pritchard, motion carried, Daric Brown abstained.

#### **Highway Department:**

##### Road Foreman Report

- Spent most of the recent time on snowstorms
- Equipment holding up well

##### Road Commissioner

- Matt Lannon is scheduled to do the electrical work at the garage this week
- Jim Pritchard planning on getting the Town trucks calibrated
- Discussion on investigating the cost of treated salt

#### **Transfer Station:**

- Driver has backed into the fence at the transfer station, Daryl to follow up on with the haulers

#### **Treasurer Report:**

- Supplied to the board with current Profit and Loss Statement for Highway and a comparative budget report

#### **Town Clerk Report:**

- Auditors will be at the Town Office on December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025
- Auditors will have a report ready for the next Selectboard meeting

#### **Old Business:**

##### MERP Grant Discussion-

- MERP Grant meeting on December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025
- The front door to the office was not working properly and Wayne Fletcher temporarily fixed it.
- Town Clerk would like to see a new door installed

## **New Business:**

### Impact Questionnaire Outright VT:

- Guy Charlton had brought the questionnaire to the Fire Department and the First Response for their input on the questionnaire; the Fire Department wanted it to be added to have fire drills actively practiced. Guy to return questionnaire to zoning when completed.

### Tree Removal by Town Office:

- Discussion on removing the trees and replacing the fence on the side of the Town office
- Guy Charlton had researched the deed
- Discussion that the landowners on the opposite side would like a fence re-installed when the chain-link fence was taken down
- Discussion on replacing the chain-link fence with a split rail fence

Motion by Daric Brown, second by Jim Pritchard for Guy Charlton and the Highway Department to move forward with the tree and fence removal on the side of the Town office bordering the Bowen property, motion carried

### New Wall in Town Office:

Motion by Daryl Burlett, second by Jim Pritchard to proceed with the office re-configurations for a sum not to exceed \$11,400 to be paid out of the building maintenance fund and done during the MERP grant improvements, motion carried

### Rutland Regional Emergency Management Committee Appointments:

Motion by Daryl Burrlet, second by Jim Pritchard to appoint Brad Barrett as the Emergency Management Director, motion carried.

Motion by Daric Brown second by Daryl Burlett to appoint Jim Pritchard as the Emergency Management Coordinator, motion carried.

## **Correspondence:**

### Email Donna Kelly-

- Email read into the record
- Response from the Board- The Board is looking into hiring the Town of Fair Haven for law enforcement and the Declaration of Inclusion will be voted on by the residents at Town Meeting Day.

## **Adjournment:**

Motion to adjourn by Daric Brown at 6:25 pm

Respectfully submitted,  
Carrie LaFond  
Selectboard Assistant

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