

APPROVED MINUTES  
SELECTBOARD MEETING  
TOWN OF BENSON, VT  
JANUARY 20<sup>th</sup>, 2026, 5:00pm

**Selectboard Present:**

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

**Others Present:**

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

**Public Present:** Paul LaFond, Nancy Elkington, JS Valois, Adam Stewart, Dave Bartholomew

**Call to Order:**

Brad Barrett (Chair) called the meeting to order at 5:03pm

**Approve Agenda:**

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

**Public Comment:**

- Sue Brown gave an update on Benson Family Day activities; Family Day was a huge success, and it shows how networking pays off, the trunk or Treat was a great success, Family Day in 2026 will be August 2<sup>nd</sup> and the theme is medieval magic, breakfast with Santa went well.
- Board approved the Benson Family Day doing a bake sale at Town meeting.
- Sue Brown also discussed that the museum will be packed up and stored during the office improvements.
- Discussion on having a student from Benson Village school be selected to be an “Honorary Mayor”.

Motion by Jim Pritchard, second by Daryl Burlett to work with Benson Village School to select a student in 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> grade to be an honorary mayor for the Town of Benson, to be elected at Town meeting day, motion carried.

**Approve Selectboard Minutes:**

Motion to approve January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2026, minutes as presented by Daryl Burlett, second by Guy Charlton, motion carried.

Motion to approve January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2026, minutes as amended by Daryl Burlett, second by Jim Pritchard, motion carried, Brad Barrett abstained.

**Pay Bills:**

Motion by Guy Charlton to pay Payroll in the amount of \$12,356.33 second by Daric Brown, motion carried, Brad Barrett abstained, Jim Pritchard abstained.

Motion by Guy Charlton to pay Regular Bills in the amount of \$31,278.41 second by Jim Pritchard, motion carried.

**Fire Department:**

- Fire Chief Adam Stewart presented to the board the officer election results; Chief Adam Stewart, Assistant Chief Dave Bartholomew, Captain Sam Bartholmew, Captain Ben Bartholomew.

Motion by Brad Barrett, second by Daryl Burlett to accept the Fire Department’s election of officers, motion carried.

- Fire Chief Adam Stewart gave a list of expired equipment they would like to dispose of consisting of old turn out gear and masks, board suggested advertising as free equipment.
- Fire Chief Adam Stewart requested the budget for the fire department be pulled out of the general fund and put on the town meeting as a separate article.
- Discussion on the pros and cons of the Fire department having an article instead of budget lines in the general fund.

Motion by Jim Pritchard, second by Guy Charlton for the fire department to draft an article for Town meeting and pull the fire department out of the general fund as requested by the Fire department, motion carried.

### **Highway Department:**

#### Road Foreman Report

- Both full-time highway department employees were out sick all last week – Jim Hall, Jim Pritchard and Wayne Fletcher filled in.
- Couple of trucks are down
- Working on trying to get road salt

#### Excess Weight Permits

Motion by Guy Charlton, second by Jim Pritchard for the Chair to sign excess weight permits for A&K and KSM, motion carried.

#### Road Commissioner

- Jim Pritchard Road Commissioner requested keys to the garage and garage office.
- Overhead door will be fixed on Wednesday.

### **Transfer Station:**

- The Town needs to start working on the disaster hazardous waste disposal plan.
- The Selectboard Assistant met with the Town Manager in Fair Haven, and he agreed the staging location can be the Fair Haven Transfer station.

### **Treasurer Report:**

- Auditors have concluded their Audit and supplied the report for the board to review.
- The orders for December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025, and April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025, need to be corrected.
- The minutes of September 15<sup>th</sup> need to be corrected and the funds for the equipment purchased should be out of the highway budget and not the grant.

Motion by Daryl Burlett, second by Jim Pritchard to amend the minutes of September 15<sup>th</sup> to as followed:, motioned carried

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 highway budget not to exceed \$9,200, motion passed unanimously.

### **Town Clerk Report:**

- Slate Valley Union District has requested an abatement hearing. Suggestion to have the abatement hearing scheduled for 5pm on February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2026.

### **Appropriations:**

Motion by Daryl Burlett, second by Jim Pritchard to accept the appropriations for Town meeting day as presented by the Town Clerk, motion carried.

**Old Business:**

- Daric Brown questioned why the insurance claim was denied because of a lack of response from the Town.  
**Answer:** the Town had responded however there were documents that could not be provided because they are no longer in the file.

**New Business:**

Addendum For RRPC Culvert Inventory- Tabled for clarification until 2/2/26

**Correspondence: None**

**Budget Review:**

- Special Meeting set for January 22, 2026, at 12pm to review the budget, articles and town report

**Adjournment:**

Motion to adjourn by Daryl Burlett at 6:45pm

Respectfully submitted,  
Carrie LaFond  
Selectboard Assistant

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