

APPROVED MINUTES
SELECTBOARD MEETING
TOWN OF BENSON, VT
February 17th, 2026, 5:00pm

Selectboard Present:

Brad Barrett, Jim Pritchard, Guy Charlton, Daryl Burlett

Selectboard Absent:

Daric Brown

Others Present:

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

Public Present: Roxy Helm, Jack Helm, Wayne Fletcher, Adam Stewart, Sue Brown, Henry Brown, John Dodd, Donna Kelly, Brooke Bartholomew, Charles Bartholomew, Paul LaFond

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 Daryl Burlett, motion carried.

Amendment to the Agenda:

Added warning for Town meeting under New Business

Executive Session - Legal matter

Motion by Guy Charlton, second by Daryl Burlett to move executive session to the end of the meeting, motion carried.

Public Comment:

- Sue Brown asked if there was anyone present at the meeting that is running for Selectboard. **Answer:** Yes, Jim Pritchard and Daryl Burlett
- John Dodd informed the Board of the passing of Attorney Chris Howe of Castleton and discussed doing a group photo of the board.

Approve Selectboard Minutes:

Motion by Daryl Burlett to approve February 2, 2026 minutes as presented, second by Guy Charlton motion carried.

Pay Bills:

Motion by Guy Charlton to pay Payroll in the amount of \$11,112.59 second by Jim Pritchard, motion carried, Brad Barrett abstained.

Motion by Guy Charlton to pay Regular Bills in the amount of \$27,969.66 second by Daryl Burlett, motion carried.

Highway Department:

Road Foreman Report

- Working on snow clean up.
- Thawing culverts
- Equipment is holding up well.

Excess Weight Permits

Motion by Guy Charlton, second by Jim Pritchard for the Chair to sign excess weight permits for Dundon Plumbing and Heating, Champlain Fuels, Spafford and Sons and Claire Lathrop Band Mill Inc, motion carried.

Road Commissioner

- Road Commissioner asked what the Road Foreman thought of the sand from Whitehall? **Answer:** there were a lot of fines that will not work well, Road Commissioner believes the wrong product was brought will try again.
- State of Vermont will allow the Town to buy some of their salt when the Town's supply is completely gone.

Transfer Station:

- Daryl Burlett said safety issues at the transfer station have to be addressed by spring.

Motion by Brad Barrett, second by Jim Pritchard to authorize kick plates to be installed at the dumpsters to rectify the safety issue brought up by VLCT, motion carried.

Treasurer Report/Town Clerk

- NEMRC installation is still ongoing, back payroll has been put in, working in accounts payable.
- Thank you, Jim Pritchard, and Daryl, for helping with labeling the town reports and Guy for helping carry boxes out of the car.

Fire Department CD- CD discussion tabled for more information until next board meeting.

- The Fire department presented a list of old equipment that they would like to dispose of, the selectboard reviewed and agreed the Fire department could dispose of old the listed equipment.

Old Business: None

New Business:

Warning for Town Meeting

- Discussion the town report either must be in the hands of the voters 10 days prior to town meeting or the Warning must be posted in the paper prior to town meeting.

Motion by Brad Barrett, second by Guy Charlton to post the warning for town meeting in the Rutland Herald as a one time posting and copy the Lakeside news, motion carried.

Honorary Mayor Selection

- Henry Browns' Letter of application for the position of Honorary Mayor was read into the record.

Motion by Guy Charlton, second by Daryl Burlett to appoint Henry Brown as the 2026 Honorary Mayor of Benson, motion carried.

Congratulations Henry and the Board looks forward to seeing you at the Town's events.

Public Comment Continued:

Donna Kelly and Brooke Bartholomew both voiced their concerns regarding Article 21 Declaration of Inclusion on the warning for town meeting and the pressure the board was given from both the Selectboard Assistant and other residents to sign the declaration without it going to the voters. Also brought up the Selectboard Assistant posting her opinion on Facebook should not have taken place since she is a town employee.

Correspondence: None

Executive Session:

Motion by Guy Charlton, second by Daryl Burlett to enter Executive Session per 1. V.S.A. § 313 (a)(2) for the purpose of discussing pending or probable civil litigation, to which the public body may be a party, with Jack Helm and Wayne Fletcher to be included in the session, motion carried.

In Executive Session at 5:59pm

Out of Executive Session at 6:20

Motion by Guy Charlton, second by Daryl Burlett to review papers coming from the VLCT Attorney, motion carried.

Motion to adjourn by Brad Barrett at 6:30pm

Respectfully submitted,
Carrie LaFond
Selectboard Assistant

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