

APPROVED MINUTES
SELECTBOARD MEETING
TOWN OF BENSON, VT
MARCH 16th, 2026, 5:00pm

Selectboard Present:

Brad Barrett, Guy Charlton, Daryl Burlett, Ben Bartholomew, Jim Pritchard

Others Present:

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

Public Present: Dan Ryan, Jack and Roxy helm, Jon Dodd, Robin Wilson, Boney Beldwin, Matt DeGoat, Amanda Rodenbuge, Brook Bartholomew, Charles Bartholomew, Gina Parker, Ted Kellogg

Call to Order:

Heidi Chandler (Town Clerk) called the meeting to order at 5:00pm

Organization of the Selectboard Board:

Appointing Chair and Vice Chair

Motion by Daryl Burlett to elect Brad Barret as Chair, and Guy Charlton as Vice Chair, second by Ben Bartholomew, motion carried

Approve Agenda:

Motion to approve the agenda as amended was made by Guy Charlton second by Daryl Burlett, motion carried.

Amendments to the Agenda:

Added Whitehall Sand discussion under Rd Foreman

Set Day, times and Holiday schedule for meetings

Motion by Guy Charlton to set the meeting schedule for every other Monday starting March 30th and meeting days that fall on a holiday to be on the Tuesday following the holiday, second by Daryl Burlett, motion carried

Assign Selectboard meeting place and Time

Motion by Guy Charlton to set the meeting place as the Town Hall during renovations and the Town office until renovations start, second by Ben Bartholomew, motion carried.

Motion by Guy Charlton to set the meeting time for 5pm

- Discussion on the motion that 5pm was too early for most people

Motion by Jim to set the meeting time to 6pm, second by Ben Bartolomew, motion carried

Assign Official Posting locations (Wheel Inn, Benson General Store, Town office and Website)

Motion by Ben Bartholomew to set the official posting places to be the Town office, General Store, Wheel Inn and Town Website, second by Jim Pritchard, motion carried

Designate Paper of Record (Lake Side News)

Motion by Guy Charton to designate the Lake Side News as the official paper of record and the Rutland Herald for times sensitive postings would not be possible in the Lakeside News, second by Daryl Burlett, motion carried

Adopt Board Rules

Motion to sign and adopt the Selectboard rules and procedures dated March 16th, 2026, second by Jim Pritchard, motion carried

*Copy of the new rules and procedures available at the Town website and rules and procedure book at the Town office.

Public Comment:

- Jon Dodd suggested holding off on adopting the new rules and procedures
- Ted Kellog Asked about the possibility of a sewer allocation on a piece of property he would like to purchase- The board feels there are enough open sewer allocations and could be addressed at the next regular board meeting under the Board of Sewer Commissioners

Approve Selectboard Minutes:

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

Pay Bills:

Motion by Guy Charlton to pay Payroll in the amount of \$11,532.04 second by Jim Pritchard, motion carried, Brad Barrett abstained.

Motion by Guy Charlton to pay Regular Bills in the amount of \$83,920.57 second by Jim Pritchard, motion carried.

*Note: Regular bills include the payment for the Fair Haven rescue squad service

Library Discussion:

- Robin Wilson thanked the Town for funding for another year
- Long time Librarian Jaci Lussier will be retiring, and the Library Board will be placing an add to search for her replacement.
- Discussion on who is responsible for hiring the Librarian, The Library Board is elected as the Selectboard so they will be responsible for the hiring.
- Dan Ryan asked where the funds for the \$25,000 grant were spent: Answer- Repairs, Funding programs, new computers, desk.
- Discussion the MERP grant will not be addressing any of the issues at the library, there was not enough funding to do everything.

Out Right VT Dam Discussion:

- Amanda Rodenbuge from Out Right Vermont spoke of an opportunity for the Town to be the Administrator for a grant for Dam repairs for Sunrise/Sunset Lake. The Organization is a not for profit so they themselves can not apply for the grant however they are willing to fund the project 25% and the grant would pay the other 75%. Out right VT is willing to may the Town 10% of the project which is estimated around \$500,000.
- Concerns that were voiced:
 - The Town may not legally be able to apply for a grant on behalf of another organization
 - The Town has enough grants to manage currently
 - The Town would not want to assume future responsibility for the Dam
 - Residents feel if the are not paying taxes in Town and they bought the property knowing the Dam would need repair than they should take responsibility for it
 - The Town feels applying for a grant for them would be setting a Precedence
 - The Dam is on private property, and a grant is still taxpayers' money
 - If the Grant was connected to the Town, the Town would be limited to other grants they could apply for and the limit for a single audit is \$750,000 that combined with current grants would push the town over the thresh hold

Poll the board to consider applying for the grant on behalf of Out Right VT- Guy Charlton-No, Brad Barrett-No, Ben Bartholomew-NO, Jim Pritchard-NO, Daryl Burlett-NO

Highway Department:

Road Foreman Report

1. Grader Repairs- The repairs for the grader are going to total approximately \$22,000
 2. New Truck Discussion- 2027 International has to proposal to choose from \$181,310 with a 5- year warranty or \$189,310 with an 8-year warranty.
 3. The fit up for the truck will be around \$100,000
- Discussion on financing the truck.
 - Orwell bank 3.25%
 - A Municipal loan is possible at 2% but could only go to a max of \$150,000 and may not be eligible because the town already has one municipal loan.
 - Discussion to apply for the entire amount through the Orwell bank to lock in the loan at 3.25% and only borrow what is not covered by the municipal loan if any.

Motion by Daryl Burlett to sign the purchase agreement for \$189,310 with Allegiance, second by Guy Charlton, motion carried

- Question was asked about the budget line of 79,000 for a truck payment, how was that figured? **Answer:** the payment was an estimate.

Motion by Daryl Burlett, second by Ben Bartholomew for the Selectboard Assistant to obtain the paperwork for the municipal equipment loan, motion carried

Motion by Brad Barrett, second by Jim Pritchard for Carrie Lafond to continue as the Selectboard Assistant, motion carried

- Guy Charlton voiced his concerns about the Whitehall sand that it does not meet the silt standards test.

Excess Weight Permits

Motion by Ben Bartholomew, second by Guy Charlton for Brad Barrett (Chair) to sign the excess weight permits for the following: Champlain Valley Plumbing and Heating, J & D Booska Trucking, Weston Pulpwood Sales, Orwell Sand and Gravel, AmeriGas, JC Rendering, RK Miles, Panoramic Landscaping, ALH Transit, motion carried

Road Commissioner- Nothing to report

Transfer Station:

Backhoe Repairs-

- The motor on the backhoe is rapping, the backhoe has to many issues to be cost effective to be replaced at this point, need to look at getting a replacement backhoe or small excavator.

Treasurer Report

- Continuing with NEMRC installation

Motion by Daryl Burlett, second by Jim Pritchard to amend the minutes of September 15th for the purchase of the grizzly bars, pressure washer and digging bucket out of the equipment fund, motion carried

Town Clerk

Board of Liquor Control

Motion by Guy Charlton, second by Jim Pritchard to recess the Select Board and reconvene as the board of Liquor Control, motion carried

Motion by Guy Charlton, second by Jim Pritchard to approve the catering license for Sugared Rim LLC, motion carried

Motion by Guy Charlton, second by Ben Bartholomew to recess the Board of Liquor Control and reconvene as the Select Board, motion carried

Old Business:

Appointments for Boards and Committees

Motion by Daryl Burlett, second by Jim Pritchard to approve the following list of appointments for 2026, motion carried.

APPOINTMENT	Name 2026
911 Coordinator	Edward Peltier
Assistant 911 Coordinator	Heidi Chandler
Animal Control Officer	Fair Haven PD to Cover
Benson Youth League Coordinator	Sarah Daigle
Community Hall Committee	Priscilla Dufour
Community Hall Committee	Marcia Anderson
Development Review Board	Brad Barrett
Development Review Board	Brook Bartholomew
Development Review Board Alternate	Brad Barrett
Development Review Board Alternate	Tom Bartholomew
Emergency Management Director	Brad Barrett

Emergency Management Coord.	Jim Pritchard
Ethics Liaison	Carrie LaFond
FH Rescue Squad Rep.	Sam Bartholomew
Family Day Co-Coordinator(s)	Sue Brown
Family Day Co-Coordinator(s)	Amanda Bartholomew
Inspector of Wood and Lumber	Ben Bartholomew
SWAC Representative	Greg Fontaine
SWAC ALTERNATE	Carrie LaFond
Newsletter	Cheryl Murray
Otter Creek Com. Union District Rep	JS Valois
Otter Creek Com. Union District Rep Alternate	Ben Bartholomew
Planning Commission (Town)	Paul LaFond
Planning Commission (Town)	Brad Barrett
Pound Keeper	Ben Bartholomew
Road Commissioner	Jim Pritchard
Rutland Regional Planning Rep.	Cheryl Murray
RRPC Alternate	John Hill
Rutland Regional Transportation	John Hill
Rutland Regional Transportation Alternate	Jim Pritchard
Tree Warden	Robert St Peter
Zoning Administrator	Edward Peltier

Correspondence:

RRPC Future Land Use Map Update/Email

- Concerns over the presented Land Use Mapp provided by RRPC, the village center has been changed and there are other changes that need to be addressed.
- Document is available by request and in the Select board minutes file.

Motion to adjourn by Daryl Burlett at 7:10 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Carrie LaFond
Selectboard Assistant

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