

UNAPPROVED MINUTES
SELECTBOARD MEETING
TOWN OF BENSON, VT
APRIL 13th, 2026, 6:00pm

Selectboard Present:

Brad Barrett, Guy Charlton, Daryl Burlett, Jim Pritchard

Selectboard Absent:

Ben Bartholomew

Others Present:

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

Public Present: Jack and Roxy Helm, Paul LaFond, Jon Dodd, Robin Wilson, Bonny Baldwin, Lisa Fontaine, Gina Parker, Dan Ryan, Paul Horton, Janis McWayne

Call to Order:

Brad Barrett (Chair) called the meeting to order at 6:00pm

Approve Agenda:

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

Amendment To Agenda:

Add Sign Notes with Orwell National Bank for Excavator & International Truck

Approve Selectboard Minutes:

Motion by Guy Charlton to approve March 30th, 2026, minutes as presented, second by Daryl Burlett, motion carried.

Motion by Guy Charlton, second by Daryl Burlett to amend the minutes of March 23rd for the Loan with the First National Bank of Orwell to be for a period of 5 years, at a rate of 3.25%, with semi annual payments due in April and October and separate payments for accrued interest also due in April and October, motion carried.

Pay Bills:

Motion by Guy Charlton to pay Payroll in the amount of \$13,584.33 second by Daryl Burlett, motion carried, Brad Barrett abstained.

Motion by Guy Charlton to pay Regular Bills in the amount of \$148,450.68 second by Daryl Burlett, motion carried.

- Discussion \$100,000 of regular bills is for school taxes

Library:

- Robin Wilson let the board know the library would like to put out 4 chairs on the library lawn or possibly benches around the trees for a reading area.
- Concerns that chairs that are easily movable may be stolen.
- Library will proceed with chairs

Act 181 Discussion:

- Paul Horton supplied a letter for the Board's approval and signature requesting the repeal of ACT 181 specifically the "Road Rule" and Tier3 mapping (see letter in Selectboard minutes file).

Motion by Guy Charlton to have Paul Horton's letter put on the town's letterhead, for the Board to sign and be mailed out, second by Jim Pritchard, motion carried.

- Discussion there is still a lot of unknowns on the mapping.
- Board encourages individuals to write to their State Representatives to repeal Act 181, addresses available from Selectboard Assistant and sample letters.

Highway Department:

Road Foreman Report

1. Working on grading roads
2. Worked on redecking equipment trailer

Excess Weight Permits

Motion by Guy Charlton, second by Daryl Burlett for Brad Barrett (Chair) to sign the excess weight permits for the following: New England Quality Service, Bellavance Trucking, Casella Construction and DFA New England Logistics, motion carried.

Road Commissioner

- Sunset Lake Road project starting soon, will be one lane during the project.

Transfer Station:

- New excavator working great

Board of Sewer Commissioners: Tabled

Treasurer Report/ Town Clerk

- Fire department has materials that need to be moved out of the basement
- Old fire alarm in the community hall needs to be uninstalled, will ask Mark Norris to address
- Scholarship committee needs to decide on scholarship Awardee: Brad Barrett to meet with Heidi and choose an awardee
- There is still a payment of \$4,609 due to the State for school taxes, waiting to send in because sometimes there is a refund
- Treasurer report will be available at the end of April

Old Business:

Sign Notes for Loans, Orwell National Bank

- Excavator Loan

Motion by Guy Charlton, second by Daryl Burlett to sign the loan paperwork with First National Bank of Orwell for the transfer station excavator in the amount of \$38,000 at an interest rate of 3.25% for 3 years with semiannual payments of \$6,333.33 due in April and October, with additional accrued interest payments also due semi-annually in April and October, motion carried.

- International Truck Loan

Motion by Guy Charlton, second by Daryl Burlett to sign the loan paperwork with First National Bank of Orwell for the International Truck for the Highway Department in the amount of \$290,000 at an interest rate of 3.25% for 5 years with semiannual payments of \$29,000 (Note: loan and payment may be different depending on the outcome of the equipment loan application from the State of VT at 2%), due in April and October with additional interest payments also due semi-annually in April and October, motion carried.

Fence Between Town Offices and Bowen Property-

- Discussion that maybe cedar rail would be a better choice of materials rather than the previously recommended vinyl
- Jim Pritchard to confirm length of fence
- Further discussion was tabled until next Selectboard meeting

New Business:

Sign Annual Financial Plan for Town Highways

Motion by Guy Charlton, second by Daryl Burlett for the board to sign the Annual Highway Financial Plan for Highway grants, motion carried (Jim Pritchard to drop off paperwork to Brian Sanderson on Tuesday 4/14/26).

Review Purchasing Policy- Tabled

Approval to hire moving company for office renovations

Motion By Jim Pritchard, second by Daryl Burlett to approve payment for the movers up to the amount of \$3,000 for moving the office across the hall for the construction period, motion carried.

Review Police Log

- Reviewed log supplied by Chief from Fair Haven Police Department

Correspondence:

Letter Jaci Lussier- Jaci will be retiring as the Librarian effective June 30, 2026

- The Board thanks Jaci for her many years of service as the Benson Librarian and wishes her well.

Motion by Brad Barrett, second by Daryl Burlett to accept Jaci Lussier's retirement letter and have the Selectboard Assistant pick up a gift certificate from the Benson General Store for \$50.00 as a thank you, motion carried.

Further Discussion:

- Question why public comment is not a separate item on the agenda? **Answer-** The public is welcome to comment on every item on the agenda.
- Suggested that Selectboard rules be reviewed and edited
- Selectboard rules and procedures to be reviewed and corrected as needed for the next selectboard meeting

Motion to adjourn by Daryl Burlett at 7:12 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Carrie LaFond
Selectboard Assistant

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