

APPROVED MINUTES
SELECTBOARD MEETING
TOWN OF BENSON, VT
APRIL 27th, 2026, 6:00pm

Selectboard Present:

Brad Barrett, Guy Charlton, Daryl Burlett, Jim Pritchard, Ben Bartholomew (Phoned in)

Others Present:

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

Public Present: Jack and Roxy Helm, Paul LaFond, Jon Dodd, Wayne Fletcher

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 presented, motion carried.

Approve Selectboard Minutes:

Motion by Daryl Burlett to approve April 13th, 2026, minutes as amended, second by Jim Pritchard, motion carried.

Amendment To Minutes 4/13/26

Motion by Daryl Burlett, second by Jim Pritchard to approve regular bills for April 13th, 2026, in the amount of 146,150.68, motion carried (Moving expense was only \$700, not \$3000)

Pay Bills:

Motion by Guy Charlton to pay Payroll in the amount of \$13,209.99 second by Jim Pritchard, motion carried, Brad Barrett abstained.

Motion by Guy Charlton to pay Regular Bills in the amount of \$45,191.94 second by Jim Pritchard, motion carried, Ben Bartholomew abstained.

Highway Department:

Road Foreman Report

1. Sunset Lake Road complete with new culverts as per the state of VT requirements
2. Sunset Lake Road Paving bids to be opened at the next meeting (paving to start after July 1st)
3. Single axle truck had wiring harness replaced
4. The old Transfer Station backhoe will be placed on Auctions International, the representative will be on location on May 18th to do the listing.
5. The Highway department will go to a four-day schedule starting Monday May 4th. Work week will be Mon-Thursday 6am-4:30

Excess Weight Permits -Tabled five until /11/26

Road Commissioner

- Sunset Lake Road project looks good!

- There is a bucket available to purchase for the new mini excavator for \$600 it was suggested the highway department might be able to use – No decision made

Transfer Station:

- New excavator working great, loads being hauled out are heavier
- Wesley to work on kickplates
- Discussion on what to do if the dumpster is almost full but not ready to be pulled, extra garbage can be placed in a truck supplied by the highway department, ensuring the transfer station can take garbage and dumpsters go out completely full.

Fire Department:

- No one from Fire department at meeting
- Daryl had a suggestion that the fire department do a practice drill and clean up the partially burned house in the village, he also talked with Bo Burney about putting some stone in the Cemetery right-of-way up through his property.

Treasurer Report/ Town Clerk

- Reappraisal CD needs to be rolled over, looking at the rates for 6month vs 12month
- Slates missing on the roof that need to be repaired
- Furnace not working on the museum side
- Sent in a bill for \$1,300 for the re-vote on the school budget
- Thank you to Barb and Daryl Burlett for their help moving rooms for the construction

Old Business:

Fence Between Bowen's and Town Office

- Have quotes for the fence from Straight Line and Homestead, Guy Charlton to get a quote on cedar for next meeting on 5/11/26.

Meeting Time Change

Motion by Jim Pritchard, second by Daryl Burlett to change the Selectboard meeting time to 5pm every other Monday, motion carried.

Salt Shed Tabled until 5/11/26

- Discussion to start hauling in blocks

MERP Grant

- Kick off meeting on April 28
- Discussion the Contractor has requested a contract be signed and it's higher than the original price, Daryl Burlett to have a discussion with the contractor on 4/28 that the original contract was already signed and the price should be honored
- \$9,000 coming back from Green Mountain Power

Review Changes to Board Rules and Procedures Tabled until 5/11/26

- Jon Dodd was concerned that his editing suggestions were meant only for the Selectboard assistant and should not have been presented to the board at this point.
- Jon also commented he did not see the meeting agenda posted on the website (confirmation the agenda was posted just not in the area where he normally sees it)

New Business:

Review Purchasing Policy Tabled until 5/11/26

Review Bid Results from Cemetery Commissioners

- Cemetery spokesperson was not available for the meeting, however the bids' results were read into the record: Cushman Services \$16,000, Barns and Sons \$18,000 and Bob-A-Do-It Landscaping \$23,800 awarded to Bob-A-Do-It Landscaping
- Discussion about why the lowest bidder was not chosen, will invite the Cemetery spokesperson to the meeting on 5/11/26

Correspondence:

Email Olivia Catozzi

- Concerned about the treatment of cats at a Benson location. Fair Haven Police Department has investigated the issue and the Selectboard has no action they can take.

Motion to adjourn by Daryl Burlett at 7:25 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Carrie LaFond
Selectboard Assistant

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