

AMENDED APPROVED MINUTES
SELECTBOARD MEETING
TOWN OF BENSON, VT
JULY 6th, 2026, 5:00pm

Selectboard Present:

Brad Barrett, Guy Charlton, Daryl Burlett, Jim Pritchard

Selectboard Absent:

Ben Bartholomew

Others Present:

Heidi Chandler (Town Clerk), Carrie LaFond (Selectboard Assistant), Sarah Daigle (Assistant Town Clerk) Lisa Fontaine (Assistant Treasurer)

Public Present: Robin Wilson, Jack and Roxy Helm, Karen Barber, Lisa Chalidze, Jon Dodd

Call to Order:

Brad Barrett (Chair) called the meeting to order at 5:00pm

Approve Agenda:

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

Amendments to the Agenda:

Added Strong Swamp under correspondence.

Approve Selectboard Minutes:

Motion by Daryl Burlett to approve June 22nd, 2026, minutes as presented, second by Jim Pritchard, motion carried.

Motion by Jim Pritchard to approve June 29th, 2026, minutes as presented, second by Guy Charlton, motion carried.

Library:

- Robin Wilson appeared before the board asking the selectboard to approve the request of a Blink surveillance camera to be installed on the outside of the library with a couple of “under surveillance signs.”
- Discussion on the ramifications of recording individuals entering the library.

Motion by Jim Pritchard, second by Daryl Burlett for approval for the library to install a Blink camera on the exterior of the library including a couple of surveillance signs, motion carried.

Delinquent Taxes:

- The Town’s Attorney Jim Barlow had prepared a letter with the list of properties for delinquent tax sales.

Motion by Daryl Burlett, second by Jim Pritchard for the board to sign the letter from Attorney Jim Barlow with a list of properties for delinquent tax sales, motion carried.

Pay Bills:

2025-2026 Bills

Motion by Guy Charlton to ACH Bills in the amount of \$1399.59 second by Jim Pritchard, motion carried

Motion by Guy Charlton to pay Regular Bills in the amount of \$53,134.58 second by Jim Pritchard, motion carried.

2026-2027 Bills

Motion by Guy Charlton to pay Regular Bills in the amount of \$3,132.38 second by Jim Pritchard, motion carried.

Motion by Guy Charlton to pay Payroll Bills in the amount of \$11,249.18 second by Jim Pritchard, Brad Barrett abstained, motion carried.

Highway Department

Road Foreman Report

1. Finishing Lake Rd project that included ditching and gravel
2. Fish and Wildlife would like a beaver baffle installed in Cranberry swamp pond
3. Little truck is close to being repaired in the meantime using the MAC to apply chloride
4. Roadside mower had a lift cylinder rebuilt, the West side of town has been completed once for mowing and starting on the East side.

Road Commissioner:

- Discussion the fit-up for the new truck does not have to be done under state contract, can still price it out with other vendors

Transfer Station:

- Inspection was completed and no violations were found

Fire Department:

- The State of Vermont has a new law that took effect July 1st, 2026, that mandates the Fire Chief is automatically assigned as the Forest Fire Warden.
- Fire Department's property still has not been removed from the basement of the Town Offices, there are concerns this will hold up construction. Selectboard Assistant was instructed to send a letter to the Fire Department as a final reminder to remove immediately or risk having it disposed of.

Treasurer Report/ Town Clerk

- \$2,015 returned from a property that withdrew from current use
- State portion of Property Tax rebates have been received in the amount of \$27,776
- Supplied a budget status report for 2025-2026
- Next meeting financials for 2026-2027 will be available
- State tax rate for non-homestead has been set at 1.9658 and homestead at 1.5116, Current use is at \$45,219

Old Business: None

New Business:

Block estimates/Salt Shed

- Casella blocks at \$90/Block
- Galusha Blocks at \$45/ block

Correspondence:Email- Karen Barber Re: Strong Swamp

- Karen Barber asked the selectboard to have the Strong Swamp restored to a pond, concerns of loss of public enjoyment and wildlife habitat. The board explained this is controlled by the State of Vermont and their hands are tied.
- Discussion on the swans that are no longer there- advised to contact the Game Warden

Review Paperwork for Signatures:

- Warrant reviewed- missing one signature

Motion to adjourn by Daryl Burlett at 6:01pm

Respectfully submitted,

Carrie LaFond

Selectboard Assistant

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