

UNAPPROVED MINUTES
SELECTBOARD MEETING
TOWN OF BENSON, VT
JULY 20th, 2026, 4:30pm

Selectboard Present:

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

Others Present:

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

Public Present: Jon Dodd, John Hill, William Tyler, Cindy Burns, Wayne Fletcher, Paul LaFond

Call to Order:

Brad Barrett (Chair) called the meeting to order at 4.40pm

Town Plan Hearing:

- No one present from public had any comments or suggestions on the town Plan

Motion to adjourn from the town plan hearing and reconvene as the Selectboard by Jim Pritchard, second by Daryl Burlett at 4:45, motion carried

Approve Agenda:

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

Amendments to the Agenda:

Added Carpet quote town office to New Business

Approve Selectboard Minutes:

Motion by Daryl Burlett to approve July 6th as presented, second by Jim Pritchard, motion carries.

Pay Bills:

Motion by Guy Charlton to pay Regular Bills in the amount of \$211,098.59 second by Jim Pritchard, motion carried.

Motion by Guy Charlton to pay Payroll Bills in the amount of \$12,013.24 second by Jim Pritchard, Brad Barrett abstained, motion carried.

Motion by Guy Charlton to pay ACH Bills in the amount of \$747.31 second by Jim Pritchard, motion carried. (2025-2026 Fiscal Year)

Highway Department

Road Foreman Report

1. Finished ditching project
2. Waiting for some rain to apply more gravel
3. Working on paving for Sunset Lake Rd
4. Ordered some parts for the grader

Excess Weight Permits

Motion by Guy Charlton, second by Daryl Burlett for Brad Barrett (Chair) to sign excess weight permit for A and K Aggregate, motion carried

Sign Grants and Aid- Tabled

Note: New truck needs to be added to the Town's insurance now that a check has been sent

Road Commissioner:

- Question asked about gravel supply- **Answer:** Plenty on hand
- The blocks will start being hauled in from Galusha as soon as the account is open.
- Question was asked about replacing the Hyatt Camp Rd Sign-Answer: Private Rd the town supplied the first sign up to the owners to replace after.

Playground Discussion- John Hill:

- Recently visited Saxton River and they have a very nice community area.
- John would like to form a committee to work on the playground, board stated the advertisement for the committee should be on the town's website and Facebook page.
- The board advised if looking for funds there needs to be an article ready by January first
- Town clerk suggested getting in contact with The Benson Village Trust
- Playground needs to meet safety guidelines and the Town's insurance requirements

William Tyler- Tyler Farm:

- William Tyler spoke to the board regarding a tax sale, the board suggested contacting the attorney handling the tax sale, it is out of the Town's control at this point.

Listers- Reappraisal Issue: No one present from Listers

Transfer Station:

- ANR sent an Update- To Hazard Waste (language changes only)
- Fuel has been filled
- Questions regarding having permit posted in window. Permits are per household and not per car. The transfer station attendant has a list of permit holders.

Fire Department:

- The Fire department has been working on removing their stored materials from the basement

Treasurer Report/ Town Clerk

Set tax Rate-

Motion by Ben Bartholomew, second by Guy Charlton to table set the tax rate until next regular scheduled selectboard meeting, motion carried

Board Of Civil Authority – Sign Appeal Stipulation VTel

Motion by Jim Pritchard, seconded by Ben Bartholomew for Brad Barrett (Chair) to sign the Appeal Stipulation for VTel, motion carried.

Board of Liquor Control-

Motion by Guy Charlton, seconded by Daryl Burlett to recess the Selectboard meeting and reconvene as the Board of Liquor Control, motion carried.

Motion to approve the second-class liquor license for Cobble Knoll Orchard by Jim Pritchard, second by Guy Charlton, motion carried, Ben Bartholomew abstained.

Motion by Guy Charlton, seconded by Daryl Burlett to recess the Board of Liquor Control and reconvene as the Selectboard, motion carried.

Fyles Contract-

Motion by Daryl Burlett, second by Ben Bartholomew to sign the fixed rate contract with Fyles for \$1.75/ gallon, and pay the \$5,000 in full, motion carried

MERP Loan Information-

- The MERP loan is a 0% rate loan for energy improvements, discussion on applying for the library and town hall since they were not included in the MERP grant, no decision made.

Old Business: None

New Business:

Carpet in Town office

- Daryl obtained two quotes for carpet in the town office

Motion by Ben Bartholomew, second by Guy Charlton to have Greens Flooring install the carpet tiles in the office for \$4,702 to be paid out of building maintenance, motion carried.

Correspondence:

Letter- Jaci Lussier

- Jaci sent a thank you card to the board for the gift certificate

Email- Cindy Burns Re: Lake Rd

- Cindy Burns voiced her concerns the Lake Rd is unsafe due to the narrow nature of the road especially when large boats are being towed by passing vehicles.
- Guy Charlton has marked the road area in question, and the narrowest part is 19 ft.
- Discussion on the large rip rap in the ditches. It was explained this is required by the Agency of Natural Resources and the Clean and Clear program and out of the control of the Town.
- Cindy Burns also questioned why she had no response from the Town regarding installing a culvert. The culvert in question may or may not be on private land. The Road Ordinance was made available with culvert information.

Review Paperwork for Signatures:

- Paperwork reviewed no missing signatures

Motion to adjourn by Daryl Burlett at 6:20pm

Respectfully submitted,
Carrie LaFond
Selectboard Assistant

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

DRAFT