

APPROVED MINUTES
SELECTBOARD MEETING
TOWN OF BENSON, VT
AUGUST 17th, 2026, 5:00pm

Selectboard Present:

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

Others Present:

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

Public Present: Jon Dodd, Jack Helm, Roxy Helm, Nancy Elkington, Craig Munger, Ken Winning

Call to Order:

Brad Barrett (Chair) called the meeting to order at 5:05pm

Approve Agenda:

Motion by Ben Bartholomew, second by Guy Charlton to approve the agenda as amended, motion carried.

Amendments To Agenda:

- Added carpet quote in Listers area
- Moved up Appointment of Animal Control Officer

Appoint Animal Control Officer:

Motion by Ben Bartholomew, second by Jim Pritchard to appoint Ken Winning as Animal Control Officer and his wife Mrs. Winning as the Pound keeper, motion carried.

Approve Selectboard Minutes:

Motion by Ben Bartholomew, second by Guy Charlton to approve the minutes of August 3, as amended, motion carried.

Amendments to August 3rd, 2026 Minutes:

Re-Vote of warrant due to only two members being able to vote.

Motion by Ben Bartholomew second by Guy Charlton to re-confirm the warrants for August 3rd, 2026, motion carried, Brad Barrett abstained.

Motion to approve the minutes of August 3rd, 2026, as amended by Ben Bartholomew, second by Guy Charlton, motion carried.

Motion by Guy Charlton to amend the minutes of July 6th and the regular bills (2025-2026 fiscal year) to be the corrected amount of \$53,134.58 and the ACH to be \$1,461.69, second by Ben Bartholomew, motion carries.

Motion by Guy Charlton, second by Jim Pritchard, to amend the minutes of July 20th for the payroll warrant to be corrected to \$12,016.88.

Pay Bills:

Motion by Jim Pritchard to pay Regular Bills in the amount of \$122,232.08 withholding the check to Wilk Paving until the board has a chance to review the paving, second by Guy Charlton, motion carries.

Motion by Guy Charlton to pay Payroll Bills in the amount of \$11,7124.84 second by Ben Bartholomew, Brad Barrett abstained, motion carries.

Highway DepartmentRoad Foreman Report-

- Ditching on Park Hill Road
- 84 blocks hauled in for the salt shed

Excess Weight Permits

Motion by Guy Charlton, second by Jim Pritchard for the Chair to sign the Excess Weight Permits for Midnight Express and Lindell's Trucking, Ben Bartholomew abstained, motion carried.

Small Highway Safety Grant \$42,212

Motion by Ben Bartholomew, second by Jim Pritchard for the Chair to sign the approval for the scope of work for the highway safety grant, motion carried.

- Question was asked if the reimbursement for the culvert inventory had come in? Answer: Not yet, needs to be followed up with RRPC

Road Commissioner

- Reminder that any time clocked in/signed in needs to be paid or there could be issues with a payroll audit.

Transfer Station:

- Information the burn plant in Hudson Falls is scheduled to be closed.

Fire Department:

- The two trucks the fire department had listed on Auctions International have sold

Treasurer Report/ Town Clerk

- Tax bills have been sent out

Old Business: None**New Business:**Carpet Quote Listers Area

Motion by Jim Pritchard, second by Ben Bartholomew to have the carpet replaced with the same carpet being installed in the front office by Greens Flooring at a cost of \$3,340.00 to be paid out of building maintenance, motion carried.

Adopt Town Plan

Motion by Ben Bartholomew, second by Guy Charlton to adopt the new town plan, motion carried.

Zoning Fees- Former General Store

- Discussion waiving fees for a business would create a future precedent.

Motion by Daryl Burlett, second by Jim Pritchard to decline the request for the zoning fees for the Former Benson Village Store to be waived, motion carried.

Correspondence:

Email- Cindy Burns

1. The sign that was supposedly damaged was still standing on Friday morning, the Town did not damage it
2. The bridge had been damaged 30 years ago; the brush being removed has made it visible
3. The road sign looks damaged because someone has cut it with a Sawzall, as they have done all around town
4. The Central Regional Engineer for AOT has written a response to the questionable area on Lake Rd and stated seeding is the only issue and does not see a need for a culvert in the area in question. (Response from James Caulin available in selectboard file or upon request)

Review Paperwork for Signatures:

- Paperwork reviewed no missing signatures

Executive Session per 1. V.S.A. § 313 (a)(1)

Motion by Ben Bartholomew, second by Jim Pritchard to have an Executive session, the Board has determined that premature public knowledge would clearly place the state, municipality, other public body, or a person involved at a substantial disadvantage, motion carried.

Motion by Ben Bartholomew, second by Jim Pritchard for the Board to enter Executive Session 1. V.S.A. § 313 (a)(1) for the purpose of discussing agreements with employees, motion carried.

Motion to exit Executive Session at 6:27

Motion by Ben Bartholomew, second by Jim Pritchard that any person receiving funds by way of payroll, grants, or any other type of bill may not be involved in signing or voting such funds, motion carried.

Question by Town Clerk – “When I do your Payroll, I can’t sign it? “ **Answer:** If you are a recipient of money you must abstain from voting or signing

Guy Charlton asked who would sign the warrant for officers to pay? Answer to be investigated.

Motion to adjourn by Daryl Burlett, Second by Ben Bartholomew at 6:36pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Carrie LaFond
Selectboard Assistant

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