

APPROVED MINUTES
SELECTBOARD MEETING
TOWN OF BENSON, VT
August 3rd, 2026, 5:00pm

Selectboard Present:

Guy Charlton, Jim Pritchard, Ben Bartholomew

Selectboard Absent:

Daryl Burlett, Brad Barrett

Others Present:

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

Public Present: Jon Dodd, Jack Helm, Roxy Helm

Call to Order:

Guy Charlton (Vice Chair) called the meeting to order at 5:05pm

Approve Agenda:

Motion by Ben Bartholomew, second by Jim Pritchard to approve the agenda as presented, motion carried.

Approve Selectboard Minutes:

Motion by Jim Pritchard to approve July 20th select board minutes as presented, second by Ben Bartholomew, motion carries.

Motion by Guy Charlton to amend the minutes of July 6th and the regular bills (2026-2027 fiscal year) be the corrected amount of \$3,194.48, second by Jim Pritchard, motion carries.

Pay Bills: Note: Bills Re- Affirmed During the meeting of 8/17 due to only 2 members voting on 8/3/26

Motion by Guy Charlton to pay Regular Bills in the amount of \$79,768.41 withholding the payment to Wilk Paving, second by Jim Pritchard, Ben Bartholomew abstained, motion carries.

*Jon Dodd objects to the approval of Regular bills as only two of the three board members present were able to vote

*Vice Chair Guy Charlton overruled

Motion by Guy Charlton to pay Payroll Bills in the amount of \$14,354.04 second by Ben Bartholomew, motion carries.

Motion by Jim Pritchard to pay ACH Bills in the amount of \$2.00 and \$719.71 second by Ben Bartholomew, motion carries.

Highway Department

Road Foreman Report- Absent

Road Commissioner

- Engineer met with the Town of Benson on safety concerns for the Lake Road and Engineers reported everything looks good, no concerns except area needs to be re-seeded.
- Blocks are being hauled in for the start of the salt shed
- Discussion on Sunset Lake Rd paving- Jack Helm felt that the paving had areas of concern and recommended holding payment for paving for a discussion at the next meeting. Conversation tabled until next meeting August 17th, 2026

Excess Weight Permits

Motion by Jim Pritchard, second by Guy Charlton, to table Excess Weight Permits until the next regular scheduled Select board meeting August 17th, motion carried.

Transfer Station:

- Nothing to Report

Fire Department:

- The Fire department will be looking to purchase a new rescue truck

Treasurer Report/ Town Clerk

Set tax Rate-

Motion by Ben Bartholomew, second by Guy Charlton to set the Homestead tax rate at \$2.5112 which included the municipal, local agreement and school tax, motion carried.

Motion by Ben Bartholomew, second by Jim Pritchard to set the non-Homestead tax rate at \$2.9654 which included the municipal, local agreement and school tax, motion carried.

Old Business: None

New Business:

- Discussion on an email Jon Dodd has requested that was sent to the Listers from Jamie Longtin. The Select board and the Town Clerk do not have an email from Jamie personally. The Board suggested Jon contacts the Listers or Jamie Longtin.

Appointing Animal Control Officer

Motion by Guy Charlton second by Jim Pritchard to delay Animal Control Officer appointment until the next regular scheduled Select board meeting August 17th, motion carried.

Adopt Town Plan

Motion by Ben Bartholomew, second by Jim Pritchard to table adopting the town plan until the next regular scheduled Select board meeting August 17th, motion carried.

Zoning Fees- Former General Store

Motion by Ben Bartholomew, second by Jim Pritchard to table Zoning fees until the next regular scheduled Select board meeting August 17th, motion carried.

Sign- Steps to Success Child Care

Motion by Ben Bartholmew, second by Jim Pritchard for Steps to Success childcare to have permission to place a small sign at the end of Kent Lane, if it conforms to the towns zoning regulations, motion carried.

Cobble Knoll Orchard event

- Board has already approved the liquor license no other approval is needed, thank you to Cobble Knoll Orchard for the advance notice of the event.

Correspondence: None

Executive Session per 1. V.S.A. § 313 (a)(3) Personnel Issue:

Motion by Ben Bartholomew, second by Jim Pritchard to table Executive Session until the next regular scheduled Select board meeting August 17th, motion carried.

Review Paperwork for Signatures:

- Paperwork reviewed no missing signatures

Motion to adjourn by Jim Pritchard, Second by Ben Bartholomew at 5:55pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Carrie LaFond

Selectboard Assistant

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