

UNAPPROVED MINUTES
SELECTBOARD MEETING
TOWN OF BENSON, VT
AUGUST 31st, 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), Sarah Daigle (Asst. Town Clerk), Lisa Fontaine (Asst. Treasurer)

Public Present: Jack Helm, Roxy Helm, Paul LaFond

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

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

Amendments To Agenda:

- Added Email RRPC
- Letter Zoning Administrator
- Amend Review Highway Job description to read Review Personnel Policy

Approve Selectboard Minutes:

Motion by Guy Charlton, second by Daryl Burlett to approve the minutes of August 17, as presented, motion carried.

Motion by Guy Charlton to amend the minutes of July 6th for the ACH to be in the amount of \$1,399.59, and re-sign the regular bills warrant for \$53,134.58, motion carried

Pay Bills:

Motion by Jim Pritchard to pay Regular Bills in the amount of \$27,739.83, second by Guy Charlton, Ben Bartholomew abstained, motion carries.

Motion by Guy Charlton to pay Payroll Bills in the amount of \$13,476.54 second by Ben Bartholomew, Brad Barrett abstained, motion carries.

- Guy Charlton asked the question why ACH must be on a separate warrant? Answer: ACH is posted out of a different account; the timing and the amount also change.
- Discussion regarding Library bills and why they are paid through the regular warrant and signed by the board when the library has its own board and decision making regarding their finances.

Highway Department:

Road Foreman Report-

- New Truck Set to be assembled 10/1 and may be ready for service on 10/31
- Work has been completed on Lake Rd and moving on to Howard Hill next
- Winter sand is in and will be covered soon
- North Cross Rd has opened up

Excess Weight Permits- None

Small Highway Safety Grant \$42,212

Motion by Guy Charlton, second by Daryl Burlett for the Chair to sign the highway safety grant in the amount of \$42,212.00, motion carried.

Swale Mower/ Brush Hog Purchase

Motion by Ben Bartholomew, second by Guy Charlton to approve the purchase of the brush hog and swale mower from the Bethel township in the amount of \$1,000.00, motion carried.

Road Commissioner

- Daryl and Brad met with the State Engineer and the neighbors at Browns Bay and the outcome is either a 2nd crossing culvert will be installed or a swale turnout by the bridge.

Transfer Station:

- Transfer station needs to be weed wacked, Daryl to follow up on it.

Fire Department:

- The fire department is still looking for a rescue truck.

Treasurer Report / Town Clerk:

- Supplied the Board with a current Profit and Loss and a spreadsheet with the salt shed cost to date.

Motion by Guy Charlton, second by Daryl Burlett for the Coates Hill grant reimbursement for the town's share to be available for salt shed funds, motion carries.

- The Town clerk confirmed with the Auditors that they would be willing to sign the warrant for the Select Board's pay.
- Question was asked if appropriations would be handled the same as the past couple of years? **Answer:** Yes, only new appropriations or a change in the requested amount will require a petition.
- Question was asked if organization asking for an appropriation will be required to present a budget? **Answer:** No, however, the number of Benson residents being served by the organization should be made available.

Old Business:

- Discussion on the paving on Sunset Lake Rd and was the bill paid in full? Answer: Wilk has agreed that the surface job may not have been top quality, however they will stand behind the structural quality.

New Business:

MERP Grant

- Daryl Burlett has been in contact with Buildings and General Services, and they will support finding a new contractor if the current contractor does not show up and get work completed in a timely manner.
- Electricians are scheduled to be on site 9/1/26

Personnel Policy

- Suggestion that when amendments are made to policies or ordinances, they are in cooperation with the original documents with a footnote identifying the amendment and the date amended.
- Personnel policy to be reviewed and discussed at the next meeting 9/14/26

Correspondence:

Zoning- Letter

- Zoning administrator supplied a hearing date for the Benson Village Store

Email RRPC

- RRPC sent an email with a settlement offer of \$4,940.00 for a refund for the culvert inventory that was done by them, the grant was never applied for, and they are willing to cover half of the cost.

Motion by Daryl Burlett, second by Ben Bartholomew to accept the offer from RRPC of \$4,940 as a reimbursement for the culvert/road inventory that was done by RRPC and use those funds for the salt shed, motion passed.

Review Paperwork for Signatures:

- Paperwork reviewed, signatures added to warrants

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

Motion by Guy Charlton, second by Ben Bartholomew 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. § 317 (c)(4) for the purpose of discussing correspondence from municipal attorney at 5:50pm, motion carried.

Motion to exit Executive Session at 5:59 by Guy Charlton, second by Jim Pritchard, motion carried.

Motion by Guy Charlton, second by Jim Pritchard, to accept the hold harmless agreement supplied by the Town's attorney, motion carried.

Motion to adjourn by Daryl Burlett, Second by Jim Pritchard at 6:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Carrie LaFond
Selectboard Assistant

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