

**Town of Benton
Select Board Meeting
Monday, April 6, 2026**

Select Board Members: William Darcy, Chair, Regina Elliott, and Philip Chicoine

Also Present: Dwight Swauger, Town Treasurer and School Board Chair; Mike Stiebitz, Town Clerk and Tax Collector; and Joe Boutin, Jr., Road Contractor, and resident Peter Thompson.

These draft minutes of the Town of Benton Select Board are believed to be accurate and correct, but they are subject to additions, deletions, and corrections by the Select Board at the next meeting when the Board votes its final approval of the minutes. These minutes are made available at this time to conform to the requirements of New Hampshire RSA 91-A:2.

Chairman Darcy called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Member Elliott moved approval of the March 16, 2026, minutes, seconded by Member Chicoine, and the motion was approved.

Chair Darcy informed Peter Thompson of the Board decision regarding his RSA 76:16 Tax Abatement application for excess taxes paid on his property and garage at 14 Thompson Road for three tax years. The Board approved lowering his taxes on that property for 2025, stating the appeal of his 2023 and 2024 taxes were not timely filed. Chair Darcy inquired as to whether Mr. Thompson wanted interest on his tax rebate, with the understanding that he would have to supply his social security number if he wanted the interest payment. He declined the interest payment and offered additional arguments on the merits of the dispute. Chair Darcy agreed that an error was made but the issue was the timely filing of the abatement request.

The Chair discussed follow-up from the March meeting, including the Department of Revenue Administration (DRA) forms that needed to be filed and the building of the Town Hall entrance ramp and door replacement.

There was a discussion of using local contractors to do the various elements of the Town Hall entrance work (concrete, excavation, carpentry, etc.) and that written bids had to be submitted for the work to assure the project was within the Warrant Article amount authorized at the Town Meeting. Mike Stiebitz will lead the project.

Treasurer Swauger noted the operating account at Bar Harbor Bank had \$205,133.82, and the NH PDIP balance was \$400,078.36. Checks prepared by the Treasurer were signed by the Board.

School Board Chair Swauger noted a School Board meeting scheduled for April 13.

The meeting adjourned at 7:08 PM.