

Town of Benton
Select Board Meeting
Monday June 8, 2020

Select Board Members: William R. Darcy, Chair; Regina Elliott; Carol Vincelette

Also Present: Dwight Swauger, Treasurer; Joe Boutin, road contractor

These draft minutes of the Town of Benton Select Board are believed 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.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Darcy at 6:31 PM.

Member Vincelette moved approval of the May 26, 2020 minutes, seconded by Chairman Darcy and approved.

The Board discussed the Coronavirus (COVID-19). The State's stay at home order and business closing order ceases on June 15, with restaurants allowed to open at full capacity in North Country counties. Beaches are now open for sunbathing as well as walking. There are still very few infections in our area, with none currently in Benton, Haverhill, Warren, Woodstock, Piermont, Easton, Landaff, Bath or Littleton.

The broadband internet petition campaign is in full swing at NHEC. Despite the NHEC Board of Director's vote against the petition there have been numerous NHEC ad hoc broadband committee meetings working on the FCC grant auction and offerings of broadband providers.

The Board signed the annual contract with Woodsville Ambulance.

The Board discussed the proposals received for the cemetery wall repair. After the Board discussing and evaluating the bids Member Elliott moved that the Board select Churchill Masonry, seconded by Member Vincelette and approved. Chairman Darcy will work on drafting and negotiating an acceptable contract.

Treasurer Swauger reported the operating account had \$121,055.79 and the ICS account \$383,267.40. The Board signed checks prepared by the Treasurer.

The Board reviewed the building permit application of Cameron Bennett for a 4 bay garage on Tipping Road recommended for approval by the Planning Board. The Board approved the permit. The Board also referred to the Planning Board the building permit application of April Boutin for a manufactured house at 519 Coventry Road to replace the existing residence.

Chairman Darcy reported that the Planning Board has scheduled and properly noticed a June 15 meeting for a lot line adjustment in favor of the Town and a 2 lot subdivision of the adjacent lot owned by Bullard/Boutin. A public hearing on the subdivision and Planning Board rules of procedure is scheduled for June 22.

The Board discussed follow-ups on the Town Meeting warrant articles. The Board agreed that Member Elliott would invite the Benton Beautification Committee to the next meeting to discuss the Town Hall and Cemetery improvements passed at the Town Meeting. Mike Stiebitz will be working with Marty Noble on the Town Hall side entrance roof. Chairman Darcy will work on issuing an RFP for the 500 foot Tunnel Stream Road paving. Treasurer Swauger will send the Trustees of the Trust Fund the funds authorized by the warrant articles for the Revaluation Trust Fund and the Highways Capital Reserve Fund. Mike Stiebitz is working on accumulating the information necessary for updating the tax maps and may need clerical help in completing that task.

Joe Boutin presented six certifications of yield taxes assessed that were signed by the Board.

The next meeting will be June 22 at 6:30 PM.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:38 PM.