

Town of Benton
Select Board Meeting
Monday March 18, 2019

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

Also Present: Dwight Swauger, Treasurer; Joseph Boutin II

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 March 4 Select Board and Joint Meeting with School Board meeting minutes, seconded by Member Elliott and approved.

Member Vincelette nominated William Darcy to be Chairman of the Select Board, seconded by Member Elliott and approved.

A number of items required follow-up from the March 12 Town Meeting. The first was the report of appropriations passed which needed to be signed and uploaded to the Department of Revenue Administration (DRA) web portal. The Board signed the MS-232 form and Chairman Darcy agreed to upload it to the portal. Treasurer Swauger reported that he had already uploaded the required budget report, MS-636 to the DRA web portal.

The next item was the implementation of Warrant articles 4-7. That required sending payments to the Trustees of Trust Funds to fund a new Expendable Trust Fund (ETF) for capital repair and maintenance and add funds to an existing Capital Reserve Fund (CRF) for reevaluation expenses. Checks for both purposes were signed by the Board and given to the Chairman for transmittal to the Trustees. The Board also authorized the Chairman to request the trustees to transmit funds from the Roads CRF (\$30,000) for the Tunnel Stream Road paving project and to liquidate the Roads and Bridges ETF and send the balance to the Town.

The Board reviewed and approved a letter drafted by the Chairman to the school administration that requested information to help the Board monitor school finances. The letter was to be sent to the school board for comment before being sent to the school administration.

Treasurer Swauger reported that the operating account balance is \$210,314.61 and the ICS account balance is \$220,443.82.

The Chairman reported on the receipt of the Department of Environmental Services (DES) permit to construct a new culvert above Davis Brook on Tunnel Stream Road, which is good for five years, until March 2024. He noted that the Corps of Engineers still has 30 days to review

the matter as well. He stated that he had sent emails to Ray Lobdell who had originally worked on the project to get his help in developing a cost estimate as well as to Joe Boutin & Son. The estimate developed will be used in attempting to get a grant from NH Emergency Management to assist with the costs, a critical element if the project is to go forward.

Joe Boutin II stated the state offers a contractor certification program that allows contractors working on municipal culverts to do the work on culverts 4 foot in diameter or less without a DES permit. The program costing \$200 seemed a very cost-effective way for the Town to proceed, given the culverts that still need work on Town roads. They Board authorized Joe Boutin II to take the course and charge the Town the tuition. He was also requested by Member Vincelette to provide the number of culverts on Town roads.

The Chairman submitted a letter to the Board from the North Country Council soliciting input on their regional transportation plan.

The meeting adjourned at 7:32 PM.