

Town of Benton
Select Board Meeting
Monday August 5, 2019

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

Also Present: Dwight Swauger, Treasurer

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 6:30 PM

Member Vincelette moved approval of the July 22, 2019 minutes, seconded by member Elliott and approved.

Chairman Darcy noted mail and email correspondence concerning the federal flood insurance program, which makes residents eligible for federally subsidized flood insurance. Benton is currently not a member because there are no federally listed “flood prone” areas in Benton, but a new mapping project may list one. The Town will be informed if and when an area of Town is listed as flood prone.

Treasurer Swauger reported an operating account balance of \$250,852.87 and an ICS balance of \$233,010.64. Checks for bills prepared by the Treasurer were signed by the Selectboard.

DES notified the Town that the USFS permit for repair of the Long Pond bridge is complete.

There was a discussion of the recent work on the Town Hall to repair the defective water removal system from the basement, with excavation work performed on the rear of the building.

The Board reviewed follow-up tasks and assigned the following task leaders on each:

- 1) Cemetery wall repair bids (Darcy)
- 2) Benton sign in cemetery – paint and correct leaning (Elliott)
- 3) Level Town Hall front entrance ramp (Elliott/Darcy)
- 4) Removal of trees from Cemetery corner lot (Boutin)
- 5) Inventory of town road culverts (Boutin)
- 6) Beautify Benton Committee-set meeting (Elliott)
- 7) Numbering building permits (Darcy)
- 8) Calendar of dates for state DRA reporting purposes (Swauger/Vincelette)
- 9) Property tax exemptions – review and update requirements (Vincelette)
- 10) Fix fallen gravestones, clean stones, create brochure on cemetery rules (Elliott)

The Grafton County budget was received which included a 6% budget increase to be reflected in this year's tax rate.

The Board continued its discussion of the costs and benefits of upgrading the Town Clerk's office and after further review decided to table the matter.

The Board believed the cemetery needed to be mowed and trimmed again and Chairman Darcy stated he would inform our contractor.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:49 PM.