

Town of Benton
Select Board Meeting
Monday September 13, 2021

Select Board Members: William R. Darcy, Chair; Regina Elliott, Kimberli Carpenter

Also Present: Dwight Swauger, Treasurer; Michael Stiebitz, Town Clerk and Tax Collector; Joe Boutin, Jr., Road Contractor; Marguerite Christopher

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 Elliott moved approval of the August 23, 2021 minutes, seconded by Member Carpenter and approved.

There was a discussion of Town Hall improvements. Chairman Darcy reported that he had contacted local contractors Marty Noble and Mike Stiebitz about their availability to do the work the Town Meeting had approved. The Board discussed alternatives for the protection of the side door steps and landing from the winter elements. Replacing the side door was also discussed. Mike reported that a broken window in the Town Hall was replaced.

A sign for the Mountain View Cemetery was discussed, including contracting with the Lincoln Sign Shop to do the design, build and installation of the sign. The Board also voted to authorize the Town Clerk to reopen sales of cemetery plots in the existing area, not the new area which is in the process of having a plot plan designed.

Marguerite Christopher appeared to advocate for a book exchange kiosk to be placed outside the Town Hall and report on the Beautification Committee's proposal for a farmers' market for next year. There was a discussion of the maintenance and liability issues the book exchange project may present. Mike Stiebitz stated a trial period may help to resolve the issue. There was also a discussion of the maintenance improvements of the triangle between Coventry Road, Howe Hill Road and Bradley Hill Road.

The Tax Collector reported on the positive status of property tax collections.

Treasurer Swauger reported the operating account balance of \$280,238.01 and the ICS account balance of \$233,612.44. The Board signed checks prepared by the Treasurer.

The Board of Education reported that \$70,000 of the Board's undesignated fund balance will be contributed to tax stabilization as authorized by the Town Meeting. Also, \$15,469 was added to the Education Trust Fund.

The Board's next meeting is September 27, 2021.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:02 PM.