

**Town of Benton
Select Board Meeting
Monday, September 11, 2023**

Select Board Members: William R. Darcy, Chair; Regina Elliot, and Kimberli Carpenter
Also Present: Dwight Swauger, Treasurer; Mike Stiebitz, Town Clerk and Tax Collector; Joe Boutin, Jr., road contractor; and Dan and Laurie Elliott.

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 8 and 21, 2023 minutes, seconded by Member Carpenter and approved.

Dan and Laurie Elliott appeared to discuss preliminary plans to sell the Benton Bible Chapel parsonage and build a new one on the same lot as the Bible Chapel.

The Board discussed the construction of the fiber internet system in town and agreed to sign up the Town Hall for fiber internet and telephone service.

The Board reviewed the building permit application for a large garage by Jason and Kendra Newtown on the Warren town line and referred the matter to the Planning Board.

A request was made from the Benton Beautification Committee to add ceiling fans to the Town Hall and the Board agreed.

The triangle between Howe Hill Road, Bradley Hill Road and Coventry Road is going to be planted as a perennial garden.

Treasurer Swauger reported that there was \$231,829.14 in the operating fund at Woodsville Guaranty Trust and \$419,309.12 in the NH PDIP account.

Joe Boutin presented a revised schedule of equipment and labor rates for road and property maintenance to be included as an appendix to a new two-year contract which will be brought before the Board next month.

There were brief discussions of accessory living units and the transgender controversy between Woodsville Bank and Senator Gendreau.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:37 PM