

**Town of Benton**  
**Budget Hearing and Select Board Meeting**  
**Monday January 24, 2022**

**Select Board Members:** William R. Darcy, Chair; Regina Elliott; Kimberly Carpenter (via telephone)

Also Present: Dwight Swauger, Treasurer and Joe Boutin, III, Chairman, Benton Board of Education

*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.*

***ANNUAL BUDGET HEARING***

The annual budget hearing was called to order at 7:00 PM after the conclusion of the Board of Education's budget hearing.

Chairman Darcy summarized the proposed budget appropriations and estimated revenues, which are attached to these minutes. He noted that the proposed expenditures are lower than last year, but they may increase a little before the warrant and annual report, but still less than the previous year. He also presented the proposed warrant articles with fiscal impact which are also attached to these minutes. There were no questions from the audience and the hearing was adjourned at 7:10 PM

***SELECTBOARD MEETING***

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Darcy at 7:11 PM.

Member Elliott moved approval of the January 10, 2022 minutes, seconded by Chairman Darcy and approved.

The Board discussed the preparation of the Town's Annual Report.

Treasurer Swauger did not have a report for this meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 PM.

## 2022 PROPOSED APPROPRIATIONS

Account	Charge Point	Budget	Spent	Balance	Proposed 2022
4130	Executive	8,000	7,143.50	856.50	8,000
4140	Election & Town Clerk	4,750	3,608.10	1,141.90	5,500
4150	Financial Administration	10,000	7,919.33	2,080.67	9,000
4152	Property Revaluation	6,500	6,061.25	438.75	5,000
4153	Legal Expenses	125	0.00	125.00	125
4155	Personnel Admin	2,000	1,881.90	118.10	2,000
4193	Planning & Zoning	250		250.00	250
4194	Gov't Buildings	5,000	4,430.40	569.60	5,000
4195	Cemeteries	4,000	1,250.00	2,750.00	4,000
4196	Insurance	1,400	1,010.43	389.57	1,400
4197	Ads & Regional Assoc.	2,000	1,395.15	604.85	2,000
4199	Property Assess Software	2,600	2,594.15	5.85	3,000
4210	Police	1,625	1,625.00	0.00	1,750
4215	Ambulance	7,600	7,519.00	81.00	8,000
4220	Fire	10,000	10,000.00	0.00	10,000
4240	Building Inspection	200	0.00	200.00	200
4299	Other Public Safety	0	0.00	0.00	0
4312	Highways & Streets	60,000	26,356.43	33,643.57	55,000
4313	Bridges	250	0.00	250.00	250
4316	Street Lighting	300	284.58	15.42	300
4319	Other Streets	0	0.00	0.00	
4414	Pest Control	250	168.06	81.94	250
4442	Direct Assistance Welfare	250	0.00	250.00	250
4444	Intergovernmental Welfare	2,000	1,500.00	500.00	2,000
4445	Vendor Payments	0	0.00	0.00	0
	TOTALS	129,100	84,747.28	44,352.72	123,275

## 2022 Estimated Revenues

Source	Estimated 2021	Received 2021	Estimated 2022
Property Taxes (3110)	440,000.00	442,963.97	440,000.00
Timber Taxes (3185)	3,000.00	5,401.69	3,000.00
Payment in Lieu of Taxes (3186)	65,500.00	68,005.00	65,500.00
Excavation Tax (3187)	0.00	0.00	0.00
Other Taxes and Fees (3189)	50.00	765.00	50.00
Int./ Penalties/ Taxes (3190)	4,000.00	2,682.75	4,000.00
Tax Lien Dep from Collector (3191)	0.00	15,195.11	0.00
Motor Vehicle Permit Fees (3220)	58,000.00	87,327.00	58,000.00
Building Permits (3230)	400.00	110.00	400.00
Pistol Permits(3290)	0.00	30.00	0.00
Dog Licenses (3291)	350.00	324.00	350.00
Rental of Town Hall (3292)	100.00	50.00	100.00
Shared Revenues (3311)	0.00	0.00	0.00
Meals and Rooms Tax Dist. (3352)	19,000.00	27,552.58	23,000.00
Highway Block Grant (3353)	15,300.00	15,273.44	15,300.00
Other State Grants (3359)	0.00	19,419.92	0.00
Sale of Municipal Property (3501)	0.00	0.00	0.00
Interest on Investment (3502)	120.00	129.92	120.00
Ins Dividends & Reimb. (3506)	1,500.00	160.05	0.00
Contributions & Donations (3508)	0.00	100.00	0.00
Totals	607,320.00	685,490.43	609,820.00

## **Operating Budget**

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$123,275 for general municipal operations. This article does not include appropriations contained in special or individual articles addressed separately. Selectmen recommend this article. Majority vote required.

## **Add funds to Reevaluation Capital Reserve Fund**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$15,000 to add to the Reevaluation Capital Reserve Fund with the funds to come from the Town's unassigned fund balance. The Selectmen recommend this article. (Majority vote required)

## **Tunnel Stream Road paving work**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$35,000 for paving 500 feet of Tunnel Stream Road with the funds to come from the unassigned fund balance. Selectmen recommend this article. (Majority vote required)

## **Town Hall Property Improvements**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$15,000 for Town Hall improvements, including a fence on the side yard, a roof over the side door and lighted sign and notice board, with the funds to come from the unassigned fund balance. Selectmen recommend this article. (Majority vote required)