

Town of Benton
Select Board Meeting
Wednesday, November 20, 2023

Select Board Members: William R. Darcy, Chair; Regina Elliot and Kim Carpenter
Also Present: Dwight Swauger, Treasurer; and Joe Boutin, Jr., road contractor

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 Elliott moved approval of the November 6, 2023 minutes, seconded by Member Carpenter, and approved.

Chairman Darcy noted the tax rate was set at \$8.39 per thousand dollars of property value. It is a significant reduction in tax rate from last year due to the property reevaluation, but it is also would be a tax reduction if the old property valuation was used.

Chairman Darcy noted that he transferred \$150,000 from the NH PDIP account to the Woodsville bank operating account and, with tax revenues likely to soon replenish the operating account, no more was needed.

The Board further discussed a 5-year contract proposal for property assessing services from Avitar Associates, including the costs compared to prior years. The Treasurer noted that the Avitar annual services went from \$4,000 a year to \$6,800. The Board will inquire of the Tax Collector and Town Clerk about the other Avitar services provided to him and the alternatives for property assessing available to the Town.

Treasurer Swauger reported that there was \$57,330.16 in the operating fund at Woodsville Savings Bank Guaranty Trust and \$273,137.17 in the NH PDIP account.

It was noted that the annual Christmas season Memory Tree event would be held at Town Hall on December 13 at 7:00 PM.

Member Elliott presented a map of the location of all town owned properties.

Member Elliott said the Benton Beautification Committee wanted to change the Town Hall curtains to blinds and that they wanted to change their checking account from a town-affiliated account to a private account, requiring the transfer of funds to and from the Town. The Board agreed to those proposals.

The next meeting will be December 4, 2023.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:23 PM.