

**Town of Benton
Select Board Meeting
Monday, November 17, 2025**

Select Board Members: William Darcy, Chair, Regina Elliott, and Philip Chicoine

Also Present: Dwight Swauger, Treasurer and School Board Chair; Mike Stiebitz, Town Clerk and Tax Collector, Joe Boutin, III, Planning Board Chair, and Joe Boutin, Jr., road contractor.

These draft minutes of the Town of Benton Select Board are believed to be 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.

Chairman Darcy called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Member Chicoine moved the approval of the November 3, 2025 minutes, seconded by Chairman Darcy, and approved.

The Chair noted continued progress in organizing the Town's files.

The Chair noted receipt of a contract for Avitar assessing services, with an option for 1 year or 3 years, the latter including the cost of the 5-year reevaluation. The contract and cost comparisons to prior years will be considered at the next meeting.

The Board considered the request of the July 4 Woodsville/Wells River Parade Committee for a donation to the celebration. Given the 250th anniversary of American Independence, the Board agreed to contribute \$250.

Treasurer Swauger reported \$15,343.62 in the Woodsville bank operating account and \$444,909.61 in the NH PDIP account. The Treasurer submitted the checks for the Board's signature.

The Chair stated that he will be moving \$200,000 from the NH PDIP account to the Woodsville Bank (now called the Bar Harbor Bank & Trust)

Tax Collector Stiebitz reported that the tax bills were mailed out on November 15. Mr. Stiebitz reported on a meeting with the Landaff Town Clerk and the Avitar software she used for her Town Clerk duties. He suggested it would be prudent for the Town to purchase such software to make its procedures more routine and easier to replicate by any substitute or successor. He has asked Avitar for the cost of adding that service.

Member Elliott researched cemetery regulations and handed out sample cemetery regulations from other towns for consideration by the Board, acting as cemetery trustees. She proposed that rather than trying to amend the existing regulations, the Board consider starting anew. Chair

Darcy agreed to research any statutory requirements the Board must meet when changing cemetery regulations.

School Board Chair Swauger discussed recent budget information from the SAU, including increases in insurance costs, a new basketball court and other matters.

The Board agreed to modify the December meeting schedule to meet on December 1 and 15.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:24 p.m.