

**Town of Benton  
Select Board Meeting  
Monday, July 8, 2024**

**Select Board Members:** William R. Darcy, Chair; Gina Elliott and Kimberli Carpenter

Also Present: Dwight Swauger, Treasurer and School Board Chair; Michael Stiebitz, Town Clerk and Tax Collector; Joe Boutin, Jr., road contractor; Joseph Boutin III, School Board Member; and Greg Mathieson, State Representative candidate.

*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.*

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Darcy at 6:32 PM.

Member Elliott moved approval of the June 17, 2024, meeting minutes, seconded by Chair Darcy, and approved. It was noted that the School Board chairmanship had passed from J.B. Boutin to Dwight Swauger.

There was a discussion of the Finioia building permit application for a new residence below the current residence on Bradley Hill Road. After the new residence is built the old residence will be abandoned as a residence and be used as an ancillary workshop and storage building. The Planning Board reviewed the permit application and it was determined that the applicants need a driveway permit from the State before the Selectboard can act on the building permit.

The Planning Board also considered Scott and Diana Roden's subdivision application to create a new 3.02-acre lot from their existing 34.3-acre lot on Tunnel Stream Road. Meetings and public hearing dates will be set, and the appropriate notices will be sent to abutting landowners.

Greg Mathieson, a candidate for State Representative gave a short presentation of his views, including lower taxes and addressing the needs of seniors. He stayed for the entire meeting.

Treasurer Swauger reported that the Woodsville Guarantee Savings Bank operating account balance was \$90,098.05 and the NH PDIP account had \$467,576.20. The Board signed checks prepared by the Treasurer.

Chairman Swauger reported that the SAU administration has yet to determine how much it will withdraw from the Education Expendable Trust Fund.

Joe Boutin submitted his bill for three months of road work and the insurance certificate for Blaktop, which will pave Tunnel Stream Road later this year.

Mike Stiebitz reported that he will be picking up replacement road signs for Scott Road and Long Pond Road.

Member Elliott reported that the reconstruction work on cemetery gravestones was underway.

Member Elliott inquired about the status of gun permits and was told the Jim Elliott permit was issued on Saturday and the Nowell and Jeanette Brown permits would be issued when they return from vacation.

Member Elliott inquired about the status of communications with the Post Office on requiring Benton to erect a mailbox, but no action had been yet taken on the matter.

Member Elliott noted someone lost a key at the Dan Finn 100<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration.

Greg Mathieson noted that the State would pay \$3,500 for municipalities to buy a voting machine, but Town Clerk Mike Stiebitz responded that with the number of voters we have the burdens of a voting machine outweigh its benefits.

The next meeting is July 22, 2024, at 6:30 PM.

The meeting adjourned at 7:20 PM.