

**Town of Benton
Select Board Meeting
Monday, December 1, 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; Joe Boutin, Jr., road contractor; and James Barratt, the person who signed a contract to purchase the Steele property on Howe Hill Road.

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 Elliott moved the approval of the November 17, 2025, minutes, seconded by Member Chicoine, and approved.

The Chair noted the transfer of \$200,000 from the NH PDIP account to the Woodsville bank operating account (now called the Bar Harbor Bank & Trust).

The Board considered and discussed 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 Board signed a one-year contract for assessment services.

The Board considered Jason Newton's request for a tax abatement on an end-of-current-use charge and referred the matter to Avitar for evaluation.

The Board signed a contract with Woodsville Ambulance for services in 2026-27.

The Board signed a notice of intent to cut wood or timber submitted by Cliff Boutin for 10 acres of his land on Long Pond Road.

Treasurer Swauger reported \$145,501.19 in the Bar Harbor Bank & Trust operating account and \$246,184.71 in the NH PDIP account. The Treasurer submitted the checks for the Board's signature.

The Memory Tree event will be held on December 17, 2025, at Town Hall.

Member Elliott reported that Linda Gregory had volunteered to plant American Flags on the graves of veterans at Mountain View Cemetery.

There was a discussion of the statutory rules concerning the amendment of cemetery rules, with more research required.

The next meeting is scheduled for December 15, 2025.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:29 p.m.