

**Town of Benton
Select Board Meeting
Monday, December 5, 2022**

Select Board Members: William R. Darcy, Chair; Regina Elliott; Kimberly Carpenter

Also Present: Dwight Swauger, Treasurer; Michael Stiebitz, Town Clerk and Tax Collector; and Joe Boutin, Jr., road contractor and Surveyor of Wood and Lumber

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 6:30 PM.

Member Elliott moved approval of the November 21, 2022 minutes, seconded by Member Carpenter and approved.

The Board approved Scott Roden tax abatement application based on the fact that the building at 172 Tunnel Stream Road he owns had been demolished before April 1, 2022.

The Board signed the DRA property equalization certificate prepared by Avitar.

The 5 year revaluation contract with Avitar was signed by the Board for submission to DRA..

The annual reimbursement for non-taxable property form was signed by the Board.

The Board signed DRA form MS-60W to waive the formal full audit or elected auditor, but have the necessary financial reviews and forms filed by a CPA firm.

Member Elliott reported on her further efforts to get appropriate highway signage from DOT to encourage lower speeds on Route 116 (Coventry Road). She noted that state law prevents any signage on state highways but that we can apply for a “driver feedback device.”

Member Elliott reported on the Meeting of the Benton Beautification Committee whose concerns included transfer of the checking account, the canopy/awning over the side door, and erection of a side yard fence. The Committee wants to contribute some money for cemetery repairs. Member Elliott noted she was trying to arrange a cemetery repair seminar in the Spring with John Lord of the cemetery preservation society. The Memory Tree event will be on December 14th.

Treasurer Swauger reported there were some expenditures exceeding account codes in a few instances but that the budget as a whole was considerably below budgeted expenditures.

Town Clerk Stiebitz requested authorization to purchase the basic Microsoft suite of Word, Excel and PowerPoint, which request was supported by the Treasurer and approved by the Board.

Treasurer Swauger reported the balance in the operating account of \$198,246.09 and the ICS account of \$233,981.31.

The audit of the Town's finances is scheduled for February 13, 2023.

The next Board meeting will be December 19th at 6:30 PM.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:24 PM.