

**Town of Benton  
Select Board Meeting  
Tuesday, February 3, 2026**

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; 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 6:31 PM.

Member Chicoine moved approval of the January 19, 2026, minutes, seconded by Member Elliott, and the motion was approved.

The Chair informed the members of a possible alternative to hiring an attorney to bring injunctions against vehicle junkyards in town. The statutes provide that the Attorney General may seek injunctions.

There was a discussion of how the warrant articles should be funded, given the significant reduction in the school board budget. It was agreed that this year we do not need to use the unassigned fund balance to fund any of the warrant articles, as we could do so without increasing the property tax rate. Consistent with that, and to maintain stability of the property tax rates, it was agreed to add a warrant article to add \$50,000 to the expendable trust fund for town maintenance.

Mr. Swauger, who is organizing the Annual Report, reported that most of the elements of the reports have been submitted and that he was in the editing process. The Chair expressed concern about the ambiguous note on interest earned included in the Report of the Trustees of the Trust Funds. He said he would call Laura Richardson about a possible revision of the note.

The Treasurer reported that there was \$413,795.67 in the Bar Harbor operating account and \$247,772.90 in the NH PDIP account. The Chair reported that he had made a transfer of \$150,000 from the Bar Harbor account into the NH PDIP account, but the transfer is not yet consummated and thus not included in the Treasurer's report.

School Board Chairman Swauger reported that the school board budget hearing will be held on February 12 at 6 PM at Town Hall.

The next Select Board meeting will be on February 16 at 6:30 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m.