

Town of Benton
Select Board Meeting
Monday June 25, 2018

Select Board Members: William R. Darcy, Chair; Regina Elliott, Carol Vincelette

Also Present: Dwight Swauger, Treasurer; Joe Boutin, road contractor; Tim Churchill and Billy Jo Sackett

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 June 18, 2018 meeting minutes, seconded by Member Vincelette and approved.

The Woodsville Ambulance service mailed an invoice and contract for Benton which included the proper population served by that organization and was consistent with our budget, so the Board signed the contract.

Chairman Darcy reported that he had emailed the request for road paving bids to 6 paving contractors. Joe Boutin asked if we wanted to include the paving over of the culvert that would be installed this summer to reduce the excess water flow to Noble Road. The Board agreed that it should be included and Darcy stated he would modify the request for bids to add that project and resend it to the 6 paving contractors.

Chairman Darcy reported on the correspondence received from the federal Court of Claims concerning a certified class action lawsuit against the Department of Interior/US Forest Service for underpayment of payments in lieu of taxes for USFS property for the years 2015-2017. He noted that the Court of Claims had already ruled that the claim was valid and that opting into the lawsuit would enable Benton to receive some money. The notice stated the parties had already agreed to the amount of underpayments for 2015 and 2016. Chairman Darcy moved that the Town of Benton opt in to the pending lawsuit of Kane County v. United States and that he be authorized to sign all the required documents to join the lawsuit, seconded by Member Vincelette and approved.

Tim Churchill and Billie Joe Sackett appeared before the Board and said they had applied for a state driveway permit and requested that they be granted a building permit for a garage/shed in anticipation of the granting of the driveway permit. Chairman Darcy stated with the Board's concurrence that the Board must wait to have the driveway permit in hand before they can act to grant any building permits for the property.

Chairman Darcy noted he had sent the New Hampshire Municipal Association's email to members regarding the September 14 legislative conference to develop NHMA's legislative agenda for next year. There is no fee for the conference and the Board agreed that Chairman Darcy should attend. Member Vincelette noted that she wanted to attend some of the NHMA educational conferences and Chairman Darcy endorsed that, noting he found the two NHMA educational conferences he attended very helpful.

Chairman Darcy passed out copies of Steve Allen's email giving an update on the reevaluation process and requesting copies of property transfer deeds.

Chairman Darcy noted receipt of a notice of subsurface disposal system application for the Cruz property and Joe Boutin said the septic permit for that property has been granted and the driveway permit was pending.

Chairman Darcy noted his email report on the Black Mountain Trail that noted the area had been cleaned up of old culverts and new water bars had been installed on the trail.

Joe Boutin reported on a conversation with the state game warden regarding people concerned about the condition of Oliverian Road which cut off access to Oliverian Pond. The Board reiterated that they would not be contributing to the cost of repair lest it set a precedent for the assumption of maintenance of other private roads.

Member Vincelette noted one of the landowners on Long Pond Road was maintaining his property in a manner causing destructive runoff onto the lower part of Long Pond Road. She agreed to draft a letter to that landowner requesting abatement of that public nuisance.

The Treasurer reported that the operating account had \$49,224.20 and the ICS account \$250,264.38.

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 PM.