

Town of Benton
Select Board Meeting of January 8, 2018

Select Board Members: William R. Darcy, Chair; Regina Elliott and Paula Boutin

Also Present: Dwight Swauger, Treasurer and Joe Boutin, road contractor.

**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.*

Chairman Darcy called the meeting to order at 6:42 PM.

Chairman Darcy moved approval of the December 18, 2017 meeting minutes, seconded by Member Elliott and approved.

Jeff Elliott, Jr. submitted a Notice of Intent to Cut Timber on his father's land on Bradley Hill Road which was approved by the Board.

Chairman Darcy reported that the auditors had submitted extensive information requests and questionnaires. As a result, a meeting was held last week with the Treasurer, Town Clerk/Tax Collector and Chairman of the Trustees of Trust Accounts to assign responsibility for the responses to the auditor's requests. The Board signed an Engagement Letter consistent with the Auditors proposal. The auditors will do their field work at Town Hall on January 29-31.

Chairman Darcy reported on the latest development in seeking FEMA reimbursement for some of the Town's costs of the July storm; FEMA is requiring the Town to secure a permit from the Army Corps of Engineers for the Davis Brook Bridge repair. Since over \$30,000 is at stake Chairman Darcy said we had no choice but to comply with the demand to secure a permit, which will take a considerable effort.

Treasurer Swauger reported the balance in our operating checking account of \$111,843.42 and \$400,129.54 in the Insured Cash Sweep Account. Bill payment checks were presented for the Board's signatures. The Treasurer received authorization from the Board to submit W-2 and 1099 forms to the IRS.

Member Elliott reported that Cemetery Trustee Andrea Elliott still could not be reached about the cemetery tree clearing proposal. The Board discussed putting both the Cemetery Trustees

and Sexton duties under the direct responsibility of the Board so that the Town could be assured of responsive upkeep of Town property.

Chairman Darcy stated that while we hoped to adopt changes to the Zoning Regulations and Master Plan to comply with State statutes and to do other necessary updating of the 1970s and 1980s documents, it appears that such a task cannot be completed in time for the upcoming Annual Meeting.

The Board was reminded that it would hold a meeting on January 18 at 6:30 devoted to developing a budget for the 2018 fiscal year.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 PM.