

**Town of Benton**  
**Select Board Meeting**  
**Monday November 8, 2021**

**Select Board Members:** William R. Darcy, Chair; Regina Elliott (via telephone); Kimberli Carpenter

Also Present: Dwight Swauger, Treasurer; Mike Stiebitz, Town Clerk and Tax Collector; Joe Boutin III, School Board Chair, and Joe Boutin, Jr., 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.*

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Darcy at 6:31 PM.

Member Elliott moved approval of the October 25, 2021 minutes, seconded by Member Carpenter and approved.

The Board approved the 2021 tax rate of \$17.26 per thousand dollars of property value. Tax Collector Mike Stiebitz will be sending out new tax bills promptly.

Mike Stiebitz reported on the successful recovery of data from our damaged computer hard drive so that tax bills can be sent out.

The Board approved purchase of a new computer, monitor, double hard drive USB backup with web cloud access and an uninterruptible power supply for cybersecurity, community internet access and other purposes appropriate for funding by the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021(ARPA). The Treasurer was directed to charge the costs of the equipment and services to the ARPA grant funds received by the Town.

The Board approved the signing of a two-year assessing services contract with Avitar. It will require an increase in the annual funding of the assessment reserve fund.

Member Elliott explained her health official visit to a local home and the resulting report. The purchase of additional educational materials to help with the duties of the health official was authorized by the Board.

Treasurer Swauger reported the operating account balance of \$117,548.45 and the ICS account balance of \$233,631.64. The Board signed checks prepared by the Treasurer. The Treasurer was requested to prepare a check for the Haverhill fire department services for the next meeting.

The Board discussed the request to place a tiny house on the Thurston property on Long Pond Road and referred the matter to the Planning Board.

Joe Boutin Jr. presented a bill for services and notices of intent to cut timber which were signed by the Board for Indigo and Basin contracts in White Mountain National Forest, off of Tunnel Stream Road and Long Pond Road (North and South Road), both requests by Kennebec Lumber and signed by Conor Callahan.

Mike Stiebitz reported on the receipt of a replacement sash for the broken Town Hall window which he will be installing.

The next meeting is scheduled for November 22 2021.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 PM.