

Town of Benton
Select Board Meeting
Monday September 24, 2018

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

Also Present: Dwight Swauger, Treasurer; Joe Boutin, road contractor; Ben Hight.

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 6:32 PM

State Representative candidate Ben Hight from Warren who recently won the Republican primary appeared before the Board and presented his governing policies and principles. Members asked questions, gave their opinions and then thanked Mr. Hight for taking the time to meet with them.

Member Elliott moved approval of the September 10, 2018 meeting minutes, seconded by Member Vincelette and approved.

Chairman Darcy reported that he had received two more checks from FEMA for the 2017 storms, totaling \$22,934, and that FEMA also approved \$1,146 in administrative costs for the October storm. We are still awaiting receipt of payment for the FEMA obligated/funded July storm repairs to roads in the amount of 22,405. When all funds are received Benton will have received a total of \$79,869 in FEMA cost reimbursement grants. The Members agreed that those funds should be devoted to road projects, with most of it being transferred to the Roads and Bridges Expendable Trust Fund or the Roads Trust Fund at the next Town Meeting.

Chairman Darcy reported that one of the deadlines for submitting mitigation grants had expired, but we did not have the information required to submit the grant application for the culvert near Davis Brook. Another mitigation grant deadline is next February, and the engineering and environmental permit data will be necessary to file the application. We thus need to contract with an engineering firm to do the site plan and file the environmental permit applications. Horizon Engineering has proposed a contract for \$9,800 to do that work but Chairman Darcy found some of the language in the proposed Agreement unacceptable. He moved that the Board authorize him to sign a contract with Horizon Engineering under contract terms at least as favorable to the Town as that proposed by that firm on September 6, 2018. In the discussion which followed the motion Chairman Darcy explained that some of the standard conditions in the contract were too one sided, including the provision giving the firm exclusive ownership of their work product, which he will seek to modify. After further discussion Member Vincelette seconded the motion and it was approved.

Treasurer Swauger reported an operating account balance of \$116,930.39 and an ICS balance of \$250,327.43. Members reviewed data on unpaid taxes for the last 3 years, which was about at normal levels.

Chairman Darcy noted that the Mountain View Cemetery and Town Hall lawn maintenance RFP had been published in two newspapers last Thursday. One inquiry has been received so far. The Members agreed to a new cemetery clean up and repair date of Saturday, October 13.

Road contractor Joe Boutin reported that he had picked up road salt from Haverhill at a favorable rate compared to that offered by Morton Salt. He described proposed work to a portion of Page Road requested by Haverhill. The work would take about a day and cost no more than \$2,000. There are reciprocal agreements with Haverhill regarding road work in that part of Town. The Board approved the proposed work.

Member Elliott proposed blocking off the portion of Tunnel Stream Road we don't maintain during the winter to mitigate liability risks. It was noted that the sign warning that the road was not maintained by the Town in the winter was missing. Joe Boutin was requested to ask the Town Clerk to purchase the sign and install it before the winter snows. As to blocking off Tunnel Stream Road, Joe Boutin proposed using piles of gravel at entrance points to deter winter access, to which the Board agreed.

The meeting adjourned at 7:42 PM.