

**Town of Benton
Select Board Meeting
Monday, August 19, 2024**

Select Board Members: William R. Darcy, Chair; Gina Elliott and Kimberli Carpenter

Also Present: Dwight Swauger, Treasurer and School Board Chair; Michael Stiebitz, Town Clerk and Tax Collector; Joe Boutin, Jr., road contractor; and Gil and Laura Richardson.

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 6:33 PM.

Member Elliott moved approval of the August 19, 2024, meeting minutes, seconded by Member Carpenter, and approved.

The Board signed a number of building permits recommended by the Planning Board, including for the Richardsons on Learned Farm Road; for Gary Curtis on Howe Hill Road; for Chris Simkins on Tunnel Stream Road; and Joseph and Brenda Finoia on Bradley Hill Road. The Chair also noted that the Planning Board will notice a subdivision application for the Hutchins property on Tunnel Stream Road, with the actual subdivision occurring in Landalf, with the access road being in Benton.

The Chair noted the concern of the Planning Board and Select Board that the Curtis construction was inappropriately commenced before the permit for construction was granted and this should be noted in the conveyance of the approved permit. There was discussion of modification of the building permit form to prominently note that construction may not commence before the permit is granted.

There was a discussion of the preparations for the Primary Election to be conducted on the following day.

Treasurer Swauger reported the account at Woodsville Guaranty Bank had \$186,808.96, and the NH PDIP account had \$471,816.53. The Board signed checks prepared by the Treasurer.

The Board signed a tax warrant for a current use reversion penalty for the Cliff Boutin property on Long Pond Road.

Tax collector Stiebitz noted that there are only two delinquent taxpayers for the last two tax years, an excellent record for any municipality.

School Board Chair Swauger reported SAU23 middle school Principal had issued a notice on Title 9 compliance addressing transgender and gender identity matters that may be controversial.

Chair Darcy noted that a Town Hall mailbox was installed across the street from the Town Hall by Marty Noble, Mike Stiebitz, and Bill Darcy.

There was a discussion of private burial plots. Laura Richardson explained the requirements for private cemeteries under state statutes and noted there was no provision for such cemeteries in the Benton zoning regulations. She concluded that in Benton, only a resolution of the Selectboard noted in the minutes is necessary. Chair Darcy moved a resolution that the Richardsons on their property at Learned Farm Road in Benton may construct a private human cemetery in accordance with the requirements of Chapter 289 of New Hampshire statutes. The motion was seconded by Member Elliott and approved.

The meeting adjourned at 7:14 PM.