

**Town of Benton
Select Board Meeting
Monday, September 22, 2025**

Select Board Members: William Darcy, Chair; Gina Elliott, and Philip Chicoine

Also Present: Dwight Swauger, Treasurer and School Board Chair; Joe Boutin, Jr., road contractor; Laura Richardson; and Steve Whitman and Lee Webster of the White Mountain Conservation Burial.

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 6:30 PM.

Member Chicoine moved approval of the draft September 8, 2025, meeting minutes, seconded by Member Elliott, and approved.

Laura Richardson presented a proposal for the White Mountain Conservation Burial at Oliverian Everlasting Burial Ground to be located at the end of Boucher Road on property owned by her and Gil Richardson. The non-profit White Mountain Conservation Burial, to whom the property will be sold, will operate the burial grounds and attendant facilities. A variety of questions were asked about the unique nature of the proposed burial ground. Future structures include a pavilion, a toilet enclosure, and a maintenance shed, for which building permits will be sought in the future. While the property may now be used by the Richardson family, the general public would not have access to the facility until after the property is transferred to White Mountain Conservation Burial. When that happens, another update will be provided to the Select Board.

The Board was informed that the second prospective bidder for the ADA-compliant entrance ramp and door assembly for the Town Hall did not wish to bid due to the uncertain nature of the location and condition of the underground utilities (water, sewer, and electric). Because the only bid significantly exceeded the warrant article authorizing expenditure on the project, it was decided to bring the matter to the next Town Meeting for consideration in a new warrant article. A separate project was considered to identify, protect, and mark the location of the water, sewer, and electric lines before rebidding the ADA ramp and door project.

Treasurer Swauger reported \$227,879.80 in the Woodsville Savings Bank operating account and \$441,774.94 in the NH PDIP account. The Treasurer submitted checks for the Board to sign.

The meetings for the next three months will be held on the following dates:

October 6 & 20; November 3 & 17; and December 8 & 22.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:32 p.m.