

**Town of Benton
Select Board Meeting
Monday, September 21, 2026**

Select Board Members: William Darcy, Chair, Regina Elliott, and Phillip Chicoine

Also Present: Dwight Swauger, Treasurer and School Board Chair; Michael Stiebitz, Tax Collector and Town Clerk; Joe Boutin, III, Chair of the Planning Board and School Board member; and Joe Boutin, Jr., road contractor.

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 24, 2026 minutes, seconded by Member Chicoine and approved unanimously.

Member Chicoine moved the approval of the September 8, 2026 minutes, seconded by Member Elliott and approved. Chair Darcy abstained as he was not at the meeting.

The Board signed the DRA MS-1 report on assessed property values for the Town.

The Board signed a current use warrant for the Roden property on Tunnel Stream Road.

The great work of the Glencliff Home staff was noted on rebuilding the High Street cemetery bridge and vegetative management of the cemetery. The Board authorized the Chair to write a letter of thanks to the Glencliff manager, Todd Bickford.

The Board signed an extension of the road maintenance contract with Joe Boutin, with a modification for higher diesel costs for the 10 wheel truck.

The Town Hall ramp concrete work is completed, and the utility work under the concrete was noted by Mike Stiebitz and JB Boutin. The Board authorized the expenditure for granite posts. An estimate of paving expenses for the parking lot was received for \$17,338. No action was taken on that estimate until the entire costs of the warrant article project is known.

Treasurer Swauger noted that the operating account at Bar Harbor Bank had a balance of \$197,556.83 and the NH PDIP balance was \$406,267.90. Checks prepared by the Treasurer were signed by the Board.

Board of Education Chair Swauger discussed preliminary budget numbers for 2027, the impact of HB 1300 and the concerns of the new Superintendent that a vote on HB 1300 would harm the administration. A lawsuit against the new law has been unsuccessful.

The Board established the following dates for meetings at 6:30 PM on the following dates:

October 12 and 26

November 9 and 23

December 14 and 28

The meeting adjourned at 7:31 PM.