

**Town of Benton
Select Board Meeting
Monday, October 20, 2025**

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

Also Present: Dwight Swauger, Treasurer and School Board Chair; Mike Stiebitz, Town Clerk and Tax Collector, 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 6:30 PM.

Member Chicoine moved the approval of October 6, 2025 minutes, seconded by Member Elliott, and approved.

Member Elliott moved the appointment of Nowell Brown and Joseph Finoia to the Planning Board, seconded by Member Chicoine, and approved.

The Chair opened a discussion of the tax rate, outlining the process with DRA , and seeking approval to add funds from the unassigned fund balance to reduce the tax rate to around \$8.5 per thousand dollars of property value. The Board agreed.

Treasurer Swauger reported \$139,538.69 in the Woodsville Savings Bank operating account and \$443,332.61 in the NH PDIP account. The Treasurer submitted the checks for the Board's signature.

School Board Chair Swauger discussed proposing a Board of Education warrant article that would capture all potential surpluses in the reserve account, the Education Expendable Trust Fund.

There was a discussion of the need to update the town's zoning regulations and subdivision regulations.

Next meeting will be November 17, 2025 at 6:30 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.