

**Town of Benton**  
**Select Board Meeting**  
**Monday February 4, 2019**

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

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

*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 6:34 PM

Member Elliott moved approval of the January 21, 2019 meeting minutes, seconded by Member Vincelette and approved.

The Board discussed and approved the proposed budget expenditures and estimated revenues for 2019. The Board agreed to an expenditure operating budget of \$126,450 and estimated revenues of \$616,256, to cover the Town's operating budget as well as the Board of Education budget and State and County taxes. The proposed budget is attached to these minutes. The approved budget will be presented at the hearing on February 6.

The Board discussed proposed warrant articles. It agreed to include a warrant article to spend \$30,000 from the Roads Capital Reserve Fund to pave 500 feet of Tunnel Stream Road. The Board agreed to create a Capital Maintenance and Repair Expendable Trust Fund and add \$78,000 in FEMA funds (from the unassigned fund balance) to the fund. It also agreed to add \$3,000 to the property Revaluation Trust Fund. Zoning amendments approved by the Planning Board after public hearing will also be included as a warrant article.

Chairman Darcy presented a proposed addition to the Annual Report submitted by the Benton Beautification Committee. The Board agreed to include it in the Report with minor editorial changes.

Chairman Darcy presented a copy of the school board's proposed budget for 2019-20 which was provided by the School Board Chairman Joseph Boutin III. It has an outrageous 72% budget and tax increase. The largest cause of the increase is the school administration's poor estimate of the unreserved surplus funds from the previous year (\$148,262) which resulted in a much larger tax reduction than estimated by the administration (reduced from \$17.85 to \$11.57), requiring that revenue to be made up with a tax increase this year. Special education and tuition increases make up the remainder of the budget increase. The Board agreed that something has to be done to reduce the school budget and tax increases.

Treasurer Swauger reported that the operating account balance is \$277,291.75 and the ICS account balance is \$220,408.19.

The DRA did an inspection spot check on one of the property appraisals by Steve Allen and found an error in an unreported small shed (16' x 8').

Chairman Darcy presented correspondence from the North Country Council listing their accomplishments for the year which should help us determine which of their services we can utilize. He also noted we would be purchasing a zoning laws book from the Council.

The meeting adjourned at 7:31 PM.

## 2019 Proposed Appropriations

Account	Charge Point	Budget	From Warrant Articles 2018	Spent	Balance	Proposed 2019
4130	Executive - Staff Salaries	\$10,000.00		\$8,976.29	\$1,023.71	\$10,000.00
4140	Election Expenses	\$2,000.00		\$1,823.00	\$177.00	\$250.00
4150	Financial Administration	\$8,000.00		\$7,790.00	\$210.00	\$8,000.00
4152	Revaluation of Property (W-8)	\$10,500.00	\$3,000.00	\$13,462.28	\$37.72	\$6,300.00
4153	Legal Expenses	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$250.00
4155	Personnel Admin	\$1,600.00		\$1,530.00	\$70.00	\$1,600.00
4193	Planning & Zoning	\$250.00		\$0.00	\$250.00	\$250.00
4194	Gov't Buildings	\$6,400.00		\$6,519.12	-\$119.12	\$6,000.00
4195	Cemeteries	\$1,500.00		\$73.87	\$1,426.13	\$4,000.00
4196	Insurance	\$1,300.00		\$1,300.00	\$0.00	\$1,100.00
4197	Ads & Regional Assoc	\$2,700.00		\$1,934.88	\$765.12	\$2,500.00
4199	Avitar (software)	\$2,200.00		\$2,067.00	\$133.00	\$2,400.00
4210	Police	\$2,300.00		\$1,500.00	\$800.00	\$1,500.00
4215	Ambulance	\$5,500.00		\$5,011.00	\$489.00	\$5,200.00
4220	Fire (W-7)	\$6,000.00	\$4,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$0.00	\$10,000.00
4299	Other Public Safety	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
4312	Highways & Streets	\$63,000.00		\$46,264.17	\$16,735.83	\$63,000.00
4313	Bridges	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$250.00
4316	Street Lighting	\$300.00		\$273.82	\$26.18	\$300.00
4319	Other Streets	\$250.00		\$0.00	\$250.00	\$0.00
4414	Animal Control	\$250.00		\$0.00	\$250.00	\$250.00
4441	Admin. & Dir. Assist (W-9)	\$0.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$0.00	\$1,500.00
4442	Direct Assistance	\$500.00		\$0.00	\$500.00	\$0.00
4445	Vendor Payments &	\$1,300.00		\$1,286.82	\$13.18	\$0.00
Transfer to warrant article		\$1,700.00				\$0.00
	TOTALS	\$127,550.00	\$8,500.00	\$113,012.25	\$23,037.75	\$0.00
Warrant Article 4	Tunnel Stream Rd	\$18,200.00	\$0.00	\$17,689.65	\$510.35	\$0.00





## 2019 Estimated Revenues

Source	Estimated 2018	Received 2018	Estimated 2019
Property Taxes (3110)	\$444,000.00	\$414,999.97	\$444,000.00
Timber Taxes (3185)	\$5,000.00	\$17,137.88	\$5,000.00
Payment in Lieu of Taxes (3186)	\$62,897.00	\$64,210.00	\$64,210.00
Excavation Tax(3187)	\$0.00	\$27.86	\$0.00
Other Taxes and Fees (3189)	\$0.00	\$50.00	\$0.00
Vital Records Searches (3189)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Int./ Penalties/ Taxes (3190)	\$2,000.00	\$6,024.43	\$3,000.00
Tax Lien Dep from Collector (3191)	\$0.00	\$13,378.03	\$0.00
Motor Vehicle Permit Fees (3220)	\$50,000.00	\$64,530.50	\$55,000.00
Building Permits (3230)	\$330.00	\$440.00	\$330.00
Pistol Permits (3290)	\$100.00	\$10.00	\$20.00
Dog Licenses (3291)	\$400.00	\$379.50	\$400.00
Rental of Town Hall (3292)	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00
Shared Revenues (3311)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Meals and Rooms Tax Dist. (3352)	\$19,278.00	\$19,266.31	\$19,266.31
Highway Block Grant (3353)	\$12,900.00	\$15,306.54	\$15,306.54
Other State Grants (3359)	\$0.00	\$395.00	\$0.00
Sale of Municipal Property (3501)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Interest on Investment (3502)	\$190.00	\$48.55	\$50.00
Ins Dividends & Reimb. (3506)	\$0.00	\$78,724.47	\$0.00
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$597,195.00</b>	<b>\$695,029.04</b>	<b>\$606,682.85</b>