

**Town of Benton**  
**Select Board Meeting**  
**Monday February 8, 2021**

**Select Board Members:** William R. Darcy, Chair; Regina Elliott, Kimberli Carpenter

Also Present: Dwight Swauger, Treasurer; Joe Boutin, Jr., 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 6:30 PM.

Member Elliott moved approval of the January 18, 2021 minutes, seconded by Member Carpenter and approved.

The Board discussed what was needed to postpone the town meeting, specifically posting a notice on the website, posting it at Town Hall and Coventry Garage, and including it in the Annual Report.

The Board discussed the warrant article petition for the Town to take a position in the political debate over a reapportionment of election districts. The Board discussed that this is a partisan issue in New Hampshire and in other states with positions largely determined by which party is currently in control of the legislative and executive branches when reapportionment has to be determined. The Town taking a position in opposition to what the current Governor and legislature have staked out a position on has risks. The status quo is favorable to Benton because as a very small town we have two representatives in the House. The Board voted not to recommend the petition to voters.

Treasurer Swauger reported the operating account had \$360,834.28 and the ICS account \$233,457,06. The Board signed checks prepared by the Treasurer.

The Board discussed the need for the Selectmen's Report to be added to the Annual Report and Chairman Darcy promised a draft for our next meeting. The Board discussed a picture for the front cover and the Board agreed it should be a picture of Long Pond.

The Board discussed a replacement for our retired property value assessor.

February 22, 2021 is the next scheduled meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:18 PM.