

Town of Benton
Select Board Meeting
Monday October 22, 2018

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

Also Present: Dwight Swauger, Treasurer

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 6:31 PM

Member Elliott moved approval of the October 8, 2018 meeting minutes, seconded by Member Vincelette and approved.

Chairman Darcy reported the last meeting was held with FEMA and New Hampshire Emergency Management personnel to wrap up the 2017 storm funding. We still have a small check due for administrative expenses on the October storm.

The Chairman and Emergency Management Director Scott Matz held a meeting at Glencliff Home with its Administrator and Business and Facilities managers on Emergency Planning. Glencliff shared its written emergency plan and agreed to serve as a backup shelter for Benton residents as well as allowing the Town to store emergency supplies. The New Hampshire Emergency Management personnel have reviewed our draft Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan for the second time with fewer suggested changes.

Mountain View Cemetery was discussed and the recommendation to remove some of the small apple trees and the old cemetery granite border posts. There was no objection to removing the small trees and there was consensus to move the granite posts to replace the second row of wood posts in the new area of the cemetery and remove the first row of wooden posts nearest the parking area.

Treasurer Dwight Swauger reported that our operating account had \$62,203 and the ICS account \$250,348.

The Board discussed the NH Department of Revenues Services (DRA) proposed 2018 tax rate, which lowers the rate from \$17.83 to \$15.80 primarily as a result of a local education tax reduction from \$15.80 to \$11.57. Chairman Darcy moved that the Board set the tax rate for 2018 at \$15.80 with the proviso that the Board recommend to the Town at the March Town Meeting a substantial addition to the Schools Trust Fund to help mitigate future tax increases caused by increases in the school budget. Member Vincelette seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

The Board considered and approved a building permit from William and Nancy Darcy for a car port addition to their garage, a couple of wood sheds and a mud room.

The Board discussed the need for a snow plow turnaround on Long Pond Road which requires the assent of the Forest Service, which has so far not been quick to action on the matter.

In other business, there will be a public hearing on the use of FEMA funds at our next meeting. The North Country Commissioner selections for the Town have to be first nominated by the Planning Board, which will take the matter up at their next meeting. The Board reviewed the correspondence concerning the Wolsky properties on Bradley Hill Road and concluded the matter was for the Town Clerk or Planning Board to decide. The Town Hall floor runners will be ordered soon after the appropriate measurements are taken after the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 7:18 PM.