

**Town of Benton**  
**Select Board Meeting**  
**Monday July 12, 2021**

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

Also Present: Dwight Swauger, Treasurer; Joe Boutin, Jr., road contractor; Harry Burgess, surveyor; and April Boutin.

*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 June 21, 2021 minutes, seconded by Member Carpenter and approved.

Chairman Darcy reported that the Planning Board had recommended approval of the McMahon house construction at 203 Coventry Road (Map 1, Lot 17-3), consistent with the prior contingent approval by the Selectboard. He also noted the correspondence related to Beth Crossman's inquiries regarding subdivision of the land she owns on Coventry Road (Route 116).

Harry Burgess presented survey plans for Mountain View Cemetery plots. The Board agreed with the plan and asked him to place markers on the four corners of the ten (10) separate cemetery plot areas.

April Boutin appeared and made inquiries of building permit requirements for sheds.

The Board received from road contractor Joe Boutin the bid from Ammonoosuc Asphalt on the Howe Hill Road paving project authorized by the Town Meeting. The bid was higher than that of Blaktop previously received. Member Elliott moved and Member Carpenter seconded the motion to select Blaktop to pave the first section of Howe Hill Road, and the motion was approved. Mr. Boutin also provided a current insurance certificate for Blaktop.

Chairman Darcy noted that the Board noticed a Special Town Meeting to join the Northern Grafton Communications District planning committee, but that legislation passed this month has changed the requirement for Town Meeting approval of joining the communications district. Now only the Selectboard needs to vote to join.

Chairman Darcy reported that he made arrangements for direct deposit of our ARPA federal grant money, the acceptance of which is the subject of a public hearing on July 26.

Treasurer Swauger noted that the Grafton County dispatch bill had increased by \$250 a year.

Treasurer Swauger reported the operating account balance of \$180,323.36 and the ICS account balance of \$233,572.77. Chairman Darcy noted the Town received its annual allocation of \$68,000 from the Interior Department as a payment in lieu of taxes for the White Mountain National Forest land, which was not

included in the numbers the Treasurer provided for the operating account balance. The Board signed checks prepared by the Treasurer.

The Board authorized the signing of a contract with Avitar recommended by the Town Clerk and Tax Collector for the production of new tax maps.

The Board signed the MS-232 report of appropriations authorized by the Town Meeting.

The Board discussed the road contract.

The Board discussed the return of office hours for the Town Clerk and Tax Collector given the end of the pandemic emergency declaration.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:57 PM.