

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

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

Also Present: Dwight Swauger, Treasurer and School Board Chair; 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 6:32 PM.

Member Elliott moved approval of the January 6, 2024 meeting minutes, seconded by Chair Darcy, and approved.

The Board discussed the warrant articles and after discussion, agreed on \$55,000 for paving a portion of Tunnel Stream Road, \$30,000 for Town Hall improvements, primarily a new handicap ramp and door assembly, and \$20,000 for Cemetery improvements. All those warrant articles will be funded through the Town's unassigned fund balance, and the Town Hall and Cemetery improvements will be two year non-lapsing funding.

The Board also made changes to the proposed operating budget expenditures and estimated revenues. The net result is the municipal budget subsidizing the property tax rate by about \$58,000, which translates into about \$1 per \$1,000 of property valuation. The Chair will make those revisions and have the budgets available at the budget hearing on January 29.

Treasurer Swauger reported \$250,749.99 in the operating account and \$429,159.91 in the NH PDIP account. The Treasurer submitted checks for payment.

Board of Education Chairman Swauger noted that the Board of Education was not placing a newspaper publication of the joint budget hearing but that he had posted the notices in the appropriate locations consistent with statutory requirements.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 pm.