

**Town of Benton
Select Board Meeting
Monday, February 16, 2026**

Select Board Members: William Darcy, Chair, and Philip Chicoine

Also Present: Dwight Swauger, Treasurer and School Board Chair; Mike Stiebitz, Town Clerk and Tax Collector; and Joe Boutin, III, Planning Board Chair and School Board member.

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 6:30 PM.

Member Chicoine moved approval of the February 3, 2026, minutes, seconded by Chairman Darcy, and the motion was approved.

There was a discussion of the Annual Report with Dwight Swauger informing the Board that Sherwin Dodge was ready to accept it for printing.

The Chairman discussed the elements of the budget results included in the Annual Report and the posted budget that may be questioned, and the need to have answers to those questions.

The warrant and the budget form, MS-636, must be posted at the Town Hall and one other location by next Monday. The Chair will file the needed information on the DRA portal and secure DRA's approval, and the Selectboard members will then need to sign it. A signing of the documents at Town Hall next Monday was suggested.

Treasurer Swauger noted the operating account at Bar Harbor bank had \$254,890.35 and the NH PDIP balance was \$397,772.90.

School Board Chair Swauger reported that the school warrant had been certified and posted.

The Town Clerk noted an upcoming meeting with Avitar technical support to enable him to implement the new software purchased for the Town Clerk's business.

The meeting adjourned at 6:55 PM.