

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

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

Also Present: Dwight Swauger, Treasurer and School Board Chair; Mike Stiebitz, Town Clerk and Tax Collector; and Joe Boutin, Jr., Road Contractor, and resident Peter Thompson.

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 Elliott swore in William Darcy with his oath of office for his new three-year term as Selectman.

Member Elliott moved approval of the March 4, 2026, minutes, seconded by Chairman Darcy, and the motion was approved.

Member Chicoine moved that William Darcy be the Selectboard Chair, seconded by member Elliott and approved.

Member Elliott moved that William Darcy be the representative of the Selectmen on the Planning Board, seconded by Member Chicoine, and approved.

Peter Thompson presented the Board with an RSA 76:16 Tax Abatement application for excess taxes paid on a garage at 14 Thompson Road for three tax years. His two-story garage on a separate lot from his residence had been assessed as a three-bedroom residence valued at \$260,800, even though it had no water or septic system and was not configured for residential use. He gave no reason other than oversight for not filing his tax appeal earlier than March 2026. He noted that he had not stated any improvements on his property on the annual property inventory form. He was informed that the Board would study the situation and inform him of the decision. He left the meeting.

The Chairman discussed follow-up from the March meeting, specifically the Department of Revenue Administration (DRA) forms that needed to be filed. Also discussed was the election education for the new Moderator, Ally Noble.

Treasurer Swauger noted the operating account at Bar Harbor Bank had \$259,476.42, and the NH PDIP balance was \$398,847.82. Checks prepared by the Treasurer were signed by the Board.

The Board signed the delegation of deposit authority for the Tax Collector and Town Clerk Michael Stiebitz to deposit money in our Bar Harbor Bank account on behalf of the Treasurer.

The Board signed the Health Officer certification for Member Elliott, who is the Town's Health Officer.

The Board discussed Peter Thompson's tax abatement application and granted him relief for the most recent tax year, 2025. It was believed that going back in time further than one year was inconsistent with the tax abatement statute and would set a bad precedent.

The Board agreed to the following schedule for the next three months:

April 6 and 20

May 4 and 18

June 8 and 22

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM.