

Town of Benton
Select Board Meeting
Monday November 26, 2018

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

Also Present: Dwight Swauger, Treasurer; and Joe Boutin, road contractor

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 Vincelette moved approval of the November 12, 2018 meeting minutes, seconded by Member Elliott and approved.

Chairman Darcy noted the receipt of Primex insurance renewal notices for 2019 which increased the total bill by \$86 as a result of the Tunnel Stream Road bridge over Davis Brook no longer being on the DOT Red List. Primex email correspondence informed us that changes to the Town's payroll by eliminating the Sexton position won't affect insurance premiums until 2020.

Treasurer Swauger noted that the operating account, after paying all bills today, will have only \$2,030.72, but tax receipts are still coming in. The ICS account has \$220,369.24.

The Board discussed the few budget accounts that were over expended and accounts that were in surplus for the purpose of making budget transfers. The Warrant Article 4 (Tunnel Stream Road paving and engineering studies on the culvert near Davis Brook) was overspent for a variety of reasons, including numerous large rocks in the area to be prepared for paving and engineering costs on the culvert which exceeded preliminary estimates. The Government Buildings account was overspent because of a large bill to repair the generator and the refinishing of the Town Hall floor. Member Elliott asked about what limitations the Board had to modify the budget approved by the Town Meeting. Chairman Darcy stated he researched the matter and there is no limitation on budget transfers between line items in the budget if the total budget approved at the Town Meeting is not exceeded and no money is transferred out of Warrant Article accounts. Chairman Darcy moved that the Board make the following budget transfers:

\$1,000 from Financial Administration (4150) into Warrant Article 4 (Tunnel Stream Rd)

\$700 from Insurance (4196) into Warrant Article 4 (Tunnel Stream Rd)

\$1,400 from Cemeteries (4195) into Government Buildings (4194)

\$100 from Cemeteries (4195) into Vendor Payments & Other (4445)

Member Vincelette seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Chairman Darcy noted that the Board had agreed to retain the services of the accounting firm of Plodzick and Sanderson to do a financial review and complete the MS-535 financial report to the State DRA but perform less than a full audit. The DRA informed us that does not meet the annual audit requirements unless the Board submits a waiver request. The accounting firm also agreed to complete the MS-60 audit report that would otherwise be submitted by the elected auditor (Bob Steel in past years). The Board signed a MS-60W audit waiver request which noted that the outside accounting firm's review of the Town's finances will be more comprehensive than performed by an elected auditor.

Chairman Darcy noted receipt of a form from the New Hampshire Electric Cooperative informing us that they would no longer pay for traffic control measures when repairing outdoor lighting and asking if the Town would require such traffic details and pay for them. The Board agreed that the Town would not require a traffic detail when such work is being done.

Chairman Darcy noted he renewed our membership in the federal grant System for Award Management (SAM) which the Town originally had to sign up for to contract with the USFS for the Tunnel Brook Road reconstruction after the October 2017 storm.

Chairman Darcy reported that he talked today with Scott Lees the USFS engineer in charge of the Long Pond Road reconstruction and our request for a snow plow turnaround area at the beginning of USFS property on the north end of Long Pond Road. Due to weather the Long Pond Road reconstruction has be deferred until next spring. The snow plow turnaround area is still going through a review by USFS surveyors, biologists and forest specialists who must report their findings to the District Ranger.

Member Elliott inquired about the location of the Town's Automated External Defibrillator (AED). Nobody was sure of its location or condition.

Joe Boutin presented a Notice of Intent to Cut Wood or Timber from Catamount Forest Products for cutting various tracts on USFS property located off Tunnel Brook Road, which was signed by the Board.

The meeting adjourned at 7:27 PM.