

**Town of Benton**  
**Select Board Meeting**  
**Monday December 10, 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 6:31 PM

Member Elliott moved approval of the November 26, 2018 meeting minutes, seconded by Member Vincelette and approved.

The law firm litigating on our behalf and that of many other governments against USFS for underpayments of payments in lieu of taxes gave a status report which included a court judgment against USFS for the 2015 and 2016 underpayments. Benton is shown as being owed \$2,335, but that is before attorneys' fees which will probably take away one third of the total.

Chairman Darcy reported that the engineers working on the Tunnel Stream Road culvert project submitted a preliminary design with two options. They were asked to provide in their next report the cost of those options and the reaction of the Department of Environmental Services.

The Planning Board nominated Martin Noble to be a North Country Council Commissioner. Chairman Darcy moved that the Board approve Martin Noble as a North Country Commissioner, seconded by Member Vincelette and approved.

Treasurer Swauger noted that the operating account, after paying all bills today, will have \$163,212.69 and the ICS account has \$220,389.48.

After the March 2018 Town Meeting we alerted the USFS to the Town taking over the Northern end of Long Pond Road and the need for a snowplow turnaround area as well as a modification of our master cooperative road agreement. In April we notified them that we were ready for an inspection of the turnaround area. The USFS didn't get around to the on-site inspection until early October, which commenced an engineering, forest impact, biological and historical review process. We were recently notified that they could not complete their review during this snow season because their historical/architectural reviewer could not see the ground because of the early snows.

After public notice, the Board signed the Notice of Intent to Cut Timber in the Benton State Forest submitted by Allard Lumber Company.

The Board set the meeting schedule for the following three months:

January 7 and 21, February 4 and 18 and March 4 and 18.

The contract assessor, Steve Allen, submitted a binder documenting his work on the five year property revaluation. He also informed the board he would henceforth be billing quarterly rather than monthly.

In other business it was noted that the Beautify Benton Memory Tree ceremony would be held on December 19<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM in the Town Hall; that the Bath Board of Adjustment was holding a hearing on a cell tower proposed for 172 Goose Lane on December 18<sup>th</sup> at 8 PM; that we received the 2019 Education Tax Warrant in the amount of \$56,310, a small reduction; and the State DRA approved our audit waiver application.

The meeting adjourned at 7:12 PM.