

Town of Benton
Select Board Meeting
Monday June 24, 2019

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

Also Present: Dwight Swauger, Treasurer; Joe Boutin, Jr., road contractor and Surveyor of Wood and Lumber

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 June 10, 2019 meeting minutes, seconded by Member Elliott and approved.

Referencing the septic permit received from the Department of Environmental Services (DES) for Map 1, Lot 5, the Board noted errors in the lot number (actually lot 17-5) and ownership of the lot and decided to send a letter to the relevant parties to correct the errors prior to submitting a building permit application.

The Board signed the contract with Woodsville Ambulance, which was consistent with the budget numbers.

Chairman Darcy noted receipt of the School Board agenda package from the Chairman and his subsequent email and conversation with the Chairman which noted errors in the minutes of the previous meeting. The Selectboard members' attendance was not noted and the refusal of the Superintendent to provide information requested by the Selectboard was also not included in the minutes. He also noted that the financial report inexplicably stated the \$50,000 Town Meeting authorized transfer from budget surplus to the Expendable Trust Fund had been "over expended." Member Vincelette attended the meeting and noted the lengthy discussion of data governance and security and their difficulties in producing accurate meeting minutes.

The Treasurer reported a checking account balance of \$256,375.74 and an ICS balance of \$232,971.72. The large increase in the account balance was due to receipt of the Department of Interior's payment in lieu of taxes for USFS forest land, the amount of which was a bit more than budgeted.

The Town received notice from DES of an application from USFS for reconstruction of the Long Pond Dam and approval of work on three bridges for the Long Pond Road reconstruction.

The NH Department of Revenue Administration (DRA) sent the town two letters reviewing the Town's performance on the 5 year property reevaluation, and both were positive. DRA requested and the Town complied with the filing of a useless form (MS-60A) confirming what DRA already knew about our most recent audit.

Chairman Darcy noted a meeting scheduled this coming Friday, June 28, with the NH Emergency Management on the latest draft of the Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Chairman Darcy discussed the Free State Project and their annual conference in Lancaster, NH.

Road contractor Boutin noted his most recent and planned work.

The Town Clerk informed the Board that the Fire Warden, Sam Boutin, did not want to be reappointed and noted alternatives available to the Board in appointments and online access to fire permits.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 PM.