

Town of Benton
Select Board Meeting
Monday January 21, 2019

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

Also Present: Dwight Swauger, Treasurer

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 Elliott moved approval of the January 7, 2019 meeting minutes, seconded by Member Vincelette and approved.

The Board discussed the proposed budget expenditures and estimated revenues. The Board tentatively agreed to an expenditure operating budget of \$127,550 and estimated revenues of \$616,256, to cover the Town's operating budget as well as the Board of Education budget and State and County taxes. The individual line items and expenditure total would be revisited at the next meeting.

The Board discussed proposed warrant articles and agreed to include a paving project for Tunnel Stream Road, to be paid from the Roads Capital Reserve Fund; to create a Capital Maintenance and Repair Expendable Trust Fund from the existing Roads and Bridges Expendable Trust Fund and add \$78,000 in FEMA funds (from the unassigned fund balance) to the fund; to add \$3,000 to the property Revaluation Trust Fund; and zoning amendments proposed by the Planning Board.

As to the Annual Report, Chairman Darcy suggested that the Report be dedicated to John Elliott in recognition of his long years of service to the Town, which was agreed to by all Board members. The Report would be prepared jointly by the Treasurer and Chairman. The Chairman will prepare a draft Selectmen's Report for review by the Board, which will be coordinated with the Town Clerk's report.

Treasurer Swauger reported that the operating account balance is \$253,723.62 and the ICS account balance is \$220,408.19.

The Town received notice that the Twin State Mutual Aid Fire Association was eliminating Associate Membership, which includes Benton and Lyman. The Board agreed that given the \$2,000 annual charge and the very infrequent need for mutual aid (only once in the last decade), that it would likely be a net savings to Benton. The Haverhill Fire Departments we are under contract with would still be able to call on other departments for assistance, but those

departments would bill the Town instead of the cost being covered by the Twin State “insurance policy.” A hearing is scheduled for February 27th on the proposal, but it appears Twin State members have already made up their mind.

The meeting adjourned at 7:10 PM.