

Town of Benton
Select Board Meeting of October 16, 2017

Select Board Members: William R. Darcy, Chair; Regina Elliott and Paula Boutin

Also Present: Dwight Swauger, Treasurer; Joseph Boutin, Jr., road contractor; Richard Saffo (concrete contract); Billie Jo Sackett and Tim Churchill (building permit)

**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.*

Chairman Darcy called the meeting to order at 6:34 PM.

Member Elliott moved approval of the October 2, 2017 meeting minutes, seconded by Member Boutin and approved.

Chairman Darcy reported on the “scoping” meeting with FEMA representatives to document the July 1-2 storm damage to Benton roads and bridges and the costs of repair those damage, which has amounted to approximately \$75,000. The meeting was positive, including grant funding for the bridge repairs. Although the Davis Brook Bridge on Tunnel Stream Road has been on the state Red List since 2013, the state had not put any tonnage limit on the bridge and there was no significant deterioration of its condition until the July storm. The fact that the Town had no plans to fix the bridge prior to the July 1-2 damage and that the damage was different and much more severe than before and threatened its structural integrity, makes it eligible for 75% federal funding of the repairs. FEMA was given extensive documentation at the meeting and they appeared pleased by the extent of our documentation and progress in making repairs.

Chairman Darcy reported that the last repairs on the storm damage was completed last week, which included repairs on upper Howe Hill Road, Bowles Road and the Town Hall parking lot. With the completion of the foundation repairs to the Davis Brook Bridge the State DOT has been requested to inspect the bridge so that it could be taken off the State’s Red List and thus become eligible for Primex insurance coverage.

Treasurer Swauger reported \$101, 682.35 in the operating account and \$265.044.29 in the ICS account.

Chairman Darcy stated that to pay for the \$75,000 in storm damage until the FEMA funds are received the Town needs to make budget transfers and request the State Department of Revenue

Administration (DRA) permission to spend/appropriate money that was not appropriated at the March Town Meeting. The first step is to make various budget transfers to cover internal cost overruns and transfer money from under expended accounts to the highways and streets accounts. Chairman Darcy moved that the Board approve the following budget transfers:

A. Transfers to cover internal budget over-expenditures

Transfers from:	Elections (4140)	\$1,925
	Legal (4153)	\$1,750
	Other Public Safety (4299)	<u>\$2,300</u>
		\$5,975
Transfers to:	Insurance (4196)	\$1,343
	Ambulance (4215)	\$671
	Fire (4220)	<u>\$3,961</u>
		\$5,975

B. Transfers to Pay for July 1-2 Storm Damage Expenses

Transfers from:	Financial Administration (4150)	\$7,000
	Cemeteries (4195)	\$1,000
	Other Streets (4319)	<u>\$2,000</u>
		\$10,000
Transfer to:	Highways & Streets (4315)	\$10,000

Member Elliott seconded the motion and the budget transfers were approved.

Chairman Darcy stated the second step to cover the storm damage costs was to request DRA approval to appropriate and spend \$45,000 on bridges, which is the actual amount of the Davis Brook Bridge repair, to be taken from our unassigned fund balance. The total of \$75,000 in storm damage would come from the \$45,000 from the fund balance, \$10,000 in budget transfers from other accounts, \$12,000 in supplemental state highway grant funds and \$8,000 from the highway and streets budget that will not otherwise be spent by the end of the year. Chairman Darcy moved that the Board authorize the Chairman and Treasurer to request State DRA emergency authorization to appropriate and spend \$45,000 on bridges. The motion was seconded by Member Elliott and approved.

Richard Saffo appeared before the Board to request a partial payment on the bridge repairs his company made to Davis Brook Bridge. He was informed that the Town first had to get DRA approval to spend unbudgeted funds for that purpose.

The Board approved building permits for Billie Jo Sackett and Tim Churchill to erect a two bedroom residence at 116 Coventry Road and Jeremy and John Elliott to erect a large metal shed at 142 Coventry Road.

Chairman Darcy reported receipt of a request by Woodsville Ambulance to meet with the Board to explain their proposal to increase the Town's annual charges. The Board agreed to invite them to attend, to be preceded by a letter notifying them that they have been overcharging us because 107 of our residents at Glencliff Home are served by Warren Ambulance.

Chairman Darcy noted receipt of funding requests from non-profits which he is accumulating for consideration at budget time; the Granite State Power Link has notified abutting property owners on Benton Flats of their proposal to construct additional transmission capacity on their rights of way; and the DES has notified the Town and USFS that the dam on Long Pond has had its safety rating downgraded.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 PM.