

Town of Benton
Select Board Meeting
Monday August 31, 2020

Select Board Members: William R. Darcy, Chair; Regina Elliott, Kimberli Carpenter

Also Present: Dwight Swauger, Treasurer; Joe Boutin, road contractor; Gil Richardson, Moderator

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 August 17, 2020 minutes, seconded by Member Carpenter and approved.

Town Moderator Gil Richardson made a presentation on how we would be conducting the primary election with new procedures and equipment for addressing concerns about the COVID virus.

Board members reviewed and approved the building permit for Laura and Gil Richardson's summer kitchen and utility modifications.

There still were no significant COVID infections in the Benton area; the nearest cases are Littleton, Conway, Sandwich and Lyme.

Board members signed the MS-535 form for uploading to the DRA web portal. The MS-1 filing is being delayed by the contract assessor Steve Allen because the state has not yet approved numbers for utility property.

As to the broadband initiative, NHEC was awarded \$6.7 million in state grants to extend broadband to some of the unserved residents of the towns of Colebrook, Stewartstown, Clarksville and Lempster, provided the work meets the tough schedule of being completed by December 15, 2020.

Treasurer Swauger reported the operating account had \$123,017.35 and the ICS account \$383,331.25. The Board signed checks prepared by the Treasurer. The Treasurer presented revised estimated revenues, a MS-434 form which the Chairman said he would check against the budgeted amounts.

There was a discussion about replacing the old cemetery fence and the need to move ahead with signage at the cemetery and town hall.

Joe Boutin reported the paving work on Tunnel Stream Road was complete.

The next meeting will be September 14 at 6:30 PM and the Board agreed on the following schedule for the next 3 months: September 28, October 12 and 26 and November 9 and 23.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 PM.