

Town of Benton
Select Board Meeting
Monday July 6, 2020

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

Also Present: Dwight Swauger, Treasurer; 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 6:32 PM.

Member Elliott moved approval of the June 22, 2020 minutes, seconded by Chairman Darcy and approved.

Last meeting the Board reported that Selectboard Member Carol Vincelette had submitted her resignation from the Board. The Board expressed appreciation for her dedicated service and wished her well.

Chairman Darcy moved that the Board select Kimberli Carpenter to fill the vacancy in the Selectboard until the next Town Meeting, seconded by Member Elliott and approved.

There was nothing new concerning the Coronavirus (COVID-19; there are still very few infections in our area, with none currently in Benton, Haverhill, Warren, Woodstock, Piermont, Easton, Landaff, Bath or Littleton.

The broadband initiative at New Hampshire Electric Cooperative gained further momentum as the Board of Directors voted to create a new organization to spearhead broadband efforts and fund it with \$1 million. They also submitted a grant application to get some of the NH CARES funds dedicated to broadband.

Chairman Darcy reported that the cemetery wall repair contract had been signed and the start date was about July 20.

The U.S. Interior Department sent a letter notifying us that they have deposited \$67,057 in our accounts for payments in lieu of taxes for Forest Service land in Benton.

Treasurer Swauger reported the operating account had \$134,224.02 and the ICS account \$383,298.83. The Board signed checks prepared by the Treasurer.

The Chairman reported correspondence including: The NH Department of Environmental Services has granted a septic permit for the McMahon property; Consolidated Communications has reported their property taxes; the Town of Holderness is holding a cell tower hearing; and the Grafton County Sheriff sent a bill for dispatch services.

Joe Boutin reported he has sought bids for the paving work on Tunnel Stream Road and is about to commence work on preparing the road for paving, including replacing 3 culverts. Another culvert on Tunnel Stream Road will also be replaced.

The next meeting will be July 20 at 6:30 PM.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:24 PM.