

**Town of Benton**  
**Select Board Meeting of February 19, 2018**

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

Also Present: Dwight Swauger, Treasurer; Joe Boutin, road contractor; Carol Vincelette and Clifford Boutin.

*\*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 public meeting on the budget to order at 6:30 PM. He presented those in attendance with copies of the proposed Appropriations and Estimated Revenues for 2018 along with the Warrant Articles, which are appended to the end of these minutes. He noted that the supplemental hearing was called because the Board added \$500 to the Cemetery and Government Buildings accounts to address capital improvement needs of those Town properties and a petitioned Warrant Article was received for the maintenance of the lower part of Long Pond Road which had a fiscal impact. The audience had no questions.

The public hearing was adjourned and the regular Selectmen's meeting commenced at 6:36 PM.

Chairman Darcy moved approval of the February 5, 2018 meeting minutes, seconded by Member Boutin and approved.

The Board approved the amended 2018 budget.

Chairman Darcy stated we had successfully navigated the Department of Revenue Administration's approval process through their Municipal Portal, with some language changes, which were included in the revised Warrant Articles submitted to the public hearing. The Board approved the Warrant Articles as so amended.

The Board reviewed and approved the Selectmen's Report for the Annual Report. Member Elliott wanted to be sure that in the process of reducing the records in the Selectmen's area of Town Hall to make way for filing cabinets that we don't eliminate any of Benton's history. Chairman Darcy stated no Benton-specific items would be removed from Town Hall and at least one copy of each of the school books would be retained.

Treasurer Swauger reported the operating account had \$73,265.95 and the ICS account \$400,163.96. There were no bills to pay.

There were a number of developments to report on our efforts to obtain FEMA funding for recent disasters and get mitigation funding in the future:

- The Chairman submitted a proposed Army Corps of Engineers Permit Application to FEMA along with objections to the Town being required to file a permit.
- The description of the extent of the July 2017 storm damages was approved in the FEMA portal.
- A Notice of Intent to file an application for a mitigation grant for the Tunnel Stream culvert upsizing near Davis Brook was submitted.
- The Chairman met with Scott Matz to review the latest revisions to the Hazard Mitigation Plan and prepare for the meeting on the Wildfire Management Plan component of the Plan.
- A meeting with the Forest Service and other participants is planned for this Wednesday, February 20<sup>th</sup>, on the Wildfire Management Plan.

The Town received a Wetlands Permit Application from the Glencliff Home for the addition of a water well and piping to the Home which will disturb wetlands and the Appalachian Trail. The Chairman will set up a meeting with Glencliff Home administrators to discuss the matter and our emergency operations and mitigation plans.

The Board received a request from the NH DOT for a joint meeting with the Haverhill Board of Selectmen to hear a presentation on the State plan to repair bridges on Rte. 25. The Board tentatively agreed to suggest March 5 at Haverhill if it could be made the first item on the Haverhill Board agenda.

The Board signed a supplemental Notice of Intent to harvest wood on the Stiebitz property submitted by Joe Boutin which added some trees to be cut.

The meeting adjourned at 7:22 PM.

**2018 TOWN WARRANT**

**TOWN OF BENTON**

**MARCH 13, 2018**

To the inhabitants of the Town of Benton qualified to vote in Town Affairs:

You are hereby notified to meet at the Benton Community Building (Town Hall) in said Benton on the second Tuesday of March next, the 13<sup>th</sup>, at seven o'clock in the evening.

When the town meeting opens, qualified voters will be asked to vote and act upon the following subjects:

ARTICLE 1 To choose persons for the following positions and terms of office:

<u>Position</u>	<u>Term</u>	<u>Expires</u>
Selectman	3 years	2021
Treasurer	1 year	2019
Town Clerk	1 year	2019
Tax Collector	1 year	2019
Moderator	2 years	2010
Supervisor of the Checklist	3 years	2021
Ballot Clerk	1 year	2019
Ballot Inspector	1 year	2019
Surveyor of Wood and Lumber	1 year	2019
Planning Board Member	3 years	2021
Planning Board Member	2 years	2020
Trustee of the Trust Funds	3 years	2021
Cemetery Trustee	3 years	2021

ARTICLE 2 To see if the Town will vote to accept the reports of the officers and agents as printed.

ARTICLE 3 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$127,550 for General Municipal Operations. This article does not include appropriations contained in special or individual articles addressed separately. The Selectmen recommend this article. (Majority vote required)

ARTICLE 4 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$16,500 for road projects on Tunnel Stream road, including environmental permitting to increase the diameter of the culvert on Tunnel Stream Road just South of the Davis Brook Bridge and to repair and pave 170 feet of Tunnel Stream Road near Route 116. Selectmen recommend this article. (Majority vote required)

ARTICLE 5 Shall we delegate the duties and responsibilities of the cemetery trustees to the board of selectmen? Selectmen recommend this article. (Majority vote required)

ARTICLE 6 To see if the Town will vote to approve the contract with the Town of Haverhill for fire services through 2021. Selectmen recommend this article. (Majority vote required)

ARTICLE 7 To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$4,000 for fire contract expenses and authorize the withdrawal of \$4,000 from the Fire Expendable Trust Fund created for that purpose. Selectmen recommend this article. (Majority vote required)

ARTICLE 8 To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$3,000 to pay part of the costs of the 2018 property revaluation and authorize the withdrawal of \$3,000 from the Revaluation Trust Fund created for that purpose. The Selectmen recommend this article. (Majority vote required)

ARTICLE 9 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the following sums for charitable and welfare purposes:

Tri-County Cap (fuel and electricity assistance)	\$500
White Mountain Mental Health	\$300
Good Shepard Ecumenical Food Pantry	\$250

Ammonoosuc Health Services	\$250
Grafton County Senior Citizens Council	\$200

Selectmen recommend this article. (Majority vote required).

ARTICLE 10 To see if the town will vote to establish a Roads and Bridges Expendable Trust Fund per RSA 31:19-a, for the purpose of paying for unanticipated road and bridge expenses and to raise and appropriate \$15,000 to put in the fund, with this amount to come from unassigned fund balance; further to name the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend from said fund. Selectmen recommend this article. (Majority vote required)

ARTICLE 11 To see if the Town will vote to change the five member Board of Adjustment from elected positions to positions appointed by the Board of Selectmen. Selectmen recommend this article. (Majority vote required)

ARTICLE 12 To see if the Town will vote to declare the portion of Long Pond Road (formerly known as “North South Road”) from NH RT 116 (Coventry Road) up to the last residential driveway or the White Mountain National Forest (WMNF) gate, at the Town’s discretion, no more than 4/10 of a mile, a Class V highway and immediately commence performing all the normal road maintenance functions of a Town road. Petitioned warrant article. (Majority vote required)

**Budget Analysis - 2018 Appropriations and Expenditures**

Account	Charge Point	Budget	Spent	Balance	Proposed 2018
4130	Executive - Staff Salaries & Expenses	\$11,500.00	\$10,662.78	\$837.22	\$10,000.00
4140	Election Expenses	\$75.00	\$75.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00
4150	Financial Administration	\$2,100.00	\$1,504.09	\$595.91	\$9,000.00
4152	Revaluation of Property	\$5,800.00	\$5,312.60	\$487.40	\$10,500.00
4153	Legal Expenses	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
4155	Personnel Admin	\$1,600.00	\$1,530.00	\$70.00	\$1,600.00
4193	Planning & Zoning	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$100.00	\$250.00
4194	Gov't Buildings	\$3,500.00	\$2,915.04	\$584.96	\$5,000.00
4195	Cemeteries	\$300	\$0.00	\$300.00	\$3,000.00
4196	Insurance	\$3,343.00	\$3,343.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00
4197	Ads & Regional Assoc.	\$2,700.00	\$2,556.67	\$143.33	\$2,700.00
4199	<b>Avitar</b> (software maintenance)	\$2,200.00	\$46.25	\$2,153.75	\$2,200.00
4210	Police	\$3,200.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,700.00	\$2,300.00
4215	Ambulance	\$6,171.00	\$6,171.00	\$0.00	\$5,500.00
4220	Fire	\$8,961.00	\$8,000.00	\$961.00	\$6,000.00
4299	Other Public Safety	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
4312	Highways & Streets	\$85,851.15	\$59,178.56	\$26,672.59	\$63,000.00
4313	Bridges	\$45,000.00	\$44,512.00	\$488.00	\$0.00
4316	Street Lighting	\$500.00	\$266.28	\$233.72	\$300.00
4319	Other Streets	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$250.00
4414	Animal Control	\$1,000.00	\$175.49	\$824.51	\$250.00
4441	Admin. & Dir. Assist.	\$2,000.00	\$1,300.00	\$700.00	\$0.00
4442	Direct Assistance	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$500.00
4445	Vendor Payments & Other	\$1,200.00	\$1,134.42	\$65.58	\$1,200.00
4723	Interest on Tax Note	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$0.00
	<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$188,351.15</b>	<b>\$150,433.18</b>	<b>\$37,917.97</b>	<b>\$127,550.00</b>
ART 4	Howe Hill Paving	\$30,000.00	\$29,800.54	\$199.46	\$0.00
ART 5	Town Hall Painting	\$5,000.00	\$3,900.00	\$1,100.00	\$0.00
ART 7	Fire Expendable Trust Fund	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00

**Budget Analysis - Estimated Revenues-2018**

<b>Source</b>	<b>Estimated 2017</b>	<b>Received 2017</b>	<b>Estimated 2018</b>
<b>Property Taxes (3110)</b>	<b>\$444,759.00</b>	<b>\$ 638,608.03</b>	<b>\$444,000.00</b>
<b>Timber Taxes (3185)</b>	<b>\$5,000.00</b>	<b>\$17,412.74</b>	<b>\$5,000.00</b>
<b>Payment in Lieu of Taxes (3186)</b>	<b>\$59,000.00</b>	<b>\$62,897.00</b>	<b>\$62,897.00</b>
<b>Other Taxes and Fees (3189)</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$82.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Vital Records Searches (3189)</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$433.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Int. and Penalties on Delinq. Taxes (3190)</b>	<b>\$2,000.00</b>	<b>\$5,370.64</b>	<b>\$2,000.00</b>
<b>Tax Lien Dep from Collector (3191)</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$13,148.22</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Motor Vehicle Permit Fees (3220)</b>	<b>\$50,000.00</b>	<b>\$60,110.00</b>	<b>\$50,000.00</b>
<b>Building Permits (3230)</b>	<b>\$330.00</b>	<b>\$385.00</b>	<b>\$330.00</b>
<b>Pistol Permits (3290)</b>	<b>\$100.00</b>	<b>\$20.00</b>	<b>\$100.00</b>
<b>Dog Licenses (3291)</b>	<b>\$400.00</b>	<b>\$401.00</b>	<b>\$400.00</b>
<b>Rental of Town Hall (3292)</b>	<b>\$100.00</b>	<b>\$100.00</b>	<b>\$100.00</b>
<b>Shared Revenues (3311)</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Meals and Rooms Tax Dist. (3352)</b>	<b>\$16,500.00</b>	<b>\$19,278.68</b>	<b>\$19,278.00</b>
<b>Highway Block Grant (3353)</b>	<b>\$12,900.00</b>	<b>\$27,922.67</b>	<b>\$12,900.00</b>
<b>Other State Grants (3359)</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Sale of Municipal Property (3501)</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$3,357.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Interest on Investment (3502)</b>	<b>\$190.00</b>	<b>\$361.81</b>	<b>\$190.00</b>
<b>Ins Dividends &amp; Reimbursements (3506)</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$616.80</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$591,279.00</b>	<b>\$850,504.59</b>	<b>\$597,195.00</b>