

Town of Benton
Select Board Meeting of September 11, 2017

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

Also Present: Dwight Swauger, Treasurer; Joseph Boutin, Jr., Road Agent; Scott Matz, Emergency Management Director and Mike Toher (on supplemental highway funds).

**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 noticed public meeting on the supplemental state highway grant was called to order by Chairman Darcy at 6:30 PM. Mike Toher appeared and wanted the grant funds expended on Long Pond Road. Chairman Darcy stated the Town could not use the money on Long Pond Road because it is not a Town road unless and until the Town Meeting votes to make it a Town road. The cooperative agreement with the U.S. Forest service is also in progress for joint maintenance of the road. No one else appeared to speak at the public hearing and the hearing was closed at 6:35 PM at which time the regular Select Board meeting commenced.

Chairman Darcy moved acceptance of the August 28, 2017 meeting minutes, seconded by Member Elliott and passed.

Chairman Darcy stated he, Emergency Management Director Scott Matz and Road Agent Joe Boutin met with New Hampshire Emergency Management representative Paul Hatch the previous Wednesday to start the FEMA application process.

The Board was presented with a copy of the Benton Emergency Operations Plan, which was completed in 2014 but never signed. Chairman Darcy stated he and Scott Matz had updated the Plan for 2017 with minor editing. Among the editing they did was redating the Plan, reformatting various sections, eliminating references to Departments which didn't exist in Benton and adding the risk that actually occurred in Benton, a severe thunderstorm causing flooding. Chairman Darcy moved approval of the Plan to be signified by the Board's signatures on the Plan. The Board members signed the Plan, including the National Incident Management System (NIMS) certification.

There was a discussion of the needed emergency repairs to Davis Brook Bridge which had been seriously undermined by the July 1 flooding. Previous to the July 1 storm there was minor damage to the bridge which the State of New Hampshire did not believe required the Town to

post a weight limit on the road, but after the storm the foundation of the bridge had been washed away to a depth and length that made its continued integrity highly questionable. Chairman Darcy noted a bid of \$40,000 by Saffo Concrete Forms to fix the bridge and the need for excavation work by our Road Agent prior to and after the concrete work. Member Elliott did not think we should go over our road repair budget so significantly without a Town Meeting. Concern was expressed about the delays that would ensue to the bridge repairs but Chairman Darcy agreed to look into what was required to notice such a meeting and get back to the Board with a date for a Town Meeting.

Treasurer Swauger reported a checking account balance of \$93,883.70 and an ICS balance of \$330,016.27.

Chairman Darcy noted that this week he stained the Town Hall entrance ramp, mowed the lawn, cleared foliage behind the Town Hall and around the generator and called the electric company to remove tree branches that were resting on the electrical line on Town Hall property.

Chairman Darcy reported that he had secured pistol permit forms from the Haverhill Police Department and that the State Police were sending over more forms.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 PM.