

Town of Benton
Select Board Meeting
Monday January 4, 2021

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

Also Present: Dwight Swauger, Treasurer.

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 December 21, 2020 minutes, seconded by Member Carpenter and approved.

The Board discussed the 2021 budget and the scheduling of the joint budget hearing with the Board of Education. The Board decided to offer the School Board January 25 or 27 for the joint hearing dates. Treasurer Swauger presented spreadsheets with the expenditures for 2018, 2019 and 2020 for the Board to use in developing the 2021 budget.

The Board discussed proposed warrant articles for 2021. Since the virus pandemic prevented the accomplishment of a number of warrant article authorized tasks in 2020 they would have to be resubmitted as warrant articles this year. Expenditures for Town Hall improvements and tax maps will have to be reauthorized in warrant articles. A major accomplishment and expense of 2020 was the rebuilding of the granite cemetery wall, but more needs to be appropriated for Mountain View Cemetery improvements. The Board estimated an additional \$15,000 would be needed for a gravesite survey, signage and gravestone repairs.

Treasurer Swauger reported the operating account had \$346,292.78 and the ICS account \$233,436.77. The Board signed checks prepared by the Treasurer.

The Board was made aware of another new cell tower proposed in an area town, this one in Littleton covering the area around Moore Reservoir.

January 18, 2021 is the next scheduled meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:11 PM.