

Town of Benton
Select Board Meeting of January 22, 2018

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

Also Present: Dwight Swauger, Treasurer and 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.*

Chairman Darcy called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Chairman Darcy moved approval of the January 8, 2018 meeting minutes, seconded by Member Elliott and approved.

There was an extensive discussion of the budget resulting in tentative approval of the budget appended to the end of these minutes. This budget will be presented at the annual budget hearing on January 24.

The proposed budget does not include funding for the Administration and Direct Assistance from the previous budget because the Board decided to include the proposed charitable and welfare expenditures as a Warrant Article. After reviewing written requests, the Board decided to propose to the Town Meeting the following Warrant Article expenditures:

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

The Board also reviewed other possible warrant articles, including transferring \$3,000 from the reevaluation trust fund to the general fund; transferring \$4,000 from the fire trust fund to the general fund and making it clear the fire trust fund is an expendable fund; creating an expendable roads trust fund; adding to the education expendable trust fund; changing the unfilled membership of the Board of Adjustment (zoning variances) from elected to appointed positions; and transferring the functions of the Sexton and Cemetery Trustees to the Board of Selectmen. The filing of a petitioned Warrant Article for the maintenance of Long Pond Road is also expected. The filing deadline for all petitioned Warrant Articles is February 6.

Road contractor Joe Boutin gave the Board estimates of proposed capital projects for 2018: 1) significantly upsizing the Tunnel Stream Road culvert just South of Davis Brook with a 6 foot diameter culvert of 10 gauge steel for an approximate cost of \$17,850 and 2) repair and repaving of 170 feet of Tunnel Stream Road, the bumpy part near Rte. 116, for an approximate cost of \$13,586. The Board deferred decisions on this matter, including the wording of the Warrant Articles and funding of the projects.

Chairman Darcy noted he had sent to the auditors via Google Drive the documents responsive to the auditor's information requests that were prepared by him, the Treasurer, Town Clerk, Tax Collector and Chairman of the Trustees of Trust Accounts. Copies of the Google Drive link were sent to the Board and the officials named above.

Treasurer Swauger reported that there was \$56,454.08 in the Operating account and \$400,130.54 in the Insured Cash Sweep account. More tax revenues are expected.

Chairman Darcy noted that President Trump officially declared the late October storm a national disaster on January 3 and as a result he was meeting with the NH Emergency Management regional coordinator tomorrow to start the application for FEMA funding of our repair costs.

The meeting adjourned at 7:25 PM.

2017 Reconciliation Summary-Proposed Budget 2018					
Account	Charge Point	Budget	Spent	Balance	Proposed 2018
4130	Executive - Staff Salaries	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 Admin.	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	4,500.00
4195	Cemeteries	300.00	0.00	300.00	2,500.00
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	Avitar SW	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	Pest 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 Pymts & 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
Totals		188,351.15	150,433.18	37,917.97	126,550.00