

Town of Benton
Select Board Meeting
Monday August 13, 2018

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

Also Present: Dwight Swauger, Treasurer; Joe Boutin, road contractor; and James and Margaret Elliott (lot line adjustment and missing cemetery deed)

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 July 23, 2018 meeting minutes, seconded by Member Vincelette and approved.

Chairman Darcy noted the road paving contract was signed with the proviso requested by Member Elliott for completion of the work before winter. The work was expeditiously completed last week to the satisfaction of our road contractor Joe Boutin.

Chairman Darcy stated the Planning Board had approved a lot line adjustment application form and fee schedule which was made contingent upon approval by the Board of Selectmen. Copies were handed out and reviewed by the Board. Chairman Darcy moved approval, seconded by Member Vincelette and approved.

James and Margaret Elliott appeared before the Board, with Jim asking about the lot line adjustment process. He was told the Board had just approved the application form and fee schedule and was given a copy. He was also informed that the Planning Board would be meeting next week to determine the appropriate schedule consistent with state law requirements. Margaret Elliott noted a problem with finding documentation for a cemetery plot that had been purchased in Mountain View Cemetery. She was referred to the Town Clerk who has all those records with the understanding that if he could not solve the problem that the Board may then get involved.

Chairman Darcy handed out an email received from the New Hampshire Fish and Game Conservation Office Greg Jellison wanting to know if the Town “would be agreeable to allow me to move forward with trying to find some help to fix [Oliverian] road for fisherman to access the pond...” The Board agreed that if no expenditures were incurred by the Town there was no problem with others fixing the road.

Chairman Darcy noted a number of bills were enacted by the legislature that affect Benton. One requires meeting minutes to list the name of those making motions and seconding motions. Another requires that before timber tax notices of intent are approved that the matter be publicly noticed, which will require a change of procedures by Joe Boutin before presenting such notices for signature by the Board. The legislature also changed laws regarding financing of internet broadband projects, which is needed in Benton because of the slow internet speeds available to most residents.

The Treasurer reported that the operating account had \$88,238.08 and the ICS account \$250,306.18. He also reported that we were well within our overall budget on expenditures and revenues were above budgeted levels.

Chairman Darcy noted email communications with the USFS which informed him that the Long Pond Road contractor was currently assessing equipment needs and expected the work to be completed quickly once commenced. Member Elliott noted an active Facebook dialog about the status of Long Pond Road.

The Chairman noted that tax assessment notices have been sent to residents and that Members should have received an Election Law update binder from the Secretary of State.

Member Vincelette noted the need for carpet runners on the Town Hall floor before the winter season.

Joe Boutin submitted bills for work on the culvert near the beginning of Tunnel Stream Road to mitigate runoff onto Noble Road, and work on another portion of Tunnel Stream Road. He also noted his conversation with Jeff Elliott, Jr. about trimming the road vegetation. Elliott offered to do the job for \$75 per hour with an estimate of 1-2 days of work. Boutin discussed rental alternatives as well. The Board agreed that we should accept Jeff Elliott offer for this season and see how it works out.

The meeting adjourned at 7:10 PM.