



Town of Benton

Monday, November 13, 2017, 6:00 PM

Benton Town Office

1. Roll call: Selectman Melissa Patterson, Selectman Robin Cyr, & Selectman Doug Dixon present.
2. Secretary's Report: Ms. Cyr would like to check the notation listing her as a planning board member on October's minutes under section 5. Ms. Cyr motioned to accept the minutes as written, with the exception of checking the notation. Mrs. Patterson seconded, all voted in favor. *(The minutes will stay as written. The minutes reflected: "Robin Cyr, a Planning Board member, and Scott Cyrway, will be called upon for future depositions". Referring to three individuals, not Ms. Cyr as a planning board member).*
3. Road Commissioner's Report: Mr. Littlefield has multiple updates:
 - The Gower Rd. snowplow turn-around needs to be repaired / prepped for the upcoming season.
 - Mr. Littlefield cut trees down at the fire pond on the Pines Rd. so the Fairfield Fire Department has easier access.
 - There is a cross-culvert on the East Benton Rd. that needs to be replaced. Mr. Littlefield is hoping to get this completed this fall, if not it will be completed in the spring.
 - Mr. Littlefield has roughly \$1,100 left in his paving budget, and approximately \$14,000 left in his overall budget.
 - Mr. Dixon asked Mr. Littlefield if he has enough money left to complete the work on the Gower Rd. turn-around. Mr. Littlefield has enough to complete this project.
4. New Business.
 - Street Light at 136 Falls Road: Truman Williams from 136 Falls Rd. would like the street light turned off. Mr. Williams feels it lights up his whole area, and it feels like he's living next to a gas station. Mr. Littlefield will go look at the street light tonight and will give an update tomorrow.
 - Repairs to Transfer Station Retaining Wall: Mr. Dixon spoke of the block wall that was repaired at the Clinton Transfer Station. Mr. Dixon is not sure if the amount due from the Town of Benton is \$7,000 or \$3,500. Mrs. Patterson will contact Pam at the Town of Clinton tomorrow and find out. The Town of Benton is responsible to pay half of all repairs at the Clinton Transfer Station.
 - Strategic Plan Overview: Ms. Cyr along with other residents from the Town of Benton have been meeting to discuss a Strategic Plan for the town. Ms. Cyr gave an update from the meetings.

-General Government Article from Warrant: Ms. Cyr is proposing to the Budget Committee that nine articles from the town warrants be combined as other municipalities do around us. This format will make it more transparent and easier for residents to understand.

5. Old Business: None
6. Assessing Abatements & Supplements.: None
7. Other Business and Correspondence: Robin Patterson provided packets to the Selectmen consisting of pictures showing damage at Benton cemeteries. Ms. Patterson has pictures of broken stones, tire tracks, grass clippings on stones, and a bag of broken flags. Ms. Patterson feels that the Town of Benton should recover costs from Grass Eaters (Bruce Salisbury) for the damage and not invite Grass Eaters back.

Mr. Dixon held Grass Eaters payroll check with the information provided by Ms. Patterson. Mr. Dixon asked the Selectmen how they handle the money owed to Grass Eaters now that the check has been held.

Ms. Cyr noted that the contract does state to take special care to prevent damage, although it does not specify what happens if damage does occur. Ms. Cyr feels the Town of Benton attorney should look at the contract. She doesn't feel the contract is strong enough to tell what the Selectmen can do now.

Ms. Patterson advised to put the estimate for damage in front of Bruce Salisbury and see how it goes from there. If he backs he is disqualifying himself from next year's contract. Almost hitting someone and the bag of flags disqualifies him.

Mr. Dixon will have a conversation with Mr. Salisbury.

8. Citizen's Concerns: Albert Giroux asked "What happens if someone goes down to the river here and falls out of the boat, and somebody wants to rescue them. How do they put another boat in?". Mr. Dixon noted the portage would be used by emergency personnel for boat access.
9. Adjourn: Mr. Dixon motioned to adjourn at 7:30pm. Ms. Cyr seconded, all voted in favor.