

**Town of Benson
Town Meeting
March 2, 2010**

Minutes approved as corrected on March 4, 2010 *

John Hill, Moderator, called Town Meeting to order at 10:00 AM.

John Hill made announcements and read the rules of Town Meeting. John then gave a tribute to Jan Ladd for all of her years as the Town Clerk.

Article 1: to elect all Town Officers and fill vacancies except those required by law to be appointed by the Select Board. The vote under Article 1 will be by Australian ballot.

Moderator:	John Hill	280
Delinquent Tax:	Daryl Burlett	289
Select Board, 3 yrs:	Guy Charlton	260
Select Board, 1yr:	Gina Cull	257
	Sue Janssen	190
Town Clerk:	Daphne Bartholomew	163
	Bobbi Jo Bean	21
	Daniel Britton	16
	Barb Burlett	76
	Jon Dodd	14
	Diane Drake	2
	Tammy Simmes	14
Constable:	Dean Hanson	243
Library Comm.:	Jean Butman	283
Trustee of Public Funds:	Wesley Bowen	280
Lister:	Les Burleson	280
Town Treasurer:	Daphne Bartholomew	157
	Bobbi Jo Bean	21
	Daniel Britton	14
	Barb Burlett	80
	Jon Dodd	17
	Diane Drake	1
	Tammy Simmes	14
Cemetery Comm.:	Don Parker	290
Grand Juror:	Daniel Britton	207
Agent to Prosecute & Defend	Daniel Britton	207
Auditors:	None	

Guy Charlton moved to take Article 19 *out of order*: Shall the Town of Benson vote to appropriate \$7739.90 to cover the deficit for 2008-2009 fiscal year ~~out of order~~. Sue Janssen seconded the motion. Guy stated that according to State Statute that if there is any deficit it must be the 1st piece of business before any money can be spent.

There was discussion on the floor about the matter. John Hill called the question.

Town voted and passed Article 19 as stated.

Sue Janssen moved Article 2: to hear and act upon the reports of Town Officials. Lynn Bowen seconded the motion and it was so voted.

Guy Charlton moved Article 3: shall the Town confirm and ratify the outstanding notes and orders that have been given by the Select Board or its proper officials as may appear by the report of the town officials. Lynn Bowen seconded the motion and it was so voted.

Jayne Van Noordt moved Article 4: shall the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$730.00 for the support of Rutland Mental Health Services (formerly Rutland Area Community Services) so that these services can be maintained. John Dodd seconded the motion and it was so voted.

Rachel Collett moved Article 5: shall the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$1,400.00 to support the Rutland Area Visiting Nurses Association & Hospice in fiscal year 2010 (\$250.00 to support Rutland Area Hospice and \$1,150.00 to support RAVNAH Home and Community Health Services). Lica Dodd seconded the motion and it was so voted.

Deanna Britton moved Article 6: shall the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$900.00 requested by the Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging to help support the Senior Meals Program Meals on Wheels and other services provided by the agency to elder residents of Benson. Lillian Smith seconded the motion and it was so voted.

Daniel Britton moved Article 7: shall the Town of Benson vote to appropriate the sum of \$1,000.00 to support the programs and services of BROCC—Community Action in Southwestern Vermont in 2010-2011. Maria Cunningham seconded the motion.

Daniel Britton moved to suspend the rules to allow Elizabeth Eddie a non resident to speak. Guy Charlton seconded the motion and it was so voted.

Elizabeth Eddie spoke to the assembly and answered questions.

Town voted and passed Article 7 as stated.

Kate Hill moved Article 8: shall the Town vote to appropriate, for the fiscal year 2010-2011, the sum of \$1,000.00 to support Fair Haven Concerned, INC. a program which organizes and coordinates services necessary to meet the needs of the citizens of the Town of Benson. Rachel Collett seconded the motion.

Kate Hill moved to allow Julie Austin a non resident to speak. Guy Charlton seconded the motion and it was so voted.

Julie Austin spoke about Fair Haven Concerned and the services they had provided for Benson residents.

Town voted and passed Article 8 as stated.

Tom Neumann moved Article 9: shall the Town appropriate \$3,000.00 for the Benson First Response for the fiscal year 2010-2011 to help defray the cost of major expenses. Daniel Britton seconded the motion.

There was discussion on the floor pertaining to how the funds were used and what the goals of the 1st Response were.

Town voted and passed Article 9 as stated.

Sue Janssen moved Article 10: to appropriate the sum of \$10,390.00 as its share of the FY 2010-2011 Fair Haven Rescue Squad operating budget. Lica Dodd seconded the motion and it was so voted.

Rachel Collett moved Article 11: shall the Town appropriate the sum of \$4,500.00 for the maintenance, care and increase of books for the Town Library. Jayme Van Noordt seconded the motion.

Rachel Collett moved to amend the amount to \$4800.00 instead of \$4500.00. Guy Charlton seconded the motion.

There was discussion on the floor as to why this amendment was needed.

Joe Trenn moved to cease debate on the amendment. Sue Janssen seconded the motion and it was so voted.

Article 11 was restated with the new amount asked for. There was debate on the floor. Members of the Library Board spoke and answered questions.

Rachel Collett moved to cease debate on Article 11. Lynn Bowen seconded the motion and it was so voted.

Town voted and passed Article 11 as amended.

Peter Flynn moved Article 12: shall the Town appropriate the sum of \$5,500.00 for the maintenance and care of the Town cemeteries. Sue Janssen seconded the motion and it was so voted.

Jim Pritchard moved Article 13: shall the Town appropriate \$1,500.00 for the Benson Youth League for the support of their program. Rob Lowell seconded the motion.

There was discussion on the floor about the services provided and as to the ages.

Town voted and passed Article 13 as stated.

Jayme Van Noordt moved Article 14: shall the Town vote to appropriate \$1,000.00 for the Community Scholarship Fund. Daniel Britton seconded the motion.

There was discussion on the floor concerning what the purpose of the fund was for and how it would be dispersed.

Town voted and passed Article 14 as stated.

Lynn Bowen moved Article 15: shall the Town of Benson vote to appropriate up to \$15,000.00 to replace the Creamery (lower fire station/Book Shed) roof? Guy Charlton seconded the motion.

There was discussion on the floor concerning what the matter was and how necessary it was.

Jan Ladd moved to amend the article to appropriate up to \$5,000.00 to paint the roof. Lois Trenn seconded the motion.

There was discussion on the floor about if this would be enough and what should actually be done.

Rachel Collett moved to cease debate on the amendment to change the original motion. Lynn Bowen seconded the motion and it was so voted.

Motion to amend Article 15 was defeated.

Original Article 15 was restated and debate on the floor continued.

Maria Cunningham moved to table the Article until further research could be done. Kate Hill seconded the motion.

John Dodd moved to cease debate on tabling Article 15. Rachel Collett seconded the motion and it was so voted.

Motion to table Article 15 was defeated.

John Dodd moved to amend the Article to change the amount to repair or replace the roof for up to \$15,000.00. Norma Phillips seconded the motion.

Discussion on the floor continued about the Article.

Ted Kellogg moved to amend the amendment to state that the Town appropriate up to \$15,000.00 for building maintenance. Daniel Britton seconded the motion.

Discussion on the floor continued about the Article and the amendments. John Hill asked for an unanimous agreement to return to the original amendment wording. Ted Kellogg withdrew his motion.

Charles Kellogg moved to cease debate on the amendment. John Dodd seconded the motion and it was so voted.

Sue Janssen moved to call the question. Kate Hill seconded the motion and it was so voted.

Town voted and defeated Article 15.

John Dodd moved to recess for lunch for 1 hour. Mike Andronaco seconded the motion and it was so voted.

John Hill called the meeting to order at 12:55pm and asked for unanimous approval to allow Will Stevens to speak.

Will Stevens spoke about upcoming events and what has been going on. Voters asked questions that he proceeded to answer.

Sue Janssen moved Article 16: shall the Town of Benson vote to authorize the Select Board to borrow up to \$87,000.00 to purchase a new pay loader? Daryl Burlett seconded the motion.

There was discussion on the floor concerning the Article and what it entailed.

Town voted and passed Article 16.

Guy Charlton moved Article 17: What sum shall the Town vote for the Select Board's budget? (198,932.00 requested). Daniel Britton seconded the motion.

There was discussion on the floor about this Article and what was contained in the Select Board budget.

Lynn Bowen moved to call the question. Sue Janssen seconded the motion and it was so voted.

Town voted and passed Article 17.

Lynn Bowen moved Article 18: what sum shall the Town vote for layout, repair and maintenance of Town highways? (\$332,701.00 requested). Daniel Britton seconded the motion.

There was discussion on the floor about this Article.

Lynn Bowen moved to cease debate on the question. John Dodd seconded the motion and it was so voted.

Town voted and passed Article 18.

Guy Charlton requested a 5 minute recess to tabulate.

John Hill called the meeting back to order at 2:10pm.

Guy Charlton moved Article 20: to raise \$570,592.90 by taxes to pay appropriations, the Town of Bensons portion of county taxes, State highway taxes and to pay its indebtedness, current and incidental expenses to be paid by the Town Treasurer half on or before 9/15/10 and half on or before 3/15/11. Sue Janssen seconded the motion and it was so voted.

In reference to Article 21: to transact any other business proper to be done at the annual Town Meeting the following suggestions were made.

Lois Trenn suggested a Special Meeting be called to allow people to come to see how the budget is laid out. Daniel Britton stated that this is what the Board has done all along and continues to do.

Jan Ladd suggested that tax sales be done on the Sewer bills so as to bring in revenue.

Sue Janssen spoke about eliminating the Auditors position. She stated that outside help is needed from outside auditors.

Sally Beckwith stated that she would like to see an accounting of where the money was used by the non-profit agencies.

Les Burlson moved to adjourn Town Meeting at 2:20pm. Daniel Britton seconded the motion and it was so voted.

_____ Select Board Member

_____ Select Board Member

Respectfully Submitted,

Rachel S. Collett

*Minutes posted on the web are abridged. Complete copies of all referenced documents are on file with the Minutes in the Town Office.