



## **Town of Benton**

*Monday – April 11, 2016, 6: 00 PM*

*Benton Town Office*

1. Roll call: Selectman Dan Chamberlain, Selectman Melissa Patterson, & Selectman Robin Cyr present.
2. Secretary's Report: Mrs. Patterson motioned to accept the minutes as written, Ms. Cyr seconded, all voted in favor.
3. Citizens' Concerns: None
4. Catherine Nadeau: Mrs. Nadeau gave an update of events at the State house. Mrs. Nadeau is a strong believer of State Municipal Revenue Sharing. She is fighting at the State to keep the 2% shared revenue rate for Benton. She is also trying to get Republicans on board to help. Mrs. Nadeau's letter is included with the minutes of her update.
5. Road Commissioner's Report: Todd Littlefield absent.
6. John Glowa: Mr. Glowa is from China, ME and is running for Representative of District 79. He introduced himself and expressed his intentions at the state.
7. Old Business: The Town of Benton received one proposal back for the sand shed damage repair. Three other estimates were sent out. With numerous calls and messages only L.N Violette responded with an estimate. L.N Violette repairs would cost \$17, 978. Mrs. Patterson motioned to accept L.N. Violette's proposal of \$17, 978. L.N Violette has worked on damage done to the sand shed previously. Ms. Cyr seconded, all voted in favor.
8. New Business: Town Office Sign: The Town of Benton received two estimates for a new town office sign. Northern Sign quoted \$15,600 and Neo Craft Sign quoted \$16,112.05. Richard Lawrence asked that the Selectman take note of the brightness of the lighting between the two quotes. Neo Craft Sign's quote is higher, although their sign auto adjusts to time of day and would not be as bright to bother any residents who live near by. Mrs. Patterson advised the placement of the sign would be located out front where the orange spike is marked. This will meet setback requirements and not interfere with tree foliage or visibility. Mrs. Patterson motioned to accept Neo Craft Sign's proposal of \$16,112.05 with the location of the sign to be located as marked in front of the town office. Ms. Cyr seconded, all voted in favor.

-Approve 2016 Alewife Ordinance: Each year the Town of Benton adopts a River Herring ordinance in accordance to state regulations. This year the State of Maine states that harvesters can start harvesting in Benton once 250,000 River Herring have passed over Benton Falls Dam. The State of Maine will advise the start and end date of this. Mrs. Patterson motioned to accept the ordinance as written in accordance to Maine regulations. Ms. Cyr seconded, all voted in favor.

-Somerset Communication Contract: Mr. Chamberlain advised that the Town of Benton contract with Somerset Communication ends July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016. The new contract charges \$1.31 per capita for any service calls used. The following year it increases to \$1.38 per capita. The contract would start June 1, 2016 and expire June 30, 2018. Mrs. Patterson motioned to accept the Somerset Communication Contract as written, Ms. Cyr seconded, all voted in favor.

-Assessing. Updating current properties: Mr. Lawrence has been working on tax liens at the office. He came across a property that has two homes on it. One of the homes has not been taxed where the Town of Benton was unaware of this situation. Mr. Lawrence asked that the Selectman look into having our Assessor's Agent – Ryan Stinneford take portions of Benton tax properties each year to review and see if there are any updates the Town of Benton is not aware of. This time of year Mr. Stinneford is busy getting ready to set the Mil Rate for the 2016 Tax year. Mrs. Patterson suggested that Mr. Stinneford start taking small portions to work on starting in September or October when it's not so busy. Mr. Stinneford is ready to move forward with this in the fall.

9. Assessing Abatements & Supplements: None

10. Other Business and Correspondence: Dave Huff has taken the ACO yearly training in Bangor and presented the Town of Benton with his training certificate. The Town of Benton also had an Alewife Festival Meeting April 3, 2016.

11. Adjourn: Mrs. Patterson motioned to adjourn at 6:27pm, Ms. Cyr seconded, all voted in favor.