

MINUTES- SELECTMEN'S MEETING
TOWN OF BARNET, VT
MONDAY, JANUARY 11, 2010

Meeting convened at 7:00 p.m. in the conference room of the Barnet Town Clerk's Office.

Board members present: Selectmen Theodore Faris, Jeremy Roberts, and Gary Bunnell.

Others present: Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt, Delinquent Tax Collector Lisa Bowden, Road Foreman Timothy Gibbs, Gary Cochran, Sally Cook (Caledonian-Record), David Warden, and Shirley Warden.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Motion made by Roberts to approve minutes of regular meeting held December 28, 2009.
Seconded by Bunnell and approved by voice vote.

APPEARANCE BY RESIDENT GARY COCHRAN

Mr. Cochran appeared for two purposes:

- As a manager in the business sales department of the retailer Lowe's, informed the Selectboard regarding potential products and services available for sale to the Town from Lowe's.
- As a resident of Little Scotland Road, addressed several issues of concern regarding this road:
 - As Mr. Cochran's residence is at the end of Little Scotland Road, Mr. Cochran stated that the Town highway department uses his driveway as a turnaround location for their trucks when plowing. Mr. Cochran complained that in doing so the trucks leave compacted snow in his driveway. He requested that the highway department employees clear this snow compaction when exiting his driveway by dropping their plows.
 - Mr. Cochran stated that the brush growing along the side of the road is encroaching upon the path of travel, creating a hazard.
 - Mr. Cochran also stated a concern first mentioned at the Selectboard meeting of May 11, 2009, regarding a barn located along the road that is falling down, creating a potential road hazard. Mr. Cochran stated that this property often has vehicles parked partially in the road.

The Board requested that Road Foreman Timothy Gibbs address the Little Scotland Road concerns of Mr. Cochran. Gibbs stated he will instruct highway department employees to clear snow compaction in Mr. Cochran's driveway. Gibbs also stated that he was aware of the brush encroaching upon the road and is planning to address this concern. Gibbs also agreed to speak with the owners of the property with the barn regarding Mr. Cochran's concerns.

APPEARANCE BY DELINQUENT TAX COLLECTOR LISA BOWDEN

Ms. Bowden appeared to present the Board with the 2009 Report of the Tax Collector and a copy of her Policy for Collection of Delinquent Taxes. The report states that as of December 31, 2009 \$171,356.42 in delinquent taxes remained uncollected, including delinquent taxes from the tax years 2006, 2007, 2008, and 2009.

Ms. Bowden also requested Board input regarding two matters:

- Qualifications for tax sales. She stated that she perceives the public expectation that tax sales are initiated after three years of delinquency. Ms. Bowden is considering stating in her policy that tax sales will be triggered by a certain dollar amount of delinquency rather than length of delinquency.
- Listing amount of delinquent tax due for individuals in the Town Report. The Town of Barnet has not listed individual amounts due for several years. Ms. Bowden is considering doing so in the 2011 Town Report.

Discussion followed regarding the report and policy presented by Ms. Bowden, as well as the matters for which she requested Board input.

CORRESPONDENCE FROM AUDITOR CELINA WRIGHT

Read letter informing the Board of Ms. Wright's resignation from the position of Auditor, effectively immediately as of letter dated January 5, 2010.

After brief discussion, a motion made by Roberts to leave Ms. Wright's position vacant until Town Meeting 2010. Seconded by Bunnell and approved by voice vote.

APPLICATION FOR ALARM MONITORING PERMIT FROM GRAFTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Briefly reviewed application for alarm monitoring permit for new Town Garage.

CORRESPONDENCE FROM STATE OF VERMONT AGENCY OF TRANSPORTATION REGARDING CERTIFICATE OF HIGHWAY MILEAGE

Briefly reviewed cover letter with instructions for the Board to document changes in highway mileage for 2009 and to sign the certificate. The mileage of town highways in the Town of Barnet is as follows:

- Class 1: 0.00
- Class 1 Lane: 0.00
- Class 2: 23.15
- Class 3: 58.46
- State Highway: 21.19
- Class 4: 10.95
- Legal Trail: 0.00
- Total: 103.16

There were no changes in highway mileage in 2009. Board signed certificate.

CORRESPONDENCE FROM STATE OF VERMONT AGENCY OF NATURAL RESOURCES REGARDING SITE MANAGEMENT ACTIVITY COMPLETED DESIGNATION OF KNOWLTON RESIDENCE

Read letter indicating that the Knowlton residence at 264 Bimson Drive was the subject of screening for soil contamination following the removal of a heating oil underground storage tank. Letter states that after testing the Knowlton residence site has been assigned a Site Management Activity Completed designation.

COST OF CONSTRUCTION OF NEW GARAGE

Total cost of construction of new garage to date is \$456,723.63 (not including land purchase).

CORRESPONDENCE FROM TRANSFER STATION & RECYCLING CENTER SUPERVISOR BRUCE MARSTON

Briefly reviewed email requesting that the Board provide a container for recycled items, as current storage facilities are not adequate to contain one week's receipts of recyclable items.

Board instructed Road Foreman Timothy Gibbs to move a container currently at the Town Garage to the Recycling Center.

APPLICATION FOR HIGHWAY ACCESS PERMIT

Reviewed application of Dana & Katie Young of 372 Brook Hill Road. After brief discussion, Board signed the permit with Road Foreman's condition that the driveway must be level from the road and 20 feet in.

TOWN GARAGE OPEN HOUSE

Board announced that on Saturday, January 16, 2010, at 9:30 a.m., there will be an open house at the new Town Garage to celebrate the completion of construction. Refreshments will be served.

DISCUSSION REGARDING DOG LICENSING

First Constable Timothy Gibbs discussed enforcement procedures for dog licensing. Mr. Gibbs stated that many dogs remain unlicensed for 2009 as the 2010 licensing season approaches.

Discussion and a review of the Town's ordinance for the control of dogs followed.

OUTSTANDING CHECK WARRANTS

Reviewed and signed all outstanding check warrants.

EXECUTIVE SESSION REGARDING PERSONNEL MATTERS

Entered executive session at 8:30 p.m.

No action taken.

Exited executive session at 9:05 p.m.

BUDGET DISCUSSION

Continued discussion and editing of 2010 budget.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Roberts to adjourn. Seconded by Bunnell and approved by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

A true copy.

Attest: _____
Town Clerk