

**MINUTES – SELECTBOARD MEETING  
TOWN OF BARNET, VERMONT  
MONDAY, AUGUST 25, 2014**

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

**Board members present:** Chair Jeremy Roberts, Gary Bunnell, and Dylan Ford (Mr. Roberts joined meeting at item number seven. Mr. Bunnell chaired meeting from item number one through item number six; Mr. Roberts chaired meeting from item number seven through item number sixteen).

**Others present:** Lister John Cook, Lister Sarah Cook, Road Foreman Keith Gadapee, Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt, and Zoning Administrative Officer Shirley Warden.

**1. Approve minutes of regular meeting held August 11, 2014**

Ms. Ford move to approve as presented the minutes of the regular meeting held August 11, 2014. Seconded by Mr. Bunnell and approved by voice vote.

**2. Discussion regarding redesign of Harvey's Lake Dam gate**

The Board agreed to table this matter.

**3. Appearances by members of the public**

There were no appearances by members of the public.

**4. Appearance by Road Foreman Keith Gadapee regarding Highway Department matters**

**a. New dump truck warranty.** Mr. Gadapee, per the discussion at the previous Board meeting, presented information regarding various extended warranty programs offered by R.R.

Charlebois, the vendor from which the Town purchased the new dump truck. Discussion ensued.

- The Board agreed to table this matter.

**b. Mill Hill retaining wall.** Mr. Gadapee reported that work on this grant project is underway.

**c. Roy Mountain Road construction project.** Mr. Gadapee reported on the progress of this project. He indicated that two more days of drainage work is anticipated, and then the road surface will be removed.

**d. Better Backroads grant.** Mr. Gadapee reported that he spoke a representative of the Vermont Agency of Transportation, per the discussion at the previous Board meeting; this representative indicated that it is in the Town's best interest to sign the grant agreement at this time. There are opportunities to request an extension of the grant if the Town does not wish to perform the project immediately. Discussion ensued.

- The Board agreed to sign the grant agreement.

**e. Ordinance for the Control of Access to Highways and Highway Cuts.** Mr. Gadapee presented first drafts of a proposed ordinance, and two proposed permit applications, per the Board's discussion at the previous meeting. Discussion ensued.

**f. Road salt quotes.** The Board reviewed quotes from Cargill and from American Rock Salt for supplying the Town with road salt for the 2014-2015 season. Cargill's quoted delivered price is \$78.21 per ton, and American Rock Salt's is \$84.25 per ton. Mr. Gadapee noted that these quotes are substantially higher than last year's. Discussion ensued.

- The Board agreed to sign Cargill's quote.

## **5. Correspondence from Vermont Agency of Transportation regarding Transportation Alternatives Program**

The Board reviewed a letter soliciting proposals for grant projects for facilities for non-motorized forms of transportation, etc.

## **6. Correspondence from Vermont League of Cities & Towns (VLCT) regarding insurance surveys**

The Board reviewed an email and a letter from VLCT. The email describes VLCT's visit to all the Town's insured buildings to determine insurance risks. The attached document lists hazards identified, along with VLCT's recommendations to resolve each hazard. Mr. Gadapee discussed the hazards identified at the Town Garage; Ms. Ford discussed the hazards identified at the Library Building. The letter from VLCT related to a survey of the values of Town properties. VLCT adjusted the insurance value of properties based on this study; a corresponding increase in annual contributions by the Town of \$774 will be due beginning in 2015.

## **7. Correspondence from Board of Listers regarding Errors & Omissions filing**

The Board read a letter from the Listers requesting that the Board approve an Errors & Omissions filing for properties owned by Raymond Nutter, Jr and James Nutter. Listers John Cook and Sarah Cook then explained to the Board the reasons for the request. Parcels #0008-01-55 and #0008-01-56 were omitted from the 2014 Grand List. The Listers combined them with #0009-01-58 because they are contiguous and under the same ownership. Also, Parcel #0009-01-56 is contiguous and under the same ownership; the Listers inactivated this parcel and added the land, building, and site improvement to Parcel #0009-01-58. These changes increased the acreage to be taxed by 2.11 acres; however the combining of the parcels on one bill results in a lower total value than before the changes. Discussion ensued.

- Mr. Bunnell moved to approve this Errors & Omissions filing. Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote.

## **8. Discussion regarding Vermont.gov Subscriber service for background checks**

Mr. Heisholt discussed the process for obtaining background checks for prospective employees. The Harvey's Lake Beach Committee and the Barnet Public Library Trustees have requested that the Town perform these checks for employees at their respective facilities. Mr. Heisholt has discovered that the Town is not exempt from the \$30 per check fee, and that this fee must be paid either by credit card or by a subscription with Vermont.gov Subscriber Services. Mr. Heisholt indicated that the Town does not have a credit card due to financial control concerns. The Vermont.gov Subscriber Services subscription would cost \$75 annually in addition to the cost of any record check fees. Discussion ensued.

- The Board requested that Mr. Heisholt inquire with the Vermont State Police to see if it may be possible to obtain background checks through their office without the annual subscription fee.

## **9. Correspondence from regarding VTel Wireless, Inc.'s application to the Vermont Department of Public Service for project on Kinerson Lane**

In connection with the Board's discussion at its previous meeting, Mr. Heisholt indicated that he received unofficial notice indicating that the Public Service Board had extended its period for comment from Kevin and Lura Bruno through August 22, 2014. Although the Public Service Board did not request further comment from the Selectboard, Mr. Heisholt sent a letter to the Public Service Board at Mr. Roberts's request. This letter indicates that the position of the Selectboard remains unchanged since its original letter: Selectboard prefers that the Applicant take further action to address aesthetic concerns. Discussion ensued.

**10. Correspondence from Vermont Department of Health regarding appointment of Deputy Health Officer**

The Board reviewed a letter indicating that the term office of the current Deputy Health Officer, Maurice Roberts, will expire August 31, 2014, and requesting that the Board recommend a Deputy Health Officer to serve for the next three years. Mr. Heisholt reported that he had spoken with Mr. Roberts, who indicated that he is willing to continue to serve in this capacity.

- The Board agreed to recommend the re-appointment of Maurice Roberts.

**11. Correspondence from Caledonia-Essex Area Ambulance Service, Inc. (CALEX) regarding amendment of bylaws**

The Board read a letter and reviewed an attached copy of bylaws relating to the amendment of CALEX's bylaws.

**12. Correspondence from Vermont Agency of Transportation regarding site plan review**

The Board read a letter reminding the Town that an amendment of 24 VSA Section 4416 provides that "Whenever a proposed site plan involves access to a State highway, the application for site plan approval shall include a letter of intent from the Agency of Transportation confirming that the Agency has reviewed the proposed site plan and is prepared to issue an access permit..."

**13. Other business**

- a. Dog complaints on Roy Mountain Road.** The Board read a letter from Suzannah Pogue and Sandra Jones describing an incident wherein Ms. Pogue and Ms. Jones, while bicycling past the residence of Kathleen Campbell, were aggressively approached by Ms. Campbell's dog. Discussion ensued.

**14. Outstanding check warrants**

The Board reviewed and approved all outstanding check warrants.

**15. Discussion regarding pending litigation in connection with the "Thomas Gould v. Town of Barnet for Richard Woodward" lawsuit (executive session)**

- Mr. Bunnell moved to enter executive session. Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote. Entered executive session at 8:15 p.m. Attendance in executive session: Mr. Roberts, Mr. Bunnell, Ms. Ford, and Mr. Heisholt.
- Mr. Bunnell moved to exit executive session. Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote. Exited executive session at 8:27 p.m.
- No action taken.

**16. Adjournment**

Mr. Bunnell moved to adjourn. Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

*A true copy.*

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Town Clerk*