

# DRAFT

## MINUTES – SELECTBOARD MEETING TOWN OF BARNET, VERMONT MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 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.

**Others present:** Foreman Keith Gadapee, Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt, and Zoning Administrative Officer Shirley Warden, Ewa Seiler, and Farrell Seiler.

### 1. Approve minutes of regular meeting held August 25, 2014

Mr. Bunnell moved to approve as presented the minutes of the regular meeting held August 25, 2014. Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote.

### 2. Appearance by Ewa and Farrell Seiler regarding use of Town pit on Sundays and holidays and other matters relating to Town Forest Road

Mr. and Mrs. Seiler appeared and discussed several matters of concern regarding Town Forest Road and the Town pit. These matters included the following:

- Mrs. Seiler's encounter with a contractor at the Transfer Station on Monday, September 1, 2014. The Seilers indicated their preference that the residents of Town Forest Road be granted a reprieve from activities at the Transfer Station and at the pit on Sundays and holidays.
- The Seilers reiterated complaints expressed at previous Board meetings regarding the condition of the road; the speed of traffic on the road, especially of Town and contractor dump trucks; and dust generated from traffic on the road.

The Board, after discussion and in consideration of the Seilers' complaints, agreed as follows:

- The Board will not restrict the hours of the use of the Transfer Station and Town pit areas by Town personnel and authorized contractors.
- The Board will discuss any possible road construction project on Town Forest Road during its 2015 budget meetings in the fourth quarter of 2014.
- The Board will seek, through cooperation with the Caledonia County Sheriff's Department, to investigate a possible speeding problem on Town Forest Road and to enforce the current speed ordinance. If this investigation shows that the current speed ordinance is insufficient, the Board will discuss revising the ordinance to lower the maximum speed.

### 3. Discussion regarding redesign of Harvey's Lake Dam gate

Mr. Bunnell discussed his communications with the State of Vermont regarding excavation to clean out the pond behind the dam. He estimates that the dam is currently using only 35 feet of the 100 feet available across the width of the river behind the dam; excavation will improve this. Mr. Bunnell will present the Board with a map of the planned excavation work. Mr. Bunnell also indicated that he hopes the Board will be able to install some safety features, including a railing, on the dam this autumn. It may be possible to do this without a permit application; Mr. Bunnell will inquire with the State of Vermont.

### 4. Appearances by members of the public

There were no appearances by members of the public.

### 5. Appearance by Road Foreman Keith Gadapee regarding Highway Department matters

- a. **Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) exit interview.** Mr. Gadapee discussed the exit interview documents presented by FEMA for the April 15, 2014 disaster. He reported

that FEMA removed some of the surface gravel from the Town's reports, causing many of projects to fall below the \$3,000 minimum cost threshold. Only two of the originally reported nine projects remain in line for FEMA reimbursement. Discussion ensued.

- The Board instructed Mr. Gadapee to obtain more definitive answers from FEMA regarding why the gravel was removed from the Town's reports.
- b. Dump truck warranty.** Mr. Gadapee reported on several warranty options available for the new dump truck, as discussed at the previous meeting. Discussion ensued.
- c. Mill Hill retaining wall project.** Mr. Gadapee reported that this project is complete. The Town is awaiting the receipt and payment of a few final invoices before reporting the project to the Vermont Agency of Transportation for reimbursement.
- d. Ordinance for the Control of Access to Highways and Highway Cuts.** Mr. Gadapee spoke regarding the ordinance as presented at the previous Board meeting. Discussion ensued.
  - The Board requested that Mr. Heisholt forward the draft ordinance to Town Agent Jay Abramson for his review and recommendation.
- e. Roy Mountain construction project.** Mr. Gadapee indicated that the Highway Department's participation in this project is nearly complete. The road base is finished, and the ditches are seeded and mulched. The Town ran short of base material from its stockpile created from Town gravel crushing; extra material (1,979 tons, costing \$18,900) was purchased to complete the job. Pike Industries will pave the job in the third week of September.

#### **6. Application of Conant Family Trust for Highway Access Permit on Keyser Hill Road**

Mr. Gadapee reported that he visited the site of the proposed access; he found that the proposed location is not favorable, nor is there a favorable access point on Conant Family Trust property to reach the desired location. Discussion ensued.

- The Board agreed that Mr. Gadapee will discuss this matter with the applicant, and report to the Board with any proposed solution.

#### **7. Correspondence from Travelers Insurance regarding boiler at Town Hall/former Fire Station**

The Board reviewed correspondence relating to the inspection of boilers in Town buildings. The boiler located in the former Fire Station and providing heat to the Town Hall failed the inspection. The boiler must be repaired or disabled immediately. Discussion ensued.

- The Board agreed to disable the boiler rather than repair it at this time. Acknowledging that this will require a change of venues for the November 4, 2014 General Election, the Board recommended that the election be held at the new Fire Station.

#### **8. Correspondence from Vermont Department of Buildings and General Services regarding fiscal year 2015 Building Communities Grants**

The Board reviewed and discussed an email and attachments relating to various grant programs. It appears that some of the programs may be applicable to the renovation of the Town Hall.

- Due to the nearness of the due date for applications, and that actual renovation will not likely commence this year, the Board agreed to table discussion of these grants until next year's solicitation.

#### **9. Other business**

##### **a. Pay rate of Transfer Station and Recycling Center (TS/RC) Supervisor Bruce Marston.**

Ms. Ford discussed communication she had had with Mr. Marston regarding his pay rate. Mr. Marston, who is currently paid the same rate as all TS/RC employees, indicated that he recalled that he was promised a pay rate higher than the standard TS/RC rate when he accepted the Supervisor role. Discussion ensued.

- The Board agreed that it will discuss increasing Mr. Marston's pay rate during 2015 budget discussions.

- b. Regional Town Plan approval.** Ms. Warden appeared to indicate that the Northeastern Vermont Development Association held a hearing to discuss the adoption of the recently revised Barnet Town Plan as a part of the regional plan. The Town Plan has been recommended for approval.
- c. Kathleen Campbell dog ordinance violation.** Mr. Roberts discussed his recent communications with Constable David Stevenson and Animal Control Officer Josephine Guertin regarding Ms. Campbell's dogs. Mr. Stevenson and Ms. Guertin will impound these dogs due to ordinance violations.
- d. Discussion regarding personnel matters (executive session)**
  - Mr. Bunnell moved to enter executive session. Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote. Entered executive session at 8:40 p.m. Attendance in executive session: Mr. Roberts, Mr. Bunnell, Ms. Ford, Mr. Gadapee, and Mr. Heisholt.
  - Mr. Bunnell moved to exit executive session. Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote. Exited executive session at 8:52 p.m.
  - No action taken.

## **10. Outstanding check warrants**

The Board reviewed and approved all outstanding check warrants.

## **11. Adjournment**

Mr. Bunnell moved to adjourn. Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

*A true copy.*

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