

**MINUTES – SELECTBOARD MEETING
TOWN OF BARNET, VERMONT
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 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: Road Foreman Keith Gadapee, Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt, Zoning Administrative Officer Shirley Warden, Steven Adler, Holly Cannon (Lyndon State College News 7), John Cook, William Graves, and Victoria Nicoletta (Lyndon State College News 7).

1. Approve minutes of regular meeting held September 8, 2014

Mr. Bunnell moved to approve as presented the minutes of the regular meeting held September 8, 2014. Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote.

2. Redesign of Harvey's Lake Dam gate

Steven Adler of the Lake Harvey Association (LHA) appeared to discuss the Board's progress in choosing a design for the renovation of the dam gate, and in obtaining a permit for implementation of the design. Mr. Adler briefly reviewed the recent history of LHA's involvement in the process. Mr. Bunnell indicated that he had left a message with Steve Hanna of the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources asking whether a permit is required to repair the current sluice gate and install safety features such as a railing. Mr. Hanna has not returned Mr. Bunnell's call. Mr. Adler distributed and reviewed a Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation Application for Authorization to Construct or Alter a Dam, as completed in draft form by LHA. Alterations to this draft may be made based upon the design the Board chooses. Mr. Adler reiterated LHA's position in favor of a top-down gate rather than a bottom-up gate, as discussed at previous meetings, but stated that LHA is more concerned that the gate be automated than that it be bottom-up. Mr. Adler also again mentioned that LHA may be willing to raise funds to pay for automation if funding is the cause of the Board's hesitancy. Further discussion ensued.

- The Board agreed to observe the de-silting effects of the lake lowering in October before concluding on a design for the new gate. The Board did not reach a decision regarding automation.

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. Highway Department training.** Mr. Gadapee discussed a two day "Rivers and Roads" class he attended the week prior to this meeting. This course was informative and helpful, focusing on the reasons behind culvert sizing. On Thursday, September 25 the Highway Department will be hosting a grader operator training class at the Fire Station and the Town Garage.
- b. McLam Lane culvert and catch basin project.** Mr. Gadapee reported that this project is complete, and that the Highway Department is pleased with the results.
- c. Garland Hill culvert project.** Mr. Gadapee reported that the replacement of a failed culvert on Garland Hill near its intersection with Blaine Drive is complete.
- d. Roy Mountain Road project.** Mr. Gadapee reported that paving on this project was performed the day of this meeting. Some shoulder work remains to be done on this project.
- e. Tires.** Mr. Gadapee reported that the Highway Department has hauled the tires stockpiled at the Transfer Station to Gates Salvage Yard in Hardwick.
- f. Roller for shoulder work.** Mr. Gadapee reported that he has rented a roller to perform shoulder work on Roy Mountain Road and Barnet Center Road.

g. Class 4 road maintenance. Mr. Gadapee inquired with the Board regarding an annual request for gravel and sand to be delivered to Tower Road. For several years the Highway Department has delivered seven yards of gravel and seven yards of sand to a resident on Tower Road; the resident uses these materials for road maintenance performed with his own equipment. Discussion ensued.

- The Board instructed Mr. Gadapee to cease the practice of delivering road materials to private residents.

h. Transfer Station dumpsters. Mr. Roberts asked Mr. Gadapee whether the Highway Department would have time this autumn to perform work on a base and other groundwork and retaining wall work at the site of the Transfer Station dumpsters, as discussed at previous Board meetings. Discussion ensued.

- Mr. Gadapee indicated that he would visit the site and report back to the Board on the feasibility of accomplishing this project this year.

5. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) exit interview for April 15, 2014 disaster

Mr. Gadapee reported on his meeting with a FEMA representative and a Vermont Agency of Transportation representative regarding the reduction of reported total costs for several projects, and the resulting elimination of several projects as eligible for FEMA reimbursement. The FEMA representative informed Mr. Gadapee that the reduction in reported costs was due to FEMA calculations for gravel. If Barnet used more gravel than FEMA calculated was necessary it does not receive FEMA reimbursement for this excess gravel. The FEMA representative indicated that it would not be possible to combine projects or perform any other adjustments that would make the eliminated projects eligible. Discussion ensued.

- The Board signed the FEMA exit interview and State of Vermont Standard Subgrant Agreement for the disaster.

6. Insurance claim in connection with Barnet Water System water leak on Anderson Street

Mr. Gadapee discussed his correspondence and discussion with the Town's insurance agent regarding this matter. Barnet Water System has indicated that they still wish to pursue this claim. Discussion ensued.

7. Application of Conant Family Trust for Highway Access Permit on Keyser Hill Road

Mr. Gadapee reported that he has met with David Conant, per the discussion at the previous meeting. Mr. Conant indicated that he will consider how he might revise his application and report to Mr. Gadapee when he decides on a suitable plan.

8. Payment of fees for background checks for Town employees

Mr. Heisholt indicated that he inquired with the Vermont State Police regarding administration of background checks. The State Police indicated that they are unable to administer background checks and that this must be performed through the Vermont Crime Information Center. Discussion ensued.

- The Board requested that Mr. Heisholt inquire with the St. Johnsbury Police about whether they can perform background checks for the Town.

9. Correspondence from Town Agent Jay Abramson regarding Ordinance for Control of Dogs

The Board reviewed and discussed Mr. Abramson's email and attached memorandum giving a summary of the ordinance. Mr. Roberts briefed the Board on his communications with Animal Control Officer Josephine Guertin regarding dogs owned by Kathleen Campbell. Ms. Guertin is working with Ms. Campbell to ensure that Ms. Campbell has adequate facilities at her residence to contain her dogs and prevent them from running at large. Ms. Guertin also indicated that she will provide the Board with copies of ordinances from other local towns that contain better provisions for enforcement than Barnet's ordinance.

10. Correspondence from Michael Roosevelt, candidate for Caledonia County Assistant Judge

The Board reviewed a letter regarding Mr. Roosevelt's qualifications for the office he is seeking, and the reasons for which he is seeking it.

11. Correspondence from Town of Lincoln, New Hampshire regarding notice of public hearing for review of engineering plans as condition of Planning Board Site Plan Review approval for proposed telecommunications facility

The Board reviewed the notice of a public hearing to be held September 24, 2014.

12. Other business

- a. **Speed sign for Town Forest Road.** Mr. Gadapee indicated that he searched at the Town Garage for a 25 mile per hour speed limit sign for Town Forest Road, but was unable to find one. Discussion ensued.
- b. **Fuel oil at Town Hall.** Mr. Roberts indicated that because the Town Hall's boiler is now disabled the fuel oil remaining in the tank should be taken out, and suggested that the Highway Department may be able to use it.
 - Mr. Gadapee indicated that he will look into removing the fuel for Highway Department use.

13. Outstanding check warrants

The Board reviewed and approved all outstanding check warrants.

14. Tax appeal of TransCanada Hydro Northeast (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 8:25 p.m.
- No action taken.

15. Other business (continued)

- a. **Town Hall renovations.** Building Committee Chair William Graves reported on his meeting at the site with Mr. Bunnell, Ms. Ford, and Vermont State Fire Marshall Brad Charron. Mr. Graves indicated that Mr. Charron did not find any problems with the project from a fire safety perspective. He indicated that there would not be a need for an assisted lift from the basement to the first floor if the construction was approached with the intention of using the basement for storage and the first floor as the usable space for employees and the public. Further discussion was had regarding design layout, budgeting, etc.

16. Adjournment

Mr. Bunnell moved to adjourn. Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

A true copy.

Attest: _____
Town Clerk