

**MINUTES – SELECTBOARD MEETING
TOWN OF BARNET, VERMONT
MONDAY, OCTOBER 13, 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: Lister John Cook, Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt, Zoning Administrative Officer Shirley Warden, Dan Fenton (Lyndon State College News 7), Joseph Mangiapane, and Victoria Nicoletta (Lyndon State College News 7).

1. Approve minutes of regular meeting held September 22, 2014

Mr. Bunnell moved to approve as presented the minutes of the regular meeting held September 22, 2014. Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote.

2. Appearances by members of the public

a. Appearance by resident Joseph Mangiapane regarding Harvey's Lake dam. Mr.

Mangiapane expressed concern regarding the plans the Board is considering in redesigning the dam gate, as discussed at several recent Board meetings. He asserted that the present design of the dam causes multiple problems for the lake and for properties abutting the Steven's River, particularly during heavy rain events: the lake rises three to four feet at times, and a phenomenon called "piping" causes undermining of properties abutting the river. Mr. Mangiapane, who works for TransCanada Hydro Northeast, Inc. at their Comerford Dam Station, does not recommend using a top-down gate as the Lake Harvey Association (LHA) has suggested. Mr. Mangiapane recommends that the Board instead install a gantry gate, which is a bottom-up system that employs a concave wall on its upstream side. A colleague of Mr. Mangiapane at TransCanada, Dam Safety Engineer Justin Donaghy, has offered to meet with the Board to discuss the project. Discussion ensued.

- The Board requested that Mr. Mangiapane ask Mr. Donaghy to contact the Board. The Board agreed to attempt to coordinate a meeting with Mr. Donaghy and Steven Adler of LHA.

3. Highway Department matters

Road Foreman Keith Gadapee was not at present because he was traveling out of state. He left the Board a letter with a list of items for their consideration.

a. Craig Morris employee probation. Mr. Morris began his employment with the Town on April 22, 2014. His initial six-month probationary period would officially end October 22, 2014. Mr. Gadapee recommended that the Board end Mr. Morris's probation as of the date of this meeting. Discussion ensued.

- The Board agreed to end Mr. Morris's probation as of the date of this meeting, and to adjust his wage accordingly.

b. Fuel oil at Town Hall. The Highway Department is pumping old fuel oil from the Town Hall and will use it in the waste oil furnace when the weather requires.

c. Concrete work at Transfer Station/Recycling Center. Mr. Gadapee included an estimate for the work as requested by the Board at their previous meeting. Costs for materials are estimated at \$4,530 and Town labor and equipment will be required for six days. Mr. Gadapee indicated that in his opinion the blocks should be reset on a crushed stone footing rather than trying to straighten the wall as is. If the Board chooses to do this it would add two days to the time estimate. If the Board approves of Mr. Gadapee's plan, he would begin work the week of October 20. Discussion ensued.

- The Board agreed to instruct Mr. Gadapee to commence with this work, and to follow Mr. Gadapee's recommendation as to the resetting of the blocks.
- d. **Five day work week.** The Highway Department has returned to a five day work week with a daily schedule of 6:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
- e. **Roy Mountain Road and Barnet Center Road.** All work on these projects is complete. Actual costs will be reported at the next meeting.
- f. **Dump Truck #006 body.** Robco, Inc. is working on the body of this truck. Mr. Gadapee instructed Robco to repair the body to last for one or two more years.
- g. **2015 paving/construction project possibilities.** Mr. Gadapee included a list of projects for the Board to consider for 2015 paving and construction. A detailed list with options and costs will be presented at a future meeting in preparation for budget planning.

4. Correspondence from Board of Listers regarding Errors & Omissions filing

Board of Listers Chair John Cook presented the Board with a letter requesting approval for Errors and Omissions revisions to the 2014 Grand List for four parcels:

- a. **Green Mountain Power – parcel ID #0024-01-66.** This parcel was adjusted in 2014, but the adjustment did not carry over from CAMA to NEMRC software programs, resulting in an overbilling in the 2014 tax bill. The correct total property value is \$596,500, resulting in a revised tax bill of \$11,610.87.
- b. **Passumpsic Valley Land Trust – parcel ID #0005-01-17.** This parcel was adjusted in 2014, but it also did not carry over, resulting in an under-billing in the 2014 tax bill. The correct total property value is \$32,400, resulting in a revised tax bill of approximately \$631.80.
- c. **Blue Sky Builders – parcel ID #0000666011.** This unlanded mobile home was sold and removed from the property before April 1, 2014, but was not taken off the Grand List. Total tax is \$109.01, which needs to be removed.
- d. **Blue Sky Builders – parcel ID #0000666016.** This unlanded mobile home was also sold and removed from the property before April 1, 2014, but was not taken off the Grand List. Total tax is \$110.95, which needs to be removed.

The Board agreed to approve all of these Errors and Omissions requests.

5. 2015 health insurance rates

The Board reviewed correspondence from Vermont League of Cities & Towns containing rates for 2015 health insurance through Vermont Health Connect. The Board compared these with the 2014 rates currently paid by the Town and discussed whether the Town should adjust the personnel policy with regard to health insurance benefits or keep the policy the same.

- The Board requested that Mr. Heisholt prepare figures for the next meeting showing how the increased rates would affect the Town budget and employee contributions. The Board also asked Mr. Heisholt to report on year-to-date use of Health Reimbursement Accounts.

6. Payment of fees for background checks for Town employees

Mr. Heisholt reported that he spoke with the St. Johnsbury Police Department (St. J PD) per the Board's request at their previous meeting. The St. J PD indicated that they are able to administer fingerprinting for background checks, but that the check itself would be performed by the Vermont Criminal Information Center (VCIC). Separate payments for the two services must be made to the St. J PD and VCIC, so this would not resolve the Board's dilemma as to payment method. Mr. Heisholt suggested that he could contact the Town's independent auditor for a direct opinion on this matter.

- The Board requested that Mr. Heisholt contact the Town's independent auditor to request an opinion.

7. Correspondence from Barnet Trailblazers Club (Club) regarding use of all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) on town highways after end of ATV season

Mr. Roberts read an email requesting special permission for one Vermont All-Terrain Vehicle Sportsman's Association (VASA) representative and one Club representative to use their ATVs on the roads approved as part of the trail system for 2014 to map trails using GPS. The ATV trail season ended on October 1 according to the Town's ordinance. This request is for special permission to use the roads for one day after the end of the season.

- The Board agreed to grant this request for the dates of October 18 and 19, 2014.

8. Correspondence regarding application of VTel Wireless, Inc. to Vermont Public Service Board for Certificate of Public Good to install a telecommunications facility at 140 Kinerson Lane

The Board reviewed correspondence from the Public Service Board, resident Kevin Bruno, and VTel Wireless, Inc. representative David Ford relating to this matter, which remains undecided.

9. Other business

a. Correspondence from Barnet Public Library regarding annual Trunk or Treat event.

The Board read a letter from Library Director Dylan Ford and Assistant Librarian Sherry Tolle requesting use of the Harvey's Lake Public Beach parking lot for this annual Halloween event in 2014. Additionally the Library requests blanket approval to use the lot for several years to come.

- The Board agreed to grant approval for the Library to use the beach parking lot for the Trunk or Treat event in 2014 and in future years.

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 8:17 p.m.

A true copy.

Attest: _____
Town Clerk