

DRAFT

MINUTES – SELECTBOARD MEETING TOWN OF BARNET, VERMONT MONDAY, OCTOBER 27, 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: Health Officer Theodore Faris, Road Foreman Keith Gadapee, Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt, Fire & Rescue Chief Ronald Morse, Deputy Health Officer Maurice Roberts, Zoning Administrative Officer Shirley Warden, Danielle Aretz, David Arthur, and Joslyn Wilschek.

1. Approve minutes of regular meeting held October 13, 2014

Mr. Bunnell noted that the draft minutes include Steven Adler listed under "others present" whereas Mr. Adler was not present at the meeting. Mr. Bunnell moved to approve, as amended by the removal of Steven Adler's name from the list of "others present," the minutes of the regular meeting held October 13, 2014. Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote.

2. Appearance by National Grid regarding application to Vermont Public Service Board for transmission line reconstruction project

Danielle Aretz, David Arthur, and Joslyn Wilschek appeared to discuss National Grid's application for a Certificate of Public Good in relation to a project planned partially for Barnet. The full project involves relocating an existing 3315 34.5 kV transmission line from the current right-of-way corridor in Vermont (Waterford/Barnet) to an existing utility corridor on the New Hampshire side of the Connecticut River between the Moore and Comerford hydroelectric stations. Of the 8.3 miles of transmission line slated for removal, approximately 2 miles are in Barnet. All adjoining landowners will receive a letter from National Grid; the company expects the project to have a presence in Barnet for approximately six months. National Grid requests a letter of recommendation from the Selectboard for submission to the Public Service Board. Discussion ensued.

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 Access & Road Cut Ordinance.** Mr. Gadapee asked about the status of the adoption process. Mr. Heisholt indicated that the Board is currently awaiting advice from Town Agent Jay Abramson.
- b. **Roy Mountain Road project.** Mr. Gadapee indicated that he is unable to report on final numbers at this meeting because there are a few pending invoices.
- c. **Mill Hill retaining wall Structures Grant project.** Mr. Gadapee presented the Board with Request for Reimbursement documents to be submitted to the Vermont Agency of Transportation. Final 2014 costs for the project total \$46,214.
 - The Board signed the Request for Reimbursement form.
- d. **2015 Structures Grant.** Mr. Gadapee indicated that the large culvert project on Barnet Center Road remains a target for a 2015 grant application.
- e. **2014 Better Backroads Grant.** Mr. Gadapee indicated that the Town has submitted a request for an extension on this project so that it can be completed under the auspices of the grant during 2015.
- f. **List of 2015 project possibilities.** Mr. Gadapee asked if the Board had reviewed the list of road construction projects he left for them at the previous meeting. Discussion ensued,

including the consideration of performing shim and overlay projects for some of the listed locations rather than full-scale reconstruction projects, and of the degree to which prioritizing the project on Town Forest Road would have a beneficial impact on Town equipment longevity.

- g. Cooling package warranty.** Mr. Gadapee presented the Board with a quote from R.R. Charlebois, Inc. The package covers “radiator core, radiator tanks, radiator gaskets, surge tanks, cooling fan, fan hub o-ring, fan clutch and solenoid, and mounting brackets and braces.” The cost is \$650 for 60 months/200,000 miles. Discussion ensued.
- h. Transfer Station concrete work.** Mr. Gadapee indicated that the Highway Department began work on this project the day of this meeting. Discussion ensued.
- i. Sidewalk plowing.** Ms. Ford indicated that she had received complaints about the sidewalk in Barnet Village being unplowed during the winter. She asked if the Town plows or should plow sidewalks. Mr. Gadapee stated that the sidewalks are the property of the village Fire District and the Town does not maintain them.
- j. Wax undercoating product.** Mr. Roberts indicated that he recently purchased for his personal use a wax product with application equipment at a surprisingly inexpensive price. He suggested that Mr. Gadapee investigate using this product for Town equipment.

5. 2015 health insurance

Mr. Heisholt presented data regarding 2015 health insurance premiums and 2014 Health Reimbursement Account (HRA) usage, as requested by the Board at the previous meeting. Based on the current employee enrollment and Town contribution, there would be an increase in Town expenditures for health insurance premiums from 2014 to 2015 of approximately \$5,600. It was noted, however, that due to changing enrollments there would be little change in the budget from 2014 to 2015. With regard to the HRA, it was noted that to date in 2014 there have been expenditures of approximately \$2,600 of the \$15,000 deposited on January 1, 2014. Discussion ensued.

- The Board agreed to not amend the personnel policy with regard to health insurance.

6. Payment of fees for background checks for Town employees

The Board reviewed an email from Linda Milne of Mudgett, Jennett, & Krogh-Wisner, PC, the Town’s independent auditor. Ms. Milne indicates that it can be advantageous for a municipality to have a credit card(s), and suggests actions to be taken to limit financial controls risks that may be associated. Discussion ensued.

- The Board requested that Mr. Heisholt pursue acquiring a credit card for the Town.

7. Donation to Town from Milarepa Center, Inc.

Treasurer Benjamin Heisholt indicated that Milarepa Center intentionally overpaid its 2014 property taxes in the amount of \$500.00 as a donation to the Town. Mr. Heisholt asked how the Board would like to appropriate these unanticipated funds. Discussion ensued.

- Mr. Roberts moved to deposit these funds to the Municipal Buildings Reserve Fund, and earmark them for use in payment of fees for a survey of the Town Hall property. Seconded by Mr. Bunnell and approved by voice vote.

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 a copy of correspondence from the Public Service Board to VTel Wireless, Inc. representative David Ford relating to this matter, which remains undecided.

9. Other business

- a. Insurance claim relating to Barnet Water System water leak on Anderson Street.** Mr. Gadapee indicated that this claim remains undecided. The insurance adjuster states that he has

requested an interview with the Town's contractor on the project, and has been unsuccessful in attempts to interview eyewitnesses.

b. Deputy Health Officer Investigation of rental property in McIndoe Falls (executive session).

- Mr. Bunnell moved to enter executive session to discuss the Deputy Health Officer's investigation of a rental property in McIndoe Falls under the provisions of Title 1, Section 313(a)(1)(E). Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote. Entered executive session at 8:10 p.m. Attendance in executive session: Mr. Roberts, Mr. Bunnell, Ms. Ford, Mr. Faris, Mr. Heisholt, and Mr. Maurice Roberts.
- Mr. Bunnell moved to exit executive session. Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote. Exited executive session at 8:40 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 8:40 p.m.

A true copy.

Attest: _____
Town Clerk