

**MINUTES – SELECTBOARD MEETING
TOWN OF BARNET, VERMONT
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 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 and Dylan Ford.

Others present: Road Foreman Keith Gadapee, Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt, Mark Bowen, and Kevin Daniels.

1. Approve minutes of regular meeting held October 27, 2014

Ms. Ford moved to approve as presented the minutes of the regular meeting held October 27, 2014. Approved by voice vote.

2. Appearances by members of the public

a. Appearance by Kevin Daniels, Barnet Fire District #2 Prudential Committee Chair. Mr. Daniels appeared to inquire if the Board wished to make any requests of the Fire District in light of the Board's discussion about sidewalk plowing at the previous meeting. Discussion ensued.

- The Board confirmed that the Fire District is a separate governmental agency which is not under the oversight of the Selectboard. The Board indicated that there have been multiple complaints about piles of snow in the sidewalk; these piles result from plowing the driveway at the FairPoint Communication building. Mr. Daniels indicated that the Fire District intends to speak with the plowing contractor about a solution to this problem.

3. Appearance by Road Foreman Keith Gadapee regarding Highway Department matters

a. Meeting regarding water leak at intersection of Church Street and US Route 5 South. Mr. Gadapee reported on his meeting with representatives from the Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans) and Barnet Fire District #2 on Friday, November 7, 2014. Mr. Daniels related the history of the leak in the Fire District-owned water system. Mr. Gadapee indicated that progress was made at the meeting, and it appears that a compromise was made between VTrans and the Fire District to ensure that the leak is repaired before winter. Discussion ensued.

b. Carter Street pavement patch. Mr. Daniels asked Mr. Gadapee if the staymat patch in Carter Street pavement, which results from excavation to bury a water line, will suffice for the winter. Discussion ensued.

- Mr. Gadapee indicated that the patch will suffice for the winter.

c. Class 4 road maintenance. Mr. Gadapee indicated that the resident on Tower Road requesting sand and gravel for road maintenance, as discussed at the September 22, 2014 Board meeting, wished to relate his dissatisfaction with the Board's decision.

d. Salt price increase. Mr. Gadapee noted that, as discussed at a previous Board meeting, the price of salt for the 2014-2015 season has increased approximately 22% from the previous season. Mr. Gadapee asked if the Board would like him to alter the application of salt to conserve budgetary funds. Discussion ensued.

- The Board instructed Mr. Gadapee to experiment with using magnesium chloride in conjunction with salt, but otherwise to not alter his salt application on the basis of the price increase.

e. Transfer Station dumpster pad project. Mr. Gadapee reported that final numbers are not yet available for this project.

- f. Roadside mower.** Mr. Gadapee discussed options for rental or purchase of a roadside mower for the 2015 season. Used machines are available at prices of \$84,000 to \$95,000. Mr. Gadapee indicated that with a rented mower this year (\$7,200 for four weeks) all Town roads were mowed once, and some Class 2 roads were mowed twice. A Town-owned machine would make planning easier, and more mowing would be done. Discussion ensued.
- Mr. Roberts requested that Mr. Gadapee report to the Board how many hours he would expect to use a mower each season if the Town owned one.
- g. Wax undercoating product.** Mr. Roberts reported on his personal use of a wax undercoating product, as discussed at a recent meeting. Results appear to be good, and application was not difficult.
- h. Comerford Dam Road construction project.** Resident Mark Bowen appeared to request that the Board give strong consideration to performing a construction project on Comerford Dam Road in 2015. Mr. Bowen reported that frost heaving is severe on the paved section of the road, and suggested that it may be less expensive in the long term to do a project now rather than delay. Discussion ensued.
- The Board advised Mr. Bowen that the Comerford Dam Road is on a list of projects under consideration, and will be discussed further as the Board enters 2015 budget discussions.

4. 2015 health insurance

Mr. Heisholt requested clarification from the Board regarding the 2015 health insurance benefit. At the previous meeting, the Board agreed to not amend its policy with regard to funding the benefit. At that meeting, however, Mr. Heisholt failed to make clear that in 2015 the law allows employers to either grant to or withhold from employees the opportunity to choose a health plan from those available from the statewide health exchange. If the Board chooses to grant employees choice, further clarification is required with regard to how the 90% premium funding will be applied. Discussion ensued.

- Ms. Ford moved to grant employees choice of Blue Cross Blue Shield plans, and to pay 90% of the premium of whichever plan is chosen. Approved by voice vote.
- Ms. Ford moved to fund the Town's Health Reimbursement Accounts in 2015 at the same level as 2014 (beginning with a balance of \$2,500 for each full-time employee on January 1, 2015). Seconded by Mr. Roberts and approved by voice vote.

5. Town checking and reserve fund money market accounts

Mr. Heisholt discussed his meeting with Passumpsic Savings Bank regarding insurance coverage for deposits in excess of the \$250,000 FDIC limit. The Bank is changing the Town's insurance from a collateral agreement involving bank securities pledges to an Insured Cash Sweep (ICS) product. The ICS product causes funds above a certain balance to be swept into accounts at other banks in amounts below the FDIC insurance maximum. This program will apply to both the checking account and reserve fund. Both accounts will earn interest at 0.25%, which is a slight increase for the checking account and a substantial decrease for the reserve account, which is currently earning 0.95% APY. Another product, CDARS, was also discussed. This would operate on a principle similar to ICS, but would involve certificates of deposits (CDs) whose balances are spread across several banks to better utilize FDIC insurance. A system of CDs of varying term lengths could be arranged for the reserve fund to earn better rates on funds that will not be put to use in the near term. Discussion ensued.

- The Board agreed to continue to hold the Town's checking account at Passumpsic Savings Bank, and to request that Mr. Heisholt obtain quotes for CDARS rates from several local banks.

6. Correspondence regarding application of National Grid to Vermont Public Service Board for Certificate of Public Good for line reconstruction project

The Board reviewed a letter from National Grid representatives Primmer, Piper, Eggleston & Cramer, PC thanking the Board for meeting with National Grid at the previous Board meeting and requesting that the Board sign a letter of support for the project. Discussion ensued.

- The Board agreed to not sign the letter of support at this time, but to wait for public comment on the project after abutters have received due notice.

7. Correspondence from Green Mountain Power regarding petition for location of pole and wires on Jewett Brook Road

The Board reviewed the petition and attached sketch for placement of poles and wires within the road right of way on Jewett Brook Road. These poles would provide electrical and telephone service to the residence of Justin White and family. Discussion ensued.

- The Board agreed to approve the pole and wire locations pending a site review and with the condition that the poles be placed at the edge of the road right of way. The Board instructed Mr. Gadapee to perform a site visit and report on the marked pole locations.

8. Correspondence from Endyne, Inc. regarding landfill monitoring laboratory report

The Board reviewed laboratory reports on samples and analyses of semiannual monitoring performed May 2014 and October 2014.

9. Other business

- a. Dog ordinance.** Mr. Roberts reported that Animal Control Officer Josephine Guertin has recommended that the Board review the dog control ordinances of the towns of Danville, Groton, and Ryegate and incorporate some enforcement elements of these ordinances into Barnet's ordinance. The Board requested that Mr. Heisholt obtain copies of these ordinances for the Board's review.
- b. Library maintenance.** Mr. Roberts and Ms. Ford, who is also the Public Library's Librarian, discussed and arranged for a meeting between Mr. Roberts and Assistant Librarian Sherry Tolle to plan Library maintenance projects.

10. Outstanding check warrants

The Board reviewed and approved all outstanding check warrants.

11. Adjournment

Ms. Ford moved to adjourn. Approved by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

A true copy.

Attest: _____
Town Clerk