

MINUTES
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
TOWN OF BARNET, VERMONT
MARCH 3, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. at the Barnet Elementary School gymnasium by Moderator Dennis McLam. The Barnet Elementary School band played the National Anthem. Mr. McLam led the salute to the flag, announced that lunch would be served by the school cafeteria at noon, and explained the rules of order for the meeting.

ARTICLE 1. To elect a Moderator.

- Moderator stated that one-year term of Dennis McLam is expiring.
- Dennis McLam nominated by Mona Marceau.
- David Warden moved that nominations cease. Seconded by Mona Marceau.
- Moderator instructed Town Clerk to cast one ballot for Dennis McLam.

ARTICLE 2. To elect all other Town Officers as required by law and additional Town Officers as approved by the voters.

Selectman

- Moderator stated that the three-year term of Gary Bunnell is expiring.
- Gary Bunnell nominated by John Cook.
- Mona Marceau moved that nominations cease. Seconded.
- Moderator instructed Town Clerk to cast one ballot for Gary Bunnell.

Town Clerk

- Moderator stated that the three-year term of Benjamin Heisholt is expiring.
- Benjamin Heisholt nominated by Mona Marceau.
- Motion was made that nominations cease. Seconded.
- Moderator instructed Town Clerk to cast one ballot for Benjamin Heisholt.

Treasurer

- Moderator stated that the three-year term of Benjamin Heisholt is expiring.
- Benjamin Heisholt nominated by Mona Marceau.
- Mona Marceau moved that nominations cease. Seconded.
- Moderator instructed Town Clerk to cast one ballot for Benjamin Heisholt.

Lister

- Moderator stated that the three-year term of Scott Renfrew is expiring.
- Scott Renfrew nominated by John Cook.
- John Cook moved that nominations cease. Seconded.
- Moderator instructed Town Clerk to cast one ballot for Scott Renfrew.

Auditor

- Moderator stated that the three-year term of Jonathan Smires is expiring.
- Jonathan Smires nominated by Werner Kohnke. Seconded.

- Hearing no further nominations, Moderator announced that nominations would cease.
- Moderator instructed Town Clerk to cast one ballot for Jonathan Smires.

Auditor

- Moderator stated that this office is vacant, having two years remaining of a three-year term. Robert Roos, who held this office, resigned and no replacement was appointed.
- Benjamin Gates nominated by Richard Gilmour.
- Mona Marceau moved that nominations cease. Seconded by William Biddle.
- Moderator instructed Town Clerk to cast one ballot for Benjamin Gates.

Collector of Delinquent Tax

- Moderator stated that the one-year term of Lisa Bowden is expiring.
- Lisa Bowden nominated by Mark Gilleland.
- Mona Marceau moved that nominations cease. Seconded.
- Moderator instructed Town Clerk to cast one ballot for Lisa Bowden.

First Constable

- Moderator stated that the two-year term of Steve Mosher is expiring.
- Steve Mosher nominated by Marvin Bailey.
- Hearing no further nominations, Moderator announced that nominations would cease.
- Moderator instructed Town Clerk to cast one ballot for Steve Mosher.

Second Constable

- Moderator stated that the two-year term of David Stevenson is expiring.
- David Stevenson nominated by Mona Marceau.
- Hearing no further nominations, Moderator announced that nominations would cease.
- Moderator instructed Town Clerk to cast one ballot for David Stevenson.

Grand Juror

- Moderator stated that the one-year term of David Willis is expiring.
- David Willis nominated by Mona Marceau.
- Hearing no further nominations, Moderator announced that nominations would cease.
- Moderator instructed Town Clerk to cast one ballot for David Willis.

Town Agent

- Moderator stated that one-year term of Jay Abramson is expiring.
- Jay Abramson nominated by Mona Marceau.
- Hearing no further nominations, Moderator announced that nominations would cease.
- Moderator instructed Town Clerk to cast one ballot for Jay Abramson.

Trustee of Public Funds

- Moderator stated that three-year term of William Hoar is expiring.
- William Hoar nominated by Roseann Leute.
- Hearing no further nominations, Moderator announced that nominations would cease.
- Moderator instructed Town Clerk to cast one ballot for William Hoar.

Library Trustee

- Moderator stated that five-year term of Sarah Walls is expiring.
- Susan Roberts nominated by Sarah Walls.
- Mona Marceau asked if Sarah Walls is seeking re-election.
 - Ms. Walls indicated that she is not seeking re-election.
- Hearing no further nominations, Moderator announced that nominations would cease.
- Moderator instructed Town Clerk to cast one ballot for Susan Roberts.

Library Trustee

- Moderator stated that this office is vacant, having one year remaining of a five-year term. Alan Boye, who held this office, resigned and no replacement was appointed.
- Jane Casavant nominated by Sheri Colby-Schenck.
- Hearing no further nominations, Moderator announced that nominations would cease.
- Moderator instructed Town Clerk to cast one ballot for Jane Casavant.

ARTICLE 3. To consider and act upon the report of the Town Auditors.

- Mona Marceau moved to accept the report of the Town Auditors as it appears on page thirty-four of the Town Report. Seconded by Mary Jean Thielen.
- Motion was passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 4. Shall the Town of Barnet appropriate the sum of Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$250.00) to the American Red Cross of Vermont & the New Hampshire Upper Valley Region?

- David Willis moved the article as warned. Seconded.
- Motion was passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 5. Shall the Town of Barnet appropriate the sum of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) to Area Agency on Aging for Northeastern Vermont?

- John Cook moved the article as warned. Seconded by Mona Marceau.
- Motion was passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 6. Shall the Town of Barnet appropriate the sum of Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) to the Barnet Historical Society to be used for maintaining the Goodwillie House?

- David Warden moved the article as warned. Seconded by Mona Marceau.
- Shirley Warden spoke, requesting that the Historical Society include more information in

their report appearing in the Town Report, including who wrote the report and who the President is.

- Motion was passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 7. Shall the Town of Barnet appropriate the sum of Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) to the Barnet Historical Society to be used for conservation and preservation of collections of historical materials associated with the township of Barnet?

- David Warden moved the article as warned. Seconded by Mona Marceau.
- Kenneth Tyda spoke in opposition to the motion: Several of the appropriation requests may not be used or desired by some voters who must pay taxes to support the appropriations.
- Mona Marceau asked where the historical collections are stored, and if they are accessible to the public.
 - Roseann Leute, a member of the Historical Society spoke: Many of the collections are in the Goodwillie House, which is accessible during the summer months. A professional conservator, however, advised the Historical Society that some of the collections should be removed from this building during the winter. This conservator also advised that much conservation work must be performed on current collections.
- Motion was passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 8. Shall the Town of Barnet appropriate the sum of Two Thousand Three Hundred Dollars (\$2,300.00) to Caledonia Home Health Care?

- The article was moved as warned. Seconded by Mona Marceau.
- Motion was passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 9. Shall the Town of Barnet appropriate the sum of Seventeen Thousand Fifty Dollars (\$17,050) to CALEX Ambulance Service?

- The article was moved as warned. Seconded by Mona Marceau.
- Werner Kohnke asked what the total budget for CALEX is.
 - Celina Wright, Representative of CALEX, spoke, indicating that she did not have the exact budget amount, but believed it to be approximately \$200,000.
- Shirley Warden spoke, indicating that she participates in a CALEX insurance program whereby she pays an annual fee to cover the cost of ambulance service in case her health insurance does not pay.
 - Celina Wright spoke: The program to which Ms. Warden referred is CALEX's subscription program; information regarding this program is mailed to every mailing address in the area.
- Mona Marceau spoke: CALEX should make an effort to present a public service announcement several times each year explaining the benefits of a local ambulance service.
- Celina Wright spoke: Voters should support CALEX because it is a non-profit corporation that operates twenty-four hour per day, 365 day per year to serve the community. Because of its billing structure it does not receive payments for the full amounts it bills and therefore always operates in a deficit.
- Sheri Colby-Schenck spoke: Is the appropriation from Barnet used to serve just Barnet residents or residents of other towns also?

- Celina Wright spoke: The appropriation requests to towns are made on a per capita basis, but Barnet funds are applied to the CALEX location in St. Johnsbury. Barnet funds are not used exclusively for residents of Barnet, but they are not used for the Littleton facility.
- Kenneth Tyda spoke: CALEX does good work that should be appreciated and funded, but they should present the voters with a budget.
- Motion was passed by voice vote.

The Moderator at this time briefly recessed the meeting to allow Caledonia-1 State Representative Marcia Martel and Caledonia-3 State Representative Scott Beck to speak. As they are not Barnet voters, the Moderator asked if there were any objections to allowing them to speak. No objection was made. Ms. Martel spoke about a number of legislative issues, including clean water laws, Current Use, and a proposed gun law. Mr. Beck spoke primarily about legislative issues surrounding education and education spending, and answered various questions regarding the same.

ARTICLE 10. Shall the Town of Barnet appropriate the sum of Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) to Catamount Arts?

- Mona Marceau moved the article as warned. Seconded.
- Motion was passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 11. Shall the Town of Barnet appropriate the sum of One Thousand Seven Hundred Dollars (\$1,700.00) to Fairbanks Museum and Planetarium?

- Rosemary Kinerson moved the article as warned. Seconded by Mona Marceau.
- Motion was passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 12. Shall the Town of Barnet appropriate the sum of Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) to Kingdom Animal Shelter?

- Rosemary Kinerson moved the article as warned. Seconded by Mona Marceau.
- Motion was passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 13. Shall the Town of Barnet appropriate the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000) to the Lake Harvey Association to be used for a boat monitoring/wash program dedicated to the prevention of milfoil and other invasive species at Harvey's Lake?

- Mona Marceau moved the article as warned. Seconded by Rosemary Kinerson.
- Motion was passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 14. Shall the Town of Barnet appropriate the sum of One Thousand Seven Hundred Seventy-Five Dollars (\$1,775.00) to Northeast Kingdom Human Services, Inc.?

- Rosemary Kinerson moved the article as warned. Seconded by Mona Marceau.
- Motion was passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 15. Shall the Town of Barnet appropriate the sum of Three Hundred Dollars (\$300.00) to Northeast Kingdom Learning Services, Inc.?

- Mona Marceau moved the article as warned. Seconded by Rosemary Kinerson.

- John Cook asked what services are offered by this organization.
 - Celina Wright spoke, indicating that the primary service is education programs for adults.
 - Stephanie Giese spoke, also indicating adult education services are offered, including a GED program.
- Motion was passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 16. Shall the Town of Barnet appropriate the sum of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) to Northeast Kingdom Youth Services?

- Rosemary Kinerson moved the article as warned. Seconded by Mona Marceau.
- Motion was passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 17. Shall the Town of Barnet appropriate the sum of One Thousand One Hundred Dollars (\$1,100.00) to Rural Community Transportation?

- Rosemary Kinerson moved the article as warned. Seconded by Mona Marceau.
- Motion was passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 18. Shall the Town of Barnet appropriate the sum of Four Hundred Dollars (\$400.00) to Umbrella Inc.?

- Rosemary Kinerson moved the article as warned. Seconded by Mona Marceau.
- Lisa Bowden spoke: Why does Umbrella's report indicate that their services are for women only, and not men?
 - Celina Wright spoke, indicating that Umbrella focuses on women because they are most often the victims of domestic abuse.
 - Lisa Bowden spoke: Ms. Wright's information is incorrect; men are often the victims of abuse and do not have a resource for assistance.
- Motion was passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 19. Shall the Town of Barnet appropriate the sum of Two Hundred Eighty Dollars (\$280.00) to the Vermont Center for Independent Living?

- Mona Marceau moved the article as warned. Seconded by Rosemary Kinerson.
- Motion was passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 20. Shall the Town of Barnet appropriate the sum of Three Thousand Dollars (\$3,000.00) to the West Barnet Senior Meal Site?

- Marvin Bailey moved the article as warned. Seconded by Rosemary Kinerson.
- Motion was passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 21. To see what arrangements the Town and Town School District will vote for the collection of its taxes and by what lawful official for the ensuing year.

- Lisa Bowden moved that taxes shall become due and payable in hand to the Town Treasurer during business hours on or before October 17, 2015, with said taxes to be actually received by said Treasurer on or before the due date without regard to postmark; and thereafter said taxes shall be payable to the Collector of Delinquent Tax with interest at the rate of 1% per month or fraction thereof, for the first three months, and thereafter at the rate of 1 ½ % per month or fraction thereof, plus the collector's fee of 8% as provided by law. Seconded by Rosemary Kinerson.

- Mona Marceau spoke: The Collector of Delinquent Tax should be commended: Most of the delinquent taxpayers have made arrangements for payment plans.
- Motion was passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 22. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise to defray the expenses and liabilities of the Town for the current year.

- Jeremy Roberts moved to raise the sum of \$1,287,813 for the General Fund budget. Seconded by Rosemary Kinerson.
- Motion was passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 23. Shall the Town vote to exempt from taxation the property owned by the Barnet Historical Society located in Barnet Center and known as the Goodwillie House, for a period not to exceed five (5) years, pursuant to 32 VSA Section 3840?

- Mona Marceau moved the article as warned. Seconded by Rosemary Kinerson.
- Motion was passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 24. Shall the Town of Barnet accept the contribution and dedication of all of the assets of Barnet Public Library, a Vermont nonprofit corporation, and thereafter operate the Barnet Public Library as a municipal library pursuant to Subchapter 3 of Chapter 3 of Title 22 of the Vermont Statutes Annotated?

- Rosemary Kinerson moved the article as warned. Seconded by Mona Marceau.
- Rosemary Kinerson, who was Librarian for a number of years in the past, spoke, inquiring as to why this article is warned.
- Library Trustee Heather Counter spoke: This is primarily a “paperwork” issue to allow the Library to be in compliance with Internal Revenue Service (IRS) regulations. The Library was adopted by the Town in 1900, prior to the existence of the IRS.
- Catherine Baker spoke, asking what changes this article would cause.
 - Assistant Librarian Sherry Tolle spoke: For many years the Library has existed in a gray area between municipal and non-profit organization. The State of Vermont is willing to recognize the Library as municipal, but this article allows the Library to re-affirm its status in the eyes of the federal government.
- Rosemary Kinerson asked if passage of this article would make the librarians Town employees.
 - Sherry Tolle spoke, indicating that passage of this article would make the librarians Town employees.
 - Heather Counter spoke: Passage of this article will not change the amount budgeted from Town funds for the Library, but it will cause all of library financial reporting to emanate from the Town Treasurer rather than a Library Treasurer. The Library Trustees, however, would continue to exercise executive control over the Library.
- Mona Marceau asked if this article is essentially a “paperwork push.”
 - Sherry Tolle responded: Yes, it is essentially a “paperwork push.”
- Motion was passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 25. To transact any other business that may legally come before the meeting.

- Selectboard Chair Jeremy Roberts spoke about several items that the Selectboard is working on presently.
 - Harvey's Lake Dam. Mr. Roberts indicated that the Board continues to work to resolve problems caused by the present status of the dam. The Board has recently hired Robert Desrochers of Fairbanks Mill to advise the Board and seek solutions. Mr. Desrochers has recommended that the Board apply for a permit to remove sedimentation behind the dam, and thereafter work towards building a new dam at the outlet of the lake, and gradually cutting down the current dam or eventually removing it altogether.
 - Animal Control Ordinance. Mr. Roberts indicated that the Board has adopted a new ordinance to replace the former Dog Ordinance in hopes of giving the Board more options in enforcing the ordinance. The voters may request a special town meeting to reconsider this ordinance.
 - Town Hall renovations. Mr. Roberts reported that the Board has formed a committee to advise the Board on the proposed project of renovating the Town Hall and converting it to usable space for a new Town Clerk's Office and other town offices. The committee has retained the services of surveyor Andrew Dussault in order to determine property lines.
- Mona Marceau asked if the Board has a timeframe for the dam project.
 - Jeremy Roberts spoke: The Board is moving forward with the project per Mr. Desrochers's recommendations, but does not have a firm timeframe for the final stages, particularly as it relates to a new dam at the lake outlet.
- Mona Marceau spoke: If another election is held at the Fire & Rescue Station, there should be improvements in lighting and signage.
 - Jeremy Roberts spoke: It is agreed that improvements should be made; the November 2014 General Election was moved to the Fire & Rescue Station on short notice.
- Steven Adler spoke: Has Mr. Desrochers submitted a permit application for sediment removal, and has the Board contacted contractors to perform the work this spring?
 - Jeremy Roberts spoke: The Board is not aware of the status of the permit at this time. The Board is also not aware of what the permit will allow, so they have not yet contacted contractors.
- Rosemarie Spinelli spoke: What is the process to hold a special town meeting regarding the Animal Control Ordinance?
 - Jeremy Roberts spoke: A petition must be submitted to the Board containing the signatures of five percent of the voter checklist within forty-four days of the date of adoption.
- Catherine Baker spoke: What is the present status of the TransCanada Hydro Northeast tax appeal?
 - Dylan Ford spoke: The appeal is currently pending a trial in Vermont Superior Court.
- Grace Gershuny spoke promoting Green-Up Day, and indicating that she is resigning as Green-Up Day coordinator. Ms. Gershuny indicated that she hopes to persuade the Selectboard to appoint a Town Energy Committee.
- Shirley Warden spoke: The Zoning Board/Planning Commission is working on a revision of the Town Plan to include a flood plain resiliency plan. The Board plans to hold a public hearing in the next month or so.

- Susan Persson spoke, reporting on Beach Committee activities in 2014 and soliciting volunteers for playground fund-raisers.
- Robert Farlice-Rubio, an employee of Fairbanks Museum, spoke, thanking the voters for their appropriation to the museum, and indicating the benefits to residents that this appropriation affords.
- Wendy Fearon spoke, asking if there is a designated emergency shelter in town.
 - Moderator Dennis McLam spoke, indicating that the Barnet Elementary School is the designated emergency shelter.
- Moderator Dennis McLam adjourned the meeting at 11:35 a.m.

Dennis McLam, Moderator

Jeremy Roberts, Selectman

Attest: Benjamin Heisholt, Town Clerk