

**MINUTES
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
TOWN OF BARNET, VERMONT
MARCH 1, 2016**

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. at the Barnet Elementary School gymnasium by Moderator Dennis McLam.

ARTICLE 1. To elect a Moderator.

- Moderator stated that one-year term of Dennis McLam is expiring.
- Dennis McLam nominated by John Cook.
- William Biddle moved that nominations cease. Seconded by Jay Sprout.
- 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.

Selectboard

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

Lister

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

Auditor

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

Collector of Delinquent Tax

- Moderator stated that the one-year term of Lisa Bowden is expiring.
- Lisa Bowden nominated by Mark Gilleland.
- Hearing no further nominations, Moderator announced that nominations would cease.
- Moderator instructed Town Clerk to cast one ballot for Lisa Bowden.

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. Moderator stated that Mr. Abramson does not seek another term.
- Steven Adler nominated by Sherry Tolle.
- James McFaul nominated by Wendy Bunnell.
- Hearing no further nominations, Moderator announced that nominations would cease.
- Each of the two nominees spoke, discussing their experience as local attorneys, and indicating that they would be willing to serve if elected.
- Moderator conducted a show-of-hands vote. Results: Steven Adler: 62, James McFaul: 18. Steven Adler elected.

Trustee of Public Funds

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

Library Trustee

- Moderator stated that five-year term of Jane Casavant is expiring.
- Jane Casavant nominated by Susan Roberts.
- Hearing no further nominations, Moderator announced that nominations would cease.
- Moderator instructed Town Clerk to cast one ballot for Jane Casavant

Library Trustee

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

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 twenty-nine of the Town Report. Seconded by Sherry Tolle.
- 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?

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

ARTICLE 5. 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?

- Mona Marceau moved the article as warned. Seconded by Louis Bushey.
- Richard Gilmour moved to amend the motion by increasing the appropriation to \$1,000.00. Seconded.
- Roseann Leute spoke: This year the Historical Society has two articles on the agenda, just as in 2015, each in the amount of \$500.00. Each carries a restriction as to use. The Historical Society would welcome another \$500.00 for maintenance of the Goodwillie House. Ms. Leute then briefly reviewed the various expenses incurred for maintaining the Goodwillie House.
- The amendment of the motion passed by voice vote.
- The amended motion, with an appropriation of \$1,000.00, 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 conservation and preservation of collections of historical materials associated with the township of Barnet?

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

ARTICLE 7. Shall the Town of Barnet appropriate the sum of Two Thousand Three Hundred Dollars (\$2,300.00) to Caledonia Home Health Care & Hospice?

- Sandra Turman moved the article as warned. Seconded by Robert Farlice-Rubio.
- Motion was passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 8. 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.
- Richard Gilmour spoke: Why is the per-visit cost of CALEX so much more than that of Caledonia Home Health Care & Hospice? Why are so many of CALEX's visits not billable?
 - Celina Wright, Representative of CALEX, spoke: Most of CALEX's budget is payroll costs, which are primarily attributable to the "always-ready" nature of the service; this is not the case with Caledonia Home Health Care & Hospice. Non-billable visits result when the ambulance is called but does not ultimately transport a patient. Often this is because the CALEX staff treats the patient adequately on-site. Insurance companies will not pay for the service when there is not a transport.
- Motion was passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 9. Shall the Town of Barnet appropriate the sum of Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) to Catamount Arts?

- Louis Bushey moved the article as warned. Seconded.

- Motion was passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 10. Shall the Town of Barnet appropriate the sum of One Thousand Seven Hundred Dollars (\$1,700.00) to Fairbanks Museum and Planetarium?

- Mona Marceau moved the article as warned. Seconded by Louis Bushey.
- Robert Farlice-Rubio spoke: The Fairbanks Museum and Planetarium thanks the voters of Barnet for their support in 2015. The appropriation entitles all Barnet residents to free admission to the museum.
- Motion was passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 11. Shall the Town of Barnet appropriate the sum of Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) to Kingdom Animal Shelter?

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

ARTICLE 12. 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.
- Motion was passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 13. Shall the Town of Barnet appropriate the sum of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) to Northeast Kingdom Council on Aging?

- John Cook moved the article as warned. Seconded by Mona Marceau.
- 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.?

- Mona Marceau moved the article as warned. Seconded.
- 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 Lisa Bowden.
- 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?

- Mona Marceau moved the article as warned. Seconded by Lisa Bowden.
- 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?

- Mona Marceau moved the article as warned. Seconded by Lisa Bowden.
- 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.?

- Sandra Turman moved the article as warned. Seconded by Mona Marceau.
- 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 Lisa Bowden.
- 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?

- Mona Marceau moved the article as warned. Seconded by Roseann Leute.
- Sherry Tolle moved to amend the motion by increasing the appropriation to \$4,000.00. Seconded by Roseann Leute.
- Mary Faris spoke: If the Meal Site requires more funds, why has it not increased its rate for meals? Has the Meal Site asked other towns for appropriations?
 - John Cook spoke: The Meal Site attempts to keep the rate affordable, as it is sensitive to the fixed and low-income status of many of its patrons. The rate is not a fee, but a suggested donation. The Meal Site does not ask for appropriations from other towns at this time.
- Mary Jean Thielen spoke: The Northeast Kingdom Council on Aging is level-funding its funding to meal sites; an increase in appropriation is in order.
- Sherry Tolle's amendment to increase the appropriation to \$4,000.00 was passed by voice vote.
- Amended 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 15, 2016, 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 Mona Marceau.
- 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 \$1,449,070 for the General Fund budget. Seconded by Mona Marceau.
- Jeremy Roberts thanked Jay Abramson for his fine service as Town Agent, and related an anecdote exemplifying Mr. Abramson's willingness to work collaboratively with the Selectboard.
- Jeremy Roberts spoke about the 2016 proposed budget, emphasizing the continued focus

on improving paved road surfaces, the recent purchase of a roadside mower, and maintenance of town trucks and equipment.

- Motion was passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 23. To transact any other business that may legally come before the meeting.

- Shirley Warden spoke about several matters, including recycling, and the Planning Commission/Zoning Board.
- Grace Gershuny spoke regarding Green-Up Day, which is scheduled for May 7, 2016.
- James Pircher spoke about public safety concerns in reference to violent criminals released from prison, and advocated for gun rights.
- Steven Adler spoke about the 2015 project at the Harvey's Lake Dam, as pictured on the cover of the Town Report, commending the Selectboard for their efforts in this first step in a larger project towards the improved health of the lake and the Stevens River.
- Sherry Tolle spoke regarding the Good Neighbor Fund, which collects refundable bottles and cans at the Recycling Center, using the proceeds to assist Barnet residents in need.
- Moderator Dennis McLam adjourned the meeting at 2:00 p.m.

Dennis McLam, Moderator

Jeremy Roberts, Selectman

Attest: Benjamin Heisholt, Town Clerk