

DRAFT

MINUTES – SELECTBOARD MEETING TOWN OF BARNET, VERMONT MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2015

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: Town Agent Jay Abramson, Road Foreman Mark Chase, Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt, Zoning Administrative Officer Shirley Warden, Steven Adler, and Robert Desrochers.

1. Approve minutes of regular meeting held January 26, 2015 and special meeting held January 28, 2015

Mr. Bunnell moved to approve as presented the minutes of the regular meeting held January 26, 2015 and the special meeting January 28, 2015. Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote.

2. Appearances by members of the public

There were no appearances by members of the public.

3. Appearance by Robert Desrochers of Fairbanks Mill regarding Harvey's Lake Dam renovations

Mr. Desrochers appeared to provide an update to the Board regarding his research into the history of the dam, its present status, and the best approach for solving the problems at hand. In doing so, he reviewed a number of sources of information, including a hydrologic and hydraulic report prepared for the Town in 2008 by Milone & MacBroom, Inc. A brief sketch of the highlights of Mr. Desrochers presentation is as follows:

- The two functional purposes of the dam at present are to regulate the lake level and to pass stream flow downriver, especially during heavy rain events.
- The current dam does an adequate job at serving its present purposes approximately 95% of the time. During the other 5% of the time, however, 95% of undesirable outcomes are caused.
- A dam was built at the present location in the 1920s for the capture, storage, and controlled release of water for the hydroelectric plant that was located downstream on the falls in the center of Barnet Village. Towards this end the chosen location was very suitable.
- The dam was sold to the Town of Barnet in 1949; it was reconstructed by the Town at the same location in 1970.
- The Milone & MacBroom study concluded that there is an issue with backflow into the lake from the South Peacham Brook. Recommendations stemming from the report are unreliable, however, because a crucial error in calculation was made.
- In a flood event the flow from South Peacham Brook is much greater than the flow from the outlet of the lake.
- Operation of the dam gate will not cure the problem of backflow into the lake.
- Although the current dam location was ideal for the dam's original functional purpose, the location does not serve the present functional purposes noted above. The best long-term plan would therefore be to cut down the crest of the current dam, and to build another dam at the outlet of the lake.
- A short-term plan to allow time for the long-term plan to be implemented would be to apply for a "next-flood protective measure" permit from the State of Vermont. This permit would allow the Town to excavate behind the dam to remove sediment; this would allow the full length of

the dam to be in use, increasing its capacity in a flood event, and creating a cavity for safe accumulation of ongoing sedimentation.

Discussion ensued. The Board agreed to request that Mr. Desrochers apply on the Town's behalf for a "next-flood preventative measure" permit.

4. Appearance by Town Agent Jay Abramson regarding animal control ordinance revision

The Board reviewed a new draft of the ordinance as prepared by Mr. Abramson. This draft incorporates the changes agreed to by the Board at their previous meeting. Discussion ensued.

- The Board requested that Mr. Abramson investigate the legal process for ordinance adoption.

5. Appearance by Town Agent Jay Abramson regarding town highway reclassification and discontinuance

The Board discussed with Mr. Abramson their goals in proposing the reclassification or discontinuance of various dead-end or single-residence town highways. Mr. Abramson advised the Board that there is no legal mechanism for noticing in the Land Records the future reclassification or discontinuance of certain town highways on the basis of the sale of properties. Discussion ensued.

- The Board instructed Road Foreman Mark Chase to calculate the time required to maintain the Town Highways in question.

6. Appearance by Road Foreman Mark Chase regarding Highway Department matters

a. Plowing and sanding. Mr. Chase reported that most of his first week in the Highway Department had been spent plowing and sanding roads.

b. Plow wing damage. Mr. Chase reported that truck drivers on two occasions had struck trees with their plow wings, necessitating repairs.

c. Dump truck bodies. The Board discussed deteriorating bodies on trucks #6 and #9.

- The Board instructed Mr. Chase to obtain a quote for a new body on Truck #9 and to see if the body currently on Truck #005, which is being replaced as defective by the supplier, may be purchased to replace the body on Truck #6.

d. Dump truck #6 transmission. Mr. Chase reported that the transmission on Truck #6 is in need of repair.

- The Board instructed Mr. Chase to bring the truck to John Bogie for repairs.

e. Town Garage moisture problem. Mr. Bunnell indicated that there continues to be a problem with moisture inside the Town Garage. Discussion ensued.

f. Flagger training. Mr. Chase discussed with the Board the process for obtaining flagger training for Highway Department employees.

g. Grader tires. Mr. Chase reported that the new rims for the grader have arrived at the Town Garage; the tires are ordered but not yet delivered.

h. Evaluations. The Board discussed with Mr. Chase the process for employee evaluations and pay raises based on evaluations.

7. Discussion regarding appointment of representative to Northeastern Vermont Development Association (NVDA)

Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt advised the Board that Leigh Larocque previously served as NVDA representative *ex officio* as a State Representative. As Mr. Larocque is no longer a State Representative the Town currently has no NVDA representative. Mr. Larocque has expressed interest in being appointed representative by the Selectboard. NVDA has indicated, however, that any appointed representative must serve the Town in some other elected or appointed office in order to qualify as NVDA representative. Discussion ensued.

- The Board requested that Mr. Heisholt ask Mr. Larocque if he would be willing to serve on the Buildings Committee in addition to being appointed as NVDA representative.

8. Correspondence from Northeastern Vermont Development Association (NVDA) regarding Local Emergency Operations Plan

The Board reviewed a copy of the plan as updated by Fire & Rescue Chief Ronald Morse. The plan is now ready for adoption by the Selectboard, but the Chair of the Selectboard must first complete an ICS 100 course.

9. Applications for Uniform Municipal Excess Weight Permits

The Board reviewed and approved the fleet application of Newport Sand & Gravel/Carroll Concrete Co. Inc.

10. Other business

- a. Transfer Station & Recycling Center in cold weather.** Ms. Ford reported on concerns expressed by personnel regarding the extreme cold weather expected on Saturday, February 14, 2015. Among these are the possibilities that the compactor may malfunction, and that the cold temperatures may be hazardous for the Recycling Center staff. Discussion ensued.

 - The Board agreed that Mr. Roberts would perform maintenance on the compactor, and Ms. Ford would contact Supervisor Bruce Marston regarding Recycling Center staffing.
- b. Personnel Policy clarification.** Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt discussed the sections of the Policy relating to paying remaining Personal Time and Floating Holiday Time to terminated employees. Mr. Heisholt requested that the Board clarify how accrued time is calculated mid-year in order to determine how much is paid to a terminated employee. Discussion ensued.

 - The Board agreed that only time actually accrued as of the termination date should be paid to terminated employees, and asked that Mr. Heisholt draft language clarifying this for their consideration at a future meeting.
- c. Andrew Dussault's Town Hall land survey.** Mr. Roberts discussed his meeting with Mr. Dussault regarding Mr. Dussault's findings thus far.
- d. Dog complaint on Old Silo Road.** The Board reviewed a letter from Kyle Ryan and Stephanie Mitchel. Discussion ensued.

 - The Board agreed that Mr. Roberts will request that Animal Control Officer Josephine Guertin impound the offending dog.
- e. Building Committee appointment.** Ms. Ford reported that Laurajeane Stewart has expressed willingness to serve on the Building Committee as representative of Barnet Village. Discussion ensued.

 - The Board agreed to appoint Laurajeane Stewart to the Building Committee.

11. Outstanding check warrants

The Board reviewed and approved all outstanding check warrants.

12. Adjournment

Mr. Bunnell moved to adjourn. Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

A true copy.

Attest: _____
Town Clerk