

**MINUTES – REGULAR SELECTBOARD MEETING  
TOWN OF BARNET, VERMONT  
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 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:** Road Foreman Mark Chase, Lister John Cook, Lister Sarah Cook, Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt, Zoning Administrative Officer Shirley Warden, Janice Parsons, and Michael Wormser.

**1. Approve minutes of special meeting held August 31, 2015**

Mr. Bunnell moved to approve as presented the minutes of the special meeting held August 31, 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. Consideration of information technologies (I.T.) support for town offices**

Listers John Cook and Sarah Cook appeared, along with Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt, to present a proposal submitted by rbTechnologies, LLC. Mrs. Cook discussed the research she performed in investigating options to upgrade the I.T. support at the Town Clerk’s Office (including a network incorporating the computers of the Town Clerk, Assistant Town Clerk, and Listers). The Listers cited increasingly intensive network, internet, and software requirements associated with their positions. They indicated that the current level of service is not sufficient to maintain the performance of their computers at optimum efficiency. Mrs. Cook indicated that rbTechnologies is the best of the several options investigated. Mr. Cook and Mr. Heisholt concurred. The Board reviewed the proposal. Annual maintenance costs (including antivirus, remote access, and pro-active monitoring system) are quoted at \$1,536.00 for four computers. The municipal rate for support services is quoted at \$130.00 per hour during business hours. Installation of a new Listers workstation computer is quoted at approximately \$1,314 (including hardware and labor, excluding software and peripherals). Installation of the Surface Pro tablet computer, which the Listers already possess, is quoted at \$375.00 for labor only. Discussion ensued.

- Ms. Ford moved to contract with rbTechnologies, LLC for I.T. support for the Town. Seconded by Mr. Bunnell and approved by voice vote.

**4. Appearance by Road Foreman Mark Chase regarding Highway Department matters**

**a. Truck repairs.** Mr. Chase reported that Truck #004 is at McDevitts undergoing repairs.

Repairs were required for the head gasket, turbo, exhaust manifold, wiring, and bearings. The truck is expected to be returned this week. Truck #003 has a clutch fan problem and is at R.R. Charlebois for repairs; it is also expected to be returned this week. Finally, Truck #006 required suspension repairs; this work was performed by Rick Benoit and the truck has been returned to the Town Garage.

**b. Culverts.** Mr. Chase reported that Shane Stevenson has started work on installation of culverts on Town Forest Road. These should be complete this week; next Mr. Stevenson will begin culvert installations on Comerford Dam Road.

**c. Cloud Brook stream bank stabilization.** Mr. Chase indicated that, with regard to this matter as discussed at the past two meetings, he has a scheduled on-site meeting on September 15 with Patrick Ross of the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation, Watershed Management Division.

**5. Correspondence from VELCO regarding request to install underground duct for fiber optic cable on Garland Hill near intersection with US Route 5 South in McIndoe Falls**

The Board reviewed an email and attached sketch of the proposed underground project along the south side of Garland Hill at the Interstate 91 overpasses. Discussion ensued. Road Foreman Mark Chase indicated that he had visited the site and does not believe that the project will cause any problems for the Town's road maintenance.

- The Board agreed to approve the project.

**6. Consideration of sales proposal and bank financing for new dump truck purchase**

The Board reviewed a revised proposal from R.R. Charlebois, Inc., which includes all agreed-upon details including the trade-in value of Truck #009, but does not differ in substance from the proposal voted on by the Board at their previous meeting. The Board then reviewed quotes for financing of \$84,400 for part of the purchase of the truck. The quotes were as summarized below:

Community National Bank: 0.75%

Passumpsic Savings Bank: 0.95%

Union Bank: 0.89%

Vermont State Treasurer's Municipal Equipment Loan Fund: 2.00%

Mr. Bunnell moved to finance \$84,400 for the purchase of the dump truck through Community National Bank. Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote.

**7. Consideration of Harvey's Lake Dam sediment removal project**

- Mr. Bunnell reported that he has met on site with the excavation contractor, J.A. MacDonald. Mr. Bunnell indicated that at the meeting a clear and effective plan for excavation was communicated.
- Residents Janice Parsons and Michael Wormser appeared. They asked about the status of the lake level, which has not lowered as expected due to a beaver dam on the lake outlet channel. They also inquired as to the status of the project and whether the beaver dam will affect progress.
  - Mr. Bunnell reported that the beaver dam is in the outlet channel above its confluence with the South Peacham Brook. Therefore it will not affect the project at all. The area behind the dam has dewatered as expected and the project is still on schedule. Excavation will start soon, and the project still has an approximate end date of October 1, although this date is highly variable depending on the weather.
- Mr. Roberts suggested that the Board consider suspending the services of Fairbanks Mill for the present time due to budgetary constraints. Discussion ensued.
  - The Board agreed to engage Fairbanks Mill to install a safety rail and repair the 2' by 2' gate on the dam, and thereafter to suspend the services of Fairbanks Mill for the immediate future.

**8. Consideration of proposals for request for reduction in monitoring at Barnet landfill**

The Board reviewed an email from The Johnson Company, which was received at the request of Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt, based on the request of the Board at their previous meeting. The email indicates that it is The Johnson Company's opinion that historical tabulation/database analysis is required for the project in order to "defensibly recommend changes." Discussion ensued.

- Mr. Bunnell moved to hire The Johnson Company to prepare an application for reduction in groundwater monitoring at the former landfill.

**9. Correspondence from Northeast Kingdom Waste Management District (NEKWMD) regarding variance for the collection of leaf and yard waste**

The Board reviewed a letter indicating that NEKWMD is in the process of applying, on behalf of the Town of Barnet and several other District towns, for a variance from the requirement of the Vermont

Universal Recycling Law (Act 148) that transfer stations accept leaf and yard debris separate from other solid waste materials and deliver these to a location that manages leaf and yard waste. Discussion ensued.

### **10. Other business**

- a. McIndoe Falls poultry farm.** Ms. Ford indicated that she received a report of a near-accident on U.S. Route 5 South in McIndoe Falls resulting from motorists attempting to avoid domestic geese in the road. Zoning Administrative Officer Shirley Warden spoke regarding her research into this issue in the past. The Vermont Department of Agriculture has indicated that the Town does not have the authority to regulate domestic livestock. The Vermont Agency of Transportation has indicated that they will take action in the matter only if there is an accident. Ms. Warden suggests that concerned residents contact the Department of Agriculture.
- b. Barnet Trailblazers All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV) Club barbeque.** Ms. Ford indicated that she attended the ATV Club’s annual barbeque held in appreciation of landowners and others who assisted the Club during the present ATV season. Ms. Ford reported that the Club expressed thanks to the Town for its cooperation with regard to the maintenance and enforcement of the ATV Ordinance and to Green-Up Day activities.
- c. Clean water grants.** Ms. Ford discussed an email she sent to the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources’ Clean Water Fund Board regarding requesting funds to assist with engineering, surveying, and boring costs associated with the next stage of the Harvey’s Lake Dam project. Ms. Ford indicated that she has not received a response to her email.

### **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 8:15 p.m.

*A true copy.*

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Town Clerk*