

**MINUTES – REGULAR SELECTBOARD MEETING
TOWN OF BARNET, VERMONT
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 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: Road Foreman Mark Chase, Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt, Zoning Administrative Officer Shirley Warden, Connor Cyrus (Lyndon State College News 7), and Dan Reynolds (Lyndon State College News 7).

1. Approve minutes of regular meeting held October 26, 2015

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

2. Appearance by Hon. Roy Vance, Assistant Judge, Caledonia County

Judge Vance did not appear at this meeting as scheduled on the agenda.

3. Appearances by members of the public

There were no appearances by members of the public.

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

- a. Paving complete.** Mr. Chase reported that Pike Industries has completed all scheduled paving work for 2015. The Highway Department is currently working on the shoulders of these roads.
- b. Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans) Bridge Street railroad crossing project.** Mr. Chase reported regarding his discussions with VTrans about a planned project on Bridge Street to repair and improve the railroad crossing. The project will be funded through Federal Emergency Management Agency monies stemming from the May 2011 flooding, and through the State of Vermont; no Town funds will be involved. VTrans must complete the project before the end of December; the work may be completed on a weekend.
- c. Highway Department vacations.** Mr. Chase reported that two Highway Department employees will be taking vacation during the next several weeks. Both will remain local and will be available in the event of emergency or winter weather.
- d. Better Backroads grant forfeiture.** Mr. Chase reported that VTrans has requested that the Town provide a forfeiture letter indicating that the Town will not complete the project on Mosquitoville Road associated with a 2014 grant. Discussion ensued.
 - The Board requested that Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt draft and mail a forfeiture letter.
- e. Danville Highway Department overburden removal.** Mr. Chase reported that the Danville Highway Department will be removing some overburden from the Barnet gravel pit on Tuesday, November 10, 2015.

5. Correspondence from SunCommon regarding application to the Vermont Public Service Board for a Certificate of Public Good for a net metered power system on the property of Thomas and Sherry Tolle located at 2742 US Route 5 South

The Board reviewed the cover letter, application, and various attachments. Discussion ensued.

- The Board agreed that it has no objections to the proposed project.

Ms. Ford suggested that the Board consider buying into the proposed solar array by being one or more of the "households" powered through it. Discussion ensued. The Board also discussed possibilities for solar arrays hosted on Town properties.

6. Consideration of Personnel Policy with regard to Assistant Town Clerk vacation time

Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt indicated that the current Personnel Policy makes no reference to paid vacation time for the Assistant Town Clerk, although this position has been receiving vacation time for many years. Presently the Assistant Town Clerk, who Mr. Heisholt estimates to work an average of twenty (20) hours per week, accrues vacation time at a rate of four (4) hours per month, which is one-half of that of a full-time employee. Mr. Heisholt also suggested that the Board consider increasing the number of hours accrued per month for the current Assistant Town Clerk based on her tenure.

Discussion ensued.

- Ms. Ford moved that vacation time for the Assistant Town Clerk be added as a benefit in the Personnel Policy, accruing at the rate of four (4) hours per month from the time of employment through the fourteenth year, and increasing to five (5) hours per month from beginning of the fifteenth year. Seconded by Mr. Bunnell and approved by voice vote.

7. Consideration of health insurance benefit for 2016

Mr. Heisholt presented data regarding 2016 health insurance premiums and deductibles, as requested by the Board at the previous meeting. Based on current employee enrollment and Town contributions, there would be an increase in Town expenditures for health insurance premiums from 2015 to 2016 of approximately \$3,304.66. Deductibles and co-pays remain the same in 2016 as in 2015. Discussion ensued.

- Ms. Ford moved to not amend the personnel policy with regard to health insurance but to continue to grant employees choice of Blue Cross Blue Shield plans, paying 90% of the premium of whichever plan is chosen, and to fund the Town's Health Reimbursement Accounts in 2016 at the same level as 2015 (beginning with a balance of \$2,500 for each full-time employee on January 1, 2016). Seconded by Mr. Bunnell and approved by voice vote.

8. Other business

No other business was discussed.

9. Outstanding check warrants

The Board reviewed and approved all outstanding check warrants.

10. Adjournment

Mr. Bunnell moved to adjourn. Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

A true copy.

Attest: _____
Town Clerk