

**MINUTES – REGULAR SELECTBOARD MEETING  
TOWN OF BARNET, VERMONT  
MONDAY, JANUARY 11, 2016**

**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, and David Stevenson.

**1. Approve minutes of regular meeting held December 28, 2015**

Mr. Bunnell moved to approve as presented the minutes of the regular meeting held December 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 Jeffrey Riley of Barnet Fire District #2 regarding invoices for Church Street project**

Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt reported that neither Mr. Riley nor any other representative of Barnet Fire District #2 (FD #2) would be present at this meeting. The annual meeting of FD #2 was concurrent with this meeting, making it impossible for any official to attend. David Stevenson, a resident of FD #2, appeared and spoke regarding his concerns about the village water system. Mr. Stevenson, the Town's elected Second Constable, also discussed several dogs which had been creating a nuisance, but have been removed from Town recently. Discussion ensued regarding the 2015 Church Street construction project, and payment for paving expenses associated with it.

- The Board agreed to invite the entire Prudential Committee to attend the next regular Selectboard meeting, scheduled for January 25, 2016.

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

- a. **Dennis Tillotson anniversary.** Mr. Chase noted that Highway Department employee Dennis Tillotson marked his first anniversary as an employee of the Town on January 8, 2016.
- b. **Dump truck #003 repairs.** Mr. Chase reported that truck #003 is currently at R.R. Charlebois undergoing replacement of two steering pumps. It is expected to be returned the day following this meeting. Repair costs are expected to total more than \$2,000.
- c. **Normal maintenance.** Mr. Chase reported that the Highway Department has been engaged primarily in regular winter maintenance activities during the past several weeks; these activities included plowing, sanding and salting, and cutting brush.
- d. **Contract for mutual aid from Town of Ryegate.** Mr. Chase presented a proposed contract, received from the Ryegate Road Foreman, which delineates terms and conditions of an agreement by which Ryegate and Barnet highway departments would assist each other through mutual aid, in the form of labor and equipment. Discussion ensued.
  - The Board agreed to not sign the contract, agreeing on a preference to continue to participate in mutual aid without a contract.
- e. **Substitute driver candidate.** Mr. Roberts discussed with Mr. Chase and the rest of the Board a substitute truck driver candidate whom Mr. Roberts referred to Mr. Chase. This candidate has submitted an application for employment. Discussion ensued.
  - The Board requested that Mr. Heisholt make inquiry into what, if any, is the minimum age for drivers to be insured under the Town's insurance policy.

**5. Correspondence from Vermont Agency of Transportation regarding 2016 Certificate of Highway Mileage**

The Board reviewed a letter and attached instructions regarding the Town's annual obligation to report on the mileages of various classes of roads.

- The Board signed the Certificate as indicating that there were no changes in mileages from the previous year.

**6. Correspondence from Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans) regarding bridge inspection summary reports**

The Board read a cover letter and reviewed the attached reports on the bridges inspected in 2014. Mr. Heisholt explained that VTrans will no longer mail inspection summary reports on all bridges inspected biennially. This data is now available online through the VTrans website. Reports on a bridges inspected in a given year will be available no later than April 1 of the ensuing year. Discussion ensued.

**7. Correspondence from Barnet Fire & Rescue regarding annual nomination of Chief**

Mr. Roberts read a letter indicating that Barnet Fire & Rescue has nominated Ronald Morse to be re-appointed as Chief in 2016.

- Ms. Ford moved to re-appoint Ronald Morse as Chief of Barnet Fire & Rescue. Seconded by Mr. Bunnell and approved by voice vote.

**8. Correspondence from the Vermont Division of Property Valuation & Review regarding Certified Equalized Education Property Value effective January 1, 2016**

The Board reviewed the results of the equalization study. The equalized education property value was \$234,510,000, the coefficient of dispersion 18.38%, and common level of appraisal 105.52%.

**9. Correspondence from The Johnson Company regarding landfill groundwater/surface water monitoring database and summary**

The Board reviewed a letter and attached map and database pertaining to The Johnson Company's review of the semi-annual samples collected between May 2010 and October 2015 at the Town's closed landfill. The letter indicates The Johnson Company's proposed possible changes to the current monitoring plan, pending State approval, which include: cessation of volatile organic compounds (VOC) monitoring at all monitoring points except two, removal of six metals from the monitoring program, cessation of monitoring altogether at two monitoring points, and a reduction to annual rather than semi-annual sampling. Discussion ensued.

- The Board requested that Mr. Heisholt instruct The Johnson Company to proceed with a proposal for reduction in monitoring, per the recommendations in their letter, to present to the State of Vermont.

**10. Correspondence from Lincoln Applied Geology regarding October 2015 groundwater monitoring and sampling event at former Passumpsic Village Store**

The Board reviewed the report indicating the results of monitoring performed October 29, 2015.

**11. Correspondence from SunCommon with response to Vermont Division of Historic Preservation's (VDHP) comments on proposed solar project at 2742 US Route 5 South in Barnet**

The Board reviewed a letter and attached map regarding the proposed project on the property of Thomas and Sherry Tolle. SunCommon addresses VDHP concerns regarding potential archeological artifacts, indicating that "the Applicant will pile drive posts to support solar panels and have all electrical conduit above ground."

**12. Correspondence from Caledonia-Essex Area Ambulance Service, Inc. regarding 2014 audited Revenue & Expenses Statement**

The Board read a cover letter and reviewed the attached Revenue & Expenses Statement.

**13. Correspondence from Northeastern Vermont Development Association, Inc. (NVDA) regarding solicitation for input on Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)**

The Board reviewed an email and attachments relating to the proposed update of the CEDs. NVDA requests comment from the Towns in the six counties included. Discussion ensued.

**14. Other business**

**a. Northeastern Vermont Development Association, Inc. (NVDA) “dues” request. Mr.**

Roberts presented and discussed correspondence he received from NVDA requesting Town funds for 2016. This request uses the term “dues” rather than “appropriation,” as in the past, to describe the financial request. Discussion ensued regarding the nature of the Town’s relationship with NVDA and the benefits deriving from membership in the organization.

**15. Outstanding check warrants**

The Board reviewed and approved all outstanding check warrants.

**16. 2016 budget discussion**

The Board continued their review of the Selectboard budget, making various adjustments.

Shirley Warden appeared, and discussed proposed improvements at the Transfer Station & Recycling Center, including a roofed structure over the construction dumpsters and an addition to the recycling building. Discussion ensued.

- The Board agreed that there are sufficient funds in the Municipal Buildings Fund reserve account to finance these improvements in 2016.

Ms. Ford left the meeting.

The Board agreed on 2016 hourly wage rate increases for the positions of Assistant Town Clerk, Lister, Auditor, Transfer Station & Recycling Center Supervisor, and Transfer Station & Recycling Center Attendant.

**17. Discussion regarding legal proceedings in the tax appeal of TransCanada Hydro Northeast, Inc. (executive session)**

- Mr. Bunnell moved that the Board make a specific finding that premature public knowledge of discussion concerning the legal proceedings related to the tax appeal of TransCanada Hydro Northeast, Inc., in which the Town is a party, would clearly place the Town of Barnet at a substantial disadvantage. Seconded by Mr. Roberts and approved by voice vote.
- Mr. Bunnell moved that the Board enter executive session pursuant to 1 V.S.A. Section 313 (a)(1)(E) to discuss the legal proceedings related to the tax appeal of TransCanada Hydro Northeast, Inc., as premature public disclosure of which would clearly place the Town of Barnet at a substantial disadvantage. Seconded by Mr. Roberts and approved by voice vote. Entered executive session at 9:30 pm. Those present in executive session: Mr. Roberts, Mr. Bunnell, and Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt.
- Mr. Bunnell moved to exit executive session. Seconded by Mr. Roberts and approved by voice vote. Exited executive session at 9:33 p.m.
- No action taken.

**18. Adjournment**

Mr. Bunnell moved to adjourn. Seconded by Mr. Roberts and approved by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 9:33 p.m.

*A true copy.*

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