

**MINUTES – REGULAR SELECTBOARD MEETING  
TOWN OF BARNET, VERMONT  
MONDAY, OCTOBER 24, 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, Building Committee Chair William Graves, Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt, Zoning Administrative Officer Shirley Warden, Eric Page, and Shane Stevenson.

**1. Consideration of approval of minutes of regular meeting held October 10, 2016**

Ms. Ford noted that in item number four the minutes indicate that "Mr. Ford" made a motion; this should read "Ms. Ford."

Mr. Bunnell moved to approve as presented, with correction as noted by Ms. Ford, the minutes of the regular meeting held October 10, 2016. Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote.

**2. Consideration of snowmobile access on town highways for the forthcoming snowmobile season**

Mr. Roberts read a letter from the Bayley Hazen Road Snowmobile Club requesting snowmobile access for trail connection purposes during the 2016-2017 season on portions of Laird Road, Somerhill Road, Stevenson Road, and West Main Street, as has been granted in previous years. Eric Page, of the snowmobile club, appeared to answer questions regarding this matter. Resident Shane Stevenson appeared and asked if access granted for snowmobile travel on town highways is for the traveled portion of the road only, or if it extends to the edge of the town right-of-way. Mr. Stevenson indicated that there have been some instances of the groomer extending its travel beyond the traveled portion of the road. Mr. Page indicated that he has not received any complaints regarding this. Discussion ensued.

- The Board indicated that snowmobile travel should be primarily on the traveled portion of the road, and that if there are any complaints regarding instances where this is not the case, the initial complaint should be directed to the snowmobile club.
- Mr. Bunnell moved to grant the Bayley-Hazen Road Snowmobile Club access as requested for Laird Road, Somerhill Road, Stevenson Road, and West Main Street. Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote.

**3. Appearances by members of the public**

**a. Harvey's Lake water level lowering.** Resident and excavation contractor Shane Stevenson appeared to inquire about lowering the water level of the lake. Although the water was scheduled to be lowered during the period of October 12 through October 26, Mr. Stevenson reported that the water level has not lowered enough for him to perform several excavation projects on shoreline properties. Mr. Stevenson indicated that some of these projects are urgent and have been postponed for a year or more already. Mr. Bunnell reported that the stop logs at the Harvey's Lake Dam have been removed and all of the beaver dams along the channel from the lake have been removed by hand. Discussion ensued.

- The Board agreed to allow Mr. Stevenson to use his excavator to remove any beaver dams, or portions thereof, along the channel that he views as creating a barrier for lowering the water level.

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

- a. Truck repairs.** Mr. Chase indicated that several Town dump trucks have been sent to vendors for repairs:
- **Truck #3.** The burn-off system on the exhaust was faulty and there was a problem with the clutch; this truck was sent to R.R. Charlebois for repairs.
  - **Truck #4.** The engine light came on and there was a squeal that the Highway Department could not find the source of; it was delivered to McDevitt Trucks Inc. for repairs. McDevitt's found a problem with a locking rear end, wiring harness, and the drive shaft; they commenced with repairs.
  - **Truck #6.** A corner of the side-dump was found to be rotted; the truck was delivered to Robco, Inc. for steel repairs.
- b. Schoolhouse Road underground cable project.** Mr. Chase presented prints for a project proposal from FairPoint Communications. FairPoint requests permission to place approximately 5,200 feet of 1 ¼ inch innerduct cable along Schoolhouse Road, including placement and replacement of pedestals. The Board reviewed the prints; discussion ensued.
- The Board agreed to approve the project, and instructed Mr. Chase to make occasional observation of the project during installation.
- c. Joe's Brook Road culvert project.** Mr. Chase reported that he had been contacted by Nathan LaFlamme of C & C Bunnell Excavating. Mr. LaFlamme proposes that the Town hire him to perform a project to improve the outlet of the culvert near 1872 Joe's Brook Road. The approximate cost would be \$1,500. Discussion ensued.
- The Board agreed to table discussion of this matter and to instruct Mr. Bunnell to inquire with the Vermont Agency of Transportation about the status and maintenance of this culvert.

#### **5. Consideration of Building Committee's request of funds for studies on McIndoe Falls Academy building and Town Garage property site**

Building Committee Chair William Graves appeared to apprise the Board of the actions of the Building Committee at their recent meetings. Mr. Graves indicated that the Committee has narrowed its possible recommendations for a new space for a town office building to two: 1) acquisition or lease and renovation of the McIndoe Falls Academy, or 2) construction of a new building on a site to be determined. In view of determining the best course of action, the Committee recommends that the Selectboard invest in feasibility studies on both possibilities. Regarding the McIndoe Falls Academy, the Committee requests up to \$7,500 for a feasibility study through a grant application to the Vermont Preservation Trust. If obtained, the grant would involve town expenditures of up to \$7,500 and grant funds of up to \$22,500. The Committee intends to use the grant to obtain data useful in determining the feasibility of renovating the building for municipal office use. With regard to new construction, the Committee, according to Mr. Graves, recommends the Town Garage parcel as a possible location. To assess the feasibility of this option, the Committee requests up to \$3,000 to hire an engineer to study the site, using existing engineering resources. Discussion ensued.

- The Board agreed to spend from the Municipal Buildings Fund a maximum of \$7,500 on a grant project to determine the feasibility of renovating the McIndoe Falls Academy for municipal office use.
- The Board agreed to not pursue a study of the Town Garage parcel as a site for new construction. The Board requested that Mr. Graves prepare a detailed analysis and estimate for construction of a new facility without regard to site-specifics, and that he submit a suitable invoice for this service.

**6. Correspondence from Josephine Guertin regarding retirement as Animal Control Officer**

Mr. Roberts read a letter stating that Ms. Guertin will be retiring as Animal Control Officer as of December 31, 2016. Ms. Guertin indicates that she will be available for questions or to advise her replacement. Discussion ensued.

**7. Consideration of health insurance benefit for 2017**

Mr. Heisholt presented data regarding 2017 health insurance premiums and deductibles, as compared with 2016. Based on current employee enrollment and Town contributions, there would be an increase in Town expenditures for health insurance premiums from 2016 to 2017 of approximately \$3,069.84. Deductibles and co-pays increase marginally from 2016 to 2017. 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 2017 at the same level as 2016 (beginning with a balance of \$2,500 for each full-time employee on January 1, 2017). Seconded by Mr. Bunnell and approved by voice vote.

**8. Consideration of draft 2015 Financial Statements and Independent Auditor’s Reports from Mudgett, Jennett & Krogh-Wisner, PC**

The Board reviewed documents relating to the 2015 financial statements audit. Mr. Heisholt asked if the Board would to participate in the approval of the draft audit report. Discussion ensued.

- The Board agreed to allow Mr. Heisholt to approve the draft audit report.

**9. Correspondence from Northeast Kingdom Waste Management District regarding 2017 draft budget and change of meeting date for proposed amendments to charter**

The Board reviewed a letter, two memoranda, and a public notice. These items indicate and discuss the 2017 budget, a change in meeting date for the proposed amendments to the charter, and public notice for the meeting. Discussion ensued.

**10. Other business**

No other business was discussed.

**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 9:07 p.m.

*A true copy.*

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