

DRAFT

MINUTES – REGULAR SELECTBOARD MEETING TOWN OF BARNET, VERMONT MONDAY, JANUARY 9, 2017

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, Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt, Steven Adler, Robert Desrochers, and David Price.

1. Consideration of approval of minutes of regular meeting held December 26, 2016

Mr. Bunnell moved to approve as presented the minutes of the regular meeting held December 26, 2016. Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote.

2. Appearance by Lake Harvey Association (LHA) regarding annual appropriation for boat wash/monitoring program

LHA members Steven Adler and David Price appeared to discuss LHA's request for a 2017 appropriation for a boat wash/monitoring program at Harvey's Lake. The voters have passed a \$10,000 special appropriation to LHA for this purpose each year since 2009. These appropriation requests have been included as individual special appropriation articles on the Town Meeting warning. The appropriation is paid through the Town's administration of payroll and payment of electricity for the program. Each year these expenditures are in excess of the \$10,000 appropriated; LHA reimburses the Town for the excess. In 2016 the excess amount was approximately \$6,000. Mr. Adler presented a proposal by LHA that the Board 1) incorporate the expenditures for the program as a line-item in their budget, rather than as a special appropriation, and 2) increase the funding for the program to \$17,000. Mr. Price discussed his previous conversations with Ms. Ford about an Aquatic Nuisance Control Grant through the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation. This grant is designed for programs like the LHA boat wash/monitoring program. If awarded, the grant would pay for approximately 30 to 50 percent of the cost of the program, but it is only available to municipalities and state agencies. Mr. Price suggested that if the Board agrees to the proposals set forth by Mr. Adler most or all of the increase in funding may be covered by the grant. It is unlikely that results from a grant application would be available prior to Town Meeting. Discussion ensued.

- The Board agreed to continue to include LHA's request for an appropriation as a special appropriation request on the 2017 Town Meeting, but to open the floor at Town Meeting for non-binding discussion about including funding for the boat wash/monitoring program as a line-item in the 2018 budget.
- The Board agreed to increase LHA's appropriation request on the 2017 Town Meeting warning to \$17,000 without requiring a petition.
- The Board agreed to appoint Ms. Ford as administrator for the Town's application for an Aquatic Nuisance Control Grant through the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation.

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

Mr. Desrochers appeared to discuss the reasonable next steps in the continuing Harvey's Lake Dam project. He referenced the meeting held at the Town Clerk's Office on December 7, 2016, as discussed by Ms. Ford at the December 12, 2016 Board meeting. Mr. Desrochers recommends that the Board apply for two grants through the Ecosystem Restoration Grant Program from the Vermont Department

of Environmental Conservation. The first would be to produce a written action plan that condenses and communicates the information already gathered, and identifies concrete future steps in achieving identified goals. The second would be for a comprehensive site study which would identify property lines, identify spatial reference points, and develop a contour map using three-dimensional scanning technology. Each of the grants, if awarded, is for \$20,000. Mr. Desrochers presented a proposal from Fairbanks Mill for Mr. Desrochers to prepare and submit grant applications, and, with a successful grant application outcome, to formulate the “Action Plan” and execute the “Site Survey.” Project costs for the grant application phase are not to exceed \$5,000. Ms. Ford reported that the Lake Harvey Association has indicated their support for this grant application proposal. Discussion ensued.

- The Board agreed to the proposal from Fairbanks Mill; Mr. Roberts signed the same.

4. Appearances by members of the public

There were no appearances by members of the public.

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

- a. Winter road maintenance.** Mr. Chase reported that the Highway Department has been spending most of its time performing routine winter road maintenance, including plowing, salting, and sanding.
- b. Equipment in service.** Mr. Chase reported that all Highway Department is currently in service and in working order.
- c. Sanding service.** Mr. Chase asked the Board for their opinions on the level of service on sanding roads during the last several weeks; the Board had recently asked him to increase the level of service with regard to sand.
 - The Board agreed that they were satisfied with the current level of sanding service; there have been no complaints, and some positive comments.
- d. Truck quotes.** Mr. Chase indicated that he has not received responses from all vendors from whom he requested a quote for a new dump truck.

6. Correspondence from Vermont Agency of Transportation regarding 2017 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.

7. Consideration of appointment of Animal Control Officer(s)

The Board continued their discussion of an appointment to fill the vacancy in the position of Animal Control Officer (ACO). Ms. Ford reported on her communications with surrounding towns. Most surrounding towns had previously appointed Barnet’s previous ACO Josephine Guertin, who retired at the end of 2016. All these Towns either do not currently have an ACO, have appointed their Heath Officer as ACO, have temporarily used the Caledonia County Sheriff’s Department as ACO, or have appointed an ACO who does not serve the Barnet area. Discussion ensued.

- The Board agreed to temporarily appoint the First and Second Constables and the Caledonia County Sheriff’s Department as Animal Control Officers.

8. Correspondence from Vermont Department of Housing & Community Development regarding processing and funds-earmark of Municipal Planning Grant agreement

Mr. Roberts read an email indicating that the grant agreement has been processed and the funds for the projects have been earmarked. Ms. Ford indicated that the requests for proposals for the project are

being prepared for mailing. There will be a site visit for potential contractors on January 20; proposals are due January 31.

9. Re-consideration of bids for 2017 tax anticipation borrowing

Treasurer Benjamin Heisholt explained that there was miscommunication resulting in Passumpsic Savings Bank revising their bid after the Board accepted their bid at the last meeting. Mr. Heisholt had not clearly communicated the dollar amount of the loan proposed, causing both Passumpsic Savings Bank and Union Bank to bid on loan amounts different than the amount the Town was seeking. Passumpsic Savings Bank had given verbal instruction to contingently revise their loan amount from \$1,321,757 to the amount the Town was actually seeking, \$327,251, prior to the previous meeting. After the meeting, however, it was determined that the change in loan amount would cause a decrease in the deposit rate. Both banks re-submitted bids for this meeting. Below is a summary of the bids as considered at the previous Board meeting and the bids submitted for this meeting:

Bids considered at meeting held December 26, 2016:

	Loan Amount	Loan Rate	Deposit Rate	Line of Credit Rate
Passumpsic Savings Bank:	\$327,251	1.80%	2.40%	1.15%
Union Bank:	\$236,700	1.19%	1.45%	1.15%

Bids considered at this meeting:

	Loan Amount	Loan Rate	Deposit Rate	Line of Credit Rate
Passumpsic Savings Bank:	\$327,251	1.80%	2.20%	1.15%
Union Bank:	\$327,251	1.19%	1.45%	1.15%

Discussion ensued.

- Mr. Bunnell moved to accept the bid of Passumpsic Savings Bank for a lump-sum loan of \$327,251 at a rate of 1.80% with reinvestment of proceeds in a deposit account with a rate of 2.20%. Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote.

10. Correspondence from Vermont Department of Taxes regarding 2016 Equalization Study Results

The Board read a letter indicating the following results of the study:

Education Grant List (from 411):	\$246,129,475
Equalized Education Grand List (EEGL):	\$228,937,068
Common Level of Appraisal (CLA):	107.51% or 1.0751
Coefficient of Dispersion (COD):	20.34%

The letter also indicates that a COD over 20% necessitates a reappraisal. Lister John Cook appeared to discuss with the Board the factors that resulted in a COD over 20% and the reappraisal process in general terms. The Board has the opportunity to appeal the study, and when the Town receives an order to reappraise it will have the opportunity to appeal that as well. Mr. Cook indicated that the Board of Listers has discussed this matter with their Property Valuation & Review District Advisor and has determined to recommend that the Selectboard not appeal. Discussion ensued.

- The Board agreed not to appeal the equalization study results.

11. Correspondence from Dunkiel Saunders Elliot Raubvogel Hand PLLC for Island Corporation and Bellows Falls Historical Society regarding Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Notice of Application for Transfer of Licenses and Soliciting Comments and Motions to Intervene for TransCanada Hydro Northeast, Inc.

The Board reviewed a letter and attached Motions relating to the notices discussed at their most recent meeting.

12. Other business

No other business was discussed.

13. Outstanding check warrants

The Board reviewed and approved all outstanding check warrants.

14. 2017 budget discussion

The Board continued their review of the 2017 budget, focusing discussion on the Selectboard portion and changes made by the Treasurer since the previous meeting.

15. Adjournment

Mr. Bunnell moved to adjourn. Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

A true copy.

Attest: _____ Town Clerk