

**MINUTES – REGULAR SELECTBOARD MEETING
TOWN OF BARNET, VERMONT
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 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: Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt, Zoning Administrative Officer Shirley Warden, and Laurajeau Stewart.

1. Consideration of approval of minutes of regular meeting held January 23, 2017

Mr. Bunnell moved to approve as presented the minutes of the regular meeting held January 23, 2017. 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 Road Foreman Mark Chase regarding Highway Department matters

Mr. Chase did not appear at this meeting.

4. Consideration of Building Committee activities relating to McIndoe Falls Academy renovation option

The Board reviewed a letter from Building Committee Chair William Graves regarding a) the recent responses to Requests for Proposals, Architectural and Feasibility Study for McIndoe Falls Academy Building, b) the review by the Building Committee of those responses, and c) the recommendation of the Building Committee for selection and award. Ms. Ford spoke in detail regarding the contents of the letter. Five interested firms appeared at a site visit on January 20, 2017. These firms were Arnold & Scangas, Banwell Associates, Bast & Rood, EH Danson Associates, and Studio Nexus. Four of these five firms submitted proposals; Banwell Associates dropped out. Upon receipt of the proposals, Ms. Ford and Committee Chair William Graves met with Alison Low of Northeastern Vermont Development Association to draft a rubric for scoring the proposals. The Building Committee held a meeting February 8, 2017, at which it reviewed the four proposals received for the feasibility study, and issued a recommendation to the Selectboard. A description of questions used to frame the rubric, of rubric itself, of the scoring of each proposal, and of the Building Committee's discussion can be found in the minutes of this meeting. The Building Committee voted to recommend that the Selectboard approve selection of Arnold & Scangas of St. Albans, Vermont, as the best value provider for the Architectural Services for a feasibility study of the McIndoe Falls Academy building and grounds. Ms. Ford noted that Arnold & Scangas scored the highest on the rubric, has the lowest price, has depth and range of experience with municipal projects, and is the clear favorite in one particular category valued highly by the Building Committee: community involvement. If selected, Arnold & Scangas will draft a contract for the agreement; the Building Committee recommends that the Selectboard arrange for review of the contract by the Town Agent. Ms. Ford also noted that the Ms. Ford and Mr. Graves plan to attend a McIndoe Falls Academy Trustees meeting to request that the Trustees pay for expenses to ensure clear title to the building and property. Discussion ensued.

- Mr. Bunnell moved to approve selection of Arnold & Scangas of St. Albans, Vermont, as the provider for the Architectural Services for a feasibility study of the McIndoe Falls Academy. Seconded by Mr. Roberts and approved by voice vote.

5. Consideration of 2017 pre-Town Meeting public hearing

The Board reviewed correspondence from the School Board recommending that no pre-Town Meeting public hearing be scheduled this year due to lack of interest in recent years. Discussion ensued.

- Ms. Ford moved to not schedule a 2017 pre-Town Meeting public hearing. Seconded Mr. Bunnell and approved by voice vote.

6. Correspondence from Vermont League of Cities & Towns (VLCT) regarding proposed fire district restructuring

The Board reviewed Ms. Ford's email correspondence with VLCT regarding the discussion at the previous Board meeting. VLCT recommends that the Board communicate directly with other towns to discover trends and best practices for structuring the functions of fire districts for current contexts. Regarding the legal component of Ms. Ford's inquiry, VLCT discusses the possibility that the Board enter a relationship with fire districts by virtue of an interlocal contract. Discussion ensued.

7. Consideration of 2017 liquor license renewal applications of Barnet Village Store and West Barnet Quick Stop

The Board reviewed and approved the applications of the Barnet Village Store and the West Barnet Quick Stop for 2017 Liquor License renewals.

8. Applications for Uniform Municipal Excess Weight Permits

The Board reviewed and approved the applications of JFB Trucking, Raymond Locke, and Bernard Roy.

9. Other business

- a. Aquatic Nuisance Control Grant application.** Ms. Ford indicated that the Town has submitted an application for a 2017 Aquatic Nuisance Control Grant for financial support of the Harvey's Lake boat monitoring program. Discussion ensued.

10. Outstanding check warrants

The Board reviewed and approved all outstanding check warrants.

11. Consideration of Highway Department employee evaluations and pay rate adjustments

- Mr. Bunnell moved that the Board enter executive session pursuant to 1 V.S.A. Section 313 (a)(3) to discuss Highway Department evaluations and pay rate adjustments. Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote. Entered executive session at 7:39 p.m. Those present in executive session: Mr. Roberts, Mr. Bunnell, Ms. Ford, and Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt.
- Mr. Bunnell moved to exit executive session. Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote. Exited executive session at 7:48 p.m.
- Mr. Bunnell moved to issue wage increases to Highway Department employees according to performance reviews discussed in executive session at this meeting. Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote.

12. Consideration of correspondence from Town Agent Steven Adler regarding animal control matters

- Mr. Bunnell moved that the Board make a specific finding, pursuant to 1 V.S.A. Section 313 (a)(1)(F), that premature public knowledge of discussion concerning confidential attorney-client communications made for the purpose of providing professional legal services to the body relating to animal control matters, would clearly place the Town of Barnet at a substantial disadvantage. Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote.

- Mr. Bunnell moved that the Board enter executive session pursuant to 1 V.S.A. Section 313 (a)(1)(F) to discuss confidential attorney-client communications made for the purpose of providing professional legal services to the body relating to animal control matters, as premature public disclosure of which would clearly place the Town of Barnet at a substantial disadvantage. Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote. Entered executive session at 7:50 p.m. Those present in executive session: Mr. Roberts, Mr. Bunnell, Ms. Ford, and Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt.
- Mr. Bunnell moved to exit executive session. Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote. Exited executive session 7:54 p.m.
- Ms. Ford moved to request that Town Agent Steven Adler file a lawsuit requesting a judgment order for payment of fines owed to the Town by Kathleen Campbell for violations of the Animal Control Ordinance. Seconded by Mr. Bunnell and approved by voice vote.

13. Adjournment

Mr. Bunnell moved to adjourn. Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

A true copy.

Attest: _____ *Town Clerk*