

**MINUTES – REGULAR SELECTBOARD MEETING
TOWN OF BARNET, VERMONT
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2017**

Meeting convened at 7:00 p.m. in the conference room of the Barnet Town Clerk's Office.

Board members present: Gary Bunnell and Dylan Ford.

Others present: Road Foreman Mark Chase, Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt, and Zoning Administrative Officer Shirley Warden.

1. Consideration of approval of minutes of regular meeting held February 13, 2017

Mr. Bunnell moved to approve as presented the minutes of the regular meeting held February 13, 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

- a. Grader winter road maintenance.** Mr. Chase reported that the Highway Department has spent time in the past few weeks using the grader to push back snow banks along roadsides.
- b. Dump truck repair.** Mr. Chase reported that the Town's ten-wheel International dump truck is at the repair shop of John Bogie for repair of the steering box.
- c. Pothole and rut repair.** Mr. Chase reported that the Highway Department has spent time in the past few weeks filling potholes and repairing ruts on various town highways.
- d. Mud season preparations.** Mr. Chase reported that he has spoken with several local loggers to encourage them to avoid operating heavy equipment on town highways later than 10:00 a.m.
- e. Old Silo Road mud.** Mr. Chase reported that the Highway Department applied several loads of gravel on Old Silo Road to counteract seasonal mud problems.
- f. New Highway Department employees.** Mr. Chase reported that Mark Fuller is performing well in his new full-time role. Also, Ernest Bourtelle has returned to the Highway Department in the role of part-time substitute driver; Mr. Bourtelle has been operating the Town pick-up truck during some winter storm events.
- g. Town Garage lighting.** Mr. Chase reported that the overhead lighting at the Town Garage has not yet been repaired.
- h. New dump truck.** Mr. Chase reported that the new dump truck purchase approved by the Board has been ordered. Discussion ensued regarding the timing of delivery.

4. Correspondence from Library Trustee Mary Holley regarding resignation

The Board read a letter from Ms. Holley, indicating that she is resigning her position as Library Trustee. Ms. Ford indicated that Ms. Holley continues to serve as Trustee until Town Meeting, when a replacement will be elected to complete the final two years of her five-year term.

5. Consideration of fee assessment for late-filed 2017 Homestead Declarations

Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt reminded the Board that at their July 25, 2016 meeting they agreed that in 2017 they would apply penalties pursuant 32 V.S.A. § 5410(g) in the maximum percentages allowable. Mr. Heisholt reviewed the content of 32 V.S.A. § 5410(g), which indicates that the Selectboard "may...include a penalty of up to three percent of the education tax on the property" of an owner who files a homestead declaration on property that does not meet the criteria of a homestead or of an owner who fails to file a homestead declaration on a property that does meet the criteria of a homestead. This particular penalty is only applicable when the above-described taxpayer errors are not

to the taxpayer's advantage (i.e. when the homestead education rate is the lower of the two rates and the homestead owner fails to file a homestead declaration, or when the non-residential education rate is the lower of the two rates and the non-homestead owner files a homestead declaration). In instances when the taxpayer error is to the taxpayer's advantage, the Selectboard may include a penalty of up to eight percent. Mr. Heisholt indicated that the Board has waived these penalties for the past several years. Mr. Heisholt estimates that the penalty on a \$200,000 property at eight percent would be \$239.79, and at three percent would be \$89.92. Discussion ensued about how to notify the taxpayers of this change in policy.

6. Consideration of Selectboard presentation and discussion at 2017 Town Meeting

The Board discussed preparations for their presentation to the voters of various matters anticipated to be of interest at Town Meeting, including the process of planning for new municipal offices.

7. Applications for Uniform Municipal Excess Weight Permits

The Board reviewed and approved the fleet applications of Blue Mountain Trucking & Excavating, Bourne's Inc. & Bourne's Propane DBA Bourne's Energy, and Gilman I. & Sylvia J. LaCourse/Gil's Construction, and the single vehicle applications of Raymond LaPete, and Mike Lemieux Trucking, Inc.

8. Other business

- a. Road naming.** E911 Coordinator Shirley Warden discussed several issues relating to E911 road naming. She indicated that there is a road sign labelled "Bunker Hill Road," although this road was re-named several years ago, as "Gilkerson Road." She also reported that resident Michael Hale is in the process of sub-dividing his property; this subdivision will create a second residence on his driveway. He proposes to assign a road name for this drive. Ms. Ford also indicated that resident Jay Sprout has suggested changing the road name "South Main Street" to a name less confusing for emergency personnel. Discussion ensued.
- b. Feasibility study contract.** Ms. Ford reported that she has received a contract from Arnold & Scangas for the feasibility study on the McIndoe Falls Academy. The contract is for the exact same cost as indicated in Arnold and Scangas's proposal.
 - The Board agreed that Ms. Ford will sign the contract and mail it to Arnold & Scangas.

9. Outstanding check warrants

The Board reviewed and approved all outstanding check warrants.

10. Adjournment

Ms. Ford moved to adjourn. Seconded by Mr. Bunnell and approved by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

A true copy.

Attest: _____ Town Clerk