

**MINUTES – REGULAR SELECTBOARD MEETING  
TOWN OF BARNET, VERMONT  
MONDAY, MARCH 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:** Road Foreman Mark Chase, Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt, Zoning Administrative Officer Shirley Warden, Harry Adamek, William Biddle, Leann Despina, Shawn Larocque, and Steve Mosher.

**1. Consideration of approval of minutes of regular meeting held February 27, 2017**

Mr. Bunnell moved to approve as presented the minutes of the regular meeting held February 27, 2017. Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote.

**2. Organization of the Board:**

**a. Appoint Chairman.** Mr. Bunnell moved to appoint Mr. Roberts as Chair. Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote.

**b. Appoint Road Commissioner.** Ms. Ford moved to appoint Mr. Bunnell as Road Commissioner. Seconded by Mr. Roberts and approved by voice vote.

**c. Appoint Tree Warden.** Mr. Bunnell moved to appoint Stanley Robinson as Tree Warden. Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote.

**d. Set date and time of meetings.** Mr. Bunnell moved to continue to meet on the second and fourth Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Clerk's Office. Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote.

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

There were no appearances by members of the public.

**4. Annual review of Ordinance for Regulating All-Terrain Vehicles (ATVs)**

Steve Mosher, Leann Despina, and Shawn Larocque appeared as representatives of the Barnet Trailblazers ATV Club (Club), which is the entity requesting highway access. The Board reviewed a list and a map of town highways, or sections thereof, requested. The request is the same as the access granted in 2016. Discussion ensued. Mr. Mosher responded to resident William Biddle's inquiry by stating the Club has not had success in securing more off-road trails, as the landowners are content with the status quo. Mr. Mosher also indicated that the Town of Danville is considering discontinuing all ATV trails; if this occurs it will result in Water Andric Road being eliminated from the Club's trail system. Mr. Mosher noted that he is no longer the Club President, as Shawn Larocque has taken this position; Mr. Mosher is now the Club's Trailmaster. Mr. Mosher, who is the Town's elected First Constable, indicated that complainants should call Second Constable David Stevenson about ATV violations. Mr. Biddle thanked the Club for being well-regulated and unobtrusive.

- Mr. Bunnell moved to renew the Ordinance for Regulating All-Terrain Vehicles (ATVs) as adopted in 2010, with changes only in the modification of specified town highway use permitted; this new permitted use being as requested by the Barnet Trailblazers ATV Club at this Board meeting, to include all or a portion of Anderson Street, Barnet Center Road, Bony Woods Road, Brook Hill Road, Chamberlain Road, Cloud Brook Road, Ferguson Road, Garland Hill Road, Gilfillan Road, Goss Hill Road, Joe's Brook Road, Keyser Hill Road, Knights Lane, Little Scotland Road, McLaren Hill Road, Morse's Mill Road, Roy Mountain Road, Water Andric Road, West Barnet Road, West Main Street, and Whitehill Rd. Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote.

Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt asked if the Club wishes to request access on all Town Highways on Green Up Day, as has been allowed in prior years. Ms. Despina responded that the Club would like to request this access, noting that the Goss Mud Bog will not coincide with the event this year, and that the ATV trails will not be marked until after Green Up Day.

- The Board agreed to grant the Club's request for permission to use all town highways for collection of litter on Green Up Day on May 6, 2017, with the condition that the Club must provide the Town with a list of the members who will participate along with proof of driver's license, vehicle registration, and insurance, and that numbered tickets will be issued to confirm receipt of this documentation, without which access will be denied.

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

- a. Roadside lumber.** Mr. Chase noted that Asplundh, the company hired by Green Mountain Power Company to remove trees and tree limbs endangering power lines, has left brush, limbs, and boles along ditches in many locations. The Highway Department plans to remove these materials in the near future, if property owners do not claim them, to prevent them from clogging ditches.
- b. Dump truck #006 repairs.** Mr. Chase reported on repair expenses for dump truck #6. The Highway Department noted that steering on the truck was loose, and found that the tie rod ends were in need of repair. In the process of repair, they found that a stabilizer/shock part on the passenger side was in need of replacement. This part is not available in the United States, and will cost approximately \$1,500. Additionally, the rear suspension housing is badly corroded and in need of replacement, the parts for which will cost approximately \$1,200 to \$1,500. Discussion ensued.
- c. Personnel policy proposal.** Mr. Chase presented an excerpt from the minutes of the Board meeting held May 12, 2014. The excerpt reflects that the Board adopted a policy that all time off or leaves of absence of any duration must be compensated through benefits described in the Personnel Policy (paid holidays, personal time, vacation time, days off due to death in family, or extended sick leave) unless for a reason covered by federal or state law or approved by the employee's supervisor. The policy also specifies that all requests for supervisor-approved exceptions should be in writing and meet certain criteria. Mr. Chase indicated that the Highway Department employees request that this policy be repealed in order to allow employees to take time off without pay with simple verbal request and simple verbal supervisor approval. Discussion ensued.
  - Ms. Ford moved to repeal the policy referenced by Mr. Chase and adopted by the Board on May 12, 2014, and replace it with a policy allowing employees to take time off without pay with simple verbal request and simple verbal supervisor approval. Seconded by Mr. Bunnell and approved by voice vote.
- d. Cloud Brook Road icing.** Ms. Ford reported that there is a section of Cloud Brook Road where water from the ditch is overflowing the ditch and running across the road, causing icing during freezing weather.
  - Mr. Chase indicated that he would address this problem.

## **6. Correspondence from Barnet Fire & Rescue with nomination for Chief**

Mr. Roberts read a letter indicating that Barnet Fire & Rescue has nominated Ronald Morse to be re-appointed as Chief in 2017.

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

## **7. Correspondence regarding collection of food scraps at Transfer Station/Recycling Center**

The Board reviewed a letter from Northeast Kingdom Waste Management District (NEKWMD) indicating that Barnet's transfer station is required to begin collecting food scraps by July 1, 2017 as a part of Act 148 – Vermont's Universal Recycling Law. The letter details plans for the implementation of the program, including assistance from NEKWMD, and cost of the program to the Town - \$12.50 per container, for an estimated annual cost of \$650 - \$1,300. The Board also reviewed an email correspondence between Barnet Transfer Station & Recycling Center Supervisor Bruce Marston and Paul Tomasi of NEKWMD, in which Mr. Tomasi explains that although citizens are not required by law to keep food scraps out of the landfill until 2020, the law requires all facilities that accept trash to begin collecting food scraps by July 1, 2017. Discussion ensued.

## **8. Consideration of 2016 mowing of town properties**

Town Clerk Heisholt indicated that the Board did not request bids for mowing in 2014, 2015, and 2016 but hired Jeremy Bean of J & B Property Maintenance based on a quote of \$2,400 in 2014 and 2015, and \$2,500 in 2016. Discussion ensued.

- The Board agreed to not request bids at this time, but to request a quote from Mr. Bean for 2017 mowing.

## **9. Consideration of date for hearing on changes and additions to enhanced 911 maps**

The Board reviewed a formal request to name a driveway off of Kitchel Hill Road (Town Highway #23) as "Gunnar Lane," as discussed at the previous Board meeting. Zoning Administrative Officer Shirley Warden discussed with the Board the requirement for a public hearing to consider the proposal. Discussion ensued.

- The Board agreed to hold a public hearing at the regular Board meeting on April 10, 2017.

## **10. Consideration of 2018 tax map maintenance proposal and contract from CAI Technologies**

The Board reviewed proposal and contract. Terms of proposal and contract are the same as the 2017 proposal and contract, except that the cost to the Town has increased from \$2,150 to \$2,225.

- The Board signed the contract.

## **11. Consideration of renewal quotation from ESRI for annual maintenance of Lister ArcGIS software**

The Board reviewed email correspondence providing a quotation for annual maintenance for Listers' mapping software. The total annual cost of \$400 has remained unchanged for the past five years.

- Mr. Roberts signed the quotation with the Board's approval.

## **12. Applications for Uniform Municipal Excess Weight Permits**

The Board reviewed and approved the fleet applications of Barrett Trucking Co., Inc., Gould Well Drilling, Inc., HB Trucking, LLC, William Murray, and United Natural Foods, Inc.

## **13. Other business**

- a. Fire District restructuring options.** Ms. Ford discussed her research into options for restructuring fire districts. Ms. Ford discovered that the Selectboard cannot, at its own option, dissolve a fire district unless the fire district's prudential committee is vacant. Discussion ensued.

## **14. Outstanding check warrants**

The Board reviewed and approved all outstanding check warrants.

**15. Adjournment**

Mr. Bunnell moved to adjourn. Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

*A true copy.*

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