

**MINUTES – REGULAR SELECTBOARD MEETING
TOWN OF BARNET, VERMONT
MONDAY, JULY 24, 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, Zoning Administrative Officer Shirley Warden, and Debra King.

1. Consideration of approval of minutes of regular meeting held July 10, 2017

Ms. Ford moved to approve as presented the minutes of the regular meeting held July 10, 2017.

Seconded by Mr. Bunnell and approved by voice vote.

2. Appearances by members of the public

a. Debra King, proprietor of West Barnet Quick Stop, regarding parking lot flash flooding.

Ms. King appeared to discuss drainage issues on West Main Street and the store parking lot, as discussed at the Board's previous meeting. Ms. King reported that she had attempted to secure financing to repair the parking lot, and that her bank requires that the project be built in accordance with an engineered design. Ruggles Engineering Services provided an engineered design for this purpose. This design requires a 24-inch culvert across the West Main Street onto Mrs. King's property. From that point, it would require a new drop-inlet box and another culvert. This design would replace the current 15-inch road culvert and the drop-inlet currently at Ms. King's property. Ms. King asked if the Town would assist in complying with the requirements of the design. Discussion ensued.

- The Board agreed in principle to replacing the current 15-inch road culvert with a 24-inch culvert, but also agreed that the new drop-inlet box and any other construction would be outside of the Town's right-of-way, and not the Town's responsibility. The Board also agreed that Mr. Bunnell and Road Foreman Mark Chase would meet for a site inspection on morning of Tuesday, July 25.

3. Consideration of retaining attorney to assist Planning Commission/Zoning Board (PC/ZB) with zoning matters

Zoning Administrative Officer Shirley Warden appeared to request to retain an attorney to assist the PC/ZB with a particular zoning matter. An application was denied by the PC/ZB at their July meeting, and the applicant has re-applied with a modified application. This application will have a hearing before the PC/ZB in September. Discussion ensued.

- Ms. Ford moved to approved the PC/ZB retaining an attorney, if necessary, to obtain legal advice regarding the particular zoning matter discussed in this meeting. Seconded by Mr. Bunnell and approved by voice vote.

4. Certification of 2017 property tax rates

The Board reviewed the certification of tax rates for 2017, as prepared by Treasurer Benjamin Heisholt. Total tax rate (including all municipal and education taxes) for homestead is to be 2.0936; and for non-residential 2.0228.

- The Board signed the certification.

5. Correspondence from Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation regarding Lake Encroachment Permit issued to John and Dawn Coster for project on Harvey's Lake

The Board reviewed an approved permit for removal of damaged creosote wooden walls and replacement with stone, matting, and natural backfill at Mr. & Ms. Coster's property on Pavilion Lane.

6. Correspondence from Vermont Division of Fire Safety regarding duplex construction permit issued to Charles Somers for project in McIndoe Falls

The Board reviewed an approved application for a duplex renovation project on Route 5 South in McIndoe Falls.

7. Consideration of applications for Uniform Municipal Excess Weight Permits

The Board reviewed and approved the single vehicle application of Tim Thompson Trucking, LLC.

8. Other business

a. Questions for Zoning Administrative Officer in relation to feasibility study on McIndoe Falls Academy. Ms. Ford asked Zoning Administrative Officer Shirley Warden several questions stemming from the feasibility study.

- How many people are at Planning Commission/Zoning Board meetings?
 - o Ms. Warden indicated that the July 2017 meeting had attendance near the maximum to be expected, but that on average there are 10 to 12 members of the public present for a hearing.
- Does the Planning Commission/Zoning Board require access to files during meetings?
 - o Ms. Warden indicated that access to files is not needed.
- What is the maximum number of parking spaces allowed by the Zoning Ordinance?
 - o Ms. Warden indicated that there is a numerical limit in the Ordinance, but that she did not recall the number.

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

a. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) meeting. Mr. Chase reported that he has met with FEMA officials, and has given them a guided tour of the various roads damaged by July 1, 2017 flooding. No disaster declaration has been made as yet, but it appears that the financial thresholds for such designation have been met. The Agency of Transportation has indicated that disaster assistance funding will likely be available for federal highways as well.

b. Garland Hill flooding clean-up request. Mr. Chase reported that David Bogie has requested town assistance in cleaning up gravel debris deposited on his property due to the July 1, 2017 flooding. Discussion ensued.

- The Board agreed to not assist with clean-up of Mr. Bogie's property, citing that the Town would be unable to re-claim and reuse the materials scattered on this property, much like many other properties in Town.

c. Tower Road flat tires. Mr. Chase reported that he received a complaint from one individual who claims to have suffered three flat tires due to large stone product used in repair of Tower Road. This individual has requested reimbursement for the replacement of the tires. Discussion ensued.

- The Board instructed Mr. Chase that it is the Board's policy to not pay for tires damaged by gravel products on the road surface.

d. Class 4 road repairs. Mr. Chase asked the Board about their preferred timeline for repairing Class 4 roads damaged by the July 1, 2017 flooding. Most of the Class 3 roads are repaired in passable condition at this time, whereas there are a number of Class 4 roads that are impassible. Discussion ensued.

- The Board instructed Mr. Chase to proceed with repairs of Class 4 roads to maintain water crossings and make the roads passible, but to make these repairs a low priority compared to Class 2 and Class 3 roads.
- e. **Carter Street retaining wall deterioration.** Mr. Chase reported that the retaining wall at the bridge over Stevens River on Carter Street is deteriorating at the top, and threatening to fall into the river. Discussion ensued.
- The Board instructed Mr. Chase to contact Patrick Ross of the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation and to begin the process for repair of the structure.

10. Outstanding check warrants

The Board reviewed and approved all outstanding check warrants.

11. Consideration of applications for full-time Highway Department position (executive session, pursuant to 1 V.S.A § 313 (a)(3))

- Ms. Ford moved that the Board enter executive session pursuant to 1 V.S.A. Section 313 (a)(3) to discuss applications for a full-time Highway Department position. Seconded by Mr. Bunnell and approved by voice vote. Entered executive session at 8:10 p.m. Those present in executive session: Mr. Bunnell, Ms. Ford, Road Foreman Mark Chase, and Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt.
- Ms. Ford moved to exit executive session. Seconded by Mr. Bunnell and approved by voice vote. Exited executive session 8:20 p.m.
- The Board agreed to schedule a special meeting for August 7, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. at the Town Clerk's Office to interview five candidates for a full-time Highway Department position.

12. Adjournment

Ms. Ford moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Bunnell and approved by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

A true copy.

Attest: _____ Town Clerk