

**MINUTES – REGULAR SELECTBOARD MEETING
TOWN OF BARNET, VERMONT
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2017**

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

Board members present: Jeremy Roberts, Gary Bunnell, and Dylan Ford

Others present: Road Foreman Mark Chase, Building Committee Chair William Graves, Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt, Zoning Board & Planning Commission Chair Dennis McLam, Eric Page, Building Committee Member Stanley Robinson, Zoning Administrative Officer Shirley Warden, Jacques Boudreau (Lyndon State College News 7), Jeanne McLam, Eric Page, and Emma Quinn (Lyndon State College News 7).

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

Ms. Ford noted that in item #4 the name Ron Rhodes is misspelled as "Ron Rhoades." Mr. Bunnell moved to approve, with the correction noted by Ms. Ford, the minutes of the regular meeting held October 23, 2017. Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote.

2. Annual review of snowmobile travel on town highways

Mr. Roberts read a letter from the Bayley Hazen Road Snowmobile Club requesting snowmobile access for trail connection purposes during the 2017-2018 season on portions of Laird Road, Somerhill Road, Stevenson Road, and West Main Street, as has been granted in previous years. Eric Page, of the snowmobile club, appeared to answer questions regarding this matter. Mr. Page indicated that he was not aware of any complaints lodged regarding highway access for snowmobiles in the previous season. Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt indicated that the Town Clerk's Office did not receive any complaints regarding highway access for snowmobiles in the previous season.

- Mr. Bunnell moved to grant the Bayley-Hazen Road Snowmobile Club access as requested for Laird Road, Somerhill Road, Stevenson Road, and West Main Street. Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote.

3. Appearances by members of the public

There were no appearances by other members of the public.

4. Consideration of proposed solar project of Green Lantern Development LLC on Town property off Bimson Drive

The Board read a letter from Green Lantern Development LLC describing the project, as discussed at previous meetings, and requesting that the Planning Commission and the Selectboard sign a letter to the Vermont Public Utility Commission supporting the project and designating the project site as a "preferred site" under Commission Rule 5.103. Planning Commission Chair Dennis McLam appeared at the meeting to indicate that the Planning Commission had discussed this matter at their most recent meeting, and had authorized Mr. McLam to sign the letter if the Selectboard was also agreeable to signing it. Discussion ensued.

- Ms. Ford moved to sign the letter to the Vermont Public Utility Commission. Seconded by Mr. Bunnell and approved by voice vote. Mr. Roberts signed the letter. Mr. McLam also signed the letter.

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

- a. **Equipment prepared for winter.** Mr. Chase reported that all Highway Department equipment has been prepared for the winter season.

- b. Winter maintenance.** Mr. Chase reported that the Highway Department performed its first winter maintenance of the season, salting on Friday, November 10. The Highway Department has also spent time putting up whips on roadsides.
- c. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) funding for July 1, 2017 flooding.** Mr. Chase reported that he and Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt continue to work with FEMA and Vermont Agency of Transportation officials to document expenses relating to the July 1 event, with a view toward reimbursement for some of the Town's expenses.
- d. Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) funding for July 1, 2017 flooding.** Mr. Chase reported that he has met with FHWA officials to commence the process of claiming expenses for damages sustained during the July 1 event on highways under FHWA jurisdiction, namely Comerford Dam Road and West Barnet Road/West Main Street.
- e. New employee update.** Mr. Chase reported that new Highway Department employee Thomas Gould continues to perform well.

6. Correspondence from Northeastern Vermont Development Association regarding proposed project on Interstate 91

The Board read an email requesting input from the Board regarding "possible rerouting of the southbound traffic from I-91 onto US Route 5 between exits 18 and 17 this coming summer for at least several weeks." Discussion ensued.

7. Consideration of appointment of Library Trustee

The Board reviewed an email from Julie Roos, Chair of the Library Trustees, informing the Board that the Trustees have nominated Ashley Wright to fill the vacancy on the Board of Trustees, which was the result of the resignation of Jane Casavant. The Board also reviewed minutes of the Trustees' October meeting, at which Ms. Wright was nominated.

- Ms. Ford moved to appoint Ashley Wright to fill the vacancy in the Library Board of Trustees. Seconded by Mr. Bunnell and approved by voice vote.

8. Consideration of update on recent Dam Committee activities

Ms. Ford advised the Board of the recent activities of the Dam Committee, particularly in their meeting held October 25, 2017. At that meeting, concerns about the request for proposals (RFP) for the grant project were discussed, and a consensus was formed that the RFP was suitable. The Committee also reviewed three proposals, and selected the proposal of Inter-Fluve, a firm based in Massachusetts. The company plans to commence their work in November 15, 2017, with a target completion date in June 2018.

9. Correspondence from Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation regarding Dam Safety Program inspection of Harvey's Lake Dam

The Board reviewed an email indicating that the Vermont Dam Safety Program is scheduled to perform a visual inspection of the Harvey's Lake Dam on November 15, 2017. Discussion ensued.

10. Consideration of repairs to roof of Town Hall

Building Committee Chair William Graves and Building Committee member Stanley Robinson appeared to discuss the condition of the Town Hall roof. Mr. Graves reported that the roof of the Town Hall is in poor condition. Repairs were recently made to repair two leaks, but more leaks in the 28-year old roof are expected in the near future. The historical curtains that are housed in the building are vulnerable to damage if there are more leaks. Mr. Graves recommends that the roof be replaced before winter. The cost of replacement is expected to be between \$12,000 and \$13,000. Discussion was had about this subject at the recent Building Committee meeting. At this meeting, reference was made to the Committee's previous discussion regarding the Town Hall. In 2016 the Committee recommended that the Selectboard create a budget structure over a several-years period to stabilize the building and

prevent further deteriorations. Recommended repairs and maintenance included replacing the roof, exterior paint, and demolition and removal of the cinderblock former fire station structure. The Selectboard did not implement budget increases in 2017. After lengthy discussion about the final disposition or use of the Town Hall with reference to the Town's ownership of the property, the Committee agreed to recommend that the Selectboard replace the roof of the Town Hall and bring the matter of the future of the Town Hall before the Barnet voters. Discussion ensued.

- Ms. Ford moved to replace the roof of the Town Hall this fall, and bring the matter of the future of the Town Hall before the Barnet voters at the 2018 annual town meeting. Seconded by Mr. Bunnell and approved by voice vote.

11. Consideration of animal control complaint of resident Shirley Warden

The Board reviewed a complaint form filed October 30, 2017. The form describes four additional incidents of a nature similar to those reported on an animal control complaint form discussed at the previous Board meeting. Ms. Warden appeared at this meeting to report that Constable David Stevenson has taken action on this matter, and it seems to be resolved. The dogs referenced on the complaint forms have not visited her property since the last reported incident on October 27, 2017. Four dogs owned by Brent and January O'Donnell have been licensed at the Town Clerk's Office. Discussion ensued.

- Mr. Roberts requested that Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt follow-up with Mr. Stevenson to discover details about what was communicated to Mr. and Ms. O'Donnell.

12. Correspondence from Town Agent Steven Adler regarding revision of Animal Control Ordinance

The Board reviewed an email with attached letter, discussing Mr. Adler's review of the current Animal Control Ordinance and posing five specific questions and recommendations regarding redrafting the ordinance. Discussion ensued.

- The Board agreed to implement all of Mr. Adler's recommendations for the redraft of the ordinance.

13. Consideration of correspondence from Northeastern Vermont Development Association regarding Local Emergency Operations Plan

Ms. Ford reported that she had attempted to take the final exam associated with the online training discussed at recent Board meetings. Ms. Ford reported, however, that for some unknown reason the course was no longer available on the website. Ms. Ford indicated that she would investigate this difficulty and report on her progress at the next Board meeting.

14. Correspondence from Town of Peacham regarding Hazard Mitigation Plan

The Board read an email from the Peacham Town Clerk informing the Town that Peacham is preparing a Hazard Mitigation Plan and inviting the Board and other Town officials to comment, review, and voice concerns regarding the plan. Discussion ensued.

15. Correspondence from Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation regarding Shoreland Permit of Bruce Ellison for project on Harvey's Lake

The Board reviewed an email and attached approved permit for a project to raise the existing camp and to rebuild one section in its footprint, and to add lawn area, fill, and stone walls on opposite side of camp from lake. Discussion ensued.

16. Consideration of 2018 Service Contract for police services from Caledonia Sheriff's Department

The Board reviewed a contract with a term of January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2018 for the Caledonia County Sheriff's Department to provide the Town with police services including the aggregate amount

of six hours per week from June 1 to October 31 and four hours per week from November 1 to May 30. Town expense for the contract includes officer time at the rate of \$35.00 per hour, court time at the rate of \$35.00 per hour, and a \$37.50 dispatch fee for patrols outside of normal office hours.

- Mr. Bunnell moved to enter the agreement. Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote. Mr. Roberts signed the contract.

17. Consideration of 2018 health insurance benefits

Mr. Heisholt presented data regarding 2018 health insurance premiums and deductibles from Blue Cross Blue Shield and MVP, as compared with 2017. Based on current employee enrollment and Town contributions, there would be an increase in Town expenditures for health insurance premiums from 2017 to 2018 of approximately \$6,636.94 for Blue Cross Blue Shield and \$1,901.03 for MVP. Deductibles and co-pays increase marginally from 2017 to 2018 for both plans. Mr. Heisholt indicated that he had performed some research regarding the MVP plan employee satisfaction and found that there were some complaints about network coverage among other Towns that have used MVP. Discussion ensued.

- Ms. Ford moved to not amend the personnel policy with regard to health insurance but to continue to grant employees choice of Blue Cross Blue Shield plans, paying 90% of the premium of whichever plan is chosen, and to fund the Town's Health Reimbursement Accounts in 2018 at the same level as 2017 (beginning with a balance of \$2,500 for each full-time employee on January 1, 2018). Seconded by Mr. Bunnell and approved by voice vote.

18. Applications for uniform municipal excess weight permits

The Board reviewed and approved the single vehicle permit of Robert Roy.

19. Other business

- McIndoe Falls Academy open house.** Mr. Graves reported that the Building Committee and the McIndoe Falls Academy Trustees will hold an open house at the McIndoe Falls Academy on December 4, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. This event will be for the purpose of allowing Town officials, employees, and citizens an opportunity to see the building, see proposed plans, and discuss their thoughts and concerns about the feasibility study and proposed renovation project.
- Pole saw for beaver dams at Harvey's Lake channel.** Mr. Bunnell indicated that he will need to charge the Town for use of a pole saw at the Harvey's Lake dam.
- West Barnet Garage fuel contamination.** Discussion was had about records documenting soil monitoring for fuel contamination conducted several years ago at the former West Barnet Garage.

20. Outstanding check warrants

The Board reviewed and approved all outstanding check warrants.

21. 2018 budget discussion

The Board agreed to table discussion of the 2018 budget.

22. Adjournment

Ms. Ford moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Bunnell and approved by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

A true copy.

Attest: _____ Town Clerk