

**MINUTES – SELECTBOARD MEETING
TOWN OF BARNET, VERMONT
MONDAY, JANUARY 12, 2015**

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 Keith Gadapee, and Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt.

1. Approve minutes of special meeting held January 2, 2015

Mr. Bunnell moved to approve as presented the minutes of the special meeting held January 2, 2015. 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 Keith Gadapee regarding Highway Department matters

a. New hire. Mr. Gadapee reported on the first several days of employment of new Highway Department employee Dennis Tillotson.

b. Discussion regarding Highway Department compensation and benefits (executive session).

- Mr. Bunnell moved that the Board enter executive session pursuant to 1 V.S.A. Section 313 (a) (3) to discuss Highway Department compensation and benefits. Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote. Entered executive session at 7:05 p.m. Those present in executive session: Mr. Roberts, Mr. Bunnell, Ms. Ford, Road Foreman Keith Gadapee, 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 7:10 p.m.
- No action taken.

4. Correspondence from Trident Insurance regarding Barnet Water Systems, Inc. claim

Mr. Roberts read a letter addressed to Barnet Water System, Inc., which was copied to the Town. The letter states that "After review of the facts presented, we have found no evidence to substantiate your claim that the damage to your water line was caused by our insured...Based upon the information we have, it has been determined there is no negligence or liability on behalf of our insured and we must deny your claim."

5. Correspondence from Fred's Plumbing & Heating, Inc. regarding employee discount

Mr. Roberts read a letter confirming that Fred's Plumbing & Heating, Inc. will extend a \$0.15 discount off the retail pricing on oil products for Town employees.

6. 2015 budget discussion

Mr. Gadapee discussed budgeting for grader tires. The current 2015 budget for the grader is \$15,000, which is an increase from the 2014 budget, which was \$5,000. This figure, however, was arrived at prior to the discussion of changing the rim size of the grader. The tires presently in use are not of ideal size for winter use, and the Board is considering changing the size when new tires are purchased. Mr. Gadapee indicated that if the Board intends to purchase differently sized rims they will need to budget more than \$15,000 for the grader. Discussion ensued.

- The Board agreed to not change the 2015 budget for the grader, but to use funds from the Equipment Account in the Reserve Fund in the event that they decide to purchase different rims.

7. Correspondence from Vermont Department of Motor Vehicles regarding town highway and bridge weight restrictions

The Board reviewed a letter and attached instructions regarding the Town's annual obligation to report special weight limits for highways and bridges. Discussion ensued.

- The Board agreed to report the same special weight limits as in 2014.

8. Correspondence from Vermont Agency of Transportation regarding 2015 Certificate of Highway Mileage

The Board reviewed a letter and attached instructions regarding the Town's annual obligation to report on the mileages of various classes of roads.

- The Board signed the Certificate as indicating that there were no changes in mileages from the previous year.

9. Execute tax certificate for 2015 tax anticipation borrowing

Treasurer Benjamin Heisholt indicated that at the previous meeting he failed to present one of the documents required to initiate 2015 tax anticipation borrowing: a tax certificate. This document requires the signatures of the full Board.

- The Board signed the Certificate.

10. Correspondence from Law Offices of Salmon & Nostrand regarding TransCanada Hydro Northeast, Inc. 2014 tax appeal

The Board reviewed copies of letters and attached notices from the Town's attorney, Richard Coutant, to Vermont Superior Court indicating Mr. Coutant's Notice of Appearance and Motion to Appear by Telephone at the status conference held January 12, 2015.

11. Correspondence from Barnet Historical Society regarding property tax exemption for Goodwillie House

Mr. Roberts read a letter requesting that the Board place an article on the warning for the 2015 Town Meeting asking if the Town will vote to exempt from taxation the property owned by the Barnet Historical Society located in Barnet Center and known as the Goodwillie House. Discussion ensued.

- The Board agreed to place such an article on the warning for the 2015 Town Meeting.

12. Correspondence from Barnet Fire & Rescue regarding annual nomination of Chief

Mr. Roberts read a letter indicating that Barnet Fire & Rescue has nominated Ronald Morse to be re-appointed as Chief in 2015.

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

13. Correspondence from Transfer Station & Recycling Center Supervisor Bruce Marston regarding dumpster disposal fee policy

The Board reviewed an email, which addresses the present arrangement whereby the Town charges for disposal of open-top dumpster items by volume, but is charged by its vendor for these items by weight. Mr. Marston suggests that this arrangement creates an inequitable situation for Barnet customers and risk of financial loss. He therefore suggests that the Board consider purchasing a scale, so that it may charge according to the weight of items disposed. Discussion ensued.

14. Correspondence from Andrew Mosedale regarding aquatic nuisance species grant opportunity for municipalities

The Board reviewed an email advising of a Vermont Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation grant that Mr. Mosedale suggests may be used by the Town or the Lake Harvey Association to offset some of the costs at the boat wash, or increase the capacity of the program. Discussion ensued.

- The Board agreed to request that Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt contact Jan Sherman of the Lake Harvey Association and ask that she investigate this grant opportunity.

15. Correspondence from Zoning Administrative Officer Shirley Warden regarding permit on property abutting Harvey's Lake Public Beach

The Board reviewed an abutters letter and attached approved permit for cabins at 190 Campers Lane.

16. Correspondence from Vermont Department of Taxes regarding Certified Equalized Education Property Value effective January 1, 2015

The Board reviewed the results of the equalization study. The equalized education property value was \$235,928,000, the coefficient of dispersion 17.23%, and common level of appraisal 104.29%.

17. Correspondence regarding petition of New England Power Company d/b/a National Grid (NEP) for a Certificate of Public Good authorizing NEP to replace two circuit breakers and install associated electric equipment and foundations in the McIndoe Switchyard

The Board reviewed copies of a petition, prefiled testimony with exhibits, notice of appearance and proposal for decision, as filed with the Vermont Public Service Board on December 19, 2014. Discussion ensued.

18. Correspondence from Vermont Public Service Board regarding petition of VTel Wireless, Inc. for a Certificate of Public Good for the installation of telecommunications equipment on Kinerson Lane

The Board reviewed an Order approving the application filed by VTel Wireless, Inc, and granting the Petitioner a certificate of public good authorizing the installation of a wireless telecommunications facility.

19. Applications for Uniform Municipal Excess Weight Permits

The Board reviewed and approved the fleet permit application of Bemis LLC.

20. Other business

No other business was discussed.

21. Outstanding check warrants

The Board reviewed and approved all outstanding check warrants.

22. 2015 budget discussion (continued)

The Board continued to review the budget as revised on the basis of their previous discussion and of new information received since their last discussion. Several further revisions were made, with discussion centered on the use of the 2014 surplus.

23. Adjournment

Mr. Bunnell moved to adjourn. Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

A true copy.

Attest: _____, Town Clerk