

DRAFT

MINUTES – REGULAR SELECTBOARD MEETING TOWN OF BARNET, VERMONT MONDAY, MAY 23, 2016

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, and Dirk Elston.

1. Approve minutes of special meeting held May 16, 2016

Mr. Bunnell moved to approve as presented the minutes of the special meeting held May 16, 2016. Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote.

2. Appearance by Dirk Elston of Passumpsic Advisors regarding investment of reserve funds

Mr. Elston appeared, per the Board's request at their previous meeting. He presented a proposal for investment of a portion of the Town's Reserve Funds in the bond and equity markets. He recommended investing funds not needed in the short-term in a mix of 30% equity and 70% bonds. Discussion ensued.

- The Board agreed to the principle of investing a portion of the Reserve Fund in the bond and equity markets; they requested that Treasurer Benjamin Heisholt present a proposal at the next meeting for the amount which would be invested and the amount withheld.

3. Appearances by members of the public

There were no appearances by members of the public.

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

- a. State of Vermont blanket road work permit.** Mr. Chase indicated that at a recent Road Foremen's meeting a new State of Vermont requirement was discussed. Beginning in 2018 all Vermont towns will be required to obtain a General Permit for work in town highways. The annual cost for this permit will be \$2,000.
- b. Barnet Center Road box culvert excavation bids.** Mr. Chase presented the one bid received for excavation on this project from the eight contractors invited to bid. The bid is from Raymond Heath Construction, Inc., and has a total job price of \$17,550. Discussion ensued.
 - Mr. Bunnell moved to accept the bid of Raymond Heath Construction, Inc. Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote.
- c. Paving quotes.** The Board reviewed quotes from Pike Industries, Inc. with prices for 2016 paving projects. The first lists nine different projects totaling \$469,518. The second is for paving a base coat on the sections of Harvey Mountain Road and Roy Mountain that were reclaimed this year; this quote totals \$202,608. The Town has received notification that it is unlikely to be awarded the grant for which it applied for paving on Harvey Mountain Road. Discussion ensued.
 - The Board agreed to proceed with one paving project on Barnet Center Road (quoted price \$83,055), and two paving projects on West Barnet Road (quoted prices \$64,680 and \$64,680).
 - The Board instructed Mr. Chase to obtain a quote for paving just the portion of Roy Mountain Road that was reclaimed this year.

d. Town Forest cutting. Mr. Bunnell reported that the scheduled logging work performed by a private contractor is completed; he asked about hiring the contractor to clear trees to create a road for further gravel pit access. Discussion ensued.

- The Board agreed to hire the private contractor to perform the work suggested by Mr. Bunnell.

Mr. Roberts discussed the forest management activity performed by the St. Johnsbury Academy forestry program in the Town Forest. He presented a report produced by the forestry program providing a management assessment and plan.

5. Consideration of bids for delivery of fuel oil, diesel fuel, and propane for the 2016-2017 season

Road Foreman Mark Chase reported that he had investigated the use of off-road diesel for Town equipment. He found that the tax savings associated with off-road diesel would not apply to the Town because it is tax-exempt: the Town would pay the same price for off-road or on-road diesel. The Board then reviewed the responses to a request for bids sent to fuel suppliers. Service required is the delivery of fuel oil, propane, and diesel fuel to all Town locations for the period of June 1, 2016 to May 31, 2017. Bids were submitted by Dead River Company, Fred's Propane & Heating Oil, and Irving Oil. Discussion ensued.

- Mr. Bunnell moved to accept the bid of Fred's Propane & Heating Oil, purchasing heating fuel oil (#2) at the fixed price of \$2.10 per gallon, propane at the fixed price of \$1.45, and diesel fuel at the fluctuating price based on the rack price. Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote.

6. Correspondence from Roseann Drew Leute regarding prohibition of hunting within village limits

Mr. Roberts read a letter requesting that signs be posted "at various village limits prior to the next deer hunting season reminding the public that there is no hunting inside the village limits." The request is due to Ms. Leute's observation of bow and rifle hunters during three recent years on her West Barnet property. Discussion ensued.

- The Board agreed to table this matter pending review of the ordinance prohibiting the discharge of firearms within village limits.

7. Other business

a. Goss mud bog events. Mr. Roberts reported that there are indications of several additional mud bogs events during the summer of 2016. Discussion ensued.

b. Town Hall liability insurance. Ms. Ford discussed the insurance status of the Town Hall, as discussed in previous meetings. The Library has planned an outdoor event for June 12, 2016 for which it would like to use the Town Hall as a back-up location in case of unfavorable weather. Discussion ensued.

c. Pre-Memorial Day services. The Board continued discussions regarding planning for services to be held on Sunday, May 29 at Passumpsic Village and Barnet Village.

8. Outstanding check warrants

The Board reviewed and approved all outstanding check warrants.

9. 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