

**MINUTES – REGULAR SELECTBOARD MEETING
TOWN OF BARNET, VERMONT
MONDAY, JANUARY 23, 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, Beach Committee Member Christen Emerson, Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt, Zoning Administrative Officer Shirley Warden, Merle Fitzgerald, and Jay Sprout.

1. Consideration of approval of minutes of regular meeting held January 9, 2017

Mr. Bunnell moved to approve as presented the minutes of the regular meeting held January 9, 2017. Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote.

2. Appearance by resident Jay Sprout regarding history, purpose, and future of fire districts

Mr. Sprout, who is a resident and taxpayer in Barnet Village's Fire District #2, appeared to inquire about the history, purpose, and future of fire districts. He asked if all taxpayers in are members of one fire district or another. He expressed his opinion that if not all taxpayers are taxed for fire district expenses then fire district taxpayers are inequitably burdened with street lights and sidewalks, which Mr. Sprout considers to be public utilities. With regard to most fire district expenses, Mr. Sprout believes that fire districts are a superfluous layer of bureaucracy. Discussion ensued regarding the various roles of the five fire districts in Barnet, the legalities of dissolving fire districts, and the possibility of the Town absorbing some functions of the fire districts.

- The Board indicated that not all Barnet taxpayers receive a fire district tax bill: only those taxpayers whose properties fall within the distinct limits of the five separate fire districts are billed.
- The Board agreed to inquire with Town Agent Steven Adler or the Vermont League of Cities & Towns for a legal opinion on the process of dissolving fire districts or absorbing some of their functions into Town government.

3. Appearance by Beach Committee regarding 2017 budget

Beach Committee Member Christen Emerson appeared to discuss the Harvey's Lake Beach's 2017 budget. Ms. Emerson indicated that the Beach Committee requests level funding on most line items, but asks for an increase in budget in the areas of training and buildings maintenance. Ms. Emerson requested that the Board fund employee training, which did not have a budget in 2016, at \$850. She also discussed planned repair work to the pavilion structure and the beach house, for which the Beach Committee is requesting a 2017 budget of \$1,500. Discussion ensued.

- The Board agreed to level-fund the 2017 Harvey's Lake Beach budget, with the exception of an added line-item for employee training in the amount of \$850.
- The Board agreed to consider funding 2017 repairs to the Beach's buildings from the Municipal Buildings Fund upon specific requests of the Beach Committee.

4. Appearances by members of the public

a. Resident Merle Fitzgerald regarding pedestrian and vehicle safety on West Main Street.

Mr. Fitzgerald described a recent near-accident he experienced while driving along West Main Street on the sharp turn in the road near its intersection with Stevenson Road. Mr. Fitzgerald stated that the road is too narrow and visibility too poor to allow to allow for safe pedestrian travel along that portion of road. He suggested that the Board consider installation of a sidewalk and a guardrail system in this area to avoid future accidents. Discussion ensued.

- The Board agreed that Ms. Ford would make inquiry about Vermont Agency of Transportation grant opportunities relating to sidewalk installations.
- The Board requested that Mr. Fitzgerald inquire with John and Nancy Bishop, whose property is situated along the likely path of any proposed sidewalk.

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

a. Lights out at Town Garage. Mr. Chase indicated that several fluorescent lights at the Town Garage are in need of replacement, and asked Mr. Roberts if the electricity class at the St. Johnsbury Academy may be interested in assisting to replace them.

- Mr. Roberts indicated that he would make arrangements for the replacement of the lights.

b. New dump truck bids. Mr. Chase presented bids received for a new six-wheel dump truck, including truck (cab and chassis) and body/equipment. These bids are summarized below:

Truck (cab and chassis):

Freightliner (sold by R.R. Charlebois, Inc.)	\$83,950 (after \$16,000 trade allowance)
Mack (sold by Sheldon Trucks, Inc.)	\$87,200 (after \$16,000 trade allowance)
Western Star (sold by R.R. Charlebois, Inc.)	\$86,710 (after \$16,000 trade allowance)

Body and Equipment:

Everest (sold by HP Fairfield)	\$56,886
MG (sold by HP Fairfield)	\$58,250
Tenco Industries (sold by Tenco, New England)	\$53,985
Viking (sold by Viking Cives of Vermont)	\$55,700

Discussion ensued.

- Mr. Bunnell moved to purchase the Western Star truck from R. R. Charlebois, Inc., and the Tenco Industries body and equipment from Tenco, New England per the bids submitted for this meeting. Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote.

c. Vermont Agency of Transportation Structures Grant requests for reimbursement. Mr. Chase presented request for reimbursement documents for three projects completed in 2016. These were culvert projects on Barnet Center Road (total reimbursement requested \$99,368.73), Garland Hill (total reimbursement requested \$32,431.15), and Town Forest Road (total reimbursement requested \$29,214.49).

- The Board signed the request for reimbursement documents.

6. Consideration of Building Committee activities relating to McIndoe Falls Academy renovation option (continued in #13 below)

Ms. Ford discussed issues relating to the feasibility study grant project. Requests for proposals were mailed on January 10, and a site visit was conducted on January 20. Ms. Ford reported that the site visit resulted in an enthusiastic response to the project; the Town expects to receive four proposals by the January 31 deadline for proposals.

7. Consideration of 2017 Town Meeting warning

The Board read the proposed warning for the Annual Town Meeting to be held March 7, 2017. The Board signed the warning.

8. Execution of 2017 tax anticipation documents from Passumpsic Savings Bank

The Board signed documents to initiate 2017 tax anticipation borrowing from Passumpsic Savings Bank, as discussed at the previous Board meeting.

9. Applications for Uniform Municipal Excess Weight Permits

The Board reviewed and approved the single vehicle application of Robert Roy Trucking and the fleet applications of Newport Sand & Gravel Co, Inc./Carroll Concrete Co, Inc., and VELCO.

10. Other business

a. Correspondence from Northeastern Vermont Development Association (NVDA) regarding grant opportunity.

Ms. Ford discussed an email she received from NVDA that describes a grant opportunity for infrastructure projects. Ms. Ford suggested that this may be well-suited for a project to repair Bridge #42 in West Barnet Village. Discussion ensued.

- The Board agreed that Ms. Ford will make inquiries into application for this grant.

11. Outstanding check warrants

The Board reviewed and approved all outstanding check warrants.

12. Consideration of Highway Department employee evaluations and pay rate adjustments

- Mr. Bunnell moved that the Board enter executive session pursuant to 1 V.S.A. Section 313 (a)(3) to discuss Highway Department evaluations and pay rate adjustments. Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote. Entered executive session at 8:19 p.m. Those present in executive session: Mr. Roberts, Mr. Bunnell, Ms. Ford, Road Foreman Mark Chase, 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 8:46 p.m.
- No action taken.

13. Consideration of Building Committee activities relating to McIndoe Falls Academy renovation option (continued from #6 above)

- Mr. Bunnell moved that the Board make a specific finding, pursuant to 1 V.S.A. Section 313 (a)(1)(F), that premature public knowledge of discussion concerning confidential attorney-client communications made for the purpose of providing professional legal services to the body relating to the McIndoe Falls Academy renovation option, would clearly place the Town of Barnet at a substantial disadvantage. Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote.
- Mr. Bunnell moved that the Board enter executive session pursuant to 1 V.S.A. Section 313 (a)(1)(F) to discuss confidential attorney-client communications made for the purpose of providing professional legal services to the body relating to the McIndoe Falls Academy renovation option, as premature public disclosure of which would clearly place the Town of Barnet at a substantial disadvantage. Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote. Entered executive session at 8:46 p.m. Those present in executive session: Mr. Roberts, Mr. Bunnell, Ms. Ford, and Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt.
- Mr. Bunnell moved to exit executive session. Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote. Exited executive session 9:00 p.m.
- No action taken.

14. 2017 budget discussion

The Board reviewed the most recent revision of the 2017 budget, as based on the discussion at the previous Board meeting, and changes made by the Treasurer since that time. Discussion ensued.

- Mr. Bunnell moved to approve the final budget as presented at this meeting, with the addition of \$850 for employee training in the Harvey's Lake Beach budget. Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote.

15. Adjournment

Mr. Bunnell moved to adjourn. Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 9:07 p.m.

A true copy.

Attest: _____ *Town Clerk*