

**MINUTES – REGULAR SELECTBOARD MEETING  
TOWN OF BARNET, VERMONT  
MONDAY, APRIL 24, 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, Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt, Zoning Administrative Officer Shirley Warden, and Joseph Mangiapane.

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

Mr. Bunnell moved to approve as presented the minutes of the regular meeting held April 10, 2017.

Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote.

**2. Appearances by members of the public**

**a. Resident Joseph Mangiapane regarding wetlands area near Harvey's Lake. Mr.**

Mangiapane appeared to discuss an evolving situation with a wetlands area on the south (lake) side of Harvey Mountain Road just easterly of that road's intersection with Aiken Farm Road. According to Mr. Mangiapane, water from snowmelt, et cetera, accumulates in this relative low-lying area, and this year the water has risen to nearly the same level as the road surface, threatening to overtop the road, while undermining the road's infrastructure. Mr. Mangiapane stated that the water is approximately two to three feet higher than in previous years, and that the situation has worsened annually, due to new housing development between this wetland and the lake. Discussion ensued regarding ownership of the property in question, drainage, State of Vermont jurisdiction, et cetera.

- The Board agreed that Mr. Bunnell and Road Foreman Mark Chase will perform a site visit and report to the Board.

**3. Appearance by Road Foreman Mark Chase regarding Highway Department matters**

**a. Mud season update.** Mr. Chase reported that roads continue to dry out. The Highway Department continues to grade the dry roads, and monitor the few wet areas that remain.

**b. OSHA training.** Mr. Chase indicated that the Highway Department obtained required OSHA training at a two-day course in Groton.

**c. Grader class.** Mr. Chase reported that Highway Department employees Mark Fuller and Barry Snow will be attending a grader operation class on Thursday, April 27 in Ryegate.

**d. Patneau Lane maintenance.** Mr. Chase indicated that he had received a request from Karme Choling that the Town maintain Patneau Lane further down this dead-end road than it currently does, and that the Town maintain the Karme Choling parking lot near the end of the road. A representative of Karme Choling maintains that such a change would be a return to the Town's previous practice. Mr. Chase indicated that Patneau Lane is 0.42 miles in length, but that he had not yet measured the distance currently maintained. Discussion ensued.

- The Board instructed Mr. Chase to measure the distance currently maintained, and the distance to the point to which Karme Choling wishes the Town to maintain, and report to the Board. The Board also agreed that the Town will not maintain Karme Choling's parking lot.

**e. Mark Fuller probationary period.** Mr. Chase indicated that Mr. Fuller's three-month probationary period is nearing completion, and asked the Board if they intended to adjust his hourly wage on that basis. Discussion ensued.

- The Board agreed to increase Mr. Fuller's wage due to the end of his probationary period, as based on Mr. Chase's evaluation of his performance.

#### **4. Consideration of Certificate of Compliance for Town Road and Bridge Standards and Network Inventory**

The Board reviewed a Certification of Compliance for Town Road and Bridge Standards, an annual requirement for submission to the Vermont Agency of Transportation, to indicate that the Board has reviewed, understands, and complies with the Town's own standards.

- The Board signed the Certification.

#### **5. Consideration of Annual Financial Plan for Town Highways**

The Board reviewed the annual town highway financial plan as drafted based on the 2017 highway department budget at a meeting between Treasurer Benjamin Heisholt and the Vermont Agency of Transportation.

- The Board signed the plan.

#### **6. Correspondence from Transfer Station/Recycling Center Supervisor Bruce Marston regarding proposed addition to Recycling Center**

The Board reviewed an email indicating Mr. Marston's opinion that the Recycling Center is currently of inadequate size, with pictorial documentation. Discussion ensued.

- The Board requested that Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt inquire with Mr. Marston regarding the size of the addition he proposes.

#### **7. Correspondence from Watershed Consulting Associates, LLC regarding contract with Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation to complete Illicit Discharge Detection & Elimination Study**

The Board reviewed an email and attached documents advising the Board of a study being conducted in Barnet and in other towns. The consulting firm hired to perform the study has requested that the Board assist in the project, in part by submitting a signed letter on Town letterhead that explains to residents the study's scope and purpose. Discussion ensued.

- The Board signed the letter, as printed on Town letterhead by Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt.

#### **8. Correspondence from Vermont Land Trust regarding proposed conservation easement on property on Kinerson Lane**

The Board reviewed a letter and attached maps informing the Board of a proposed permanent easement on the property of Kempton Farms Partnership, and inviting comment if the proposed easement may violate existing town or regional planning/zoning regulations. Discussion ensued.

#### **9. Applications for Uniform Municipal Excess Weight Permits**

The Board reviewed and approved the fleet applications of N.A. Manosh Corp, Darcy Nelson, and J.P. Sicard Inc; the Board reviewed and approved the single vehicle application of Larry Flood.

#### **10. Other business**

- a. Library roof.** Ms. Ford indicated that the planned repair work for the Library roof, which the Board agreed to at their previous meeting, has been completed.
- b. Harvey's Lake Dam grant discussions.** Ms. Ford discussed her recent communications with Robert Desrochers of Fairbanks Mill. The Board hired Mr. Desrochers to prepare a grant application through the Ecosystem Restoration Grant Program from the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation. Ms. Ford reported that the grant application deadline has been postponed twice, and it now looks unlikely the grant project will be funded. Ms. Ford and Mr.

Desrochers are now recommending that the Board use the funds earmarked for the grant application on a different funding appeal: to wide-ranging private funding sources. The funds would be used to generate literature (perhaps in postcard and pamphlet/booklet form) that would present the problems faced by the Town, and the Town's need for funds (but not defined solutions), in terms readily understandable to those unfamiliar with the situation, and inexpert in hydrology, et cetera. Ms. Ford also indicated that there will be a meeting with State representatives at Harvey's Lake Public Beach on May 10 and 9:30 a.m. Discussion ensued.

**11. Outstanding check warrants**

The Board reviewed and approved all outstanding check warrants.

**12. Adjournment**

Mr. Bunnell moved to adjourn. Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

*A true copy.*

*Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ Town Clerk*