

**MINUTES – REGULAR SELECTBOARD MEETING
TOWN OF BARNET, VERMONT
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 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, Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt, Zoning Administrative Officer Shirley Warden, Karla Cornelius, Bruce Denio, Thomas Gould, Alice Hui (Lyndon State College News 7), Rachel Johnson (Lyndon State College News 7), Chris Lord, Jeffery Temple, and Nancy Temple.

1. Consideration of approval of minutes of regular meeting held August 28, 2017

Mr. Bunnell moved to approve as presented the minutes of the regular meeting held August 28, 2017. Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote.

2. Appearance by Chris Lord of CapIron, Inc. regarding proposed solar project at property owned by Bruce & Carolyn Denio on Denio Road

Mr. Lord, who represents CapIron, Inc, a solar development company, appeared to discuss a proposed solar project on Denio Road. This would be 5 megawatt project, would occupy approximately 25 to 35 acres of the Denios’ property, and would operate under the licensed name of “Gardner Mountain Solar (GMS).” Mr. Lord indicated that this project is in the early stages. The developers and landowner have spoken to eight of the ten abutting landowners, and none of these have expressed objections. Mr. Lord presented a map showing the size and scaling of the project in general terms. He indicated that the site was chosen by CapIron because of it is out of sight from virtually all other sites, with the exception of a few locations in Monroe, New Hampshire. Mr. Lord also presented the Board with a draft “Memorandum of Understanding Between Gardner Mountain Solar and Town of Barnet.” This document lays out terms of an agreement between the Town and GMS in connection with GMS designing, permitting, and constructing the project. This agreement includes sections relating to training for Town emergency services providers, municipal taxes, and pollinator friendly habitat. The Town’s signature on the agreement constitutes an endorsement of the project for the GMS’s application to the Vermont Public Service Board for a Certificate of Public Good. Discussion ensued.

- The Board and Mr. Lord agreed that Mr. Lord will obtain more definite numbers for tax assessment and taxation purposes, and, with help from Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt, contact abutting property owners in advance of another meeting to discuss the project and proposed agreement at a regular Board meeting in October.

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. **Gravel crushing.** Mr. Chase reported that the Highway Department completed their gravel crushing and hauling operation on Friday, September 8.
- b. **Routine summer maintenance.** Mr. Chase reported that with the completion of the crushing operation, the Highway Department has re-commenced normal summer maintenance, including grading and repairing road shoulders.
- c. **New dump truck.** Mr. Chase reported that the Highway Department has received the new Western Star dump truck, and that it is working well thus far.

- d. **Schoolhouse Road.** Ms. Ford reported that she had received a number of questions about Schoolhouse Road. Residents reported that after recent gravel application the road seems narrower. Mr. Chase reported that the gravel application project is not complete and that the road will appear wider when a top coat of gravel is applied.

5. Correspondence from Karla Cornelius of Lake Harvey Association regarding annual lowering of water level at Harvey's Lake

Ms. Cornelius appeared, representing Lake Harvey Association, to ask the Board about timing for annual lowering of Harvey's Lake. In recent years the agreement between the LHA and the Board has been to perform this process beginning after the Columbus Day holiday. Ms. Cornelius stated that Columbus Day falls earlier than usual this year (October 9); LHA therefore requests that the lowering process instead commence the week following Columbus Day (October 16). Discussion ensued.

- The Board agreed to perform the normal lake water level lowering operation commencing the week of October 16, 2017.

6. Correspondence from Vermont Department of Health regarding recommendation for appointment of Deputy Health Officer

The Board reviewed a letter and attached recommendation form requesting a recommendation for an individual to serve as Deputy Health Officer for three-year term commencing October 1, 2017. Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt indicated that he had spoken to current Deputy Health Officer Maurice Roberts, who had not yet committed to or declined re-appointment. Discussion ensued.

- The Board agreed to table this matter until the next meeting.

7. Correspondence from Cargill regarding 2017-2018 deicer salt purchase agreement

The Board reviewed a cover letter and proposed agreement. The price of standard deicer salt is \$68.78 per ton for 1,000 tons. Cargill this year is also offering a product called "ClearLane enhanced deicer" at a trial rate of \$75.66 per ton for 100 tons, and a regular rate of \$83.22 per ton for an undisclosed number of tons. Road Foreman Mark Chase indicated that he is not familiar with the ClearLane product.

- The Board agreed to table this matter pending Mr. Chase's investigation regarding the ClearLane product.

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

In reference to this item discussed at the previous meeting, Ms. Ford updated the Board on her progress with the required Selectboard training for the operations plan. She indicated that she has commenced the training process.

9. Review of appointments to Harvey's Lake dam review committee

In reference to this item discussed at the previous meeting, Ms. Ford indicated that all appointed members of the committee have agreed to serve, with the exception of Joseph Mangiapane, whom Ms. Ford has been unable to contact. Mr. Bunnell indicated that he would attempt to contact Mr. Mangiapane.

10. Correspondence from Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation regarding Shoreland Permit Application of Bruce Ellison for project at Harvey's Lake

The Board reviewed an application for a project involving raising the existing camp, rebuilding one section in its footprint, and adding lawn area, fill, and stone walls.

11. Consideration of applications for Uniform Municipal Excess Weight Permits

The Board reviewed and approved the fleet permit application of Thomson Timber Harvesting and Trucking LLC.

12. Other business

- a. **Meeting absence.** Ms. Ford indicated that she will be absent at the regular Board meeting on September 25, 2017.
- b. **Stormwater meeting.** Zoning Administrative Officer Shirley Warden shared with the Board a notice printed in the Caledonian Record regarding the draft General Permit 3-9040 for Stormwater Discharges from the Municipal Roads. The draft MRGP General Permit covers stormwater discharges from all municipal roads, Classes 1-4. The notice indicates that public informational meetings will be held. Discussion ensued.
 - The Board instructed Road Foreman Mark Chase to attend one of the public informational meetings.
- c. **Insurance for boat wash monitor house.** Karla Cornelius of Lake Harvey Association (LHA) appeared to discuss a mobile unit that LHA has purchased and is modifying to be used as a new movable shelter for boat wash monitors. She asked if the Town would consider adding this structure to its existing property insurance policy. Discussion ensued.
 - The Board agreed to table this matter, asking Ms. Cornelius to work with Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt to obtain a quote for the increase in insurance policy premium associated with adding the mobile unit to the Town's policy.

13. Outstanding check warrants

The Board reviewed and approved all outstanding check warrants.

14. Consideration of Ambulance Services Agreement from CALEX Ambulance Service

The Board reviewed correspondence from Town Agent Steven Adler regarding the proposed contract. Discussion ensued.

- The Board agreed to support the changes to the contract suggested by Mr. Adler, and to request that Mr. Alder communicate with CALEX's attorney regarding a revision of the contract.

15. Interview candidate for full-time Highway Department position

- Ms. Ford moved that the Board enter executive session pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 313 (a) (3) to interview a candidate for a full-time Highway Department position. Seconded by Mr. Bunnell and approved by voice vote. Entered executive session at 7:55 p.m. Those present in executive session: Mr. Roberts, Mr. Bunnell, Ms. Ford, Road Foreman Mark Chase, Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt, and Thomas Gould.
- Ms. Ford moved to exit executive session. Seconded by Mr. Bunnell and approved by voice vote. Exited executive session at 8:10 p.m.
- Mr. Bunnell moved to offer a full-time Highway Department position to Thomas Gould. Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote.

16. Adjournment

Ms. Ford moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Bunnell and approved by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

A true copy.

Attest: _____ *Town Clerk*