

**MINUTES – SPECIAL SELECTBOARD MEETING
TOWN OF BARNET, VERMONT
MONDAY, MARCH 5, 2018**

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: Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt, Jonathan Carpenter, and Lyndon State College News 7.

1. Consideration of approval of minutes of regular meeting held February 12, 2018

Mr. Bunnell moved to approve as presented the minutes of the regular meeting held February 12, 2018. 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. Consideration of Fire District No. 2 Prudential Committee vacancy

Jonathan Carpenter, member of the Fire District No. 2 Prudential Committee, appeared to discuss the current vacancy on the three-member Committee. The Selectboard must make an appointment to fill this vacancy until the next annual or special Fire District meeting, as discussed at previous Board meetings. The Selectboard indicated that they have not yet found a willing Fire District voter to serve in this role. Discussion ensued.

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

Mr. Chase did not appear at this meeting.

5. Consideration of correspondence from Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans) regarding railroad crossing on Town Highway 116

The Board reviewed email correspondence, which is a continuation of correspondence discussed at previous meetings. The owner of property to the east of the railroad crossing has contacted VTrans about re-classifying the crossing, or some other means to ensure safe crossing of emergency vehicles. Discussion ensued.

6. Annual review of Ordinance for Regulating All-Terrain Vehicles (ATVs): Monday, March 12, 2018

The Board reviewed a notice indicating that the Board will perform its annual review of the ATV ordinance at the next regular Board meeting.

7. Consideration of fee assessment for late-filed 2018 Homestead Declarations

Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt reminded the Board that in 2017 they agreed that they would apply penalties pursuant 32 V.S.A. § 5410(g) in the maximum percentages allowable. Mr. Heisholt reviewed the content of 32 V.S.A. § 5410(g), which indicates that the Selectboard “may...include a penalty of up to three percent of the education tax on the property” of an owner who files a homestead declaration on property that does not meet the criteria of a homestead or of an owner who fails to file a homestead declaration on a property that does meet the criteria of a homestead. This particular penalty is only applicable when the above-described taxpayer errors are not to the taxpayer's advantage (i.e. when the homestead education rate is the lower of the two rates and the homestead owner fails to file a homestead declaration, or when the non-residential education rate is the lower of the two rates and the non-homestead owner files a homestead declaration). In instances when the taxpayer error is to the

taxpayer's advantage, the Selectboard may include a penalty of up to eight percent. Mr. Heisholt indicated that the Board had previously waived these penalties for several years. Mr. Heisholt estimates that the penalty on a \$200,000 property at eight percent would be \$239.79, and at three percent would be \$89.92. Mr. Heisholt asked the Board how they would like to proceed with regard to these penalties in 2018. Discussion ensued.

- Mr. Bunnell moved to apply penalties in 2018 in the maximum percentages allowable pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 5410(g). Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote.

8. Consideration of correspondence from Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation regarding 2017 bioassessment of Harvey's Lake wetland

The Board reviewed an email and attached site report regarding the 2017 bioassessment of the Harvey's Lake, as performed by the Department of Environmental Conservation with the Selectboard's authorization.

9. Consideration of correspondence from Vermont Emergency Management regarding adoption of 2017 Local Emergency Operations Plan

The Board reviewed an email received from Vermont Emergency Management indicating that the 2017 local emergency operations plan was received and accepted by Vermont Emergency Management.

10. Consideration of correspondence from Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation regarding Site Management Activity Complete designation for former town garage building

The Board reviewed an email and attached letter indicating that the former town garage site (25 Granger Street, now owned by Town Garage LLC) has been designated "Site Management Activity Completed" status by the Sites Management Section. Discussion ensued.

11. Consideration of Selectboard presentation and discussion at 2018 Town Meeting

The Board discussed several items anticipated to be discussed at Town Meeting, including the CALEX contract article, and Building Committee activities.

12. Consideration of pay rate adjustments for non-Highway Department employees

The Board discussed and determined 2018 pay rate adjustments for Listers, Transfer Station, and Recycling Center employees. The Board also discussed and determined a rate of pay for the recently appointed Assistant/Acting Zoning Administrative Officer position.

13. Consideration of applications for uniform municipal excess weight permits

The Board reviewed and approved the fleet permit applications of AmeriGas Propane, United Natural Foods, Inc., and John Bogie/JFB Trucking, and the single vehicle permits of C & C Bunnell Excavating, LLC, and Mike Lemieux Trucking, Inc.

14. Other business

No other business was discussed.

15. Outstanding check warrants

The Board reviewed and approved all outstanding check warrants.

16. Adjournment

Mr. Bunnell moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

A true copy. Attest: _____ Town Clerk