

**MINUTES – REGULAR SELECTBOARD MEETING  
TOWN OF BARNET, VERMONT  
MONDAY, MAY 14, 2018**

**Meeting convened at 7:00 p.m. in the conference room of the Barnet Town Clerk's Office.**

**Board members present:** Jeremy Roberts, Dylan Ford, and Benjamin Gates.

**Others present:** Road Foreman Mark Chase, Building Committee Chair William Graves, Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt, Zoning Administrative Officer Shirley Warden, Lisa Bowden, Jonathan Carpenter, John Cook, Frank Jannarone, Rachel Kittredge, and Charles Smith.

**1. Consideration of approval of minutes of regular meeting held April 23, 2018**

Ms. Ford moved to approve as presented the minutes of the regular meeting held April 23, 2018.

Seconded by Mr. Gates and approved by voice vote.

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

**a. Rachel Kittredge and Charles Smith regarding speeding in Barnet Village and Town Hall roof.**

- Ms. Kittredge and Mr. Smith, residents of Church Street, appeared to report that there is a problem with traffic speeding on Church Street. They asked that the Board provide more robust traffic enforcement in the area, through increased presence of the Sheriff's Department, presence of a speed cart, etc. Discussion ensued.
  - The Board agreed to request Sheriff's Department patrol presence on Church Street, and to request that the Sheriff's Department's speed cart be placed on Church Street for a period of time.
- Mr. Smith asked about the replacement of the roof at the Town Hall, indicating that he had heard that the building had been "condemned" and that the new roof cost the Town \$30,000.
  - The Board briefly reviewed the course of action taken with regard to the Town Hall, indicating that the building had not been "condemned" and that the cost of the new roof was much less than \$30,000.

**b. Jonathan Carpenter, Barnet Fire District #2 Prudential Committee, regarding several Fire District matters.**

- Mr. Carpenter indicated that the Fire District/Water District is considering relocating the water line crossing the Stevens River from its current location under Stevens River, to the underside of Bridge #11 (Church Street). He asked regarding the process for requesting permission to use the bridge for this purpose. Discussion ensued.
  - The Board indicated that the Bridge is owned by the State of Vermont, and therefore the Vermont Agency of Transportation should be consulted regarding permitting for the proposed project.
- Mr. Carpenter indicated that the Fire District is considering removing the sidewalk on the lower portion of Church Street, which is in poor condition. Discussion ensued regarding ensuring that the project does not detrimentally affect the town highway. The Board suggested that there may be Vermont Agency of Transportation grant funding available for sidewalk projects.
- Mr. Carpenter asked if the Town would consider snow plowing on the Fire District's road to its water tank off West Barnet Road. Discussion ensued.
  - The Board instructed Road Foreman Mark Chase to inspect the road and determine if such plowing would be feasible.

- 3. Appearance by Road Foreman Mark Chase regarding Highway Department matters**
- a. Correspondence from Vermont Agency of Transportation regarding Town Highway Class 2 Roadway Grant Agreement for project on Joe's Brook Road.** The Board reviewed the grant agreement indicating that the Town had been awarded a grant for a paving project on Joe's Brook Road.
    - The Board signed the grant agreement.
  - b. Consideration of 2018 paving projects.** Mr. Chase asked the Board which of the proposed non-grant paving projects they would like to perform in 2018. The Board reviewed quotes from Pike Industries. Discussion ensued.
    - The Board agreed to perform 2018 paving projects on County Hill Road, Garland Hill, Stevenson Road, Old West Road, West Barnet Road, West Main Street, and Harvey Mountain Road.
  - c. Report and discussion on new school speed zones on West Barnet Road and Kid Row.** Mr. Chase reported that the new school speed zones on West Barnet Road (35 miles per hour) and Kid Row (25 miles per hour) have been posted, as per the discussion at the previous Board meeting. Discussion ensued regarding the new Barnet School sign, and mitigation of any potential line-of-sight hazards caused by it.
  - d. Consideration of Caledonia Sheriff's Department inquiry regarding placement of speed cart.** Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt indicated that the Sheriff's Department has requested that the Town suggest locations for periodic placement of their speed cart.
    - The Board agreed to request that the Sheriff's Department place the speed cart in village locations and at the new school speed zones.
  - e. Review of Vermont Agency of Transportation Structure Inspection, Inventory, and Appraisal Sheets.** The Board acknowledged receipt of copies of Structure Inspection, Inventory, and Appraisal Sheets. They agreed to review these and discuss them at their next meeting.
  - f. Correspondence from Vermont Agency of Transportation regarding annual financial plan.** The Board reviewed the annual financial plan, as prepared by the Agency of Transportation based on the Town's annual budget. Total budgeted expenditures are \$1,297,471.
    - The Board signed the plan.
  - g. Report and discussion on easement/agreement for West Main Street culvert and drainage project.** Mr. Chase reported that West Barnet Quick Stop proprietor Debra King had signed the corrective easement deed required for the project; the project is now ready to proceed.
  - h. Correspondence from Vermont Agency of Natural Resources regarding Authorization to Conduct Stream Alteration Activities on Ferguson Road crossing.** The Board reviewed an authorization relating to a proposed "flood recovery project to replace damaged 36" CMP and roadway. The existing structure will be replaced by an 8' x 6' embedded 24" with E2 infill material." Discussion ensued.
  - i. Other business.**
    - **Pit stripping.** Mr. Chase reported that gravel pit stripping for 2018 is nearing completion.
    - **Ramp to metal dumpster at Recycling Center.** Mr. Chase presented to the Board a plan to install a ramp to the metal dumpster at the Recycling Center. Discussion ensued regarding various logistical aspects of the proposed project.
      - The Board agreed that Mr. Roberts will meet with Mr. Chase at the site to view the site and discuss possible approaches to the project.
    - **Routine maintenance.** Mr. Chase reported that the Highway Department has been spending the majority of its time conducting routine spring maintenance of roads, including grading, chloride application, ditching, and maintaining culverts.

#### **4. Report on application for Municipal Planning Grant and other Building Committee business**

Mr. Roberts acknowledged the Board's receipt of a letter from Kathleen Monroe and Frank Jannarone regarding the Building Committee's activities in pursuit of a new space for municipal offices. Building Committee Chair William Graves appeared and discussed various matters pertaining to the Building Committee's activities, as summarized below:

- The feasibility study on the McIndoe Falls Academy building, now nearing completion, was not a formal architectural proposal, but an initial survey to assist in determining if the building may be an option for the proposed use.
- One reason for considering the McIndoe Falls Academy option is that its renovation may provide multiple revenue stream opportunities (grants, etc.). It is now time to assess the availability of these revenue sources. The new proposed Municipal Planning Grant would assist in this process. The grant would not, however, be limited to the McIndoe Falls Academy, but would assess funding opportunities for new construction as well. The grant would also provide paid third-party personnel for engaging the community while providing objective information.
- One of the more significant sources of funding for the proposed McIndoe Falls Academy project is the donation of McIndoe Falls Academy assets, which may be valued at as much as \$600,000.
- There may be cost-savings for the McIndoe Falls Academy project, or for new construction, by engaging a construction model similar to a "design build," in which a construction manager serving as a contractor could direct the project under a design plan commonly understood by all contractors working on the project. This model may reduce design fees.
- The application deadline for the new Municipal Planning Grant is November 1, 2018.

Resident John Cook spoke, suggesting that the Building Committee and Selectboard should consider less-expensive alternatives to the projects considered this far, as the structures proposed are larger and more elaborate than necessary. Discussion ensued.

Resident Frank Jannarone spoke, suggesting that the Building Committee has not adequately assessed the needs of the Town for improved public offices, and has not adequately assessed the feasibility of the properties currently owned by the Town. Discussion ensued.

#### **5. Consideration of 2018 Memorial Day services**

The Board briefly discussed arrangements to be made for 2018 pre-Memorial Day services to be held Sunday, May 27, 2018 at Passumpsic Village and Barnet Village.

#### **6. Consideration of bids for 2018-2019 diesel fuel, fuel oil, and propane delivery**

The Board reviewed bids submitted by Dead River Company, Fred's Energy, and Irving Energy. Discussion ensued.

- Mr. Gates moved to accept the bid of Dead River Company purchasing heating fuel oil (#2) at the fixed price of \$2.58 per gallon, propane at the fixed price of \$1.58, and diesel fuel at the fixed rate of \$2.68. Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote.

#### **7. Consideration of bids for flood cost reimbursement anticipation borrowing**

Mr. Heisholt indicated that reimbursements from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Federal Highway Administration, and the State of Vermont for flood repair costs associated with July 1, 2017 flooding have been delayed longer than anticipated. This has resulted in a current expense cash flow shortage. Mr. Heisholt requested bids from three local banks for short-term financing to alleviate this shortage, until reimbursements are received – likely later in 2018. The Board reviewed bids received from Passumpsic Savings Bank and Union Bank for a \$365,000 current expense note or line of credit. Both banks submitted bids of 1.79% fixed rate for either term loan or line of credit. Discussion ensued.

- Mr. Gates moved to accept the bid of Union Bank for a line of credit. Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote.

### **8. Consideration of bids for 2018 mowing of town properties**

The Board reviewed bids submitted for mowing of town properties. The bids are summarized below:

Little Acres Construction: \$2,525 annual price (two-year contract offered; same price each year)

Benoit Landscaping: \$3,000 annual price

Ms. Ford moved to accept the bid of Little Acres Construction, agreeing to a two-year contract, and to also agree to Little Acres Construction mowing the Passumpsic monument lot, for an additional annual price not to exceed \$200. Seconded by Mr. Gates and approved voice vote.

### **9. Consideration of Planning Commission Report for Municipal Bylaw Amendments**

The Board agreed to table this item until the next Board meeting.

### **10. Correspondence from Vermont Emergency Management regarding 2018 Local Emergency Operations Plan**

The Board reviewed an email indicating that the Town's 2018 Local Emergency Operations Plan has been received and accepted by Vermont Emergency Management.

### **11. Consideration of applications for uniform municipal excess weight permits**

The Board reviewed and approved the fleet application of J.P. Sicard, Inc., and the single vehicle application of Stan Robinson Wood Procurement, LLC.

### **12. Other business**

- a. **Recycling Center addition.** Mr. Roberts indicated that he will inspect the site of the Recycling Center with regard to the proposed addition to the structure, and report to the Board at their next meeting.

### **13. Outstanding check warrants**

The Board reviewed and approved all outstanding check warrants.

### **14. Adjournment**

Ms. Ford moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Gates and approved by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

*A true copy.*

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