

**MINUTES – REGULAR SELECTBOARD MEETING  
TOWN OF BARNET, VERMONT  
MONDAY, AUGUST 27, 2018**

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

**Board members present:** Jeremy Roberts and Dylan Ford.

**Others present:** Town Agent Steven Adler, Road Foreman Mark Chase, Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt, Zoning Administrative Officer Shirley Warden, and Louis Bushey.

**1. Consideration of approval of minutes of regular meeting held August 13, 2018**

The Board agreed to table approval of minutes of the regular meeting held August 13, 2018, because of those present only Mr. Roberts was at the August 13, 2018 meeting.

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

There were no appearances by members of the public.

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

**a. Consideration of purchase of new chipper.** Mr. Chase reported on prices received for various models of Bandit chippers. These prices are summarized below:

- 15-inch capacity gasoline engine model: \$44,000
- 12-inch capacity diesel engine model: \$44,800
- 12-inch capacity 3.0-liter gasoline engine model: \$38,100
- 12-inch capacity 4.3-liter gasoline engine model: \$42,000

Discussion ensued. Mr. Roberts suggested that the Board consider used models.

**b. Consideration of purchase of new dump truck.** Mr. Chase reported on his conversations with the vendors discussed at the previous meeting of the Board. McDevitt Trucks decreased their price for the Western Star model to \$123,862. This price includes disc brakes, rather than drum brakes as the other quoted models were equipped with; this upgrade represents \$2,000 in cost. Mr. Chase reported that the McDevitt salesman has not looked at the Town's trade-in to establish value; R.R. Charlebois has offered \$8,000 in trade-in value. Discussion ensued regarding disc versus drum brakes, and automatic versus standard transmission.

**c. Discussion regarding maintenance of Barnet School property.** Mr. Chase indicated that he had spoken to Barnet School Facilities Director Michael Bigelow, per the Board's request at their previous meeting. He reported that Mr. Bigelow did not know the answer to the Board's question, but would investigate. Caledonia Cooperative School District School Director Louis Bushey was present at this meeting, and answered the Board's questions. Mr. Bushey indicated that the School Board had not anticipated any changes in school property maintenance, and that no funds had been budgeted to pay for the maintenance services the Town has provided in the past. Discussion ensued, including remarks by Town Agent Steven Adler, who suggested that calculations may be made regarding the cost of school property maintenance for the Towns of Barnet, Walden and Waterford, and if necessary funds exchanged based thereupon to ensure financial equity.

- Ms. Ford moved to instruct Road Foreman Mark Chase to calculate the cost of school property maintenance for the Town of Barnet, and to contact the Towns of Walden and Waterford to investigate the annual costs of these services in those towns. Seconded by Mr. Roberts and approved by voice vote.
- Ms. Ford moved to request that Town Agent Steven Adler draft a hold harmless agreement between the Town of Barnet and Caledonia Cooperative School District

regarding Barnet School property maintenance. Seconded by Mr. Roberts and approved by voice vote.

**d. Review of Vermont Agency of Transportation Structure Inspection, Inventory, and Appraisal Sheets.** The Board agreed to table discussion of this matter.

**e. Other business**

- **Dump Truck #001 transmission leak.** Mr. Chase reported that Dump Truck #001 is in process of repair; the o-ring at the bottom of the dip-stick tube had failed, and the bolts on the bottom of the transmission were corroded.
- **Dump Truck #003 window.** Mr. Chase reported that Dump Truck #003 is scheduled for warranty repair to the driver's side door, as the window has fallen into the door. This is the second time this problem has arisen.
- **Old Silo Road culvert replacement.** Mr. Chase reported that the Highway Department replaced and upgraded a culvert near the Dale Kendall property on Old Silo Road.
- **County Hill Road culvert replacements.** Mr. Chase reported that the Highway Department replaced several culverts on County Hill Road, in conjunction with the paving project planned for that road.
- **Routine maintenance.** Mr. Chase reported that the Highway Department continues to perform routine summer road maintenance as time and weather conditions permit, including grading, raking, and applying chloride.
- **Ferguson Road culvert installation.** The Board reviewed a letter distributed to residents of Ferguson Road, which indicates that Ferguson Road will be closed from August 29, 2018 to August 31, 2018 to replace an existing culvert with a box culvert, and that a crane will be used and electric lines therefore moved, suspending electrical service for a three-hour period on August 30, 2018. Discussion ensued.
- **Municipal Roads General Permit and Class 4 roads.** Resident Louis Bushey, an employee of the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation, appeared and asked the Board if they have considered changing the status of their Class 4 roads due to new maintenance requirements introduced by the Municipal Roads General Permit. He suggested that the Town may wish to consider downgrading these roads to legal trails, or discontinuing them altogether. Discussion ensued.
  - The Board instructed Mr. Chase to investigate the financial implications of compliance with the Municipal Roads General Permit as it relates to Class 4 roads.

**4. Correspondence from Vermont League of Cities & Towns (VLCT) regarding public use of Town Hall**

The Board reviewed emails from VLCT, which provide recommendations for use of the Town Hall by the Town or by public persons or entities not associated with the Town. The use of the building by public persons requires the same general guidelines as for Town use, and additional requirements, including a facility use policy, use agreement, and insurance certification provided by the user. Discussion ensued, in which it was suggested that the Town could appoint a Town Hall Caretaker or Youth Recreation Director to use the Town Hall as suggested, under the auspices of the Town.

- The Board requested that Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt ask VLCT if running a youth recreation program at the Town Hall for a few events per month during warm-weather periods would be suitable with regard to insurance considerations.

**5. Correspondence from Vermont Department of Health regarding recommendation for Town Health Officer**

The Board agreed to table discussion of this matter.

**6. Correspondence from Vermont Agency of Natural Resources regarding post-closure certification of Barnet Landfill**

The Board reviewed an email and attached certification. The email indicates that no comments were received during the comment period and no significant changes were made when compared to the draft certification. The certification will be posted for a 30-day appeal period.

**7. Other business**

**a. Harvey's Lake dam and beaver dams.** Ms. Ford reported that the Harvey's Lake water level is down from the mean level by approximately six inches. The current level is attributable to dry weather and persistent beaver dams along the lake outlet channel. Discussion ensued regarding the application and removal of stop logs in the Harvey's Lake dam. It was noted that no one has been appointed to the task of maintaining the stop logs at their appropriate level since Gary Bunnell's term as Selectboard member expired. Resident Louis Bushey appeared and volunteered for appointment to the position. Discussion ensued.

- The Board agreed to appoint Louis Bushey to maintain the stop logs at the Harvey's Lake dam for an undetermined period.

**b. Discussion regarding evaluation of a Highway Department personnel (executive session).**

- Ms. Ford moved to enter executive session to discuss evaluation of Highway Department personnel, pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(3). Seconded by Mr. Roberts and approved by voice vote. Entered executive session at 8:10 p.m. Those present in executive session: Mr. Roberts, Ms. Ford, Road Foreman Mark Chase, and Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt.
- Ms. Ford moved to exit executive session. Seconded by Mr. Roberts and approved by voice vote. Exited executive session at 8:50 p.m.
- No action taken.

**8. Outstanding check warrants**

The Board reviewed and approved all outstanding check warrants.

**9. Adjournment**

Ms. Ford moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Roberts and approved by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

*A true copy.*

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