

**MINUTES – REGULAR SELECTBOARD MEETING
TOWN OF BARNET, VERMONT
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 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, Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt, Fire & Rescue Chief Ronald Morse, Zoning Administrative Officer Shirley Warden, and Louis Bushey.

1. Consideration of approval of minutes of regular meeting held August 13, 2018, of special meeting held August 27, 2018, and of regular meeting held August 27, 2018

- Mr. Gates moved to approve as presented the minutes of the regular meeting held August 13, 2018. Seconded by Mr. Roberts and approved by voice vote.
- Ms. Ford moved to approve as presented the minutes of the special meeting held August 27, 2018. Seconded by Mr. Roberts and approved by voice vote.
- Ms. Ford moved to approve as presented the minutes of the regular meeting held August 27, 2018. Seconded by Mr. Roberts and approved by voice vote.

2. Appearances by members of the public

a. Appearance by Fire & Rescue Chief Ronald Morse regarding rescue response pick-up truck.

Mr. Morse reported that he had been contacted by Patrick McLaughlin, Vermont Assistant State Fire Marshall and Assistant Lyndonville Fire Chief, regarding a pick-up truck response vehicle. Mr. McLaughlin asked if the vehicle, owned by the State of Vermont Hazardous Materials Response Team, could be garaged at the Barnet Fire & Rescue Station for the upcoming winter. The Lyndonville Fire Department has been housing the vehicle, but can no longer accommodate it. Mr. Morse indicated that, if the Board approves the arrangement, the Town would be able to move the vehicle when necessary, but would not be obligated to operate or maintain it: State of Vermont Hazardous Materials Response Team personnel would be given access to the building for this purpose. Discussion ensued.

- The Board agreed to allow the requested garaging of a pick-up truck response vehicle, under the conditions that 1) a documented limited list of persons is given access to the building, and 2) insurance coverages for the vehicle are certified, and are without cost to the Town.

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

a. Consideration of purchase of new chipper. Mr. Chase reported that he had investigated the alternative purchase options suggested by the Board at their previous meeting. At the suggestion of Mr. Gates, Mr. Chase found two prices for models offered by Essex Equipment: A used (240 hours) gasoline engine model for \$23,900, and a new diesel engine model for \$36,950. Discussion ensued.

b. Consideration of purchase of new dump truck. Mr. Chase reported that he had obtained two new quotes for dump trucks:

- From Peterbilt of Vermont: Peterbilt model for \$132,278,
- From Clark's Truck Center:
 - International HV model (with International motor) for \$111,886,
 - International heavy-duty model (with Cummins motor) for \$122,951.

Mr. Chase also reported that Clark's Truck Center offered \$20,000 for Barnet's trade-in. He reported that R.R. Charlebois has offered \$8,000 in trade-in value, and McDevitt Trucks has not yet indicated their offer for trade-in value. Mr. Chase indicated that the

International heavy-duty option does not have a “butterfly” hood; the lack of this option makes it difficult to check oil when plow equipment is installed. Mr. Chase also reported that he had received quotes for bodies:

- H.P. Fairfield (Everest): \$74,260,
- Viking: \$60,750
- Tenco (Hardox steel): \$58,956.

Discussion ensued.

- The Board agreed to instruct Mr. Chase to ask McDevitt Trucks to submit their offer for trade-in value.

c. Consideration of maintenance of Barnet School property and proposed indemnification and hold harmless agreement. The Board reviewed the indemnification and hold harmless agreement as drafted by Town Agent Steven Adler at the Board’s request at their previous meeting. Mr. Chase reported that he had called Walden and Waterford highway departments, and had spoken to Walden. The Walden highway department had previously performed driveway and parking lot maintenance for the Walden School, with costs billed to the school district, but had ceased the practice last year due to shortage of staff hours. Caledonia Cooperative School District Director Louis Bushey appeared at this meeting, and stated that Town of Waterford does maintain the Waterford School driveway and parking lot, and they plan to continue the same practice in the current school year. Discussion ensued.

- Ms. Ford moved approve the draft indemnification and hold harmless agreement as presented. Seconded by Mr. Gates and approved by voice vote.
- Ms. Ford moved to request that Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt send the draft indemnification and hold harmless agreement to the Towns of Walden and Waterford. Seconded by Mr. Gates and approved by voice vote.

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

e. Discussion regarding Municipal Roads General Permit and Class 4 town highways. The Board agreed to table this matter.

f. Consideration of quote for new computer. Mr. Chase reported that his laptop computer, which is approximately five years old, has been performing slowly and is prone to periodic hang-ups. The Town’s information technology vendor, RB Tech, performed a diagnostic evaluation, and suggested that replacement of the machine is the best option. The Board reviewed two quotes provided by RB Tech: a desktop micro-tower workstation for \$889, or a Lenovo E580 Value Series ThinkPad Notebook 15.6” for \$889. Slightly lesser specifications were available with the notebook option. RB Tech recommended the desktop workstation due to the better longevity in a potentially dirty/dusty environment. Discussion ensued.

- Mr. Gates moved to purchase the desktop workstation quoted by RB Tech. Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote.

g. Other business

- **Joe’s Brook Road culverts.** Mr. Roberts reported that he had received an inquiry regarding whether the Town will replace bridge and culvert structures on the section of Joe’s Brook Road currently in reclaimed condition, in preparation for a forthcoming paving project. Mr. Chase reported that with the exception of any structure replacements, this project is fully prepared for pavement resurfacing. Discussion ensued.

- The Board agreed to not replace structures on this reclaimed section of Joe’s Brook Road.

- **Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) July 2017 event projects.** Mr. Chase reported that two projects related to the July 2017 rain event are nearly completed: a culvert replacement/upgrade on Denio Road, and installation of a concrete box culvert on Ferguson Road. Both projects are incomplete only in respect to installation of guardrails.
- **Resurfacing roads.** Mr. Chase reported that the Highway Department has been working on resurfacing a number of gravel roads.
- **County Hill Road culverts.** Mr. Chase reported that installation of culverts on County Hill Road in anticipation of pavement resurfacing is complete.
- **West Main Street culvert replacement.** Mr. Chase reported that it now appears likely the planned project for culvert replacement and drainage reconfiguration near the West Barnet Quick Stop will be completed this year. Mr. Chase received indications from the Vermont Agency of Transportation that the project is in line for approval.
- **Pavillion Lane pavement apron.** Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt reported that he had received a complaint regarding the newly re-applied pavement apron from Harvey Mountain Road onto Pavillion Road. Mr. Chase indicated that he would investigate.

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

The Board reviewed emails from VLCT related to discussions at the Board's previous meetings. VLCT indicated that the proposed use of the Town Hall, involving running a recreation program for a few events per month during warm-weather periods, would be suitable with regard to insurance considerations. Discussion ensued.

- Ms. Ford moved to create the appointed position of Town Recreation Director. Seconded by Mr. Gates and approved by voice vote.
- Ms. Ford moved to appoint Shawn Hilliker as Town Recreation Director, contingent on a background check, and any other screenings required by law. Seconded by Mr. Gates and approved by voice vote.

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

Ms. Ford indicated that Barnet resident and Emergency Medical Technician Michael Walsh had volunteered for appointment as Town Health Officer. Discussion ensued.

- Mr. Gates moved to recommend Michael Walsh for Town Health Officer. Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote.

6. Consideration of draft decision and order regarding animal control complaint against Brent and January O'Donnell

The Board reviewed the draft decision and order communicating the Board's decision at their previous meeting. Discussion ensued.

- Ms. Ford moved to approve the draft decision and order. Seconded by Mr. Roberts and approved by voice vote.

7. Consideration of bids for asbestos inspection and abatement of Town Hall/former Fire Station

The Board reviewed the request for proposals sent to three vendors, per the Board's decision at a previous meeting. Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt reported that he had not received proposals from any of the three vendors. He reported that one vendor had visited the building, and he had spoken to

the other two vendors via telephone. Mr. Heisholt indicated some of the vendors were either unqualified or unwilling to perform the requisite asbestos inspection/assessment, which was a part of the request for proposals, preferring to segregate this task from the abatement project itself. Discussion ensued.

- Ms. Ford moved to hire Chris Clements of Environmental Compliance Associates to perform an asbestos inspection/assessment of the Town Hall/former Fire Station. Seconded by Mr. Gates and approved by voice vote.

8. Consideration of annual lowering of Harvey's Lake water level

Ms. Ford discussed her conversations with many stakeholders with regard to the regularly-scheduled annual lowering of the Harvey's Lake water level in October. She indicated that the dam has operated with one stop log removed since the Selectboard term of Gary Bunnell, the former dam stop log manager, ended in March 2018. One factor to consider with regard to this year's lowering is the ongoing hydrology study, which is a step in the direction of a permanent resolution of ongoing Harvey's Lake watershed problems, in connection with the work underway by the Harvey's Lake Dam Committee and Connecticut River Conservancy's Ron Rhodes. Ms. Ford indicated that it would be preferred, from the perspective of the hydrology study, to not alter the number of stop logs installed for the duration of the study. Another consideration discussed by the Board is the persistent beaver dams located within the outlet channel between the lake and the dam. These beaver dams are, perhaps, the true arbiter of the lake level, regardless of the number of stop logs installed in the dam. Discussion ensued.

- The Board agreed to not alter the number of stop logs removed from the Harvey's Lake Dam unless there is a major high-water event, thereby effectively cancelling the water level lowering event for 2018.

9. Consideration of Barnet Public Library building repairs

Ms. Ford, also the Public Library's Librarian, indicated there is a door latch in the leased second floor of the building that requires repair.

- The Board agreed that Ms. Ford will hire William Graves Builders to repair the latch.

10. Other business

- a. Spruce trees at Town Hall.** Ms. Ford reported that Jan Enthoven and Suzann Duquette, who own the property to the east and north of the Town Hall, have requested the Town cut down the line of spruce trees situated along Church Street east of the Town Hall. Discussion ensued.

- The Board agreed to instruct the Highway Department to cut down the line of spruce trees, and to inquire with the Mr. Enthoven and Ms. Duquette as to whether they want the fallen trees.

11. Outstanding check warrants

The Board reviewed and approved all outstanding check warrants.

12. Adjournment

Ms. Ford moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Roberts and approved by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

A true copy.

Attest: _____ *Town Clerk*