

**MINUTES – REGULAR SELECTBOARD MEETING  
TOWN OF BARNET, VERMONT  
MONDAY, OCTOBER 8, 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:** Building Committee Chair William Graves, Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt, Zoning Administrative Officer Shirley Warden, William Biddle, Jonathan Carpenter, Michael Dente, Ross Page, and Eric Skovsted.

**1. Consideration of approval of minutes of regular meeting held September 24, 2018**

Ms. Ford moved to approve as presented the minutes of the regular meeting held September 24, 2018. Seconded by Mr. Gates and approved by voice vote.

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

- a. Resident Eric Skovsted regarding Joe's Brook Road.** Mr. Skovsted appeared to discuss the recent construction work on Joe's Brook Road. He indicated that in preparation for paving the Highway Department had built up the road level with gravel, raising the grade by approximately ten inches. Several years ago, Mr. Skovsted had raised the level of his barn, which is situated alongside the road, in order to bring it to the same grade as the road. He indicated that Road Foreman Mark Chase had been responsive to his request, and that the Highway Department did perform work to bring the grade of the road back down to the level of his barn. He expressed his preference that the grade of the road be maintained its present level.
- Mr. Roberts indicated that building the grade of the road up with gravel is a standard operating procedure when resurfacing a paved road from its gravel base.

**3. Annual review of snowmobile travel on town highways**

Mr. Roberts read a public notice for this meeting, which indicates the request of the Bayley Hazen Road Snowmobile Club for snowmobile access for trail connection purposes during the 2018-2019 season. This request includes portions of Laird Road, Somerhill Road, Stevenson Road, and West Main Street, as has been granted in previous years. Ross Page, of the snowmobile club, appeared to answer questions regarding this matter. Mr. Page indicated that he was not aware of any complaints lodged regarding highway access for snowmobiles in the previous season. Board members indicated that they had not received any complaints regarding highway access for snowmobiles in the previous season.

- Mr. Gates moved to grant the Bayley-Hazen Road Snowmobile Club access as requested for Laird Road, Somerhill Road, Stevenson Road, and West Main Street. Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote.

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

Mr. Chase did not appear at this meeting, but the Board did discuss some Highway Department matters:

- a. Consideration of maintenance of Barnet School property and proposed indemnification and hold harmless agreement.** Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt indicated that he had not received any further communication regarding the draft agreement.
- b. Review of Vermont Agency of Transportation Structure Inspection, Inventory, and Appraisal Sheets.** The Board agreed to table discussion of this matter.
- c. Consideration of road salt contracts for 2018-2019 season.** The Board reviewed correspondence from three road salt suppliers: Apalachee LLC (no price supplied),

American Rock Salt Company LLC (\$88.75 delivered price per ton), and Cargill Inc. (\$80.85 delivered price per ton). The Apalachee LLC email indicates that this vendor was awarded the state salt contract for Barnet's region, but does not indicate the price per ton of delivered road salt. Mr. Heisholt reported that Mr. Chase is unfamiliar with this vendor, and has sought confirmation of bid award status and price information from the Vermont Agency of Transportation. No such information has yet been obtained. Discussion ensued.

- The Board agreed to table discussion of this matter pending further information regarding Apalachee LLC.

**d. Other business.** No other business was discussed.

## **5. Update and discussion regarding Building Committee activities, including application for Municipal Planning Grant**

Ms. Ford spoke regarding the Building Committee's meeting on September 27, 2018, and the application for a Municipal Planning Grant to fund a consultant to perform community engagement and grant research and analysis. Ms. Ford reported that the grant application was submitted timely and accepted for consideration by the Vermont Department of Housing and Community Development on October 1, 2018.

- Mr. Roberts thanked Ms. Ford, Building Committee Chair William Graves, and other Committee members for their work on this project.

## **6. Consideration of asbestos inspection at Town Hall/former Fire Station**

Mr. Heisholt reported that a second firm had visited the Town Hall/former Fire Station with intention of submitting a proposal for asbestos inspection. This proposal has not yet been received.

- The Board agreed to table consideration of this matter pending receipt of the second proposal.

## **7. Consideration of animal control complaint form received from Brenda Sherman**

The Board reviewed a complaint of several animals, including a black Labrador mix dog, a pit bull mix dog, a pig, a horse, and a pony, being allowed to run at large off a neighboring property on US Route 5 North in East Barnet. Ms. Sherman reports several incidents of a pig or two dogs roaming onto her property, and also indicates that the various animals are reported to have roamed onto US Route 5 North on multiple occasions. The complaint does not indicate the name of the owner of the animals or of the property; it suggests the animals may belong to any of the several persons who reportedly live at the property. The Board agreed that, based on Ms. Sherman's description of the location, it would seem that the property owned by Billy Noyes is the property in question. The Board also reviewed an email from Town Agent Steven Adler, which identifies Town Ordinance and State Statute provisions that may be violated according to the incidents reported in the complaint. Discussion was had regarding restrictions on Town enforcement in response to complaints relating to agricultural animals. Discussion was also had regarding possible violations of rivers and streams regulations.

- The Board agreed that Mr. Roberts will seek information regarding possible rivers and streams regulation violations.
- Mr. Gates moved to request that Town Agent Steven Adler compose a letter delineating as many infractions as may be legitimately alleged in Ms. Sherman's complaint, with no fines imposed but warning that fines will be assessed if one or more additional credible complaints are received, and to request hand delivery of this letter by the Caledonia County Sheriff's Department. Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote.

## **8. Correspondence from Vermont Department of Health regarding appointment of Town Health Officer**

The Board read a letter from the Vermont Department of Health indicating that Michael Walsh has been appointed as Town Health Officer, with a three-year term commencing October 1, 2018.

## **9. Correspondence from Vermont Agency of Natural Resources regarding Site Management Activities Complete designation of Passumpsic Village Store**

The Board read a letter indicating that the Sites Management Section of the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources is assigning the Passumpsic Village Store site a Site Management Activities Complete (SMAC) designation. This letter documenting the information leading to this designation, and the designation itself, has been recorded in the Barnet Land Records.

## **10. Other business**

- a. Appearance by Barnet Fire District #2 (Barnet Village) Prudential Committee member Jonathan Carpenter.** Mr. Carpenter appeared to thank the Board for paving the section of Church Street where excavation had been done earlier in the season, and for supplying sand for another excavation project. He also indicated that Lieutenant Governor David Zuckerman will be visiting the Barnet Village water treatment facility on Wednesday, October 10, 2018, and Senator Jane Kitchel will meet with the Prudential Committee on Thursday, October 11, 2018. With these meetings, the Fire District continues to seek solutions to its infrastructure maintenance needs.
- b. Update and discussion regarding Building Committee activities, including application for Municipal Planning Grant (continued from #5 above).** Building Committee Chair William Graves arrived at the meeting, and continued the discussion regarding agenda item #5. He reported that the Building Committee had been criticized for not investigating properties not owned by the Town as potential sites for new Town Office construction. He indicated his reluctance to appear to be soliciting property for Town purchase without due authorization for this task from the Selectboard or the voters. He discussed the challenge the Building Committee faces in determining demonstrable site development costs for new construction without a definite site. He suggested the Board consider inviting Steve Pitkin, the consultant who performed cost estimates for new construction and for McIndoe Falls Academy renovations, to speak publicly to the Selectboard and the Building Committee. Mr. Graves suggested that Mr. Pitkin may be able to impartially answer some outstanding questions and provide context for cost analysis for new construction versus renovations. Discussion ensued.
  - Mr. Gates moved to instruct Mr. Graves to contact Steve Pitkin with a proposal to hire him to make a presentation to the Selectboard and Building Committee.  
Seconded by Mr. Ford and approved by voice vote.
- c. Appearance by Barnet Fire District #2 (Barnet Village) Prudential Committee member Jonathan Carpenter (continued from #10a above).** Mr. Carpenter indicated that the Barnet water system's proposed Stevens River bridge crossing project may be eligible for a Federal Emergency Management Agency grant. One requirement for full eligibility is that the Town have a Hazard Mitigation Plan. Mr. Carpenter asked about the Town's status with regard to a Hazard Mitigation Plan.
  - The Board indicated that the Town did have a Hazard Mitigation Plan in effect some time ago, but it may have expired. They advised Mr. Carpenter to inquire with Fire & Rescue Chief Ronald Morse.

## **11. Outstanding check warrants**

The Board reviewed and approved all outstanding check warrants.

## **12. Adjournment**

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

*A true copy.*

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