

**MINUTES – REGULAR SELECTBOARD MEETING
TOWN OF BARNET, VERMONT
MONDAY, OCTOBER 22, 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, Jonathan Carpenter, and Will Barrett (Lyndon State College News 7).

1. Consideration of approval of minutes of regular meeting held October 8, 2018

Mr. Gates moved to approve as presented the minutes of the regular meeting held October 8, 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. Appearance by Barnet Fire District #2 (Barnet Village) Prudential Committee regarding Fire District #2 finances

Mr. Carpenter discussed with the Board a number of issues relating to Fire District #2 finances:

- The Fire District has held a few fund-raising luncheons recently; these were attended by State Senators Jane Kitchel and Joe Benning. The Senators toured the water system and indicated willingness to seek assistance for the Fire District. Lieutenant Governor David Zuckerman also visited and toured the water system on October 10, 2018.
- Mr. Carpenter attended a meeting in Montpelier with Vermont State Treasurer Beth Pearce and representatives from the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation, seeking financial assistance for the fire district. Ms. Pearce and others are willing to seek avenues for assistance, but indicated immediate solutions are not likely. Ms. Pearce did re-open the fire district's bond, providing \$17,000 in financing at -3%. The fire district intends to use this financing to replace a faulty a water main on Mill Hill this autumn.
- The fire district is facing financial challenges: debt payments of \$33,000 due in December 2018, \$12,806 due in March 2019, and \$34,000 due to an excavation contractor as soon as possible. According to Mr. Carpenter the fire district does not have the financial resources to meet these obligations.
- The proposed river crossing solution on the Church Street bridge is estimated to cost \$200,000 to \$250,000. The project may be eligible for a Federal Emergency Management Agency grant, which would pay 75% of expenses. This grant requires Town adoption of a Hazard Mitigation Plan. Northeastern Vermont Development Association is available to assist with adoption, but on a delayed schedule; alternatively, the Town could hire a private consultant at a cost of approximately \$2,000.
- The water system has approximately three miles of water lines. Replacement of water lines costs an estimated one million dollars per mile, according to State authorities.
- Mr. Carpenter suggested the Board write a letter to Senator Jane Kitchel requesting her assistance with this matter.
- Discussion was had regarding Town financial assistance to the fire district through loan or grant. The Board considered the context of public health and safety considerations with regard to potential loss of water service in Barnet Village. Several avenues of financial assistance were considered.
 - The Board agreed to request that Town Treasurer Benjamin Heisholt investigate the cash flow and budget restrictions of the Town with regard to possible financial assistance to the fire district.

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

a. Consideration of maintenance of Barnet School property and proposed

indemnification and hold harmless agreement. Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt reported he has not received any further communication with regard to the proposed agreement. Discussion ensued.

- The Board agreed to request that Town Agent draft a revised agreement that does not require participation by the towns of Walden and Waterford.

b. Review of Vermont Agency of Transportation Structure Inspection, Inventory, and Appraisal Sheets.

Discussion regarding this matter was tabled.

c. Consideration of road salt contracts for 2018-2019 season.

Mr. Chase reported that he received information regarding Apalachee LLC subsequent to the previous Board meeting. This company was not awarded the road salt contract for district #7; it was awarded the contract for a different district. Apalachee's delivered price per ton is \$89.00, as compared with \$88.75 for American Rock Salt and \$80.85 for Cargill. Mr. Chase reported that Cargill would not deliver salt without a signed quote letter, so he had requested a signature in the interim since the previous meeting. Mr. Gates had signed the quote letters of American Rock Salt and Cargill. Discussion was also had regarding the sale of road salt from Town stock to private persons and contractors.

- The Board affirmed the decision to sign the quote letters of American Rock Salt and Cargill, agreeing to purchase from Cargill unless shortages constrain availability, and in which case to purchase from American Rock Salt.
- The Board agreed to sell road salt from town stock to private persons and contractors at the rate of \$100 per ton plus sales tax.

d. Consideration of maintenance of Bridge #41 over Stevens River on Mill Hill (Town Highway 99).

Mr. Chase reported that Timothy Ruggles of Ruggles Engineering has agreed to inspect this bridge to provide recommendations for improvements. The last Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans) inspection report indicates the bridge's outside rails are deteriorating. VTrans's Shauna Clifford recommended maintenance and improvements to the bridge, especially due to the heavy traffic crossing the bridge to and from Morrison's Custom Feeds. The VTrans inspection team is in Barnet performing inspections; new inspection reports are expected in April 2019. Discussion ensued regarding possible grant financing.

e. Other business.

- **West Main Street culvert and drainage project.** Mr. Chase reported that the planned project near the West Barnet Quick Stop has been cleared by State authorities. The Highway Department is now awaiting Mathews Excavating to arrive and commence work.
- **Joe's Brook Road conduit.** Mr. Chase reported that Joe's Brook Road resident Eric Skovsted had requested to install a conduit under Joe's Brook Road from his barn to his house on the opposite side of the road. Mr. Chase reported that he had permitted this project, on the conditions that it be performed to Town specifications and prior to the forthcoming paving of the road surface. Mr. Chase reported that the project was completed in a proficient and timely manner.
- **Excavation contractor.** Mr. Chase reported that he has hired excavation contractor Kenneth Bunnell & Sons to perform excavator work on West Barnet Road (one location near Somers farm and another location near Ben's Mill) and Ferguson Road (on the bridge near East Peacham Road).
- **Chippers.** Mr. Chase reported that the new chipper is received and is working well. Mr. Gates picked up the old chipper and has listed it for sale on Craigslist.com.

- **Transfer Station & Recycling Center project.** Mr. Chase reported that work has commenced on the scheduled project.
- **Winter preparations.** Mr. Chase reported that the Highway Department has been working on preparations for winter road maintenance, including completion of all required maintenance of equipment.

5. Consideration of asbestos inspection at Town Hall/former Fire Station

Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt indicated that the second firm that visited the Town Hall/former Fire Station with intent to provide a proposal has still not provided a proposal.

6. Consideration of correspondence relating to animal control complaint form received from Brenda Sherman

The Board reviewed a letter drafted by Town Agent Steve Adler and served on Billy Noyes via Caledonia County Sheriff's Department, per the Board request at their previous meeting.

7. Correspondence from Northeast Kingdom Waste Management District regarding proposed 2019 budget

The Board reviewed a letter, public notice of informational meeting, and proposed 2019 budget. The proposed budget represents an increase of 8.5% (\$64,554) over the 2018 budget; the informational meeting is scheduled for November 13, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. at the Lyndon Public Safety Building.

8. Other business

No other business was discussed.

9. Outstanding check warrants

The Board reviewed and approved all outstanding check warrants.

10. Adjournment

Ms. Ford moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Gates and approved by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

A true copy. Attest: _____ Town Clerk