

**MINUTES – REGULAR SELECTBOARD MEETING
TOWN OF BARNET, VERMONT
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 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, Transfer Station/Recycling Center Supervisor Bruce Marston, Transfer Station/Recycling Center employee Donald Nelson, Jonathan Carpenter, Gloria Laborie, and Kenneth Sachs.

1. Consideration of approval of minutes of regular meeting held October 22, 2018

Jonathan Carpenter discussed the fifth bullet point under item 3 in the draft minutes. He indicated concern that it may be interpreted as suggesting that the fire district is requesting \$3,000,000. He stated that the fire district is not requesting this sum: reference to State authorities' estimate of per-mile costs was made to provide perspective. Mr. Carpenter suggested that the minutes be amended to indicate that the per-mile estimates are according to state authorities.

Mr. Gates moved to approve the minutes of the October 22, 2018, with amendment as suggested by Mr. Carpenter. Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote.

2. Appearances by members of the public

a. Transfer Station/ Recycling Center matters. Transfer Station/Recycling Center Supervisor Bruce Marston and Transfer Station employee Donald Nelson appeared to discuss Transfer Station/Recycling Center matters. Mr. Marston presented documents detailing items for the Board's consideration. He discussed some of these items with the Board at this meeting; this discussion is summarized below.

- Some customers are taking advantage of bag prices, and trying to negotiate prices. Mr. Marston proposed to fill empty bags of various common sizes with crumpled newspaper, and put these on display to provide a consistent visual for prices.
 - The Board agreed to approve the suggested use of display trash bags.
- Mr. Marston suggested that fees for tires be changed to match some of the newer car and truck tire sizes, and that fees be added for large tractor sizes.
 - The Board agreed to raise prices on tires. The Board requested that Mr. Marston present suggested price increases for their consideration.
- Mr. Marston requested a pile of sand near the metal dumpster for the winter to be used for hand-sanding when necessary.
 - The Board agreed to provide a sand pile near the metal dumpster.
- There is a problem with customer compliance with new glass rules. Some customers are leaving unacceptable glass in the glass deposit area; employees are spending significant time removing it and moving it to the construction dumpsters.
- Mr. Marston asked the Northeast Kingdom Waste Management District if an eye wash station is required at the Barnet facility. He was told that it is not required at this time.
- Mr. Marston suggested that an emergency exit may be necessary at the rear of planned addition to the Recycling Center.
 - The Board discussed the question of an additional emergency exit, and agreed to make further investigation regarding fire code requirements and best practices.
- Mr. Marston suggested that a small, outside, lockable cage be attached to the planned addition to the Recycling Center to provide safe storage of propane tanks.

- Mr. Marston indicated he would like to train employee candidate Ernest Bourtelle for work at both the Transfer Station and the Recycling Center; he suggested the training may take four hours.
 - The Board approved the proposed hiring and suggested training of Ernest Bourtelle as a Transfer Station/Recycling Center employee.

3. 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.** The Board reviewed the revised proposed agreement, as drafted by Town Attorney Steven Adler per the Board's previous meeting. The revision removes any reference to school property maintenance by the towns of Walden and Waterford. The Board also discussed with Mr. Chase their expectations for school property maintenance cost-tracking.
 - Mr. Gates moved to approve the revised indemnification and hold harmless agreement. Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote.
 - The Board instructed Mr. Chase that the Highway Department should track personnel and equipment hours, as well as quantities for diesel fuel, sand, and salt usage.
- b. **Review of Vermont Agency of Transportation Structure Inspection, Inventory, and Appraisal Sheets.** The Board agreed to table discussion of this matter.
- c. **Correspondence from Vermont Agency of Transportation regarding McIndoe Falls railroad crossing.** Mr. Chase reported on his response to an email from the Vermont Agency of Transportation regarding the railroad crossing on so-called "Welch Road," Town Highway 116 at the south end of McIndoe Falls. The email indicates that the crossing has been filled in with gravel and is sufficient to provide access to the abutting landowner. Mr. Chase reported that he had inspected the site, and found that the crossing was not much improved, and still unsafe for crossing by town equipment.
 - The Board agreed that the Highway Department should continue to turn around prior to the railroad crossing when performing winter maintenance.
- d. **Correspondence from resident Mary Jane Egerton regarding road construction on County Hill.** The Board read a letter reporting that "the residents of County Hill Road, Tripp Lane and surrounding roads are delighted with the fine, new paving surface that you have provided on County Hill." The letter also praises the renovation work done on County Hill Road throughout the summer, and expresses appreciation for these efforts.
- e. **Other business**
 - **West Main Street culvert and drainage project.** Mr. Chase reported that the planned project near the West Barnet Quick Stop was commenced the day of this meeting. He indicated that West Main Street will be closed at the site of the project on Tuesday, November 13, 2018. The Fire and Rescue Department has been notified, and detour signs have been posted.
 - **Vermont League of Cities and Towns Property and Casualty Intermunicipal Fund (PACIF) hazard inspection.** Mr. Chase reported that PACIF had visited the Town Garage and had found only a few minor problems. Brief discussion ensued.

4. Consideration of, and any action on, Fire District #2 finances

Prudential Committee member Jonathan Carpenter appeared and presented several documents relating to the fire district's finances. These included: 1) a document detailing invoices from and payments to Alliance Consulting and Excavation, with a current remainder due of \$33,000; 2) a late payment notice from Union Bank dated July 27, 2017, for a loan payment due June 27, 2017 in the amount of \$33,501.22, and 3) an Allonge for Attachment to Note from Union Bank dated August 15, 2017,

indicating an extension of maturity date from June 27, 2017 to January 27, 2019. Discussion was had about planned repairs of the water line on Mill Hill. Discussion was also had about water rates; Mr. Carpenter reported Barnet Water System's quarterly rates to be \$200 for residential properties.

- Mr. Gates moved to loan \$33,000 to Barnet Fire District #2, through payment of outstanding invoices to Alliance Consulting and Excavation, to provide continued solvency to Barnet Fire District #2. Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote.

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

The Board reviewed proposals submitted by two different environmental firms for comprehensive demolition/renovation inspections throughout the interior and exterior of the Barnet Town Hall and Fire Station. The total proposed costs for the two proposals are summarized below:

- Clay Point Associates, Inc.: \$1,525
- Environmental Compliance Associates, LLC: \$1,850

Discussion ensued.

- Mr. Gates moved to accept the proposal of Clay Point Associates, Inc. Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote.

6. Consideration of disposition of donation from Milarepa Center

Mr. Heisholt reported that the Milarepa Center once again made a donation with their payment of property taxes, this year in the amount of \$150.09. He asked for the Board's direction regarding the disposition of these funds. Discussion ensued.

- The Board agreed to deposit these funds to the Municipal Buildings Account in the Reserve Fund.

7. Consideration of 2019 health insurance benefits

Mr. Heisholt presented data regarding 2019 health insurance premiums and deductibles from Blue Cross Blue Shield and MVP, as compared with 2018. Based on current employee enrollment and Town contributions, there would be an increase in Town expenditures for health insurance premiums from 2018 to 2019 of approximately \$3,558.12 for Blue Cross Blue Shield and a decrease of \$3,603.58 for MVP. Mr. Heisholt had performed some research in the past regarding MVP plan employee satisfaction and found that there were some complaints about network coverage among other Towns that have used MVP. Discussion ensued.

- Ms. Ford moved to not amend the personnel policy with regard to health insurance but to continue to grant employees choice of Blue Cross Blue Shield plans, paying 90% of the premium of whichever plan is chosen, and to fund the Town's Health Reimbursement Accounts in 2019 at the same level as 2018 (beginning with a balance of \$2,500 for each full-time employee on January 1, 2019). Seconded by Mr. Gates and approved by voice vote.

8. Correspondence from Northeastern Vermont Development Association regarding Local Emergency Management Plan

The Board reviewed an email stating that, beginning in 2019, towns will be required to submit a Local Emergency Management Plan instead of the current Local Emergency Operations Plan. Discussion ensued.

9. Correspondence from Vermont Division of Fire Safety regarding fire inspection at Barnet School

The Board reviewed an inspection report for a project involving renovations of an entry, office, and bathroom.

10. Correspondence from Federal Energy Regulatory Commission regarding planned McIndoes Development reservoir drawdown

The Board reviewed notices of a planned reservoir drawdown to perform repairs at the McIndoes development that occurred from September 9, 2018 through September 12, 2018.

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

The Board reviewed a return of service from the Caledonia County Sheriff's Department confirming delivery of the Board's letter to Billy Noyes on October 26, 2018.

12. Consideration of animal control complaint forms received from Ken Sachs and Gloria Laborie

The Board reviewed nine animal control complaint forms received from Ken Sachs and Gloria Laborie on October 23, 2018. These forms report incidents occurring from August 9, 2018 to October 19, 2018, involving two brown pit bulls owned by Mr. Sachs' and Ms. Laborie's tenant, Noah Housky. Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt reported that the two dogs are not licensed. Mr. Heisholt also reported that Second Constable David Stevenson had visited the residence of Mr. Housky on the date of this meeting, and had instructed him of the applicable requirements of the Animal Control Ordinance, including the requirement to license the dogs, Mr. Stevenson requested licensing be accomplished within one week of this date. Mr. Heisholt also indicated that Mr. Stevenson had reported Mr. Housky's stated intention to move out of his current residence within one month. Discussion ensued.

13. Other business

No other business was discussed.

14. Outstanding check warrants

The Board reviewed and approved all outstanding check warrants.

15. Adjournment

Mr. Gates moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

A true copy.

Attest: _____ Town Clerk