

**MINUTES – REGULAR SELECTBOARD MEETING
TOWN OF BARNET, VERMONT
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 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: Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt, Zoning Administrative Officer Shirley Warden, Jonathan Carpenter, Daniel Deatruck, and Celina Wright.

1. Consideration of approval of minutes of regular meeting held November 12, 2018

Mr. Gates moved to approve as presented the minutes of the November 12, 2018. Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote.

2. Appearance by resident Celina Wright, representing Morrison Hill residents, regarding connectivity initiative

Ms. Wright appeared and discussed the activities of a group of Morrison Hill residents who have organized to attempt to improve internet connectivity in the Morrison Hill area. The group began meeting in the spring of 2018; Ms. Ford was in attendance at one of their meetings. The group hopes to be involved in applying for a State of Vermont grant that would improve connectivity. The grant application requires a letter of support from the Town. Discussion ensued.

- The Board agreed to sign a letter of support for the grant project.

3. Appearances by members of the public

There were no appearances by members of the public.

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

Mr. Chase did not appear at this meeting, but the Board did discuss several items relating to the Highway Department.

a. Consideration of maintenance of Barnet School property and proposed

indemnification and hold harmless agreement. The Board reviewed a version of the agreement as revised by the Caledonia Cooperative School District (CCSD). The proposed revision changes the title of the document to “Snow Removal and Maintenance Services Agreement,” and changes article 2 from language describing how “CCSD shall indemnify and hold harmless the Town of Barnet and its employees and agents from any and all liability...” to: “Barnet shall maintain such insurance as will protect the town and hold the CCSD harmless from any claims for property damage or for personal injuries, which may arise under this contract. Such coverage shall name the CCSD as additional insured.” Discussion ensued.

- The Board agreed to request an opinion from Town Attorney Steven Adler. The Board also agreed to set a deadline of January 8, 2019 to sign an agreement with the CCSD, after which, if an agreement is not signed, the Town will cease school property maintenance activities.

b. Other business

- **Turn-around difficulties.** The Board discussed reports from Mr. Chase of Town vehicle turn-around locations at which the Highway Department is having difficulty turning around due to private vehicles or other objects occupying the space.

- Mr. Gates moved to draft a form letter to send to residents who place vehicles and other objects in the Town’s turn-around locations, advising these residents of their obligation to keep these locations open, and warning that vehicles may be

towed at the owner's expense, and to send one of these letters to Patrick McWilliams and Patricia Johnston-McWilliams. Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote.

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

Fire District #2 Prudential Committee member Jonathan Carpenter appeared and discussed the Fire District's finances. The Board informed Mr. Carpenter that they had requested a legal opinion from the Vermont League of Cities and Towns and from Town Attorney Steven Adler regarding their decision, at their previous meeting, to loan funds to the Fire District. The opinion from the Vermont League of Cities and Towns suggests that there may be legal obstacles to the Board's decision; the Board awaits a response from Mr. Adler. Mr. Carpenter indicated that the Fire District is investigating possible revenue and borrowing sources.

6. Correspondence from Northeast Kingdom Waste Management District regarding rescheduled public meeting on 2019 proposed budget

The Board reviewed a memorandum indicating that, due to the weather, the original public meeting on the 2019 proposed budget scheduled for November 13, 2018 was postponed and rescheduled for Tuesday, December 11, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. at the Lyndon Public Safety Building. Discussion ensued regarding the participation of Barnet's Northeast Kingdom Waste Management District representative William Douglas. The Board agreed to request that Mr. Douglas attend a Board meeting to discuss the proposed budget.

7. Other business

- a. Library repairs.** Ms. Ford indicated that she had received a report of a non-functional light on the second floor of the library building.
 - The Board agreed that Ms. Ford will investigate the light, and arrange to hire a repair person if necessary.
- b. Community Facebook discussion regarding dog complaint.** Mr. Roberts reported that he had commented on a community Facebook discussion regarding the Board's actions in response to an animal control complaint. Mr. Roberts indicated that he had stated the Board's actions, to clarify apparent misinformation.
- c. Town Clerk's Office window replacements.** Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt presented estimates prepared by William Graves for replacement of three windows at the Town Clerk's Office. These are older windows, on the second and third floors, that were not replaced when new windows were installed a number of years ago. Mr. Graves's estimate is \$553 for materials and \$360 for labor. Discussion ensued.
 - Mr. Gates moved to replace the three Town Clerk's Office windows, per Mr. Graves's estimate. Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote.

8. 2019 budget discussion

The Board reviewed a preliminary budget prepared by Treasurer Benjamin Heisholt, and discussed a number of items relating to it, as summarized below.

- Village speed-display signs.
- Five-year plan for replacement of Highway Department trucks and equipment.
- Replacement of dump truck #004.
- Replacement of backhoe vs. purchase of excavator.
- Replacement of mowers for roadside mower tractor.
- Proposed sixth full-time employee for Highway Department.
- Proposed pole shed at Town Garage.
- Funding for cemeteries.
- Reserve fund balances.

- Personnel evaluation and pay rate increases.

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 8:30 p.m.

A true copy.

Attest: _____ Town Clerk