

**MINUTES – REGULAR SELECTBOARD MEETING
TOWN OF BARNET, VERMONT
MONDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2018**

Meeting convened at 7:00 p.m. in the conference room of the Barnet Town Clerk's Office.

Board members present: Dylan Ford, and Benjamin Gates.

Others present: Road Foreman Mark Chase, Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt, Zoning Administrative Officer Shirley Warden, Jonathan Carpenter, Gloria Laborie, and Kenneth Sachs.

1. Consideration of approval of minutes of regular meeting held November 26, 2018

Ms. Ford moved to approve as presented the minutes of the November 26, 2018. Seconded by Mr. Gates and approved by voice vote.

2. Appearances by members of the public

There were no appearances by members of the public.

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

- a. Gravel and sand pit stripping.** Mr. Chase reported excavation contractors Mathews Excavating and Kenneth Bunnell & Sons Excavating have expressed interest in commencing pit stripping activities earlier in the season this year, to possibly complete the work before spring. Discussion ensued.
 - The Board instructed Mr. Chase to request formal bids for pit stripping work from Chief Crushing & Excavation, Kenneth Bunnell & Sons Excavating, and Mathews Excavating.
- b. Communications difficulty.** Mr. Chase reported that the Highway Department is having difficulty communicating between trucks and other equipment on the road. The frequencies of their two-way radios were cut back in summer 2018, which has reduced their range of functionality. There are many locations in town from which the radios are unable to communicate with other radios. Cell phones are sometimes used as a substitute, but there are many areas with little or no cell phone service. Mr. Chase discussed several avenues he has investigated in seeking a solution to this problem, including contacting contractors regarding the use of repeater antennas, and contacting the Fire & Rescue Department regarding their experience with two-way radio communications. Discussion ensued.
- c. Part-time/substitute driver hiring.** Mr. Chase indicated that one of the Highway Department's part-time/substitute drivers, Ernest Bourtelle, has decided to remove his name from the roster of available drivers. Mr. Chase discussed his search for a replacement for Mr. Bourtelle, indicating that he has been unable to find a suitable and willing candidate. He noted two possible new candidates, asking the Board's permission to contact them.
 - The Board instructed Mr. Chase to contact the two proposed candidates for the part-time/substitute driver role.
- d. Winter road maintenance.** Mr. Chase reported that the Highway Department has been spending much of its time on winter road maintenance activities, including plowing, sanding, and salting roads after precipitation.
- e. Trailer maintenance.** Mr. Chase reported that the Highway Department has brought the trailer into the garage and has been re-planking it during slow periods.
- f. Sand transport.** Mr. Chase noted that the Town Garage sand pile is already significantly diminished; the Highway Department plans to begin hauling sand from the sand pit to re-stock the pile.

4. Appearance by resident Gloria Laborie regarding animal control complaint

Ms. Laborie appeared, along with resident Kenneth Sachs, to discuss animal control complaints submitted in October and discussed at the November 12, 2018 Board meeting. Mr. Sachs reported that the situation as described has not changed. Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt reported that Constable David Stevenson visited the residence of Noah Housky on December 3, 2018; at that time Mr. Housky indicated that he does not intend to license his dogs in Barnet because he intends to move out of Barnet by December 13, 2018. Discussion ensued.

- The Board requested that Ms. Laborie and Mr. Sachs document any animal control violations, and indicated that they will re-visit this matter after December 13, 2018.

5. Correspondence from CAI Technologies with proposed GIS Services Annual Maintenance Agreement

The Board reviewed the proposed agreement between CAI Technologies and the Town of Barnet concerning the delivery of user support for listers' Query Manager GIS software. The cost to the Town for this support is \$600.00. Discussion ensued.

- The Board agreed to enter the agreement and signed the contract.

6. Correspondence from Caledonia County Sheriff's Department with proposed service contract

The Board reviewed a contract with a term of January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2020 for the Caledonia County Sheriff's Department to provide the Town with police services including the aggregate amount of six hours per week from June 1 to October 31 and four hours per week from November 1 to May 30.

- The Board agreed to enter the contract.

7. Consideration of year-end payroll bonuses

Treasurer Benjamin Heisholt indicated that in 2017 the Board agreed to pay year-end bonuses of \$300 to full-time employees, \$150 to Assistant Town Clerk Catherine Roy, and \$100 each to Transfer Station/Recycling Center employees Kenneth Dow, Daniel Ehlers, Bruce Marston, Donald Nelson, and Shirley Warden. Discussion ensued.

- Ms. Ford moved to pay 2018 year-end bonuses of \$300 to full-time employees, \$150 to Assistant Town Clerk Catherine Roy, and \$100 each to Transfer Station/Recycling Center employees Daniel Ehlers, Bruce Marston, Donald Nelson, and Shirley Warden. Seconded by Mr. Gates and approved by voice vote.

8. Consideration of scheduling for regular meeting December 24, 2018

The Board discussed the scheduling of the December 24, 2018 meeting, which will fall on Christmas Eve.

- Ms. Ford moved to re-schedule the December 24, 2018 regular meeting for Monday, December 17, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.

9. Correspondence from Caledonia County with proposed budget for fiscal year 2020

The Board reviewed an email and attached proposed budget for fiscal year 2020. The budget is down 3.3% from fiscal year 2019, with total expenditures of \$355,492. Discussion ensued.

10. Correspondence from Federal Energy Regulatory Commission regarding July 12, 2018 minimum flow release deviation of TransCanada Hydro Northeast

The Board reviewed a letter in response to notices of Comerford Station's minimum flow release deviations on July 12, 2018 and July 23, 2018.

11. Other business

- a. Transfer Station fee schedule.** The Board reviewed a proposed revision of Transfer Station fees, to be effective January 1, 2019. The revision adds price categories for large truck and tractor tires: \$18 for tires 18 to 22 inches (\$23 if with rims), and \$20 for tires over 22 inches (\$25 if with rims). Discussion ensued.

- Ms. Ford moved to approve the proposed 2019 Transfer Station fee schedule. Seconded by Mr. Gates and approved by voice vote.

12. 2019 budget discussion

The Board reviewed the 2019 budget, making a number of amendments to individual line items.

13. Outstanding check warrants

The Board reviewed and approved all outstanding check warrants.

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

- Ms. Ford moved that the Board make a specific finding, pursuant to 1 V.S.A. Section 313 (a)(1)(A), that premature public knowledge of discussion concerning a proposed loan to Barnet Fire District #2 would clearly place the Town of Barnet at a substantial disadvantage. Seconded by Mr. Gates and approved by voice vote.
- Ms. Ford moved that the Board enter executive session pursuant to 1 V.S.A. Section 313 (a)(1)(A) to discuss a proposed loan to Barnet Fire District #2, as premature public disclosure of which would clearly place the Town of Barnet at a substantial disadvantage. Seconded by Mr. Gates and approved by voice vote. Entered executive session at 8:40 p.m. Those present in executive session: Ms. Ford, Mr. Gates, Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt, and Jonathan Carpenter.
- Mr. Gates moved to exit executive session. Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote. Exited executive session 9:40 p.m.
- Mr. Gates moved to amend the Board's decision to lend money to Barnet Fire District #2, as decided at the November 12, 2018 Board meeting to the following: to lend \$36,000 at the rate of 2% per annum to Barnet Fire District #2 in the form of payment of outstanding invoices to excavation contractor Alliance Consulting & Excavation LLC, payable by Barnet Fire District #2 in twelve consecutive monthly payments of \$3,000 plus interest, with first payment due one month from the date of execution of the promissory note, and final payment due one year from the date of execution of the promissory note, and with said loan being contingent on the approval of the Barnet Fire District #2 Prudential Committee. Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote.

15. Consideration of maintenance of Barnet School property and proposed indemnification and hold harmless agreement

The Board agreed to table discussion of this matter.

16. Adjournment

Ms. Ford moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Gates and approved by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 9:53 p.m.

A true copy.

Attest: _____ *Town Clerk*