

**MINUTES – REGULAR SELECTBOARD MEETING
TOWN OF BARNET, VERMONT
MONDAY, JANUARY 14, 2019**

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.

Other Town Officials and employees present: Road Foreman Mark Chase, Highway Department employee Glenn Fearon, Building Committee Chair William Graves, Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt, Planning Commission/Zoning Board members: William Biddle (Chair), Benjamin Adams, Dakota Butterfield, Bruce Denio, Dennis McLam, and Karen Stark.

Other public present: Richard Amore, David Hyde, Alison Low, Zachary Mangione, Leslie Morrison, and Celina Wright.

1. Consideration of approval of minutes of special meeting held December 17, 2018

Mr. Gates noted that, under item number 3.a., the draft minutes indicate that the bid of C & C Bunnell Excavating LLC “does not include stripping: only moving overburden,” whereas the bid in question did in fact include stripping.

- Ms. Ford moved to amend the minutes as suggested by Mr. Gates, deleting the above-quoted clause. Seconded by Mr. Gates and approved by voice vote.
- Ms. Ford moved approve as amended the minutes of the special meeting held December 17, 2018. Seconded by Mr. Gates and approved by voice vote.

2. Appearance by residents in support of connectivity initiative proposal

Residents Celina Wright, David Hyde, and Zachary Mangione appeared to discuss their group’s request for Selectboard support of a proposed connectivity initiative, as discussed at previous Board meetings. The group is requesting that the Board sign a letter of support and pledge to contribute \$1,375 to the project. The resident group is contributing a total of \$4,127 to the project, including one individual’s matching funds of the Board’s proposed contribution. Discussion ensued.

- The Board agreed to sign a letter of support for the project, and to contribute \$1,375 contingent on voter approval.
- Mr. Gates moved to create a line-item in the 2019 budget entitled “economic development” for the proposed expenditure relating to this matter. Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote.

3. Consideration of locations of meeting warning and agenda postings

The Board considered re-designation of warning and agenda posting locations, in light of the recent closure of the Barnet Village Store, which had been one of the Board’s designated posting locations.

- Ms. Ford moved to replace the Barnet Village Store as a designated posting location with the Barnet Public Library, making the Board’s designated posting locations the following: Town Clerk’s Office, Barnet Village Post Office, and Barnet Public Library. Seconded by Mr. Gates and approved by voice vote.

4. Other business

- a. Town Meeting location.** Mr. Roberts indicated that he had spoken to Caledonia Cooperative School District Director Louis Bushey regarding the 2019 Town Meeting location. Mr. Roberts reported that Mr. Bushey provided assurance that the Barnet Elementary School would be

available for the Town's use for the 2019 Town Meeting, and that Mr. Bushey would seek official approval from the School Board at their meeting of this same evening.

b. Appearance by Richard Amore of Vermont Agency of Commerce & Community

Development regarding Designated Village Centers. Mr. Amore appeared, accompanied by a number of members of the Planning Commission/Zoning Board. The Planning Commission/Zoning Board is exploring applying for "Designated Village Center" status for four Barnet villages (Passumpsic, Barnet Village, McIndoe Falls, and West Barnet). Prior to this meeting, Planning Commission/Zoning Board members had toured the villages with Mr. Amore. At this meeting, Mr. Amore gave a presentation including a description of this State of Vermont program, its benefits, and the application process. One step in the application process would be for the Selectboard to pass a motion authorizing the Planning Commission/Zoning Board to pursue Designated Village Center status for the four villages identified. The Board was unable to consider this official action at this meeting, as this issue had not been specifically warned.

5. Appearances by members of the public

a. Leslie Morrison regarding Bridge #41 over Stevens River on Carter Street. Mr. Morrison, owner of Morrison's Custom Feeds on Creamery Lane, appeared to discuss the condition of Bridge #41. He indicated that although the Vermont Agency of Transportation's bridge inspection report indicates that this bridge is in adequate condition, it appears that it is in need of repair soon. Mr. Morrison indicated that the bridge is important to his business, and that he is willing to financially support a project to repair it. Discussion ensued.

- The Board agreed to request that engineer Timothy Ruggles inspect the bridge and present a proposal to the Board.

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

a. New part-time/on-call driver. Mr. Chase indicated that part-time/on-call driver Ernest Bourtelles has resigned, and has been replaced by Paul Gibson, who was hired January 8, 2019. Mark Fuller remains on the roster as a secondary part-time/on-call driver.

b. Dump truck #006 repairs. Mr. Chase reported that the locking rear-end on truck #006 is in disrepair; mechanic John Bogie indicates that repairs would cost an estimated \$6,000.

c. Radio difficulties. Mr. Chase discussed continued difficulties the Highway Department is experiencing in communication via radio. Radio vendor Tac-2 is visiting the Highway Department Tuesday (January 15, 2019) to explore options for repeater placement.

d. 2019 trainings. Mr. Chase advised the Board that the Highway Department will soon be engaged in various required annual trainings.

e. Backhoe maintenance. Mr. Chase reported the backhoe's steering bushings require replacement. The project is time-consuming, but will not be expensive.

- The Board instructed Mr. Chase to proceed with the bushing replacement.

f. Grader replacement considerations. Mr. Chase discussed with the Board the forecast for replacement of the grader, which is a 2008 model. The machine likely will require replacement within the next few years; at the present time it may have a trade value of approximately \$100,000.

7. Appearance by Fire & Rescue Chief Ronald Morse regarding E911 address numbering

The Board reviewed an email from CALEX Chief Michael Wright describing an incident occurring December 30, 2018, wherein emergency personnel reported to the incorrect address, 4401 US Route 5 South, because the 9-1-1 caller reported an incorrect address for his location, which was 4401 US Route 5 North. Fire & Rescue Chief Ronald Morse appeared to discuss this matter; he reported that difficulties with Route 5 addresses, due to the "North" and "South" designations, have persisted over the years, and have been more prominent over the past few months. US Route 5 addresses south of the

intersection with Little France Road are “US Route 5 South”, whereas addresses north of the intersection with Little France Road are “US Route 5 North”; sometimes the “South” or “North” designation is omitted, and sometimes residents are misinformed or confused about the designation. Dispatchers are aware of this concern, and do attempt to clarify the address in the case of an emergency call. Mr. Morse indicated that he will attempt a public education campaign, including notices in the Town Report, on the community Facebook page, at the town post offices, and an announcement at the West Barnet Senior Mealsite.

8. Letter of resignation from Auditor Carrie Dunbar and consideration of appointment of replacement

The Board read a letter indicating Ms. Dunbar’s resignation from the office of Auditor effective December 21, 2018. The Board also read an email from resident Dennis Kauppila, indicating that he is willing to be appointed to replace Ms. Dunbar.

- Mr. Gates moved to appoint Dennis Kauppila to fill the Auditor position vacated by Carrie Dunbar. Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote.

9. Correspondence from Vermont Department of Taxes with 2018 Equalization Study Results

The Board read a letter indicating the following results of the study, as summarized below:

- Education Grant List (from 411): \$247,579,737
- Equalized Education Grand List (EEGL): \$232,599,228
- Common Level of Appraisal (CLA): 106.44% or 1.0644
- Coefficient of Dispersion (COD): 18.74%

Discussion ensued.

10. Correspondence from Northeast Kingdom Waste Management District regarding tire management

The Board reviewed a letter reporting a change in tire disposal practices, indicating that the Waste Management District will no longer be picking up tires from town facilities. Discussion ensued.

11. Correspondence from Vermont Agency of Transportation regarding 2019 Certificate of Highway Mileage

The Board reviewed a letter and attached instructions regarding the Town’s annual obligation to report on the mileages of various classes of roads.

- The Board signed the Certificate as indicating that there were no changes in mileages from the previous year.

12. Consideration of applications for Uniform Municipal Excess Weight Permits

The Board reviewed and approved the fleet permit application of Newport Sand & Gravel Co., Inc./Carroll Concrete Co., Inc.

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

Mr. Roberts reported that he has been in conversation with Caledonia Cooperative School District Director Louis Bushey regarding this matter. He indicated that the discussions are progressing positively; it appears likely a satisfactory agreement will be available soon.

14. Consideration of, and any action on, Fire District finance proposals

The Board discussed Fire District #2’s decision not to sign the Town’s proposed promissory note discussed at the previous Board meeting, and subsequent execution of a promissory note with another lender. It was indicated that the Fire District has circulated a petition to add an article relating to Fire

District financing to the Town Meeting warning. The Board agreed to await receipt of the petition prior to taking any further action.

15. Outstanding check warrants

The Board signed all outstanding check warrants.

16. Other business (continued)

a. Discussion regarding evaluation of a Highway Department personnel (executive session).

- Mr. Gates moved to enter executive session to discuss evaluation of Highway Department personnel, pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(3). Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote. Entered executive session at 8:20 p.m. Those present in executive session: Mr. Roberts, Ms. Ford, Mr. Gates, Road Foreman Mark Chase, Highway Department employee Glenn Fearon, and Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt.
- Ms. Ford moved to exit executive session. Seconded by Mr. Gates and approved by voice vote. Exited executive session at 9:10 p.m.
- No action taken.

17. 2019 budget discussion

The Board agreed to table discussion of the budget, and to warn a special meeting on Monday, January 21, 2019 for discussion of the budget.

18. Adjournment

Ms. Ford moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Gates and approved by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 9:18 p.m.

A true copy.

Attest: _____ *Town Clerk*