

**MINUTES – REGULAR SELECTBOARD MEETING  
TOWN OF BARNET, VERMONT  
MONDAY, MARCH 11, 2019**

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

**Board members present:** Dylan Ford, Benjamin Gates (presiding), and Mark Jefferson.

**Other Town officials and employees present:** Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt and Fire & Rescue Chief Ronald Morse.

**Members of the public present:** Harry Adamek, Rebecca Boardman, Jonathan Carpenter, Joseph Despins, Annette Jewell, Shawn Larocque, and Jay Sprout.

**1. Consideration of approval of minutes of regular meeting held February 25, 2019**

Ms. Ford moved approve as presented the minutes of the regular meeting held February 25, 2019. Seconded by Mr. Gates and approved by voice vote.

**2. Organization of the Board:**

- a. Appoint Chair.** Ms. Ford moved to appoint Mr. Gates and Ms. Ford as Co-Chairs. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.
- b. Appoint Road Commissioner(s).** Ms. Ford moved to appoint Mr. Gates as Road Commissioner. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.
- c. Appoint Tree Warden.** Ms. Ford moved to appoint Stanley Robinson as Tree Warden. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.
- d. Set date and time of meetings.** Ms. Ford moved to continue to meet on the second and fourth Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Clerk’s Office. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

**3. Annual review of Ordinance for Regulating All-Terrain Vehicles (ATVs)**

Joseph Despins and Shawn Larocque appeared as representatives of the Barnet Trailblazers ATV Club (Club), the organization requesting highway access. The Board reviewed a list and a map of town highways, or sections thereof, requested. The request is for the same access granted in 2018. Discussion ensued. Mr. Despins indicated that the ATV club had not received any complaints about operation of ATVs on town highways during the 2018 season. Mr. Despins indicated that the Club has made little progress in the past year on securing more off-road trails. Resident Rebecca Boardman asked about how ATVs are regulated in Barnet; Mr. Despins briefly reviewed the regulations. Resident Harry Adamek asked if, in the future, meetings for review of the ATV Ordinance could be warned including indication of which Town Highways are newly-requested access, and which were approved the previous year.

- Ms. Ford moved renew the Ordinance for Regulating All-Terrain Vehicles (ATVs) as adopted in 2010, with changes only in the modification of specified town highway use permitted; this new permitted use being as requested by the Barnet Trailblazers ATV Club at this Board meeting, to include all or a portion of Anderson Street, Barnet Center Road, Bony Woods Road, Brook Hill Road, Chamberlain Road, Cloud Brook Road, Ferguson Road, Garland Hill Road, Gilfillan Road, Goss Hill Road, Joe’s Brook Road, Keyser Hill Road, Knights Lane, Little Scotland Road, McLaren Hill Road, Morse’s Mill Road, Roy Mountain Road, Water Andric Road, West Barnet Road, West Main Street, and Whitehill Rd. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

- Ms. Ford moved to warn future meetings for review of the ATV Ordinance including indication of which Town Highways are newly-requested access, and which were approved the previous year. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

**4. Appearance by Fire District #2 regarding appropriation to reserve fund for fire districts; take any action regarding application for grant from this fund**

Fire District #2 Prudential Committee members Jonathan Carpenter and Jay Sprout appeared to discuss an article relating to fire districts that was voted on at Town Meeting on March 5, 2019. This was Article 19, which was passed as warned, stating: “Shall the Town of Barnet vote to raise, and appropriate the sum of \$50,000 to be used by the five fire districts within the Town of Barnet? Dispersal of funds will be up to the discretion of the Selectboard in the form of a grant.” Mr. Carpenter indicated that Fire District #2 would like to apply for a grant from this new fund in the amount of \$50,000. The basis for the application is the financial hardship of Fire District #2, which has been discussed at a number of previous Board meetings. Discussion ensued regarding details of this financial status and future work to rehabilitate the fire district’s water system. The water system has long-term liabilities totaling \$488,837.21 and short-term liabilities totaling \$6,753.18 consisting of unpaid invoices billed by excavation contractor Alliance Consulting LLC. In addition, the fire district anticipates an invoice from Alliance for water leak repair on Anderson Street this week.

- Ms. Ford moved to allocate \$10,000 from the fire district reserve fund to Fire District #2 for repayment of debt to Alliance Consulting & Excavation, LLC and for repair of a current water leak on Anderson Street. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

Mr. Sprout discussed the expense of street lights, which is currently a cost borne by the fire districts. Mr. Sprout indicated that he still believes that street light costs should be borne by the entire town tax base, as he has expressed in the past. Discussion ensued.

**5. Appearances by members of the public**

There were no appearances by members of the public

**6. Appearance by Town Recreation Director Shawn Hilliker regarding use of Town Hall**

Mr. Hilliker was not present at this meeting. Ms. Ford indicated that he had contacted her to request that an update on the availability of the Town Hall for youth basketball, ping-ping, air hockey, etc. Discussion ensued.

- Ms. Ford moved to make the Town Hall available for Town Recreation Director-supervised activity from May 1, 2019 to October 1, 2019. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

**7. Appearance by Road Foreman Mark Chase regarding Highway Department matters**

Mr. Chase was not present for this meeting, but Mr. Gates indicated that he had communicated with him regarding recent developments with the Highway Department.

**a. Other business**

- i. Pick-up truck head gaskets.** Mr. Gates indicated that the pick-up truck (#007) is in the repair shop for replacement of head gaskets, a repair covered by warranty.
- ii. Truck #004 repairs.** Mr. Gates indicated that dump truck #004 recently required minor repair work.

**b. Consideration of, and any action on, correspondence from Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation regarding Authorization to Conduct Stream Alteration Activities for culvert project on Pearlmont Road.** The Board reviewed an email and attached authorization/permit, indicating that the Department of Environmental Conservation had approved the proposed project.

**8. Consideration of, and any action on, correspondence from Beach Committee member Jacqueline Sprague regarding recent Beach Committee discussions**

The Board reviewed two emails from Ms. Sprague. The first provides her comments on recent discussions between Beach Committee members and the Board, including on the Board's appointments to the Committee. The second indicates Ms. Sprague's resignation from the Beach Committee. Discussion ensued.

- Ms. Ford moved to accept the resignation of Jacqueline Sprague. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

Fire & Rescue Chief Ronald Morse appeared and discussed the Fire & Rescue Department's access lock on the beach gate, indicating that the lock has been taken off.

- Ms. Ford indicated that she will contact the Beach Committee regarding this matter.

**9. Consideration of correspondence from Beach Committee members Joseph Breidenstein and Kaye Breidenstein regarding resignations; take any action, including appointment of Beach Committee members**

The Board reviewed a letter indicating Mr. Breidenstein's and Ms. Breidenstein's resignation from the Beach Committee. Discussion ensued.

- Ms. Ford moved to accept the resignations of Joseph Breidenstein and Kaye Breidenstein. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

**10. Correspondence from Vermont Department of Liquor Control and Lottery regarding education regulation violation of Paul's Whistle Stop**

The Board reviewed an email and attached letter indicating and describing an education regulation violation, reporting that an employee sold tobacco products without proper training. Discussion ensued.

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

Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt indicated that he had not received any new information or documentation regarding this matter. Discussion ensued.

**12. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Great River Hydro, LLC regarding Emergency Action Plan Function Drill**

The Board reviewed a letter indicating that the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) has requested that Great River Hydro conduct a functional exercise of their Emergency Action Plan (EAP). This drill is scheduled for August 5, 2019. The letter solicits feedback regarding the Town's willingness to participate in the drill. Fire & Rescue Chief Ronald Morse appeared and discussed his knowledge of the exercise; he indicated that the Fire & Rescue Department may participate in some manner, and that he will follow up with Great River Hydro to learn the details of the plan.

**13. Consideration of correspondence from Vermont Electric Power Company regarding Community Right-to-Know and SARA Tier II Program reporting**

The Board reviewed a letter and attached documentation, which according to the letter is supplied "in accordance with State Community Right-to-Know & Federal Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know (EPCRA), and reflects 'reportable' items located at VT Transco facilities within your district." The facility described is located at 361 West Barnet Road.

**14. Consideration of applications for Uniform Municipal Excess Weight Permits**

The Board reviewed and approved the fleet applications of Calkins, Gilman I & Sylvia J. LaCourse (Gil's Construction), United Natural Foods Inc, and Limlaw Chipping & Land Clearing Inc and the single vehicle application of Mike Lemieux Trucking Inc.

**15. Other business**

- a. Welcome new member.** Ms. Ford and Mr. Gates indicated that they wished to welcome Mark Jefferson as a new member of the Board.
- b. Fire District #1 (Passumpsic) water system.** Fire District #1 Prudential Committee member Annette Jewell appeared and provided an update on the status of the Passumpsic water system. Fire District #1 owns the system, but buys its water from the Town of St. Johnsbury. The quarterly water rates from St. Johnsbury have increased significantly in recent quarters; according to Ms. Jewell, this is in violation of the Fire District's contract with St. Johnsbury. Discussion ensued.

**16. Outstanding check warrants**

The Board signed all outstanding check warrants.

**17. Adjournment**

Mr. Gates moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

*A true copy.*

*Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ Town Clerk*