

**MINUTES – REGULAR SELECTBOARD MEETING
TOWN OF BARNET, VERMONT
MONDAY, MARCH 25, 2019**

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

Board members present: Dylan Ford (Presiding Co-Chair), Benjamin Gates, and Mark Jefferson.

Other Town officials and employees present: Town Agent Steven Adler, Road Foreman Mark Chase, and Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt.

Members of the public present: Jonathan Carpenter and Earl Morrison.

1. Consideration of approval of minutes of regular meeting held March 11, 2019

Mr. Gates moved approve as presented the minutes of the regular meeting held March 11, 2019. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

2. Appearance by Leslie Morrison of Morrison's Custom Feeds, Inc. regarding proposed solar project on Bimson Drive and take any action regarding letter of support

Leslie Morrison did not appear at this meeting, but Earl Morrison of Morrison's Custom Feeds, Inc. (MCF) appeared in his stead. MCF, with Norwich Solar Technologies, proposes the permitting and installation of a 700 kW-AC net metered solar array for MCF to be located off Bimson Drive in Barnet. The proposed parcel is currently owned by another party (Rocky Bunnell et al); MCF is in the process of acquiring it. MCF requests a letter of support for the project from the Selectboard, addressed to the Public Service Board of Vermont. Discussion ensued. Fire District #2 Prudential Committee Member Jonathan Carpenter appeared; he noted that a public water system line runs under the property in question.

- Mr. Gates moved to sign the letter of support. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote. Ms. Ford signed the letter.

3. Appearances by members of the public

There were no appearances by members of the public.

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

Mr. Hilliker did not appear at this meeting.

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

- a. Late winter/early spring maintenance.** Mr. Chase reported that the Highway Department continues to perform some winter storm maintenance. A difficult storm of wet, heavy snow on Friday, March 22 was a challenge; travel was slow on soft, rutted gravel roads. When not plowing, salting, and sanding, the Highway Department has been spending some time filling ruts and pot holes.
- b. Loader repair.** Mr. Chase reported that the loader (#012) is out of service for repair of a leaking radiator.
- c. Radio repeater quote.** Mr. Chase reported that he received a quote from PIKCOMM for a radio repeater. The quoted cost is approximately \$9,000. The company will bring a repeater to Barnet for the Highway Department to test and locate an ideal placement for the repeater. Discussion ensued regarding various options for improving radio communication, including cell tower access.

- The Board agreed to take no action at this time, but to continue to explore options for improvement of radio communication.
- d. Dump truck #006 out of service.** Mr. Chase reported that truck #006's bed chain drive fell off while the truck was in use hauling materials. The body surrounding the bed chain drive is severely corroded. The truck is now out of service, without plans to repair it. This leaves the Highway Department without a spare dump truck.
- e. Annual Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) training.** Mr. Chase reported that Highway Department employees plan to attend mandatory annual MSHA training on April 11.
- f. Gravel pit blasting history.** Mr. Chase reported that the Vermont Natural Resources Board recently contacted the Town regarding the gravel pit. The operation of the quarry itself is grandfathered for Act 250 permitting because it can be demonstrated that the pit commenced operation prior to the inception of Act 250. The Town must establish, however, that blasting operations also commenced prior to Act 250, or this activity will need to be permitted. Some investigation into this matter has been made, but no evidence has been found yet.
- g. Transfer Station loader operation.** Ms. Ford indicated that Transfer Station employee Ernest Bourtelle, a former Highway Department employee, has asked permission to use the loader (#011) located at the Transfer Station to crush down items in the construction dumpsters. This activity is currently performed by Highway Department personnel during regular weekday hours. Discussion ensued.
 - The Board agreed to continue to restrict use of the loader at the Transfer Station to Highway Department personnel only.

6. Consideration of, and any action on, Beach Committee nominations and appointments

The Board read an email from Beach Committee Member Philo Marcotte indicating that at the Beach Committee's most recent meeting, the Committee nominated Jennifer Kierstead and Christopher Yancey to be members of the Beach Committee. Discussion ensued.

- Mr. Gates moved to appoint Jennifer Kierstead and Christopher Yancey as members of the Beach Committee. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

7. Consideration of, and any action on, animal control complaint received from Stephen and Jane Casavant regarding incident involving dog kept at 205 Anderson Street

The Board reviewed a complaint received March 15, describing an incident occurring March 14. The complaint reports that while Mr. Casavant was walking the Casavant's dog, Zeke, on a leash on Anderson Street, a young resident of 205 Anderson Street approached, also walking a leashed dog. The complaint alleges that the other dog broke away from its keeper and attacked Zeke, biting and causing injury requiring surgery. Discussion ensued.

- The Board agreed to hold a hearing to consider this matter, pursuant to Section 8, Subsection B of the Animal Control Ordinance, on Monday, April 8, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Clerk's Office.

8. Consideration of, and any action on, animal control complaint received from Amy Allan regarding incident occurring at 147 McKinley Drive involving dogs kept at 90 Harvey Mountain Road

The Board reviewed a complaint received March 21, describing an incident occurring March 21. The complaint reports that on several occasions three dogs (a large yellow/white dog, a large black dog, and a smaller white dog) were running at large and chasing cars. Discussion ensued. Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt reported that Second Constable David Stevenson investigated this incident, and found that the dogs are owned by Christopher Yancey of 90 Harvey Mountain Road. Mr. Heisholt reported that the dogs were not licensed at the time of the incident, but were licensed the day after the

incident. Mr. Heisholt also reported that Mr. Yancey intends to install an “invisible fence” when weather permits, in order to prevent recurrence of the incident. Discussion ensued.

- No action taken.

9. Consideration of, and any action on, draft Policy Regarding Conflicts of Interest and Ethical Conduct

The Board reviewed correspondence from Town Agent Steven Adler regarding proposed edits to the draft policy. Discussion with Mr. Adler, who was present at this meeting, ensued.

- The Board agreed to incorporate all of the edits as proposed by Mr. Adler, except retaining the phrase “best interests of the municipality” in Article 2, rather than changing this to “best interests of the community at large.” Mr. Adler will re-draft the policy with these edits and forward to the Board for their consideration at their next meeting.

10. Correspondence from Vermont Agency of Natural Resources regarding 2019 Aquatic Nuisance Control Grant-in-aid Award Notification

The Board reviewed correspondence indicating that the Town has been awarded a grant of up to \$7,283 for the 2019 aquatic nuisance control project. The required Town match is \$2,427.67.

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

The Board discussed the status of this matter, which former Board member Jeremy Roberts had been taking action on prior to the end of his term.

- The Board requested that Road Foreman Mark Chase forward the school property maintenance cost-tracking data he has collected to Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt for compilation and computation.

12. Consideration of applications for Uniform Municipal Excess Weight Permits

The Board reviewed and approved the fleet application of S.D. Ireland.

13. Other business

- a. Park and Ride vehicle.** Ms. Ford noted that there has been a white Isuzu sport-utility vehicle parked at the park-and-ride lot for many days consecutively. She asked if the Town has a policy on park-and-ride use. Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt indicated that he was not aware of a policy. Discussion ensued.
- b. Loan for water system.** Jonathan Carpenter, Fire District #2 Prudential Committee Member, appeared and indicated that Channel 7 News has reported that the Town of Barnet received a forty-year loan for a water system. He asked if the Board had any knowledge about this. Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt and the Board indicated that they had no knowledge of this; it would appear this was an error in reporting.

14. Outstanding check warrants

The Board signed 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 8:23 p.m.

A true copy.

Attest: _____ Town Clerk