

**MINUTES – REGULAR SELECTBOARD MEETING
TOWN OF BARNET, VERMONT
MONDAY, APRIL 22, 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: Fire Warden Christopher Bunnell, Road Foreman Mark Chase, Building Committee Chair William Graves, Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt, Beach Committee Member Jennifer Kierstead, and Zoning Administrative Officer Shirley Warden.

Members of the public present: Jonathan Carpenter, Dennis McLam, and Jeanne McLam

1. Consideration of approval of minutes of regular meeting held April 8, 2019

Mr. Gates moved approve as presented the minutes of the regular meeting held April 8, 2019. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

2. Appearances by members of the public

There were no appearances by members of the public.

3. Appearance by Beach Committee regarding proposed beach rules and rates; take any action regarding amendment and/or approval of rules and rates

Beach Committee Member Jennifer Kierstead appeared and presented a list of beach rules and 2019 rates for fees and passes, as approved by the Beach Committee. Ms. Kierstead indicated that the rules and rates were unchanged from the posted 2018 rules except: 1) The addition of rule number 8 – “No smoking”; and 2) A decrease in the number of persons on a household pass to five (5) and an additional \$5 fee for each additional person. This is the first year the rules and rates have been presented for approval by the Board. Discussion ensued.

- Mr. Gates moved to approve as presented the beach rules and 2019 rates for fees and passes. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

4. Appearance by Fire Warden Christopher Bunnell regarding proposed purchase of forest fire truck; take any action in response to proposal

Mr. Bunnell appeared to initiate a request that the Board consider replacing the Fire & Rescue Department’s current forest fire truck, a 1984 Chevrolet. Mr. Bunnell suggests a new truck with a cab and chassis with a mechanic’s body. Mr. Bunnell also suggests a diesel engine, as this would provide greater convenience and availability as compared to gasoline, due the diesel pumps at the Town Garage. Mr. Bunnell mentioned that he had discussed this matter with Fire & Rescue Chief Ronald Morse, who is aware that Mr. Bunnell is making this request. Treasurer Benjamin Heisholt indicated that the Fire Department Reserve Fund has a current balance of \$90,000. Discussion ensued regarding a replacement schedule for various Fire & Rescue Department equipment.

- The Board agreed to request that Mr. Bunnell and the Fire & Rescue Department determine specifications and request three bids/quotes for a new forest fire truck.

5. Appearance by Building Committee Chair William Graves regarding Building Committee recommendation of funding development and outreach director for municipal building project; take any action in response to recommendation

Ms. Ford read a letter from Mr. Graves to the Building Committee, indicating that a Building Committee sub-committee of Mr. Graves, Dylan Ford, and Dana Young “interviewed Cynthia Stuart,

a resident of Concord, Vermont, for the position as consultant to direct and coordinate a documented presentation of the committee's and its consultants' goals, work, and conclusions." The letter also indicates that the sub-committee recommended Ms. Stuart for this position, and that responses to a survey of the Building Committee supported this conclusion. This position will be paid with an allocated municipal planning grant and Barnet's matching funds, previously committed by the Board. Mr. Graves appeared and discussed Ms. Stuart's resume and life experience. He indicated that with Ms. Stuart's efforts, a possible October 2019 vote on the municipal office project is hoped for. He suggested that the Board seek an actual site option for a new construction alternative to the McIndoe Falls Academy renovation proposal. Discussion ensued about potential sites.

- Mr. Jefferson moved to accept the recommendation of the Building Committee and offer the position of funding development and outreach director for the municipal building project to Cynthia Stuart. Seconded by Mr. Gates and approved by voice vote.

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

a. Report on April 10, 2019 meeting with Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans).

Mr. Chase reported that he, Mr. Gates, and Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt met with Shauna Clifford of VTrans for the Town's annual VTrans meeting. Many matters were discussed, including bridge maintenance; bridges of particular interest were those on Bridge Street, Mill Hill, and Garland Hill.

b. Report on Class 2 paving grant application.

Mr. Chase reported that a Class 2 paving grant for Roy Mountain Road (from intersection with West Barnet Road to intersection with McLaren Hill Road) was applied for. This was one of the paving projects planned for this year by the Board – therefore, if the grant is approved, the Board will have funds available for an additional project.

c. Consideration of proposed annual financial plan.

The Board reviewed the proposed annual financial plan, as drafted at the annual meeting with VTrans. The budget, based on the Town's highway budget approved at Town Meeting, has \$1,301,533 in total expenses.

- The Board signed the annual financial plan.

d. Other business.

i. Dump truck #002 repairs.

Mr. Chase reported that dump truck #002, the Western Star that is the newest truck in the fleet, is at McDevitt Trucks for repair of a broken rear-end. The cause of the problem is undetermined, but McDevitt indicates that the cause is not a defect in the product, and would therefore not fall under warranty. Discussion ensued.

- The Board instructed Mr. Chase to make further inquiries into coverage of this repair under warranty.

ii. New Backhoe delivered.

Mr. Chase reported that the new backhoe was delivered to the Town Garage and put into service; the old backhoe was taken in trade.

iii. Flooding damage and mitigation.

Mr. Chase reported that the new backhoe was immediately put to use, as a number of small wash-outs and a few major damages were caused by recent rainstorms, combined with snowmelt. All roads are now open, with the exception with a portion of Old Silo Road, which remains under water from the Passumpsic River overtopping its banks. Discussion ensued regarding possible mitigation strategies to avoid future flooding, including efforts to clean culverts and ditches this summer; it was suggested that the Board consider leasing an excavator.

iv. Pit stripping.

Mr. Chase reported that Mathews Excavating has been in the Town gravel pit and commenced pit-stripping activities.

7. Consideration of policy regarding in-kind contributions to fire districts, including supply of gravel and pavement patching

Mr. Gates and Road Foreman Mark Chase discussed the question of whether in-kind contributions to fire districts can be made from Town funds not associated with the Fire District Reserve Fund. Recent examples of this type of contribution are gravel used by Fire District #2 in water line repairs, and pavement patching performed after Fire District #2 water line repairs. Fire District #2 Prudential Committee Member Jonathan Carpenter appeared and discussed the various projects in which these types of contributions may be made. He suggested that Town in-kind contributions are sometimes offset by excavation costs borne by the fire district – when, for example, the Town replaces a culvert at the same time as water line repair is performed. He suggested that the upcoming Mill Hill project may be an example of this. Discussion ensued.

- The Board agreed that the general policy with regard to in-kind contributions to fire districts is that costs must be documented and expended from the Fire District Reserve Fund, not from other Town funds. The Board also agreed that projects involving both Fire District and Town concerns, as the upcoming Mill Hill project, may be negotiated on a case-by-case basis between Town and fire district based on relative costs to each, and may involve a trade of in-kind services between Town and fire district.

8. Consideration of preparations for Memorial Day observance

The Board discussed various logistical preparations for the Memorial Day observance to be held Sunday, May 26 at 9:00 a.m. at Passumpsic and 9:30 a.m. at Barnet Village.

9. Correspondence from Dennis McLam with proposal for 2019 mowing services; take any action in response to proposal

The Board reviewed an email from Dennis McLam indicating that he will mow in 2019 at the same rates as in 2018. In 2018 he mowed the beach 11 times at \$90.00 each, the beach field one hour at \$60 per hour, and the former landfill five hours at \$60 per hour. Mr. McLam appeared at this meeting; he clarified that rates would remain the same in 2019, but quantity of services and hours may change depending on weather.

- Mr. Jefferson moved to hire Dennis McLam to perform 2019 mowing of the beach, beach field, and former landfill. Seconded by Mr. Gates and approved by voice vote.

10. Correspondence from RB Technologies with quote for Windows update for Town Clerk and Lister computers; take any action in response to quote

Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt reported that the Town Clerk and Lister's computers use operating system Windows 7 Pro; this system will be no longer supported by Windows as of January 1, 2020. The Town's information technology consulting firm, RB Technologies, recommends that the Lister's computer be replaced entirely with a new computer running Windows 10, and the Town Clerk's computer be retained but upgraded to Windows 10. The Board reviewed a quote indicating a materials cost of \$839 and a labor cost of \$1,080 for these two proposed changes. The Board also read an email from Lister Sarah Cook. Ms. Cook recommends the Board postpone their decision because of uncertainty with regard to specification requirements for the Lister's computer; this uncertainty is due to a possible replacement of Lister software via a State bidding process. Discussion ensued.

- The Board agreed to postpone any decision on this matter until later in the calendar year.

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

Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt reported that Town Agent Steven Adler has inquired with Caledonia Cooperative School District's (CCSD) attorney regarding the status of this matter, but has not yet

received a response. Mr. Heisholt also indicated that no response has been received from the 2018-2019 winter maintenance costs estimate (approximately \$18,000) sent by the Town to the CCSD Board of Directors; it is unknown how CCSD intends to approach road-related maintenance of properties in fiscal year 2020. Discussion ensued.

- No action taken.

12. Consideration of applications for Uniform Municipal Excess Weight Permits

The Board reviewed and approved the fleet applications of Chief Crushing & Excavation, Inc., and Chief Logging & Chipping Services, Inc.

13. Other business

- a. Winter sand sales.** Road Foreman Mark Chase indicated that Danville Road Foreman Keith Gadapee asked if the Town is interested in selling winter sand from its pit. Discussion ensued.
 - The Board agreed to not sell winter sand from the town pit.
- b. Animal Control Officer interest.** Ms. Ford indicated that she had been contacted by an individual expressing interest in the vacant Animal Control Officer position. Discussion ensued.

14. Outstanding check warrants

The Board signed all outstanding check warrants.

15. Adjournment

Mr. Gates moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

A true copy.

Attest: _____ Town Clerk