

**MINUTES – REGULAR SELECTBOARD MEETING
TOWN OF BARNET, VERMONT
MONDAY, MAY 27, 2019**

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 (presiding co-chair).

Other Town officials and employees present: Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt and Zoning Administrative Officer Shirley Warden.

Members of the public present: Jonathan Carpenter and Celina Wright.

1. Consideration of approval of minutes of regular meeting held May 13, 2019

- Ms. Ford moved approve as presented the minutes of the regular meeting held May 13, 2019. 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. Consideration of appointment of Planning Commission/Zoning Board members

Zoning Administrative Officer Shirley Warden appeared and discussed the expiring terms of Planning Commission/Zoning Board members Benjamin Adams, Gary Briggs, and Bruce Denio, whose terms end July 1, 2019. Ms. Warden indicated that she has not inquired as to the willingness of these three to serve another term. Discussion ensued.

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

Mr. Chase did not appear at this meeting. The Board considered the following items in his absence.

- a. Consideration of Town Highway Class 2 Roadway Grant Agreement for project on Roy Mountain Road.** The Board reviewed the grant agreement for a 2019 paving project on Roy Mountain Road, which was awarded by the Agency of Transportation. The total award amount is \$63,616 for the project totaling \$90,880.

- The Board agreed to sign the agreement; Mr. Gates signed the agreement.

b. Other business.

- i. Excavator lease.** Mr. Gates indicated that the Highway Department will be leasing a JCB excavator from Liftech Equipment Companies for one month at a price of \$5,800 plus trucking costs. This change from the Board’s previous decision is due to the unavailability of Volvo and John Deere excavators. Discussion ensued.
- The Board agreed to approve the rental of a JCB excavator from Liftech Equipment Companies.
- ii. Summer maintenance.** Mr. Gates reported that the Highway Department continues to perform routine early summer maintenance; significant recent progress has been made on the first seasonal grading of all gravel roads.

5. Consideration of next steps in process for construction of Recycling Center addition; take any action including solicitation of bids from contractors

The Board discussed the status of this project, as discussed previously by the Board - most recently on November 12, 2018. Ms. Ford indicated that Jeremy Roberts, Board Chair at that time, had been assigned the task of beginning the process of soliciting bids from contractors; the current Board is

uncertain of his progress in this regard. The Board discussed other possible improvements to the Recycling Center, including roof repair and enclosure of the eaves.

- The Board agreed that Mr. Gates will inquire with Jeremy Roberts regarding the current status of this project.

6. Consideration of correspondence from Celina Wright regarding Connectivity Initiative Grant; take any action regarding Town matching funds for grant project

The Board reviewed two emails indicating that the Vermont Public Service Department has awarded a grant to Consolidated Communications, Inc. in the amount of \$44,498 to expand broadband to 37 homes and businesses in Barnet. This project has been discussed previously by the Board, most recently on January 14, 2019. At that meeting the Board agreed to contribute \$1,375 to the project contingent on voter approval of the 2019 budget. The budget was approved, including a line item (“economic development”) for this purpose at the 2019 Town Meeting. Celina Wright appeared at this meeting. She indicated that all resident contributions to the project have been collected; she discussed next steps in project installation and funding.

7. Consideration of draft of 2019 Aquatic Nuisance Control Grants-in-Aid grant agreement

The Board reviewed a draft agreement for the project, which is awarded a grant not to exceed \$7,283, with required matching funds of one third of the grant award amount, or \$2,428. Discussion ensued.

8. Consideration of correspondence from Norwich Technologies regarding 45-day notice for Morrison’s Custom Feeds, Inc. solar project (Bimson Drive) Certificate of Public Good – Section 8010/248 permit process

The Board reviewed a letter and site plan for the proposed solar project. The Town is provided a notice with right to comment as an adjoining landowner. Discussion ensued.

9. Consideration of correspondence from Downs Rachlin Martin PLLC regarding petition of Vermont Transco LLC, Vermont Electric Power Company, Inc. and New Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC d/b/a AT&T to Vermont Public Utility Commission for determination of non-substantial change to certificate of public good for installation of telecommunications equipment off West Barnet Road

The Board reviewed a copy of a presentation to the Vermont Public Utility Commission requesting determination that certain modifications to the wireless telecommunications facility on property located off 361 West Barnet Road, approved by the Certificate of Public Good issued on October 14, 2015 and amended September 16, 2016, represent neither a substantial change to nor a material deviation from the project as approved. Discussion ensued.

10. Consideration of process and policy for grant applications and funding from Fire District Reserve Fund

The Board reviewed a draft grant application form, as drafted by Ms. Ford based on the discussion at the previous Board meeting. Fire District #2 Prudential Committee member Jonathan Carpenter appeared and discussed the draft with the Board.

- No action taken.

11. Consideration of applications for Uniform Municipal Excess Weight Permits

The Board reviewed and approved the single vehicle application of Donald Moore, Jr.

12. Outstanding check warrants

The Board signed all outstanding check warrants.

13. Consideration of additional Assistant Town Clerk/Highway Department Administrative Assistant position

- Ms. Ford moved to enter executive session to discuss possible hiring of an additional Assistant Town Clerk/Highway Department Administrative Assistant position, pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(3). Seconded by Mr. Gates and approved by voice vote. Entered executive session at 7:49 p.m. Those present in executive session: Ms. Ford, Mr. Gates, 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 8:20 p.m.
- No action taken

14. Other business

No other business was discussed.

15. Adjournment

Ms. Ford moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Gates and approved by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

A true copy.

Attest: _____ Town Clerk