

**MINUTES – REGULAR SELECTBOARD MEETING  
TOWN OF BARNET, VERMONT  
MONDAY, JULY 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, Benjamin Gates (presiding co-chair), and Mark Jefferson.

**Other Town officials and employees present:** Road Foreman Mark Chase, Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt, and Zoning Administrative Officer Shirley Warden.

**Members of the public present:** Jason Bean, Barbara Kristoff, and David Kristoff.

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

- Ms. Ford moved to approve as presented the minutes of the regular meeting held July 8, 2019. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

**2. Other business presented by members of the public**

**a. Appearance by Robin Kristoff and Barbara Kristoff regarding request for reimbursement for plumbing repairs relating to damage to water line in Tower Road right of way; take any action**

Barbara Kristoff appeared; Robin Kristoff was not present. The Board read an email with attached letter, Trombly Plumbing invoice, and Trombly Plumbing proposal. Ms. Kristoff’s letter and discussion with the Board indicated that the Highway Department cut a water line to her home while performing a culvert installation project on Tower Road. The Highway Department repaired the line the following day, but in the meantime the water coming into her home had been fed by a muddy brook that the water line had fallen into. The sand and sediment entering her home from the brook had caused damages to their plumbing. The invoice from Trombly Plumbing indicates that \$312.55 has been billed for partial plumbing repairs. A proposal of future repairs indicates possible additional costs of \$1,350. Ms. Kristoff indicated that septic trouble was also noted during the inspection for plumbing repairs; it is unknown if this is related to the water line damage. Road Foreman Mark Chase indicated that he believes the water line damage occurred within the Town’s right-of-way on Tower Road. Discussion ensued.

- Ms. Ford moved to authorize up to \$1,000 in reimbursement to Barbara and Robin Kristoff for damages to their plumbing, to be paid directly to Trombly Plumbing based on Trombly Plumbing invoices. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

**b. Appearance by Chris Kaufman regarding road construction practices; take any action**

Mr. Kaufman did not appear at this meeting. The Board reviewed an email submitted by Mr. Kaufman, which recommends that the Board change their road paving practices to include subbase rebuilding and structural considerations. Discussion ensued.

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

**a. Consideration of, and take any action on, request for re-classification of Tower Road**

The Board continued their discussion, as commenced at their July 8, 2019 meeting, regarding the request of resident David Kristoff that the Board consider reclassifying a portion of Tower Road from Class 4 to Class 3. Ms. Ford, Mr. Jefferson and Road Foreman

Mark Chase reported that they had visited the site. The proposed reclassification would upgrade 0.2 mile and would directly affect two full-time residential properties. Discussion was had regarding whether the Board would commence the process of reclassification on its own motion, or would require a petition to do so.

- Ms. Ford moved not to commence the process for reclassification of a portion of Tower Road without a duly submitted petition. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

David Kristoff was not present for this discussion or decision, but appeared later in the meeting and discussed the Board's decision.

**b. Other business**

**i. Appearance by Jason Bean regarding Chamberlain Road project**

Mr. Bean appeared to discuss recent road construction work on Chamberlain Road, as performed by a private enterprise in connection with Mr. Bean's logging operation. Road Foreman Mark Chase reported that the condition of this Class 4 road is much improved as a result of this work. Mr. Bean requested that Town supply four or five loads of gravel and a culvert extension to complete the project. Discussion ensued.

- The Board agreed to supply four or five loads of gravel and a culvert extension to complete this project, with delivery at the convenience of Highway Department.

**c. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans) regarding 2019 state-approved Town Road and Bridge Standards template**

Mr. Chase reported that he had not yet reviewed the template and inquired with VTrans regarding the template.

- The Board agreed to table discussion of this matter.

**d. Other business (continued)**

**i. Digital signs**

Mr. Chase reported that digital display speed signs ordered in June have arrived, but are not yet installed.

**ii. Sand screening**

Mr. Chase reported that sand screening activities had commenced.

**iii. Roadside mowing**

Mr. Chase reported that the first mowing of all roadsides was nearly finished, and that a second mowing of paved highway roadsides would follow.

**iv. Garland Hill tree**

Mr. Chase reported on a tree hanging over the road on the McIndoe Falls end of Garland Hill. The Highway Department cannot cut it because it is in the vicinity of power and telephone wires; power and telephone companies have been contacted, but have not yet responded.

**4. Other business presented by other Town officers**

No other business was presented by other Town officers.

**5. Consideration of, and take any action on, appointment of Planning Commission/Zoning Board members**

The Board briefly discussed candidates for the vacant Planning Commission/Zoning Board position.

**6. Consideration of, and take any action on, Planning Commission/Zoning Board request to amend Town Conflicts of Interest and Ethical Conduct Policy**

The Board reviewed an amended version of the Policy Regarding Conflicts of Interest and Ethical Conduct, with changes made per the Board's decision at their July 8, 2019 meeting.

- The Board signed the amended policy.

**7. Consideration of, and take any action on, Harvey's Lake water level maintenance**

Mr. Jefferson discussed his actions with regard to the Harvey's Lake Dam resulting from the decision of the Board at their July 8, 2019 meeting. Mr. Jefferson reported that he had met with George Copenrath on site, who had given him a tutorial on operating the stop log system. Mr. Jefferson reported that he had also spoken to Gary Bunnell regarding the stop logs. Mr. Jefferson reported that all of the stop logs are now in the dam. Ms. Ford indicated that the Town must inform Ron Rhodes whenever any stop logs are added or removed.

**8. Consideration of certification of 2019 property tax rates**

The Board reviewed the certification of tax rates for 2019, as prepared by Treasurer Benjamin Heisholt. Total tax rate (including all municipal and education taxes) for homestead is to be 2.0905; and for non-residential 2.1419.

- The Board signed the certification.

**9. Consideration of list of dogs and wolf-hybrids not licensed or inoculated as required by law; take any action**

The Board reviewed a list of dogs not licensed or inoculated as required by law, pursuant to 20 V.S.A. § 3590(b). Discussion ensued.

- Ms. Ford moved to request that Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt send notifications to the owners of dogs and wolf-hybrids listed. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

**10. Consideration of correspondence from Paul Frank and Collins Attorneys regarding petition of Morrison Custom Feeds, Inc. for a Certificate of Public Good authorizing construction of a 500 kW (AC) photovoltaic group net-metering system located on Bimson Drive**

The Board reviewed a packet of information, consisting of the Board's notification of and copy of Morrison Custom Feeds, Inc.'s application and supporting materials for a Section 248 Certificate of Public Good. Discussion ensued.

**11. Consideration of, and take any action on, process for construction of Recycling Center addition**

Mr. Gates reported on his inspection of the current facility and his discussions with the Recycling Center staff and former Board member Jeremy Roberts. He indicated that one to be made is whether to build a small addition by continuing the single-pitch roof downward from the rear of the current building, or a larger addition involving re-construction of the roof with different pitch configuration.

- The Board agreed to inquire with Transfer Station/Recycling Center Supervisor Bruce Marston for his opinions on the project, and to solicit evaluations from contractors William Graves and Dana Young.
- The Board agreed that the Recycling Center addition project will be performed in conjunction with a project to construct roof systems over the two construction dumpsters on the site.

**12. Consideration of, and take any action on, new Town Clerk's Office fees**

Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt reported that additional fee changes are anticipated, but are not yet available for the Board's consideration.

- The Board agreed to table discussion of this matter.

### **13. Consideration of, and take any action on, amendment to Personnel Policy regarding employee participation in jury service**

The Board considered language drafted by Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt for inclusion in the Personnel Policy, per the Board's request at their July 8, 2019 meeting. The proposal is for a new subsection – Section VI (Fringe Benefits), Part I (Jury Service) – as follows:

Paid time will be available upon request to all regular year-round employees for time served in jury service during their regular work hours, up to the maximum number of hours allowable under this policy. The maximum number of hours paid annually will be the lesser of the following: (a) the average number of hours per week worked by the employee during the preceding twelve months, and (b) forty (40) hours. Written evidence of participation in jury service must be submitted to document jury service hours for which paid time is requested.

- Ms. Ford moved to adopt Section VI, Part I of the Personnel Policy as proposed. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

### **14. Outstanding check warrants**

The Board signed all outstanding check warrants.

### **15. 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. Jefferson and approved by voice vote. Entered executive session at 8:50 p.m. Those present in executive session: Ms. Ford, Mr. Gates, Mr. Jefferson, and Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt.
- Ms. Ford moved to exit executive session. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote. Exited executive session at 9:10 p.m.
- Ms. Ford moved to offer the additional Assistant Town Clerk/Highway Department Administrative Assistant position, of approximately eight to ten hours per week as needed, to Catherine Roy. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.
- Ms. Ford moved to offer custodian position, of approximately three hours per week, to Scott Liveston. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

### **16. Other business presented by Selectboard**

#### **a. Town Garage grounds maintenance**

Mr. Jefferson suggested that the Board consider hiring an employee or contractor to mow and trim the Town Garage lawn and grounds. Discussion ensued.

- The Board agreed to inquire with Thomas Gould regarding his interest in performing mowing and trimming services at the Town Garage.

#### **b. US Route 5 North animal complaints**

Ms. Ford reported complaints received regarding animals owned by Billy Noyes on US Route 5 North in East Barnet. Discussion ensued.

**17. Adjournment**

Ms. Ford moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.  
Meeting adjourned at 9:28 p.m.

*A true copy.*

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