

**MINUTES – REGULAR SELECTBOARD MEETING  
TOWN OF BARNET, VERMONT  
MONDAY, AUGUST 26, 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:** Planning Commission/Zoning Board Chair William Biddle, Road Foreman Mark Chase, Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt, and Zoning Administrative Officer Shirley Warden.

**Members of the public present:** Nicholas Anzalone, Amy Ash Nixon (Caledonian-Record), and Robert Beckhardt.

**1. Consideration of approval of minutes of regular meeting held August 12, 2019**

- Mr. Gates moved to approve as presented the minutes of the regular meeting held August 12, 2019. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

**2. Appearance by Nicholas Anzalone regarding Northeast Kingdom broadband initiative**

Mr. Anzalone presented a proposal for the Town to participate in a Communications Union District (CUD). He distributed documents describing the proposal. According to Mr. Anzalone and the documents, the Vermont Legislature passed Act 79 in 2019, which “empowers communities to determine the most appropriate technology, infrastructure, and pace for rolling out broadband to all addresses.” One option under this law, according to Mr. Anzalone, is combining with neighboring towns to form a CUD, which is a municipal entity like a school district or waste district. The proposed Northeast Kingdom CUD is in the process of formation; Mr. Anzalone asked that the Board consider including an article on the 2020 Town Meeting warning regarding the Town joining the Northeast Kingdom CUD. Discussion ensued.

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

There were no other appearances by members of the public.

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

Planning Commission/Zoning Board Chair William Biddle appeared and reported that he has been searching for a candidate to fill the vacancy in the Planning Commission/Zoning Board. He requested that the Selectboard consult with the Planning Commission/Zoning Board before making an appointment.

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

**a. Consideration of, and take any action on, policy regarding use of diesel fuel and other Town resources by Barnet School**

The Board reviewed a report detailing the diesel fuel used by the Barnet School from August 18, 2018 to August 17, 2019; the usage totaled 90 gallons. Ms. Ford reported on her conversation with Caledonia Central Supervisory Union (CCSU) Interim Superintendent Mark Tucker. She indicated that she had explained the Selectboard’s August 12, 2019 decision regarding maintaining Barnet School property, making clear that the decision was not motivated by antagonism toward the school board or school district. Discussion ensued.

- Mr. Gates moved to discontinue the policy of allowing the Barnet School to use diesel fuel from the Town Garage. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

**b. Other business**

**i. Digital speed signs installed**

Mr. Chase reported that two digital-display speed signs were installed on West Main Street in West Barnet village.

**ii. River Road paving driveway concern**

Mr. Chase reported on a potential problem that may arise for a resident of River Road with the planned paving on the that road. It is anticipated that the additional height of the road caused by the new pavement will result in additional water deposited in the resident's driveway, given the grade and height of the driveway. Discussion ensued.

- The Board instructed Mr. Chase to attempt to install a berm to redirect water away from the resident's driveway if practicable, but to proceed with paving as planned.

**iii. Routine summer maintenance**

Mr. Chase reported that the Highway Department continues routine summer road maintenance activities, including resurfacing, grading, and applying chloride to gravel roads.

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

No other business was presented by other Town officers.

**7. Consideration of, and take any action on, animal control complaint regarding dogs kept at Cloud Brook Road**

The Board reviewed a complaint received from William and Gwen Pearl regarding a dog kept by William Douglas and Anea Lelong on Cloud Brook Road. The Board noted that the incident described is the same as acted on by the Board at their August 12, 2019 meeting. Discussion ensued.

- No action taken.

**8. Consideration of, and take any action on, report on reserve fund investment account with Passumpsic Financial Advisors**

Treasurer Benjamin Heisholt reported on his meeting with Passumpsic Financial Advisors representative Dirk Elston regarding the status of the portion of the reserve fund invested with PFA. The balance of the account as of August 5, 2019 was \$279,144.78, which represents a 15% increase from the original \$250,000 invested three years ago. Discussion ensued.

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

The Board reviewed one application for a single vehicle permit; this application, however, was not accompanied by a certificate of insurance.

- No action taken.

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

Mr. Gates reported that he has been in discussion with building contractor Dana Young, with whom he plans to meet on site in the following weeks. Mr. Gates reported that Recycling Center employee Daniel Ehlers suggested that the Board consider purchasing a box crusher/compactor as a possible alternative to an addition to the Recycling Center. Discussion ensued.

**11. Outstanding check warrants**

The Board signed all outstanding check warrants.

**12. Other business presented by Selectboard**

There was no other business presented by the Selectboard.

**13. Consideration of Highway Department personnel matters (executive session anticipated, pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 313 (1)(3))**

- Mr. Gates moved to enter executive session to discuss Highway Department personnel matters, pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(3). Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote. Entered executive session at 7:55 p.m. Those present in executive session: Ms. Ford, Mr. Gates, Mr. Jefferson, Road Foreman Mark Chase, and Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt.
- Mr. Gates moved to exit executive session. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote. Exited executive session at 10:45 p.m.
- No action taken.

**14. Adjournment**

- Mr. Gates moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 10:45 p.m.

*A true copy.*

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