

**MINUTES – REGULAR SELECTBOARD MEETING
TOWN OF BARNET, VERMONT
MONDAY, OCTOBER 14, 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: Planning Commission/Zoning Board member Benjamin Adams, Planning Commission/Zoning Board Chair/Building Committee member William Biddle, Planning Commission/Zoning Board member Mark Bowen, Planning Commission/Zoning Board member Bruce Denio, Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt, Transfer Station/Recycling Center Supervisor Bruce Marston, Fire & Rescue Chief Ronald Morse, and Zoning Administrative Officer Shirley Warden.

Members of the public present: Kenneth Faris, Mary Faris, Frank Jannarone, Rachel Kittredge, Kathleen Monroe, Amy Ash Nixon (Caledonian-Record), Charles Smith, and Cynthia Stuart (Stuart Consulting).

1. Consideration of approval of minutes of regular meeting held September 23, 2019

- Ms. Ford moved to approve as presented the minutes of the special meeting held September 23, 2019. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

2. Other business presented by members of the public

Mr. Gates indicated that the Board would be taking public comment on all agenda items under this agenda item heading; limited relevant comment would be allowed at the time each item is considered, but discussion at that time would be primarily among the Board members. Public comment was then received as summarized below:

- It was asked if the Board has considered using the Municipal Buildings Fund to offset some of the expense of the municipal office project.
 - o The Board indicated that they are considering this.
- An 8.75 acres property recently advertised as for sale in the Barnet Village area was suggested as potential site for new construction.
 - o The Board responded that they have and are continuing to seek potential sites for new construction.
- It was suggested that the Board consider appointing a separate committee to work on the next phase of the project.
 - o The Board indicated that they plan to navigate the next phase as a Board, with assistance of consultants, but without participation by the Building Committee or other appointed committee.
- It was suggested that the Board consider enlisting the consulting services of building contractor and Barnet resident Larry Ruggles.
 - o The Board indicated that they have spoken to Mr. Ruggles and plan to ask for his input.

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

Mr. Chase did not appear at this meeting, but the Board discussed several matters relating to the Highway Department.

- a. Consideration of, and take any action on, proposed Snow Plowing and Maintenance Services Agreement with Caledonia Cooperative School District (CCSD)**

Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt indicated that he had not received any new information nor communication of any kind from CCSD regarding this matter. Ms. Ford indicated that she had spoken to Superintendent Mark Tucker, who indicated CCSD would try to arrange for a school district representative to appear at a Selectboard meeting.

- No action taken.

b. Consideration of, and take any action on, quotes for delivery of deicing salt for the 2019-2020 season

The Board reviewed a quote from Cargill with a price of \$80.85 per ton of delivered bulk deicing salt. Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt indicated that he had not received any other quotes. Discussion ensued.

- With the Board's agreement, Mr. Gates signed the Cargill quote.

c. Other business

i. Storage containers

Mr. Gates discussed the two storage containers at the Town Garage, which are used to store tires and other equipment. Mr. Chase reports that they are in poor condition and in need of replacement. Mr. Gates indicated that he had received pricing from Meadow Leasing for purchase of a used 40-foot storage container for \$4,000 or a new 40-foot storage container for \$5,900. Discussion ensued.

- Ms. Ford moved to authorize the expenditure of not more than \$4,100 for one used 40-foot storage container. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

4. Appearance by Fire & Rescue Chief Ronald Morse regarding Municipal Planning Grant for feasibility study of regionalization of fire protection services

The Board reviewed an email from Northeastern Vermont Development Association (NVDA) inquiring about interest from various towns about participation in a feasibility study, through a Municipal Planning Grant, regarding regionalization of fire protection services. Chief Morse appeared and discussed the history of consideration of regionalization. He indicated that NVDA was able to gather enough support from other towns to move forward with the grant application, which was due October 1. He also indicated that there would be no monetary obligation for the Town to participate in the project at this time. Discussion ensued.

- Mr. Ford moved to authorize and support the Fire and Rescue Department's participation in pursuit of a Municipal Planning Grant for a feasibility study regarding regionalization of fire protection services. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

5. Appearance by Transfer Station & Recycling Center Supervisor Bruce Marston

a. Consideration of, and take any action on, maintenance of compactor

Mr. Marston indicated that the Transfer Station compactor, which the Town has owned for thirteen years, has never been serviced; he asked the Board to authorize expenditures for routine maintenance. He presented a quote from Casella Waste Management for \$739.94. Discussion ensued.

- Ms. Ford moved to authorize Mr. Marston to hire Casella Waste Management to perform routine maintenance on the Transfer Station compactor for the quoted cost of \$739.94. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

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

Mr. Marston and Mr. Gates discussed their recent on-site meetings. They provided details about planned design for the addition; they also affirmed a plan to include a roof over the construction debris dumpsters.

6. Other business presented by other Town officers

There was no other business presented by other Town officers.

7. Municipal office building project

a. Consideration of, and take any action on, proposal from Stephen Pitkin for evaluating several existing buildings and two undeveloped building sites for the potential creation of a new town office facility

Consultant Cynthia Stuart appeared and presented a packet containing: a) a list of potential consulting services, with timelines and costs, for the next phase of the project, including additional research on costs, project implementation process, and funding opportunities; b) a proposal for estimation services from Stephen Pitkin, and c) a proposal for consultation on space needs analysis from Mark Wheeler of E.H. Danson Associates. The Board reviewed these items and discussed budgeting and prioritizing for these services.

- Ms. Ford moved to authorize expenditures of not more than \$10,000 for the services proposed by Ms. Stuart, including estimation services of Stephen Pitkin and process facilitation by Ms. Stuart, and excluding space needs analysis by Mark Wheeler. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

b. Consideration of, and take any action on, letters of interest and letters of nomination for new members of the Building Committee

The Board reviewed several letters. Discussion ensued regarding the involvement of appointed committees in the next phase of the project.

- The Board agreed to not appoint any members to the current Building Committee at this time, and to not appoint any new committees, but to guide the next phase of the project as a Board with hired consulting services.

c. Consideration of, and take any action on, budget, borrowing, and/or tax revenue amounts for municipal office building project

The Board discussed a process for determining budget amounts for various finance categories.

- No action taken.

8. Consideration of, and take any action on, animal control complaint regarding dogs kept at Roy Mountain Road

The Board reviewed a complaint received from David Price regarding dogs owned by Kathleen Campbell kept at 1998 Roy Mountain Road. The complaint indicates that two dogs were running at large at the residence of Mr. Price at 2753 Roy Mountain Road on the morning of October 8, 2019. It also indicates that Mr. Price's wife and her walking companions have been forced to alter their walking route due to these dogs running at large on Roy Mountain Road in the past. Discussion ensued. It was noted that a notice of violation was recently issued to Ms. Campbell for these same dogs and that no response has yet been received.

- No action taken.

9. Consideration of, and take any action on, park-and-ride facility regulations and/or parking regulations

The Board discussed the possibility of adopting regulations regarding parking at the Leigh Larocque Memorial Park-and-Ride facility on Bimson Drive and for turn-around locations maintained by the Highway Department for snow removal purposes.

- Mr. Jefferson moved to adopt a policy for the Leigh Larocque Memorial Park-and-Ride that any vehicle parked for more than 72 consecutive hours may be towed at owner's expense. Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote.

10. Consideration of, and take any action on, 2020 health insurance benefits

The Board reviewed a health insurance renewal packet from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Vermont (BCBS). Town Clerk Benjamin indicated that the premiums for BCBS plans are increasing in 2020 by an average of 12.4%. Discussion ensued.

- The Board agreed to table a decision on this matter pending analysis of potential Town costs.

11. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Little Acres/Weaver Construction regarding proposed contract for mowing services

The Board reviewed a bid for mowing for the 2020 and 2021 seasons, as submitted per the Board's request. The total two-year cost is \$8,910, or \$4,455 annually.

- Mr. Jefferson moved to accept the bid of Little Acres/Weaver Construction, contingent on confirmation that the quoted cost includes the full mowed portion the Town Garage property inclusive of the septic mound. Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote.

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

Planning Commission/Zoning Board Chair William Biddle appeared and indicated that there is no new information to report regarding this matter.

- No action taken.

13. Consideration of, and take any action on, Town Clerk's Office maintenance matters

Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt appeared and asked for the Board to consider authorizing expenditures for a) pumping the septic tank, and b) installing a bathroom ventilation fan.

- The Board agreed to authorize expenditures for pumping the septic tank and installing a bathroom ventilation fan at the Town Clerk's Office. They agreed to instruct the Highway Department to assist with excavation to uncover the septic tank under the pavement of the parking lot.

14. Correspondence from Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation regarding draft discharge permit for Green Mountain Power – Barnet Hydro

The Board reviewed an email and attached draft discharge permit for the facility located at 1913 US Route 5 South.

- No action taken.

15. Correspondence from Vermont Natural Resources Board regarding Act 250 Administrative Amendment for Shambhala USA d/b/a Karme Choling

The Board reviewed an email and attached administrative amendment authorizing an extension of time to complete construction previously permitted for a project 369 Patneau Lane.

- No action taken.

16. Correspondence from United States District Court for the Northern District of Ohio regarding class action notice *in re: National Prescription Opiate Litigation*; take any action

The Board reviewed a notice indicating that the Town is included in a class action suit, along with all counties and cities/municipalities. The Town may take no action and remain included in the suit, or may take action by November 22, 2019 to exclude itself from the suit. Discussion ensued.

- No action taken.

17. Consideration of applications for Uniform Municipal Excess Weight Permits

The Board reviewed and approved the fleet application of KML (Kirby Mountain Lawns & Landscaping LLC).

18. Outstanding check warrants

The Board signed all outstanding check warrants.

19. Other business presented by Selectboard

a. Oil undercoating trucks

Mr. Gates reported that the Town’s newest dump truck was recently oil-undercoated. Mr. Gates inquired about the Board’s interest in applying this treatment to all the Town’s trucks.

- The Board agreed to instruct the Highway Department to apply oil undercoating treatment to all Town trucks.

b. Comerford Dam Road bridge paving

Mr. Gates indicated that the bridge discussed at the September 23, 2019 meeting has not been paved yet due to a delay caused by the paving company, Pike Industries, awaiting permits for work in the vicinity of a railroad crossing.

- No action taken.

20. Consideration of Highway Department personnel matters

- Ms. Ford moved to enter executive session to discuss Highway Department personnel matters, pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 313(1)(3). Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote. Entered executive session at 8:30 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 8:45 p.m.
- No action taken.

21. Adjournment

- Mr. Jefferson moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

A true copy.

Attest: _____ *Town Clerk*