

**MINUTES – REGULAR SELECTBOARD MEETING
TOWN OF BARNET, VERMONT
MONDAY, OCTOBER 28, 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/Building Committee member William Biddle, Planning Commission/Zoning Board member Mark Bowen, Road Foreman Mark Chase, Planning Commission/Zoning Board member Bruce Denio, Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt, and Zoning Administrative Officer Shirley Warden.

Members of the public present: Jonathan Carpenter, Michael Dente, Taylor Girard (Northern Vermont University News 7), Olivia Hoag (Northern Vermont University News 7), Frank Jannarone, Rachel Kittredge, Kathleen Monroe, Amy Ash Nixon (Caledonian-Record), Eric Page, Charles Smith, and Cynthia Stuart (Stuart Consulting).

1. Consideration of approval of minutes of regular meeting held October 14, 2019

- Mr. Gates moved to approve as presented the minutes of the regular meeting held October 14, 2019. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

2. Appearance by Fire District #2 regarding access to property on Anderson Street; take any action

Fire District #2 Prudential Committee member Jonathan Carpenter appeared and requested access to property located at the southwest corner of the intersection of rights-of-way of Anderson Street and Interstate 91, with the purpose of clearing a 30-foot wide swath of brush and trees growing over the Fire District’s water distribution system. Mr. Carpenter indicated that he has met with a Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans) representative regarding this property. According to Mr. Carpenter, VTrans determined that this property is State-owned but Town-controlled. A State permit is therefore required for the requested access; a permit has been completed but not yet signed. Ms. Ford indicated that a stream alteration project is underway downstream of the Stevens River from this location; she suggested the Town confirm that this brush-clearing project would not interfere with the stream alteration project. Discussion ensued.

- Mr. Gates moved to authorize the Fire District clearing a 30-foot wide swath of brush and trees growing over the Fire District’s water distribution system on a State-owned and Town-controlled property located at the southwest corner of the intersection of rights-of-way of Anderson Street and Interstate 91, contingent on official notification that the proposed brush-clearing project will not interfere with the stream alteration project underway downstream of the Stevens River from this location. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

3. Annual review of snowmobile travel on town highways; take any action

Ms. Ford read a letter from the Bayley Hazen Road Snowmobile Club, which indicates a request for snowmobile access for trail connection purposes during the 2019-2020 season. This request includes portions of Laird Road, Somerhill Road, Stevenson Road, and West Main Street, as has been granted in previous years. Michael Dente and Eric Page of the snowmobile club appeared and indicated that they were not aware of any complaints lodged regarding highway access for snowmobiles in the previous season. Board members also indicated that they had not received any complaints regarding highway access for snowmobiles in the previous season.

- Mr. Gates moved to grant the Bayley-Hazen Road Snowmobile Club access as requested for Laird Road, Somerhill Road, Stevenson Road, and West Main Street. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

4. Other business presented by members of the public

There was no other business presented by members of the public.

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

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

Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt indicated that he had not received any new information nor communication of any kind from CCSD regarding this matter. Discussion ensued.

- The Board agreed to request that CCSD deliver a signed agreement to the Board for their next meeting.

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 American Rock Salt for bulk ice control rock salt at a delivered price of \$83.00 per ton. Discussion ensued.

- Ms. Ford signed the quote with the Board's approval.

c. Other business

i. Guardrails

Mr. Chase indicated that he had obtained a quote from Vermont Recreational Surfacing & Fencing for guardrail installation on Knights Lane, Cannon Lane, and Old Silo Road for a total cost of \$9,074. Discussion ensued.

- The Board signed the quote.

ii. Signage training

Mr. Chase reported that Highway Department employees Thomas Gould and Glenn Fearon recently attended training on new road sign regulations.

iii. Propane delivery at Town Garage

Mr. Chase reported that on Monday, October 28 the Town Garage's propane tank ran empty. It was discovered that the Town's fuel supplier, Dead River Company, had changed the Town Garage's delivery service from "automatic" to "will-call" without notifying the Town. Mr. Chase reported that there did not appear to be any resulting damage to the heating system.

iv. Pressure-washing of Town Garage

Mr. Chase reported that Charlie Somers had completed pressure-wash cleaning of the exterior of the Town Garage; Mr. Chase indicated that the work had been performed thoroughly.

v. Digital speed signs

Mr. Chase asked the Board for direction with regard to the proposed change of location of the digital speed signs currently located at West Main Street. Discussion ensued.

- The Board agreed to consider a location on Church Street, with exact location to be determined after further inspection of possible sites.

vi. Town Clerk's Office septic tank pumping

Mr. Chase reported that the pumping of the Town Clerk's Office septic tank is scheduled for Tuesday, October 29 or Wednesday, October 30. Mr. Chase reported that the Highway Department will excavate to the cap of the tank on Tuesday, October 29.

6. Other business presented by other Town officers

a. Board of Listers Errors and Omissions Certificate for New England Power

The Board reviewed an Errors and Omissions Certificate for SPAN 033-010-11286 owned by New England Power. The certificate proposes to change the 2019 assessed value from \$328,300 to \$411,600. The Board also reviewed an email from the Board of Listers' District Advisor, which indicates that the proposed change is based on New England Power's 2019 inventory form. Discussion ensued.

- Mr. Gates moved to approve the proposed Errors and Omissions Certificate. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote. The Board signed the certificate.

b. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) conference

Zoning Administrative Officer Shirley Warden reported that she and Planning Commission/Zoning Board Chair William Biddle had attended a FEMA conference October 28, 2019 relating to development of new digital flood plain maps. She reported that the proposed project will take up to five years and will be performed using computer models, with little field work.

7. Municipal office building project update; take any action

Consultant Cynthia Stuart, of Stuart Consulting, appeared and presented and discussed the contents of a memorandum to the Board. The presentation included an update of space needs analysis, preliminary site evaluations, borrowing/building funding projections/Board recommendations, and next steps. Discussion was also had regarding energy efficiency and use of reserve funds for this project versus retention of reserve funds for maintenance of existing buildings.

- Mr. Gates moved to hire Stephen Pitkin to perform preliminary site evaluations for the Barnet School property, the Town Garage property, and a property on US Route 5 South owned by Bruce and Catherine Roy. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

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

Mr. Gates reported that there is no new information to reported regarding this matter and that the construction for this project is being planned for the spring of 2020.

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

The Board reviewed a complaint submitted by Kathleen Monroe, which indicates that on October 12, 2019 two dogs (chocolate Labrador retriever and a husky) owned by Kathleen Campbell, resident at 1998 Roy Mountain Road, were running at large at the Harvey's Lake boat access on Roy Mountain Road. Ms. Monroe appeared and further described the incident. Discussion ensued.

- Mr. Gates moved to assess Kathleen Campbell a civil penalty of \$250.00 for violations of the Animal Control Ordinance with regard to her dogs running at large in the incident cited at this meeting and the incident cited at the previous Board meeting (October 14, 2019) in a complaint filed by David Price. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

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

The Board reviewed a report from Treasurer Benjamin Heisholt that indicates the costs of the 2019 Town health plan from BlueCross BlueShield of Vermont (BCBS) and projects the costs of 2020 plans for BCBS and MVP Health Care (MVP). The Town's total annual expense for 2020, with the current

benefit offering, under the BCBS plan would represent an increase from 2019 of \$11,534.83, and under the MVP plan would represent a decrease from 2019 of \$239.54. Discussion ensued.

- No action taken.

11. 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.

12. Correspondence from Federal Energy Regulatory Commission regarding TransCanada Hydro Northeast July 23 and August 17, 2019 Minimum Flow Release Deviations

The Board reviewed a letter in response to notices of McIndoes Station's minimum flow release deviations on July 23, 2019 and August 17, 2019.

- No action taken.

13. Outstanding check warrants

- The Board signed all outstanding check warrants.

14. Other business presented by Selectboard

There was no other business presented by the Selectboard.

15. Consideration of Highway Department personnel matters

- Mr. Gates 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 8:07 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 9:05 p.m.
- No action taken.

16. Adjournment

- Mr. Jefferson moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Gates and approved by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

A true copy.

Attest: _____ *Town Clerk*