

**MINUTES
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
TOWN OF BARNET, VERMONT
MARCH 5, 2019**

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. at the Barnet Elementary School gymnasium by Moderator Dennis McLam. Members of the Barnet Elementary School chorus sang the National Anthem. Mr. McLam led the salute to the flag. A moment of silence was then observed in memory of long-time Town Clerk William Hoar, who had recently died. Mr. McLam then read the preamble of the warning.

The legal voters of the Town of Barnet, Vermont are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Barnet School on Tuesday, March 5, 2019 at 10 o'clock in the forenoon to act on the following Articles:

ARTICLE 1. To elect a Moderator.

- Moderator stated that one-year term of Dennis McLam is expiring.
- Dennis McLam nominated by Marvin Bailey.
- William Biddle moved that nominations ceased. Seconded. Approved by voice vote.
- Moderator instructed Town Clerk to cast one ballot for Dennis McLam.

ARTICLE 2. To elect all other Town Officers as required by law and additional Town Officers as approved by the voters.

Selectboard

- Moderator stated that the three-year term of Jeremy Roberts is expiring.
- Mark Jefferson nominated by Jeremy Roberts.
- Hearing no further nominations, Moderator announced that nominations would cease.
- Moderator instructed Town Clerk to cast one ballot for Mark Jefferson.
- Moderator suggested the Town should thank Jeremy Roberts for his many years of service as a Selectboard member. An ovation was given.
- Jeremy Roberts spoke, thanking the voters for their support. He reflected on his time in office, describing the evolution of his knowledge of town government, citing as an example of his growth in appreciation for the knowledge and service of Zoning Administrative Officer Shirley Warden. He thanked town officers and family members who supported him while in office.

The Moderator allowed a brief intermission in the meeting for Vermont legislator Marcia Martel to speak regarding various recent actions and potential future actions of the legislature. With the voters' approval, non-voter Ms. Martel was allowed to speak. Her presentation included discussion of several new bills in committee - including a minimum wage bill, a paid family leave bill, and water quality bills.

Lister

- Moderator stated that the three-year term of John Cook is expiring.
- John Cook nominated by Sarah Cook.
- Hearing no further nominations, Moderator announced that nominations would cease.
- Moderator instructed Town Clerk to cast one ballot for John Cook.

Auditor

- Moderator stated that the three-year term of Jeffery Riley is expiring.
- Jeffery Riley nominated by Roseann Leute.
- Hearing no further nominations, Moderator announced that nominations would cease.
- Moderator instructed Town Clerk to cast one ballot for Jeffery Riley.

Auditor

- Moderator stated that this office has two years remaining of a three-year term. Carrie Dunbar resigned, and Dennis Kauppila was appointed to replace her.
- Dennis Kauppila nominated by Mona Marceau.
- Hearing no further nominations, Moderator announced that nominations would cease.
- Moderator instructed Town Clerk to cast one ballot for Dennis Kauppila.

Collector of Delinquent Tax

- Moderator stated that the one-year term of Lisa Bowden is expiring.
- Lisa Bowden nominated by Mark Gilleland.
- Hearing no further nominations, Moderator announced that nominations would cease.
- Moderator instructed Town Clerk to cast one ballot for Lisa Bowden.

First Constable

- Moderator stated that the one-year term of Steve Mosher is expiring.
- Steve Mosher nominated by David Stevenson.
- Hearing no further nominations, Moderator announced that nominations would cease.
- Moderator instructed Town Clerk to cast one ballot for Steve Mosher.

Second Constable

- Moderator stated that the one-year term of David Stevenson is expiring.
- David Stevenson nominated by William Biddle.
- Hearing no further nominations, Moderator announced that nominations would cease.
- Moderator instructed Town Clerk to cast one ballot for David Stevenson.

Grand Juror

- Moderator stated that the one-year term of David Willis is expiring.
- David Willis nominated by Mona Marceau.
- Hearing no further nominations, Moderator announced that nominations would cease.
- Moderator instructed Town Clerk to cast one ballot for David Willis.

Town Agent

- Moderator stated that one-year term of Steven Adler expiring.
- Steven Adler nominated by Caroline Demaio.
- Hearing no further nominations, Moderator announced that nominations would cease.
- Moderator instructed Town Clerk to cast one ballot for Steven Adler.

Trustee of Public Funds

- Moderator stated that three-year term of William Graves is expiring.
- William Graves nominated by Mona Marceau.

- Hearing no further nominations, Moderator announced that nominations would cease.
- Moderator instructed Town Clerk to cast one ballot for William Graves.

Library Trustee

- Moderator stated that five-year term of Rebecca Boardman is expiring.
- Rebecca Boardman nominated by Susan Roberts.
- Hearing no further nominations, Moderator announced that nominations would cease.
- Moderator instructed Town Clerk to cast one ballot for Rebecca Boardman.

ARTICLE 3. To consider and act upon the report of the Town Auditors.

- Mona Marceau moved to accept the report of the Town Auditors as it appears on page thirty of the Town Report. Seconded by Susan Persson.
- Motion was passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 4. Shall the Town of Barnet appropriate the sum of Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$250.00) to the American Red Cross of New Hampshire and Vermont?

- Caroline Demaio moved the article as warned. Seconded by Jay Sprout.
- Motion was passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 5. Shall the Town of Barnet appropriate the sum of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) to the Barnet Historical Society to be used for maintaining the Goodwillie House?

- Kathleen Monroe moved the article as warned. Seconded by Roseann Leute.
- Motion was passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 6. Shall the Town of Barnet appropriate the sum of Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) to the Barnet Historical Society to be used for conservation and preservation of collections of historical materials associated with the township of Barnet?

- Kathleen Monroe moved the article as warned. Seconded by Concetta Pircher.
- Motion was passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 7. Shall the Town of Barnet appropriate the sum of Two Thousand Three Hundred Dollars (\$2,300.00) to Caledonia Home Health Care & Hospice?

- Marvin Bailey moved the article as warned. Seconded by Concetta Pircher.
- Motion was passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 8. Shall the Town of Barnet appropriate the sum of Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) to Catamount Arts?

- Kathleen Monroe moved the article as warned. Seconded by Sharon Biddle.
- Motion was passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 9. Shall the Town of Barnet appropriate the sum of One Thousand Seven Hundred Dollars (\$1,700.00) to Fairbanks Museum and Planetarium?

- Mona Marceau moved the article as warned. Seconded by Susan Persson.
- Fairbanks Museum and Planetarium employee Robert Farlice-Rubio, a Barnet voter, spoke briefly about museum programs.
- Motion was passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 10. Shall the Town of Barnet appropriate the sum of Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) to Kingdom Animal Shelter?

- Susan Persson moved the article as warned. Seconded by Elizabeth Evans.
- Motion was passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 11. Shall the Town of Barnet appropriate the sum of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) to Northeast Kingdom Council on Aging?

- Dakota Butterfield moved the article as warned. Seconded by Mona Marceau.
- Motion was passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 12. Shall the Town of Barnet appropriate the sum of One Thousand Seven Hundred Seventy-Five Dollars (\$1,775.00) to Northeast Kingdom Human Services, Inc.?

- Kathleen Monroe moved the article as warned. Seconded by Mona Marceau.
- Motion was passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 13. Shall the Town of Barnet appropriate the sum of Three Hundred Dollars (\$300.00) to Northeast Kingdom Learning Services, Inc.?

- Mona Marceau moved the article as warned. Seconded by Caroline Demaio.
- Motion was passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 14. Shall the Town of Barnet appropriate the sum of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) to Northeast Kingdom Youth Services?

- Mona Marceau moved the article as warned. Seconded by Kathleen Monroe.
- Motion was passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 15. Shall the Town of Barnet appropriate the sum of One Thousand One Hundred Dollars (\$1,100.00) to Rural Community Transportation?

- Kathleen Monroe moved the article as warned. Seconded by Mona Marceau.
- Motion was passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 16. Shall the Town of Barnet appropriate the sum of One Thousand Two Hundred Dollars (\$1,200.00) to Umbrella Inc.?

- Grace Gershuny moved the article as warned. Seconded by Concetta Pircher.
- Motion was passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 17. Shall the Town of Barnet appropriate the sum of Two Hundred Eighty Dollars (\$280.00) to the Vermont Center for Independent Living?

- Mona Marceau moved the article as warned. Seconded by William Biddle.
- Motion was passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 18. Shall the Town of Barnet appropriate the sum of Four Thousand Dollars (\$4,000.00) to the West Barnet Senior Meal Site?

- Kathleen Monroe moved the article as warned. Seconded by Marvin Bailey.
- Motion was passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 19. Shall the Town of Barnet vote to raise, and appropriate the sum of \$50,000 to be used by the five fire districts within the Town of Barnet? Dispersal of funds will be up to the discretion of the Selectboard in the form of a grant.

- Jonathan Carpenter moved the article as warned. Seconded by Lisa Bowden.

- Selectboard member Jeremy Roberts spoke about the impetus for this this article. He spoke about the financial and infrastructure difficulties of Barnet Fire District #2 (Barnet Village) with regard to their water delivery system. He indicated the Selectboard’s desire to assist Fire Districts in financial hardship, but to do so within statutory parameters and with the consent of the voters.
- Jonathan Carpenter, Fire District #2 Prudential Committee member, spoke regarding details of Fire District #2’s water delivery system, and their infrastructure and financial difficulties. He also spoke about other means of assistance Fire District #2 has sought, including State and Federal grants.
- John Smith, Fire District #3 (McIndoe Falls) Prudential Committee member, spoke, indicating that Fire District #3 has reserve funds and does not seek financial assistance from the Town.
- Theodore Faris spoke in opposition to the motion, stating that the Fire Districts have authority to tax and borrow funds, and should operate independently from the Town.
- Lisa Bowden, former Fire District #2 Treasurer, spoke in favor of the motion, providing an overview of the previous several years in regard to Fire District #2 finances.
- Kathleen Monroe moved to amend the motion to: “The Town of Barnet shall vote to raise, and appropriate the sum of \$50,000 to be used by Barnet Fire District #2 for repair of their water system and to pay off debt, with dispersal of funds up to the discretion of the Selectboard in the form of a grant. Seconded by Mona Marceau.
- Gail Warnaar, a former member of the Fire District #2 Prudential Committee spoke in favor of the original motion, while discussing some of the past thirty years’ history of the Barnet Village water system.
- Eric Skovsted spoke in favor of the original motion, suggesting that the Town start a grant program that could be used for various Fire District needs and improvements.
- Grace Gershuny spoke in favor of the original motion, agreeing with Eric Skovsted’s idea of a grant program.
- Jonathan Carpenter indicated that the article, if passed, would cost taxpayers approximately \$2.00 for every \$100,000 in assessed value.
- William Graves asked if the Selectboard envisages the proposed reserve fund to be used as suggested by Eric Skovsted, just for water system repairs and improvements, or just for Fire District #2 water system repairs and improvements. Mr. Graves stated his opposition to the amended motion.
 - Selectboard member Jeremy Roberts stated that the article was petitioned rather than placed on the warning by the Selectboard, but that the Selectboard envisages the fund as intended for all Fire Districts.
- Ronald Morse moved to call the question.
- A voice vote was had on Kathleen Monroe’s amendment. Amendment failed by voice vote.
- Original motion of Jonathan Carpenter was then passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 20. Shall the Town vote to exempt from taxation the property owned by Lakeview Grange #359 located in West Barnet Village, for a period not to exceed 5 years, pursuant to 32 VSA § 3840?

- Kathleen Monroe moved the article as warned. Seconded by Roseann Leute.
- Motion was passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 21. To see what arrangements the Town and Town School District will vote for the collection of its taxes and by what lawful official for the ensuing year.

- Lisa Bowden moved that taxes become due and payable in hand to the town Treasurer during business hours on or before October 19, 2019, with said taxes to be actually received by said Treasurer on or before the due date without regard to postmark; and thereafter said taxes shall

be payable to the Collector of Delinquent Tax with interest at the rate of 1% per month or fraction thereof, for the first three months, and thereafter at the rate of 1 ½ % per month or fraction thereof, plus the collector's fee of 8% as provided by law. Seconded by Dennis Kauppila.

- School Director Louis Bushey spoke: It should be recognized that in this article "Town School District" is actually represented by the Caledonia Cooperative School District, not the Barnet School District. Property taxes will be collected by the town Treasurer for the former entity, rather than the latter, in the forthcoming tax collection season.
- Motion was passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 22. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise to defray the expenses and liabilities of the Town for the current year.

- Selectboard member Jeremy Roberts moved to raise the sum of \$1,580,072.86 for the General Fund budget. Seconded by Mona Marceau.
- Jeremy Roberts spoke in overview of 2018 events and the 2019 budget: No major unanticipated events requiring Town financial resources occurred in 2018. The Selectboard continues to project future costs for equipment, trucks, and buildings, designating appropriate reserve funding for each. The Barnet School property transfer to the Caledonia Cooperative School District has been affected, with the Town retaining ownership of Kid Row, but no part of the School property.
- Gail Warnaar asked about town-owned properties and future plans for new or renovated Town Office space.
 - Dylan Ford spoke, presenting an overview of the Selectboard's activities, with the assistance of the Building Committee, with regard to the Town Hall and the proposed new or renovated Town Office building.
- Jeremy Roberts's motion to raise the sum of \$1,580,072.86 for the General Fund budget passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 23. To transact any other business that may legally come before the meeting.

- William Graves, Chair of the Building Committee, spoke about the Town Hall with regard to maintenance and assessment for asbestos and lead contamination in anticipation of the destruction and removal of the former Fire Station annexed to the Town Hall.
- William Biddle, Chair of the Planning Commission/Zoning Board spoke regarding the Town's application for Village Center Designation for four Barnet villages, which will make certain grant and tax credit funding available to village residents and businesses.
- Caroline Demaio spoke regarding Green-Up Day.
- Grace Gershuny spoke, suggesting that, because there is no longer an annual school meeting on Town Meeting day, the Town consider holding Town Meeting in the evening.
- Lister John Cook provided an update on the ongoing town-wide reappraisal, which is due to be complete in the spring of 2020.
- Elizabeth Everts announced a sliding party to be held at the Everts farm.
- Michael Lamp asked about the 35 mile per hour speed zone on West Barnet Road near Barnet School, with regard to the introducing restricted time periods for the speed zone. Discussion ensued.
- Bruce Denio spoke about potential sites for new Town Office building construction, asking for property owners with interest in selling land to the Town to come forward.
- Mona Marceau spoke about the School District election in May, urging voters to be aware and to participate.
- Jennifer Crown thanked townspeople for their support of the fundraiser for the "Cyclones" AAU

basketball team.

- Meeting adjourned 11:59 a.m.

Dennis McLam, Moderator

Dylan Ford, Selectboard Co-Chair

Attest: Benjamin Heisholt, Town Clerk