

**MINUTES – REGULAR SELECTBOARD MEETING
TOWN OF BARNET, VERMONT
MONDAY, JANUARY 27, 2020**

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: Town Agent Steven Adler, Planning Commission/Zoning Board Member William Biddle, Planning Commission/Zoning Board Member Mark Bowen, Planning Commission/Zoning Board Member Dakota Butterfield, Road Foreman Mark Chase, Planning Commission/Zoning Board Member Bruce Denio, Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt, Building Committee Member David Warden, and Zoning Administrative Officer Shirley Warden.

Members of the public present: Rachel Kittredge and Charles Smith.

1. Consideration of approval of minutes of regular meeting held January 13, 2020

- Mr. Gates moved to approve the minutes of the special meeting held January 13, 2020. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

2. Comment on agenda items, and any other business, by members of the public

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

3. Other business presented by other Town officers

a. Planning Commission/Zoning Board members regarding municipal building project

Planning Commission/Zoning Board members William Biddle (Chair), Mark Bowen, Dakota Butterfield, and Bruce Denio appeared. Mark Bowen and Dakota Butterfield presented two reports regarding the municipal building project and the Australian ballot election to be held March 3, 2020, both prepared by Ms. Butterfield. The first is entitled “Projection of Operating/Energy Expenses Across Options;” the second is entitled “Review of Website Issues, w/Recommendations for Resolution.” Discussion ensued. Town Agent Steve Adler discussed “undue influence” statutes regarding elections and related legal restrictions on public comment on forthcoming elections by Town officers.

b. Town Agent Steven Adler regarding lease lands

Mr. Adler asked about the Board’s December 2, 2019 decision to retain Town lease lands. Mr. Adler discussed reasons for releasing lease lands and disadvantages to retaining them, suggesting that the Board reconsider their decision. Discussion ensued.

- The Board agreed to add this matter to the agenda of their next regular meeting.

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

a. Consideration of, and take any action on, reporting of special weight limits for highways and bridges

The Board reviewed a letter and attached instructions regarding the Town’s annual obligation to report special weight limits for highways and bridges. Discussion ensued.

- Mr. Gates moved to report the same special weight limits in 2020 as were reported in 2019. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

b. Rental of roadside mower

Mr. Chase reported that he had scheduled a two-week rental of a roadside mower during the month of June 2020, per the Board’s request.

c. Visit from Vermont League of Cities & Towns PACIF

Mr. Chase reported that PACIF, the Town's property and liability insurance provider, had visited the Town Garage to discuss a January accident involving Highway Department employee Glenn Fearon. Mr. Chase reported that PACIF representatives discussed strategies to avoid future accidents of the same nature. Mr. Chase reported that PACIF also conducted an inspection similar to inspections performed by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA); PACIF did not make any significant findings.

d. Winter maintenance

Mr. Chase reported that the Highway Department continues to spend much of its time performing routine winter maintenance, including filling pot holes.

e. Garland Hill pavement

Ms. Ford inquired about the status of the pavement on West Barnet end of Garland Hill, noting that it has been breaking up recently. Mr. Chase indicated that the cause may be a spring under the road. Discussion ensued.

5. Consideration of approval of warning for 2020 Town Meeting Floor Vote and Australian Ballot elections

The Board reviewed a draft of the warning. Included are twenty-three (23) articles for floor vote and two (2) articles to be voted by Australian ballot. The two Australian ballot articles are those voted by the Board at their January 13, 2020 meeting. The floor vote articles are mostly the same as those voted in 2019, with a few exceptions. Town Agent Steven Adler appeared and discussed some details of the warning; he indicated that it had passed his legal review.

- Mr. Jefferson moved to approve the warning as drafted. Seconded by Mr. Gates and approved by voice vote. The Board signed the warning.

6. Consideration of, and take any action on, tax anticipation borrowing documents from Union Bank

The Board reviewed documents for tax anticipation borrowing and deposit accounts, which were in accord with the bid accepted at their January 13, 2020 meeting.

- The Board signed all documents requiring signature.

7. Consideration of, and take any action on, Barnet Fire & Rescue nomination of Fire Chief

The Board read a letter from Barnet Fire & Rescue nominating Ronald Morse for the position of Fire Chief for the ensuing year.

- Mr. Gates moved to appoint Ronald Morse as Fire Chief for the ensuing year. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

8. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Northeastern Vermont Development Association regarding fire protection regionalization study

The Board reviewed an email with attachments dated January 14, 2020. Discussion ensued.

- Mr. Gates moved to sign the attached draft Memorandum of Understanding. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote. Ms. Ford signed the draft memorandum.

9. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Vermont League of Cities & Towns regarding supervisory performance management training

The Board reviewed email correspondence from Vermont League of Cities & Towns (VLCT) and Town Agent Steven Adler regarding proposed supervisory performance management training, a training service offered by VLCT. A one-hour training at the Town Clerk's Office prior to a Board meeting is proposed.

- Mr. Gates moved to approve arranging a training session as proposed. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote. It was agreed that Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt and Mr. Adler will facilitate scheduling a convenient date.

10. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Planning Commission/Zoning Board Secretary Shirley Warden regarding notice of permit application of abutter Blue Sky Builders, Inc.

The Board reviewed a letter and attached zoning application copy providing notice to the Board of a zoning application and related public hearing for a wood frame addition requiring a setback from Harvey's Lake shoreline waiver. Discussion ensued.

11. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) regarding Great River Hydro, LLC Spillway Training Wall Stability Study Report and Dam Breach Analysis Review

The Board reviewed copies of two letters from FERC to Great River Hydro, LLC.

12. Consideration of, and take any action on, applications for Uniform Municipal Excess Weight Permits

The Board reviewed and approved the fleet applications of AmeriGas Propane, Bourne's Inc & Bourne's Propane DBA Bourne's Energy, Newport Sand & Gravel Co., Inc./Carroll Concrete Co. Inc., J.P. Sicard, Inc., and VELCO.

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 personnel matters

- Mr. Gates moved to enter executive session to discuss personnel matters, pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(3). Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote. Entered executive session at 8:15 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 8:38 p.m.
- No action taken

16. Adjournment

Mr. Gates moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 8:39 p.m.

A true copy. Attest: _____ Town Clerk