

**MINUTES – REGULAR SELECTBOARD MEETING
TOWN OF BARNET, VERMONT
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2020**

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 William Biddle, Planning Commission/Zoning Board Member Mark Bowen, Planning Commission/Zoning Board Member Dakota Butterfield, Planning Commission/Zoning Board Member Bruce Denio, Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt, and Fire Chief Ronald Morse.

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

1. Consideration of approval of minutes of regular meeting held January 27, 2020

- Ms. Ford moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held January 27, 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. Appearance by Road Foreman Mark Chase regarding Highway Department matters; take any action

Mr. Chase did not appear at this meeting, but the Board discussed several Highway Department-related matters in his absence.

a. Truck maintenance

Road Commissioner Mr. Gates indicated that two dump trucks were recently in the repair shop for broken springs.

b. Barnet School Town Meeting Day maintenance

Ms. Ford indicated that the Barnet School custodians have inquired about snow removal at the school on Town Meeting day. Discussion ensued.

- The Board agreed that, in accordance with the current agreement with the school district, on Town Meeting day the Town will remove snow as necessary from Kid Row, the fire lane on the east side of Kid Row, and the circle at the end of Kid Row.

4. Appearance by Fire Chief Ronald Morse regarding Fire Protection Regionalization Study; take any action

Mr. Morse appeared and discussed his participation in a meeting held January 29, 2020 and developments occurring at that meeting and thereafter. He discussed various local towns that have decided to be included or excluded from the grant project, and the effect of this on Barnet’s share of costs. A new cost share formula uses each town’s Equalized Education Grand List to calculate cost shares. Barnet’s contribution is suggested to be \$1,201; this amount may change based on changing town participation. Mr. Morse presented a final draft of a Memorandum of Understanding. Mr. Morse also indicated that a Barnet member is required for a project Steering Committee. Mr. Morse recommended that the Board sign the Memorandum of Understanding and participate in the project. Discussion ensued.

- The Board signed the Memorandum of Understanding.
- The Board agreed to appoint Ronald Morse to the project Steering Committee.

5. Other business presented by other Town officers

a. Planning Commission/Zoning Board member Mark Bowen regarding possibility for inconclusive vote on Town Meeting Australian Ballot election

Mr. Bowen asked if the Board will have a plan for how to proceed if the Town Meeting Day Australian ballot election is inconclusive – e.g. if both articles pass or if neither article passes – and how their plan may vary based on the percentage of “yes” votes either article receives. Discussion ensued.

- The Board agreed that they will not have pre-defined plan for how they will respond to inconclusive results on the Town Meeting Australian ballot election.

6. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Northeastern Vermont Development Association (NVDA) regarding Local Emergency Management Plan

The Board read an email reminding the Town that it does not have an updated Local Emergency Management Plan, and offering NVDA’s assistance in plan completion, adoption, and forwarding to Vermont Emergency Management. Discussion ensued.

- The Board agreed to request the assistance of NVDA with updating the Town’s Local Emergency Management Plan.

7. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Vermont Emergency Management regarding Local Hazard Mitigation Plan Update Grant Application

The Board read an email reporting that the application for funding to update the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan has been submitted to FEMA for review.

8. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Planning Commission regarding town office building project

The Board read an email and attached statement issued by the Planning Commission after its approval by the Planning Commission at their meeting February 4, 2020. The statement indicates that the Planning Commission “endorses the construction of a new building as a resolution of the town’s need for improved municipal office space” and provides context and explanation for this endorsement.

9. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Town Agent Steven Adler regarding recommendation to relinquish Town interest in all lease lands within Town limits held pursuant to 24 VSA § 2401

The Board read correspondence from Mr. Adler, which provides historical and legal context and opinion, and concludes with the recommendation that the Board “vote to relinquish their interest in all of the lease lands within the Town limits held pursuant to 24 VSA § 2401.”

- Ms. Ford moved to relinquish the Town’s interest in all of the lease lands within the Town limits held pursuant to 24 VSA § 2401. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

10. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Northeast Kingdom Waste Management District regarding proposed Household Hazardous Waste Collection on August 8, 2020

The Board read a letter indicating that the Board’s approval as landowner is required to obtain a necessary permit from the State of Vermont for the proposed collection event on August 8, 2020. The Board has previously agreed to the date of the event.

- The Board signed the letter granting landowner approval.

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

The Board reviewed correspondence indicating that the training event, as discussed at the previous Board meeting, is scheduled for Monday, March 9, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

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

The Board reviewed and approved the fleet application of Barrett Trucking Co., Inc.

13. Outstanding check warrants

The Board signed all outstanding check warrants.

14. Other business presented by Selectboard

a. Transfer Station/Recycling Center addition

The Board discussed the planned addition to the Recycling Center and roofing over the Transfer Station construction dumpsters; discussion included planning for solicitation of bids.

b. Town Hall asbestos abatement

The Board discussed the status of the asbestos abatement project. Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt indicated that Clay Point Associates has met on site with contractors bidding on abatement services; no bids have yet been received.

15. Consideration of contract discussion; take any action (executive session, pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 313 (a)(1)(A))

- Ms. Ford moved that the Board make a specific finding, pursuant to 1 V.S.A. Section 313 (a)(1)(A), that premature public knowledge of discussion concerning a proposed contract would clearly place the Town of Barnet at a substantial disadvantage. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.
- Ms. Ford moved that the Board enter executive session pursuant to 1 V.S.A. Section 313 (a)(1)(A) to discuss a proposed contract, as premature public disclosure of which would clearly place the Town of Barnet at a substantial disadvantage. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote. Entered executive session at 7:48 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 8:28 p.m.
- No action taken

16. Adjournment

Ms. Ford moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

A true copy.

Attest: _____ Town Clerk