

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

Meeting convened at 7:00 p.m. via GoToMeeting telephone/video conference. There was no physical meeting place for this meeting. This meeting was audio recorded via GoToMeeting.

Board members participating via GoToMeeting telephone/video conference: Dylan Ford (presiding co-chair), Benjamin Gates, and Mark Jefferson.

Other Town officials and employees participating via GoToMeeting telephone/video conference: Road Foreman Mark Chase and Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt.

Members of the public participating via GoToMeeting telephone or video conference: Jonathan Carpenter, Laurie Jefferson, Mona Marceau, Kathleen Monroe, Brent O'Donnell, and January O'Donnell.

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

- Mr. Gates moved to approve as presented the minutes of the regular meeting held April 13, 2020. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

2. Other business presented by members of the public

a. Kathleen Monroe regarding Northeast Kingdom Communications Union District (CUD) formation

Ms. Monroe asked about the status of documentation from the Town formalizing the status of the Town as a forming member of the CUD.

- Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt reported that the documentation had been sent to the CUD.

3. Appearance by Road Foreman Mark Chase regarding Highway Department matters; take any action

a. Consideration of, and take any action on, operations under COVID-19 Coronavirus restrictions

Mr. Chase reported that operations of the Highway Department have been working well under the Board's instruction at the previous meeting. Discussion was had about the most recent executive order, which requires employee training and appointment of a site health officer.

b. Consideration of, and take any action on, quote from Pike Industries for 2020 paving projects

The Board reviewed a revised quote, reflecting the changes agreed to by the Board at their previous meeting. The revised quote has fewer tons of paving product, at the same price per ton (\$67.00), for a total of \$201,000. The revised quote had already been signed by Road Commissioner Mr. Gates.

c. Consideration of, and take any action on, quote from HP Fairfield for 2020 tractor rental

The Board reviewed an email from HP Fairfield confirming that, "the Town of Barnet will not be charged a Rental Fee if Rental is cancelled and we are given at least a week's notice so that we can rent the unit to another town." The Board had signed the agreement at their previous meeting, but had made the signing contingent on written assurances as contained in the above-referenced email.

- The Board agreed to send the agreement to HP Fairfield.

d. Consideration of, and take any action on, application for Highway Access Permit of Jacob Stevenson for access on Garland Hill

The Board reviewed the application for a permanent residential access. Road Foreman Mark Chase reported on his inspection of the site. He indicated that visibility to and from the access is excellent and the site will meet access requirements if a fifteen-inch culvert is installed in the ditch line of Garland Hill.

- The Board signed the permit.

e. Consideration of, and take any action on, Certification of Compliance for Town Road and Bridge Standards and Network Inventory

The Board reviewed the Town Road and Bridge Standards, as adopted by the Board August 12, 2019. The Board the reviewed the completed Certification of Compliance.

- The Board signed the Certification.

f. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Green Mountain Power with two petitions for projects in Town rights-of-way (Kitchel Hill Road and Anderson Street)

Mr. Chase reported on his meeting at the two sites with Green Mountain Power designer Kevin Matte. The Board discussed the projects based on this report and the petitions and attached sketches.

- The Board signed the two petitions.

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

- The Board reviewed and approved the fleet application of Darrell Mathews/Mathews Excavating.

h. Other business

No other business was discussed.

4. Other business presented by other Town officers

a. Correspondence from Transfer Station & Recycling Center Supervisor Bruce Marston regarding Green-Up Day

The Board reviewed two emails from Mr. Marston regarding the Transfer Station's participation in 2020 Green-Up Day activities. Green-Up Day, normally the first Saturday in May, has been postponed to the end of May due to COVID-19 precautions. Mr. Marston suggests that a third construction dumpster be delivered to the Transfer Station, where all Green-Up Day collections can be deposited at no charge. Discussion ensued.

- The Board agreed to order a third construction dumpster for the Transfer Station, and to allow Green-Up related collections to be disposed of at the Transfer Station at no charge each Saturday from May 2, 2020 to May 30, 2020.

5. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Brent O'Donnell regarding Selectboard decision on dog complaint

The Board reviewed an email received by Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt April 21, 2020. The email complains that there were procedural and bias problems with the March 23, 2020 hearing, and expresses disagreement with the Board's decision. Brent and January O'Donnell, who participated in this meeting remotely, orally confirmed that they wished to appeal the Board's finding that the O'Donnells' dog, Goliath, was running at large in the incident in question. Discussion ensued.

- The Board agreed to extend the deadline for constructing a fence system to contain Goliath to May 30, due to complications presented by COVID-19.
- The Board agreed to schedule an appeal hearing for the running at large finding for Monday, May 11, 2020.

6. Consideration of, and take any action on, bid summary and proposed budget for Town Hall & former Fire Station asbestos abatement

The Board reviewed the bid summary and proposed budget.

- The Board agreed to table discussion of this matter.

7. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Bill Vermeulen regarding option to purchase property

The Board reviewed a letter from Mr. Vermeulen, wherein Mr. Vermeulen offers for sale to the Town a property owned by Mr. Vermeulen and located in Barnet Village, upon which the current Barnet Post Office (05821) is located. Mr. Vermeulen's letter suggests that the Town should purchase the property, retain the post office as a rental building, and build a new town office building on another part of the property. Discussion ensued.

- The Board agreed that they would call Mr. Vermeulen to discuss the property, and would request that civil engineer Timothy Ruggles inspect the property.

8. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Stuart Consulting regarding municipal building project finalization and grant close-out

The Board reviewed emails and the attached Final Grant Report. Ms. Ford reported that the Municipal Planning Grant's final report deadline has been extended, but indicated that the Town intends to submit the report before the original deadline. She indicated that Alison Low of Northeastern Vermont Development Association and Cynthia Stuart are responsible for pulling the final pieces together for grant finalization. She also reported that more than \$1,000.00 of grant was unexpended.

9. Consideration of, and take any action on, bids on Transfer Station/Recycling Station project

The Board reviewed the bids as discussed at the previous meeting. These were as summarized below:

- Simoneau's Construction \$47,992.50
- Toby Lussier \$44,300.00
- Graves Builders \$34,630.00
- Ben Adams \$27,571.65

At the previous meeting, the Board had agreed to close the bids but to request additional information from the lowest bidder before we making a final award.

The Board reviewed an email from Ben Adams detailing the specifications of his bid, and indicating that adding OSB to the walls and roof deck would be an additional \$3,822.87. Discussion ensued.

- Mr. Gates moved to accept the bid of Ben Adams. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

10. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Vermont Telephone Co., Inc. regarding free public wireless internet sites during COVID-19 crisis

Mr. Gates discussed his communications with Vermont Telephone Co., Inc. regarding the free public wireless internet offer discussed by the Board at their previous meeting. He indicated that the site chosen is the West Barnet Presbyterian Church. The equipment is expected to be delivered within a few days of this meeting, and the service should be available shortly thereafter. Internet service will be available up to 300 feet from the church building. Discussion ensued.

11. Consideration of, and take any action on, 2020 Memorial Day observance

The Board considered the 2020 Memorial Day observances in light of COVID-19-related restrictions on public gatherings.

- The Board agreed to schedule tentatively the observances for Sunday, May 24, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. at the Passumpsic Village memorial and at 9:30 p.m. at the Barnet Village memorial. The Board discussed contacting observance participants.

12. Other business presented by Selectboard

a. Harvey's Lake water level and beaver dams

Ms. Ford discussed the lake water level, which recently has been relatively high. She reported that beaver lodges and a dam have been seen in the lake's outlet channel. She discussed installation of a "beaver deceiver" to discourage beaver activity. Discussion ensued.

- The Board agreed that Ms. Ford will arrange for a "beaver deceiver" installation expert to inspect the beaver activity in channel.

13. Adjournment

- Mr. Gates moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 8:13 p.m.

A true copy.

Attest: _____ *Town Clerk*