

**MINUTES – REMOTE REGULAR SELECTBOARD MEETING
TOWN OF BARNET, VERMONT
MONDAY, JUNE 22, 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, Benjamin Gates (presiding co-chair), and Mark Jefferson.

Other Town officials and employees participating via GoToMeeting telephone/video conference: Planning Commission/Zoning Board Chair William Biddle, and Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt.

Members of the public participating via GoToMeeting telephone or video conference: Jonathan Carpenter, Laurie Jefferson, Mona Marceau, Jeremy Roberts, and Kathryn Roosa.

1. Consideration of approval of minutes of regular meeting held June 8, 2020

The Board reviewed an email from Kathleen Monroe, which requests that the word “killing” be removed from item 2.b. Discussion ensued.

- Ms. Ford moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held June 8, 2020, with amendment to remove the word “killing” from item 2.b. as requested by Ms. Monroe. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

2. Hearing regarding bite by domestic pet, pursuant to Animal Control Ordinance Section 8, Subsection B, in connection with animal control complaint received from Jeremy and Roxanne Roberts regarding incident involving dog kept at US Route 5 North in Passumpsic Village

The Board reviewed the complaint. The document describes an incident occurring June 14, 2020, when the complainants allege that a black Labrador mix owned by Kelly Dennison kept across the street from the complainant, crossed the road to the complainant’s property (4639 Route 5 North) and was engaged in a fight with the complainants’ dog Elsie. The complaint states that Elsie was badly wounded and lost a lot of blood, requiring care at an emergency clinic in Littleton, New Hampshire, then transported for intensive care at an animal hospital in Concord, New Hampshire, after which she is expected to recover. The complaint alleges that although Ms. Dennison was present during the encounter, she did little to prevent or end the engagement between the dogs. The complaint states that Ms. Roberts, who was also present, attempted to separate the dogs. Ms. Dennison, according to the complaint, has been cooperative and has paid for all emergency visits. According to the complaint, this incident is the second such encounter between the dogs. The Roberts request that the Selectboard order the dog to be removed from town, citing its lack of training and the owner’s inability to control the dog.

The Board reviewed an email from Ms. Dennison, which states that her dog has been removed from town and now resides in West Burke, that Ms. Dennison has paid all veterinary bills, and that she is sorry that the incident occurred.

Mr. Roberts appeared at the meeting, where he confirmed the events as described in the complaint and stated the complainants’ satisfaction with the actions of Ms. Dennison as described in her email.

- Mr. Jefferson moved that Board agree with the actions taken as determined by the complainants and Ms. Dennison, in that Ms. Dennison paid veterinary expenses and that the dog was removed

from Town, and that the Board require that the dog not return to town. Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote.

3. Other business presented by members of the public

a. Jeremy Roberts regarding erratic driving incident at Transfer Station

Mr. Roberts reported that he had witnessed a Transfer Station customer driving erratically and dangerously at the Transfer Station on Saturday, June 20, 2020. He indicated that the customer had driven at high speed upon entering the facility, whereupon Mr. Roberts spoke to him, requesting that he slow down. Mr. Roberts stated that thereafter the customer also drove erratically and dangerously while exiting the facility. Mr. Roberts indicated that Transfer Station Supervisor Bruce Marston and Transfer Station employee Donald Nelson had witnessed the incident, and had recognized the customer. Mr. Roberts provided a license plate number and description of the vehicle.

- The Board agreed to attempt to determine the identification of the individual and to send him a letter warning that if the described behavior is observed at the Transfer Station again, he will no longer be allowed access to the facility.

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

Mr. Chase did not appear at this meeting; the Board discussed Highway Department matters as described below.

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

The Board passed over this item and did not discuss it.

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

No applications for Uniform Municipal Excess Weight Permits were submitted.

c. Other business

i. Routine summer activities.

Road Commissioner Mr. Gates reported that the Highway Department has been engaged in routine summer maintenance activities, including ditching, grading, and mowing roadsides.

5. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Planning

Commission/Zoning Board regarding appointments for expiring board term of Mark Bowen

The Board reviewed a letter from Planning/Zoning Board Secretary Shirley Warden stating that Mr. Bowen's term expires July 1, 2020, that he has agreed to be reappointed, and that the Planning/Zoning Board supports his reappointment.

- Ms. Ford moved to accept the nomination of the Planning/Zoning Board and reappoint Mark Bowen to the Planning/Zoning Board. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

6. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Planning

Commission/Zoning Board regarding public hearing for application of Scott Davis for change of use of Town Hall property on Church Street owned by Town of Barnet

The Board reviewed a copy of a letter from Planning/Zoning Board Secretary Shirley Warden to Scott Davis regarding the reconvening of the public hearing for his application on June 23, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. at Mr. Davis's place of business.

- The Board agreed that a member of the Selectboard will appear at the reconvened hearing to represent the Selectboard.

7. Other business presented by other Town officers

There was no other business presented by other Town officers.

8. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc. regarding client authorization for closed landfill monitoring requirements evaluation

The Board reviewed an email and attached Client Authorization document for a project at the former Barnet landfill. The project's purpose is to move towards recommencing post-closure monitoring of the landfill. Several monitoring wells have been damaged or destroyed. This project will include review of available background information and contact of the State Manager to discuss the current status of monitoring and the State's expectations, site reconnaissance to locate and assess the viability of existing monitoring wells, identification and evaluation of locations to install needed replacement wells, preparation of a technical memorandum summarizing field observations and providing the Solid Waste Management Program with recommendations, and preparation of a scope of work and cost estimate to install replacement wells and conduct subsequent sampling and analysis. Cost of project is quoted at \$2,000. Discussion ensued.

- Mr. Jefferson moved to accept the proposal. Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote. Mr. Gates signed the Client Authorization.

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

The Board agreed to table this matter.

10. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Town of Danville regarding advisory shoulder project

The Board reviewed an email indicating that the Town of Danville will implement a three-month pilot study this summer regarding an advisory shoulder on a short section of Peacham Road in Danville.

11. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Vermont Department of Taxes regarding changes to 2020-2021 property tax timeline

The Board reviewed an email reporting a summary of changes that have been made with regard to the 2020-2021 (fiscal year 2021) property tax timeline. Among these changes are provisions that allow Selectboards to postpone collection dates, reduce the municipal property tax rate, or change the penalties and interest associated with late tax payments. Discussion ensued.

- Mr. Jefferson moved to not make any changes to collection dates, tax rates, penalties or interest. Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote.

12. Other business presented by Selectboard

a. Park-and-Ride violation

Mr. Gates indicated that a Subaru vehicle without license plates has been parked at the Park-and-Ride for more than a week, in violation of the park-and-ride policy, which allows the Selectboard to tow vehicles when they are parked at the park-and-ride for more than 72 continuous hours.

- The Board agreed to arrange to have the vehicle to be towed at the owner's expense.

13. Adjournment

Ms. Ford moved to adjourn. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

A true copy.

Attest: _____ *Town Clerk*