

**MINUTES – REMOTE REGULAR SELECTBOARD MEETING
TOWN OF BARNET, VERMONT
MONDAY, AUGUST 24, 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: Collector of Delinquent Tax Lisa Bowden, Road Foreman Mark Chase, and Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt.

Members of the public participating via GoToMeeting telephone or video conference: Laurie Jefferson, Mona Marceau, and Kathleen Monroe.

1. Consideration of approval of minutes of regular meeting held August 10, 2020

- Mr. Jefferson moved to approve as presented the minutes of the regular meeting held August 10, 2020. Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote.

2. Other business presented by members of the public

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

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

a. Consideration of, and take any action on, quote from Mathews Excavating for removal of pavement from Bridge Street bridge

The Board reviewed an email quoting a total price of \$3,200 to cut the pavement at each end of the bridge, remove and scrape the pavement off the wood deck, remove and clean around all drains, and load and truck waste materials to town pit. Mr. Chase indicated that he had also received a quote of \$9,100 from Pike Industries to repave the bridge after the membrane is installed. Discussion ensued.

- The Board agreed to hire Mathews Excavating for removal of pavement and Pike Industries for paving.

b. Other business

i. New dump truck purchase

Mr. Chase discussed a quote received from McDevitt Trucks for the chassis of a dump truck to replace dump truck #004. He reported that he had not yet received a quote for the truck body. Mr. Chase indicated that there is a grant opportunity for equipment upgrades to improve emissions systems; this truck purchase may be eligible for this grant. Discussion ensued.

- The Board agreed to instruct Mr. Chase to obtain quotes for a body and for a chassis from other vendors.

ii. Storage container

Mr. Chase asked the Board if they would support the purchase of an additional (second) equipment/materials storage container at the Town Garage. Discussion ensued.

- The Board agreed to approve the purchase of an additional storage container, but to postpone building a roof system for it until the exact location of the new Town Office is determined.

iii. Dump truck #005 repair

Mr. Chase reported that dump truck #005 had been at McDevitt Trucks for replacement of DEF fluid. While there, it also underwent installation of a new front drag rod, wheel alignment, and oil change.

iv. Ditching work

Mr. Chase reported that the Highway Department has been spending some of its recent time cleaning and repairing ditches.

v. Mosquitoville Road chloride application

Mr. Jefferson reported that Gilmore Somers had expressed thanks for chloride application near his property, but that application near the property of Kenneth and Mary Faris is needed.

4. Consideration of, and take any action on, next steps in process of sale of Town Hall property

The Board discussed their efforts to obtain survey information compiled thus far and to complete the survey process, including boundary line agreements where necessary. Mr. Jefferson spoke about his discussions with potential buyer Scott Davis. Mr. Jefferson indicated that Mr. Davis appears disinclined to pursue the transaction any further. The Board also discussed the proposed asbestos abatement project for the property.

- The Board agreed that Ms. Ford will contact surveyor Andrew Dussault regarding completing the parcel's survey or providing the data compiled thus far.
- The Board agreed to add the asbestos abatement project the agenda of the next Board meeting.

5. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Transfer Station Attendant Shirley Warden regarding construction dumpster covers

The Board reviewed a letter with three photographs, as submitted by Ms. Warden. The pictures portray dumpsters at the Thetford Recycling Center, as covered with plastic covers. Ms. Warden's letter suggests the Board consider using this type of cover for the construction dumpsters at the Barnet Transfer Station. The Board also reviewed emails from Transfer Station/Recycling Center Supervisor Bruce Marston. These emails indicate that Mr. Marston is not in favor of the plastic covers suggested by Ms. Warden, but would prefer roof structures to be installed over the dumpsters. Mr. Gates discussed difficulties in construction of roof structures, given the way the Town uses these dumpsters. Discussion ensued.

- The Board agreed to instruct Mr. Marston to investigate the dumpster roofing/cover systems used by other local towns.

6. Other business presented by other Town officers

There was no other business presented by other Town officers.

7. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Vermont Department of Health regarding expiration of term of Deputy Health Officer

Ms. Ford discussed her communications with potential candidates for the Deputy Health Officer position, which must be filled by September 30. She indicated that two individuals are considering accepting the position.

8. Consideration of, and take any action on, regarding Act 137 Coronavirus Relief Funds and digitization of land records

Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt indicated that he is beginning to receive quotes from potential vendors for the grant project. Discussion ensued.

- Ms. Ford moved to authorize Mr. Heisholt to apply for the digitization grant for a maximum project cost of \$20,000, using his best judgment in selecting a vendor. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

9. Consideration of, and take any action on, certification of 2020 tax rates

Mr. Heisholt indicated that the Town has not yet received notification of 2020 education tax rates from the Vermont Department of Taxes. In anticipation of receiving the education rates prior to the next Board meeting, for this meeting Mr. Heisholt prepared a certification with the Town tax rate only. This rate is \$0.6819, based on a municipal grand list of \$2,408,282.48 and a tax appropriation of \$1,642,288.62.

Discussion ensued.

- Ms. Ford moved to certify the municipal tax rate of \$0.6819. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote. The Board signed the certification.

10. Consideration of, and take any action on, installation of secure drop box/drop slot at Town Clerk's Office

Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt asked the Board for funding to install a secure drop box/drop slot at the Town Clerk's Office. The drop box/slot would be used to receive absentee ballots, tax payments and other items when the office is not open. The Board reviewed an excerpt from an email from the Vermont Secretary of State's Office. The email indicates that the Elections Division is "actively developing a plan around drop boxes and will be in touch soon." Mr. Heisholt indicates that he expects to receive some funding from the State in reimbursement of installation of a drop box/slot. Discussion ensued.

- Ms. Ford moved to authorize expenditures of a maximum of \$2,000 for installation of a secure drop box/slot at the Town Clerk's Office. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

11. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Collector of Delinquent Tax Lisa Bowden regarding Act 102 and changes to 2020-2021 property tax timeline

Mr. Gates read an email from Ms. Bowden, which suggests that the Board consider invoking authority provided by Act 102 to "draft some specific language covering penalty and interest forgiveness in instances where the taxpayer can specifically relate their inability to pay timely to the COVID-19 pandemic." The Board indicated that they had considered this matter at their June 22, 2020 meeting and at that time had decided not to take any specific action pursuant to Act 102. Discussion ensued.

- The Board agreed to not take any specific action pursuant to Act 102 at this time.

12. Consideration of, and take any action on, proposed food truck at Harvey's Lake beach

Ms. Ford discussed her further investigation into the proposed food truck ordinance. She reported that, per the Vermont League of Cities & Towns, there a number of options open to the Board, including with regard to the type of properties covered by the ordinance (Town-owned versus private) and whether or not zoning permits are required. Discussion ensued.

13. Other business presented by Selectboard

a. Food drive parade

Ms. Ford indicated that the McIndoe Falls Academy will be conducting a parade-style drive-by food drive on Sunday, August 30. She suggested that the Board participate. Discussion ensued.

b. West Barnet basketball court baskets

Mr. Jefferson asked why the basketball hoops at the West Barnet court are down. Ms. Ford reported that the baskets were taken down because they were damaged, and that the Fire District intends to repair them and put them back up.

14. Adjournment

Ms. Ford moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

A true copy.

Attest: _____ *Town Clerk*