

**MINUTES – REMOTE REGULAR SELECTBOARD MEETING  
TOWN OF BARNET, VERMONT  
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 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:** Road Foreman Mark Chase, Recycling Center employee Daniel Ehlers, and Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt.

**Members of the public participating via GoToMeeting telephone or video conference:** Jonathan Carpenter, Daniel Deatrick, Laurie Jefferson, Christopher Kaufman, Heather Lindstrom, and Kathleen Monroe.

**1. Consideration of approval of minutes of regular meeting held August 24, 2020**

- Mr. Jefferson moved to approve as presented the minutes of the regular meeting held August 24, 2020. Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote.

**2. Other business presented by members of the public**

**a. Kathleen Monroe regarding secure drop box at Town Clerk's Office**

Ms. Monroe asked about the status of the secure drop box at the Town Clerk's Office, as discussed at previous meetings.

- Mr. Gates indicated that the box had been ordered and that William Graves Builders will install it.

**b. Kathleen Monroe regarding construction of new town office building**

Ms. Monroe asked about the status of planning for construction of a new town office building.

- Mr. Gates indicated that Ruggles Engineering Services, Inc. will be visiting the Town Garage site to perform a preliminary site evaluation.

**c. Christopher Kaufman regarding Transfer Station incident**

Mr. Kaufman, a resident of Barnet, spoke regarding an incident occurring at the Barnet Recycling Center on Saturday, September 12. Mr. Kaufman described an altercation between himself and Recycling Center employee Daniel Ehlers. Mr. Kaufman's description accuses Mr. Ehlers of verbally harassing Mr. Kaufman's twelve-year-old son and physically assaulting Mr. Kaufman.

Recycling Center employee Daniel Ehlers also spoke, providing his account of the incident. His description of the incident differs in many details from Mr. Kaufman's. Mr. Ehlers denies both verbally harassing Mr. Kaufman's son and physically assaulting Mr. Kaufman.

Discussion ensued.

- The Board agreed that they will investigate the incident in question, consult with the State Police and the Town Attorney, and discuss this matter further in executive session at future meeting in which this matter is warned.

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

**a. Consideration of, and take any action on, quotes for new dump truck purchase**

Mr. Chase presented quotes from vendors for truck cab/chassis and for body/plow system. These quotes are summarized as follows:

**Cab/Chassis**

<u>Vendor:</u>	<u>Make/Model</u>	<u>Total Price</u>	<u>Trade-In</u>	<u>Net Price</u>
R.R. Charlebois	Freightliner 114SD (auto.)	\$124,068	\$19,000	\$104,710
R.R. Charlebois	Western Star 4700 SF (auto.)	\$132,008	\$19,000	\$112,650
McDevitt Trucks	Western Star 4700 SF (18 spd.)	\$115,921	\$4,000	\$111,921
McDevitt Trucks	Western Star 4700 SF (auto.)	\$125,747	\$4,000	\$121,747
Clark Trucks	International HV613 (auto.)	\$117,959	\$28,000	\$89,959

**Body/Plow**

<u>Make</u>	<u>Price</u>
Tenco	\$64,875
Viking	\$63,300

Discussion ensued.

- The Board agreed to table this matter until the next meeting.

**b. Other business**

**i. Bridge Street bridge resurfacing**

Mr. Chase reported that he had received prices for paving the bridge surface. These were as follows:

Pike Industries: \$9,100

Weaver Construction: \$10,000 to \$12,000

Blacktop: \$4,408

Mr. Chase indicated that the Road Commissioner Mr. Gates had already authorized committing to Blacktop for paving, due to the urgency of the project and the discrepancy in quote prices. Mr. Chase indicated that Mathews Excavating will commence the project September 23. Discussion ensued regarding notification to the public of the bridge closure.

**ii. Road sign theft**

Mr. Chase reported that there recently has been another rash of road sign theft and vandalism.

**iii. Drainage project grant**

Mr. Chase reported that he was notified by Northeastern Vermont Development Association of a grant opportunity for drainage projects. Current projects for stone-lined ditches on Barnet Center Road and a culvert replacement on Newman Lane can be combined in a single grant application. Grant projects of up to \$21,000 require Town matching funds of \$5,000. Discussion ensued.

- Ms. Ford moved to spend \$5,000 on the grant project as proposed by Mr. Chase. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

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

Ms. Ford reported on her conversations with surveyor Andrew Dussault. Mr. Dussault agreed to review his files on the property and provide a recommendation. The next step after this would be for the Board to discuss the documentation with the Town's attorney and meet with abutters to determine amenable

boundary line agreements. Mr. Dussault's cost would be \$300 to \$400 for three or four hours of review and research.

- Mr. Gates moved to move forward with hiring Andrew Dussault for the proposed services and with negotiations with abutters regarding boundary lines. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

**5. 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 noted that the deadline for acceptance of the proposal has expired. Discussion ensued regarding next available actions.

- The Board agreed to table further discussion of this matter.

**6. Consideration of, and take any action on, covers for Transfer Station construction dumpsters**

The Board reviewed correspondence from Transfer Station & Recycling Center Supervisor Bruce Marston. This correspondence consists of several emails with attached photographs of dumpster covers in Peacham and Ryegate and of an electric gate system in Waterford. Discussion ensued.

- No action taken.

**7. Other business presented by other Town officers**

No other business was presented by other Town officers.

**8. Consideration of, and take any action on, annual lowering of Harvey's Lake water level**

The Board discussed the annual lowering of the water level, which customarily occurs in October. They reviewed minutes from the September 23, 2019 and November 11, 2019, which indicate that in 2019 the Board initially planned to perform water level lowering in October 2019, but were instructed by the State of Vermont to cease water level alterations. The Board noted that this State restriction remains in place; the water level will not be altered this year.

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

Ms. Ford indicated that she continues to discuss this impending vacancy with potential candidates, but no individual has committed to take the position.

**10. Consideration of, and take any action on, grant application for Act 137 Coronavirus Relief Funds and digitization of land records**

Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt reported that he had applied for the grant as discussed with the Board at their most recent meeting. Mr. Heisholt determined to apply for the grant with the plan of continuing to utilize the Town's current vendor for land records indexing, NEMRC, and to add NEMRC's imaging software. Additionally, the grant application includes imaging services by a second vendor, Recordsforce, and imaging technology for the Town Clerk's Office. The total grant request of \$11,063 has been approved.

**11. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Vermont Emergency Management regarding Local Hazard Mitigation Plan grant**

The Board reviewed an email indicating that the Town's grant application has been approved and providing information regarding the next steps in the grant project process.

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

Treasurer Benjamin Heisholt noted that at the Board's previous meeting they had certified a Town tax rate, but not the State education tax rates, which were unavailable at that time. A full certification form

with all rates was submitted for this meeting. Total rates, including all Town and education rates, are 2.2894 for homestead and 2.288 for non-homestead.

- The Board signed the certification of tax rates.

**13. Consideration of, and take any action on, proposed food truck at Harvey’s Lake beach**

Ms. Ford reported on her conversations with Zoning Administrative Officer Shirley Warden and Planning Commission/Zoning Board member Dakota Butterfield. The Zoning Bylaws have some authority over permitting for food truck operations. The Town could make a more specific ordinance to permit food trucks on Town property and/or private property. Ms. Ford indicated that the Planning Commission/Zoning Board may discuss this matter at an upcoming meeting. Ms. Ford will forward to Ms. Butterfield the examples of food truck ordinances she has obtained.

**14. Other business presented by Selectboard**

**a. Church Street paving and water system work**

Jonathan Carpenter, Barnet Fire District #2 Prudential Committee Chair, asked the Board regarding their plans for paving Church Street. He indicated that the Fire District plans to perform repairs/upgrades to the water delivery system in spring of 2021; he suggested that it may be advantageous to coordinate paving of Church Street with this water system project. Discussion ensued.

- The Board agreed that they will attempt to coordinate Church Street paving with the water system project in spring 2021.

**b. Old Silo Road property ownership issue**

Ms. Ford discussed the contested ownership of a property on Old Silo Road, indicating that there has been a United States Postal Service investigation regarding this matter with respect to delivery of mail to the property in question.

**15. Adjournment**

Ms. Ford moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 8:24 p.m.

*A true copy.*

*Attest:* \_\_\_\_\_ *Town Clerk*