

**MINUTES – REMOTE REGULAR SELECTBOARD MEETING
TOWN OF BARNET, VERMONT
MONDAY, OCTOBER 12, 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 and Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt.

Members of the public participating via GoToMeeting telephone or video conference: Daniel Deatruck, Suzann Duquette, Jan Enthoven, Laurie Jefferson, Heather Lindstrom, Mona Marceau, and Michael Wright.

1. Consideration of approval of minutes of regular meeting held September 28, 2020

Mr. Jefferson moved to approve as presented the minutes of the regular meeting held September 28, 2020. Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote.

2. Appearance by CALEX Ambulance Service regarding consideration of proposed contract extension; take any action

The Board reviewed emails and a proposed one-year extension for the current ambulance service contract. The extension would cause the term of the contract to end December 31, 2021. CALEX's stated purpose for the extension is to bring all contracted towns into the same schedule. CALEX indicates that the extension will cause no changes to the terms, conditions, or annual cost (\$34,100) associated with the current contract for 2020. CALEX Chief Executive Officer Michael Wright appeared remotely at this meeting and discussed the proposed extension with the Board.

- Ms. Ford moved to sign the proposed contract extension. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote. Mr. Gates signed the contract extension.

3. Consideration of, and take any action on, funding opportunity for WI-FI hotspot sites

The Board reviewed emails from resident Kathleen Monroe of Northeast Kingdom Community Broadband, which report funding opportunities for new WI-FI hotspots. The program pays for installation costs and hardware and for monthly service charges through the end of 2020. Discussion ensued.

- The Board agreed to not pursue any additional WI-FI hotspots at this time.

4. Other business presented by members of the public

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

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

a. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Vermont Agency of Transportation regarding grant program funding

The Board reviewed an email indicating that, due to decreased State revenues and delayed grant application schedules, the decision was made that no grants will be awarded in the current fiscal year for Class 2 Town Highway and Structures Grant Programs. Instead, the

State will provide supplemental town highway funding in the amount of \$7 million to support all towns.

b. Consideration of, and take any action on, quotes for delivery of deicing salt for 2020-2021 season

The Board reviewed quotes for delivery bulk ice control rock salt. Prices were as follows:

American Rock Salt: \$76.00 per ton

Cargill: \$72.11 per ton

- The Board agreed to sign both quotes, instructing Mr. Chase to buy from Cargill unless supply shortages require him to purchase from American Rock Salt.

c. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Green Mountain Power regarding petition for location of poles, guys and wires on West Barnet Road

The Board reviewed a petition to place six new poles and replace six more within the highway limits of West Barnet Road.

- The Board agreed to approve the petition.

d. Consideration of, and take any action on, snow plowing and maintenance services agreement with Caledonia Cooperative School District

The Board reviewed the agreement as signed in October 2019. The agreement automatically renews each year; Town Agent Steven Adler had suggested that the Board revisit the agreement each year to evaluate the Board's satisfaction with it. Discussion ensued.

- The Board instructed Mr. Chase to communicate to Barnet School Facilities Director Michael Bigelow that the Board remains satisfied with the agreement as signed in 2019.

e. Other business

i. Routine seasonal maintenance

Mr. Chase reported that the Highway Department continues to grade and resurface roads and clean ditches as weather permits. He also reported that they will soon commence preparing equipment for winter road maintenance.

ii. Dump truck #4 body repairs

Mr. Chase reported that dump truck #4 has suffered body damage due to age and corrosion. Portions of the floor and cross-member will be repaired at Robco.

6. Other business presented by other town officers

There was no other business presented by other town officers.

7. Other business presented by Selectboard

a. Passumpsic Village traffic speed

Mr. Gates reported that he had received a complaint regarding the speed of traffic in Passumpsic Village; the complainant requested that the Town ask for the Sheriff's Department's speed-monitoring cart to be placed in Passumpsic for a period of time. Discussion ensued.

- The Board agreed to request that the Sheriff's Department place their speed-monitoring cart in Passumpsic Village.

8. Consideration of, and take any action on, 2021 health insurance benefits

The Board reviewed 2021 health insurance plan summaries from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Vermont (BCBS) and MVP Health Care (MVP). They also reviewed a report from Treasurer Benjamin Heisholt

that indicates the costs of the 2020 Town health plan from BlueCross BlueShield of Vermont (BCBS) and projects the costs of 2021 plans for BCBS and MVP Health Care (MVP). The Town's total annual expense for 2021, with the current benefit offering, under the BCBS plan would represent an increase from 2020 of \$4,056.68, and under the MVP plan would represent a decrease from 2020 of \$10,378.70. Discussion ensued.

- Ms. Ford moved to continue to offer the BCBS Platinum Standard Plan. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

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

Ms. Ford discussed her meeting with surveyor Andrew Dussault, who had recommended certain boundary line locations based on his research. She also reported that she had met with abutting property owners Jan Enthoven and Suzann Duquette the previous week. Mr. Enthoven and Ms. Duquette appeared remotely at this meeting and discussed with the Board potential boundary line locations. The Board indicated that determining the potential for installation of new a septic system for the Town Hall may be of significance in determining the course of the boundary line negotiations.

- The Board agreed that it will investigate the feasibility of installing a new septic system in the vicinity of Town Hall.

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

The Board reviewed an email from Stephanie Smith of Vermont Emergency Management. Ms. Smith had responded to an inquiry, based on the Board's discussion at their previous meeting, regarding qualified consultants to whom the Board may send requests for proposals. The email lists four consultants: Cindy Ingersoll, Paul Luciano, Jamie Caplan, and the regional planning commissions (Northeastern Vermont Development Association). Discussion ensued.

- Ms. Ford moved to send requests for proposals to the four consultants referenced in Ms. Smith's email. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

11. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc. (VHB) regarding landfill monitoring

The Board reviewed emails from VHB and Endyne, Inc. The email from VHB recommends that the Endyne collect and analyze the groundwater and surface water samples and bill the Town directly and VHB collect the sediment sample and provide to Endyne for analyses and that Endyne bill the Town directly for sediment analyses. A client authorization from VHB quotes a cost of \$2,000 for the project; a quote from Endyne indicates a cost of \$2,485.50 for their services. Discussion ensued.

- The Board agreed to sign the VHB client authorization and move forward with the project. Mr. Gates signed the authorization.

12. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Town of Lincoln, New Hampshire regarding public hearing on proposed telecommunications tower

The Board reviewed a notice of a public hearing to be held October 14, 2020 regarding a proposed 120-foot-high telecommunications cell tower located at 749 US Route 3 in Lincoln, New Hampshire. Discussion ensued.

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

Ms. Ford indicated that she had forwarded this matter to the Planning Commission and Zoning Board for their consideration and action.

14. Other business presented by Selectboard (continued from #7 above)

- a. West Barnet Road speed zone

Ms. Ford reported that Constable David Stevenson had begun to perform traffic speed monitoring in the 35 mile per hour speed zone near Kid Row/Barnet School, but had not yet finished the total number of hours requested by the Board at their previous meeting.

b. Palmer Cemetery maintenance

Ms. Ford reported that she had received a complaint regarding the condition of the gravestones at Palmer Cemetery. Discussion ensued.

- The Board agreed to consider budgeting 2021 funds to pay for maintenance of stones in Palmer Cemetery and Stevens Cemetery.

15. Adjournment

Mr. Jefferson moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

A true copy.

Attest: _____ *Town Clerk*