

**MINUTES – REMOTE REGULAR SELECTBOARD MEETING
TOWN OF BARNET, VERMONT
MONDAY, OCTOBER 26, 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: Jonathan Carpenter, Mona Marceau, Kathleen Monroe, and Ross Page.

1. Consideration of approval of minutes of regular meeting held October 12, 2020

Ms. Ford moved to approve as presented the minutes of the regular meeting held October 12, 2020. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

2. Appearance by Bayley Hazen Road Snowmobile Club regarding snowmobile travel on town highways for 2020-2021 season; take any action

Mr. Gates read a letter from the Bayley Hazen Road Snowmobile Club, which consists of a request for snowmobile access for trail connection purposes during the 2020-2021 season. This request includes portions of Laird Road, Somerhill Road, Stevenson Road, and West Main Street, as has been granted in previous years. Ross Page of the snowmobile club appeared remotely and indicated he was not aware of any complaints lodged regarding highway access for snowmobiles in the previous season.

- Ms. Ford moved to grant the Bayley-Hazen Road Snowmobile Club access as requested for Laird Road, Somerhill Road, Stevenson Road, and West Main Street. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

3. Other business presented by members of the public

There was no other business presented by members of public.

4. 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 Natural Resources regarding award notification related to Diesel Emissions Reduction Act grant

The Board reviewed an email and attached award notification indicating that the Town has been awarded up to \$49,250 (or the maximum allowable cost share of 25%) toward the early replacement of a Class 8 dump truck. Discussion ensued.

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

The Board reviewed a petition to locate two new poles and three anchors within the highway limits of Denio Road. Discussion ensued

- The Board agreed to approve the petition.

c. Other business

i. Routine maintenance

Mr. Chase reported that the Highway Department continues to clean ditches as weather allows, and has begun to prepare equipment for winter.

ii. Groton Road tree

Ms. Ford reported that she had received a compliment for the Highway Department in connection with removal of tree debris from Groton Road.

iii. Old Silo Road grading complaint

Mr. Jefferson reported that he had received a complaint that Old Silo Road was muddy after having been graded recently.

5. Consideration of, and take any action on, Listers Errors & Omissions certificate(s)

The Board reviewed an errors and omissions certificate related to a parcel owned by the Howard and Ann Katz Trust (SPAN 033-010-10529). The parcel was taxable in 2019 but changed to inactive on January 20, 2020 for an unknown reason. The certificate would add \$288,500 to the grand list by changing this parcel from inactive to active.

- The Board agreed to sign the certificate. The Board signed the certificate.

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, Town Hall property boundary agreement negotiations

Mr. Gates discussed his communications with surveyor Andy Dussault. Mr. Dussault is available to meet with the Board and the abutters and draft agreed-upon boundaries. Mr. Dussault estimates the Town's cost for his services in this matter to be \$2,000. The Board also reviewed correspondence from Town Attorney Steven Adler. The cost to the Town for Mr. Adler's services in representing the Board throughout the boundary line negotiation process would be \$2,000 to \$2,500. For Mr. Adler's services in drafting a deed only, the cost would be \$500. Discussion ensued.

- Ms. Ford moved to approve the expenditure of \$2,000 for Andy Dussault's services in meeting with the Board and abutters and drafting agreed-upon boundaries. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

8. Consideration of, and take any action on, next steps in construction of new town office

The Board discussed hiring a project manager to facilitate progress on the project.

- The Board agreed to postpone seeking a project manager until after a professional site evaluation for the Town Garage property is performed.

9. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Caledonia County Sheriff's Department regarding request for radar cart on US Route 5

The Board reviewed an email indicating that a radar cart cannot be placed on Route 5 or any other State road unless a permit is obtained. The permit would cost approximately \$1,000. Discussion ensued.

10. Other business presented by Selectboard

No other business was presented by the Selectboard.

11. Consideration of, and take any action on, Highway Department employee evaluation

- Mr. Jefferson moved to enter executive session to discuss the evaluation of a Highway Department employee pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(3). Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by

voice vote. Entered executive session at 7:28 p.m. Those present in executive session: Ms. Ford, Mr. Gates, Mr. Jefferson, Road Foreman Mark Chase, and Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt.

- Ms. Ford moved to exit executive session. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote. Exited executive session at 7:40 p.m.
- Mr. Gates moved to ratify the discussion held in executive session regarding the evaluation of an employee at the end of a probationary period. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

12. Adjournment

Ms. Ford moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

A true copy.

Attest: _____ *Town Clerk*