

**MINUTES – REMOTE REGULAR SELECTBOARD MEETING  
TOWN OF BARNET, VERMONT  
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 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:** Jane Casavant, Stephen Casavant, Janette Hoague, Mona Marceau, and Robert Patneau.

**1. Consideration of approval of minutes of regular meeting held October 26, 2020**

Ms. Ford moved to approve as presented the minutes of the regular meeting held October 26, 2020. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

**2. Consideration of animal control complaint regarding dogs kept at Anderson Street**

The Board reviewed a formal complaint received from Jane and Stephen Casavant regarding dogs kept by Sherry Barrett at 205 Anderson Street. The complaint indicates that the dogs have been barking, crying, and howling most of the day, every day, from 6:45 or 7:00 a.m. until 10:00 p.m. The Board noted that this complaint is of a similar nature to two other formal complaints, including one other from the Casavants, received since May 2020. Ms. Barrett has been issued a notice of violation, and has paid a civil penalty in connection with it. Mr. and Ms. Casavant appeared at this meeting remotely and advocated for further action to be taken to cause the cessation of the violation. Robert Patneau, the owner of the property at 205 Anderson Street, and his partner Janette Hoague, also appeared remotely and also advocated for the Board to take further enforcement action. The Board also reviewed an email from Ms. Barrett, which indicates that she is not available for 7 p.m. meetings, and that the barking problem is caused by a rat infestation and the appearance of a possum on the property. Discussion ensued.

- Mr. Jefferson moved to request that Town Attorney draft a notice of violation letter communicating to Ms. Barrett the Board's finding of a new violation, assessing a civil penalty of \$75 (plus delivery fee), and instructing her that action must be taken to remedy the violation, including but not limited to muzzles, bark collars, or removal of the dogs from the property. Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote.

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

There was no other business presented by members of the 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 Transportation (VTrans) regarding permitting for digital radar speed signs**

The Board reviewed an email and attached "Guidelines for Use of Radar Speed Feedback Signs on State Highway System." Mr. Chase discussed his conversation with Shauna Clifford of VTrans. Discussion ensued.

- The Board agreed not to pursue digital radar speed signs on Route 5 at this time, but instead to request additional patrols in Passumpsic Village and McIndoes Falls by the Caledonia County Sheriff's Department.

**b. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation regarding Vermont Diesel Emissions Reduction Grant**

The Board reviewed an email providing details regarding the provisions of the grant agreement. Among these is the requirement that the replaced truck be permanently disabled by cutting the chassis in half and drilling/cutting/punching a three-inch hole in the engine block. This eliminates the opportunity to trade in the replaced truck, which the Board had planned to do. Mr. Gates indicated that the vendor of the new truck, R.R. Charlebois, has offered to decrease its new truck price from \$132,000 to \$129,000 in light of these circumstances. Discussion ensued.

- Ms. Ford moved to continue with acceptance of the grant, foregoing the trade-in of the replaced truck. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

**c. Consideration of, and take any action on, speed limit zone and traffic study for West Barnet Road in the proximity of Kid Row**

The Board noted that it had not yet received a report on the traffic study on West Barnet Road from Constable David Stevenson. The Board tabled further discussion of this matter.

**d. Other business**

**i. Truck repairs**

Mr. Chase reported that two dump trucks recently have been out of the garage for replacement of air compressors.

**ii. Routine maintenance**

Mr. Chase reported that the Highway Department continues to work on ditching and grading roads as weather permits.

**5. Consideration of, and take any action on, bids for library building painting**

Ms. Ford reported that one of the three painting contractors solicited has inspected the building and none has submitted a bid. In the process of inspection, it was discovered that some sills need replacement; Ms. Ford is seeking a proposal for this work from a building contractor. The question of rust remediation on the back, metal staircase was also raised during inspection of the building; Ms. Ford will ask the painting contractors to submit a price for this work as a line item. Discussion ensued.

**6. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Vermont Department of Health regarding appointment of Deputy Health Officer**

The Board reviewed a copy of notification to Emil Pollack of his commission as Deputy Health Officer for a three-year term commencing November 1, 2020.

**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, Town Hall property boundary agreement negotiations**

Mr. Gates indicated that there were no developments to report; a planned meeting with the abutting property owners is the next step in the process.

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

The Board discussed a proposed preliminary site plan submitted by engineer Nate Sicard of Ruggles Engineering. This plan proposes the use of the southeast corner of the Town Garage parcel for a town office building and parking, with access from the North Monroe Road. Discussion ensued.

- The Board agreed to hire the excavation of test pits at the proposed site for the purpose of soil evaluation.

**10. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Lake Harvey Association regarding signed agreement between LHA and State regarding boat wash greeter station**

The Board reviewed email correspondence from Lake Harvey Association and the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department and an attached signed agreement between these two parties in relation to the Town’s boat wash/monitoring greeter station at the Harvey’s Lake Fishing Access Area. In order for the agreement to be finalized the Town must approve of it in writing. Discussion ensued.

- Mr. Gates moved to request that Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt draft a letter approving the agreement. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

**11. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Northeast Kingdom Community Broadband regarding annual report and public hearing**

The Board reviewed an email and attached Annual Report, including a financial report and budget. A remote public hearing for public review and comment on the proposed 2021 plan and budget is scheduled for November 12, 2020. Discussion ensued.

**12. Consideration of, and take any action on, planning for 2021 Town Meeting**

The Board reviewed information from the Vermont League of Cities & Towns regarding changes to election law with respect to 2021 Town Meeting and COVID-19. Act 162 allows a legislative body to vote to use Australian ballot for any town meeting in 2021. Discussion ensued.

**13. Consideration of, and take any action on, appointment of Animal Control Officer**

Mr. Gates reported that he had been approached by Peter Craig of the Peacham Selectboard with an inquiry about partnering with Peacham for appointment of a joint Animal Control Officer. Discussion ensued.

- The Board agreed that it would be agreeable to partnering with Peacham for Animal Control Officer services.

**14. Other business presented by Selectboard**

There was no other business presented by the Selectboard.

**15. Adjournment**

Ms. Ford moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

*A true copy.*

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