

**MINUTES – REMOTE REGULAR SELECTBOARD MEETING  
TOWN OF BARNET, VERMONT  
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 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:** Sherry Barrett, Jonathan Carpenter, Jane Casavant, Stephen Casavant, Janette Hoague, Kathleen Monroe, Mona Marceau, and Robert Patneau.

**1. Consideration of approval of minutes of regular meeting held November 9, 2020**

- Ms. Ford moved to approve as presented the minutes of the regular meeting held November 9, 2020. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson 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, speed limit zone and traffic study for West Barnet Road in the proximity of Kid Row**

The members of the Board indicated that they had not received a traffic study report from Constable David Stevenson.

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

**b. Other business**

**i. Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation Vermont Diesel Emissions Reduction Grant**

Mr. Chase discussed a grant requirement that the Town must adopt an anti-idling policy for Town equipment. The Board reviewed sample policies.

- The Board agreed to request that Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt and Mr. Chase draft a proposed policy for the Board's consideration at their next meeting.

**ii. Quotes for new pick-up truck**

Mr. Chase reported that he had, at the Board's request, requested quotes for a new pick-up truck from Chevrolet, GMC, Dodge, and Ford. Quotes were received from Wells River Chevrolet and Twin State Ford.

Wells River Chevrolet  
\$52,760 base price  
Less \$12,545 discount  
Less \$20,000 trade-in value  
Plus \$7,000 for 9 1/2' plow  
**Total \$27,215**

Twin State Ford  
\$54,305 base price  
Less \$10,100 discount  
Less \$20,000 trade-in value  
Plus \$7,000 for 9 1/2' plow  
**Total \$31,205**

Discussion ensued.

- The Board agreed to table further discussion and any decision on this matter to the next meeting.

**iii. Street sign theft and vandalism**

Mr. Chase reported that there has been another recent rash of theft and vandalism of street signs. Approximately six were damaged or stolen over the previous weekend.

**4. Public Hearing on notice of violation of Animal Control Ordinance regarding dogs kept by Sherry Barrett at 205 Anderson Street, pursuant to Section 12, Part C.5. of the Ordinance; take any action**

The Board held an appeal hearing on a notice of violation of the Animal Control Ordinance regarding dogs kept by Sherry Barrett at 205 Anderson Street, pursuant to Section 12, Part c.5. of the Ordinance. The notice of violation under appeal was issued based on the Board's decision at the regular meeting held November 9, 2020, finding that Ms. Barrett's dogs were in violation with regard to the excessive noise clause of the Ordinance (Section 4(a)(1)), based on multiple complaints from neighbors of noise disturbances for hours on end. The notice of violation issued a civil penalty of \$75.00 plus a \$50.00 fee for delivery of the notice by the Caledonia County Sheriff's Department.

- Ms. Barrett appeared remotely at this meeting. She discussed the efforts she had taken to reduce the noise disturbance. She stated that the dogs were provoked to bark by the presence of river rats and a possum on the property. She indicated that she has kept the dogs inside the house most of the day to help mitigate this provocation, allowing them outside only to relieve themselves. She also stated that she has employed a dog trainer, although it has been difficult to make use of these professional services due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Ms. Barrett stated that she discovered that the cause of howling by one of the dogs, Max, was advanced cancer symptoms; Max recently has been euthanized.
- Complainants Jane and Stephen Casavants appeared remotely at this meeting. They stated that they continue to hear occasional barking, but the noise disturbance has been greatly reduced in the preceding week. They stated that they are satisfied with Ms. Barrett's response and will not file further complaints if the noise remains at its current level and frequency.
- Ms. Ford moved to eliminate the \$75.00 civil penalty issued to Sherry Barrett based on the Board's finding of November 9, 2020, to affirm the fee of \$50.00 for delivery of the notice by the Caledonia County Sheriff's Department, and to warn Ms. Barrett that any further noise disturbance findings will result in civil penalties of greater amounts. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

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

Ms. Ford reported that she had only received one bid from the three contractors solicited. Discussion ensued.

- The Board agreed to extend the bid submission deadline to December 1, 2020.

**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, proposed 2021 patrol contract from Caledonia County Sheriff's Department**

The Board reviewed a proposed contract for January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021. Terms of the agreement are the same as the 2020 contract except expenses; officer time and court time increase from

\$36.00 per hour to \$37.00 per hour. Total cost to the Town is not to exceed \$7,500, which is the same as 2020.

- Mr. Jefferson moved to approve the proposed contract with Caledonia County Sheriff's Department. Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote.

**8. Consideration of, and take any action on, proposals for printing 2020 and 2021 annual reports**

The Board reviewed proposals from Repro (Winooski, Vermont) 2020 and 2021 printing, and from R.C. Brayshaw & Co., Inc. (West Lebanon, New Hampshire) for 2020 printing. The following is a summary of the quotes for 625 copies:

Repro - 2020 reports only	\$1,705.00
Repro – 2020 and 2021 reports	\$1,635.00
R.C. Brayshaw & Co., Inc. – 2020 reports only	\$1,483.00

- Mr. Jefferson moved to accept the proposal of Repro for a two-year contract (2020 and 2021) for printing annual town reports. Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote.

**9. Consideration of, and take any action on, Town Hall property boundary agreement negotiations**

Ms. Ford indicated that there were no developments to report; a planned meeting with the abutting property owners remains the next step in the process.

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

Mr. Gates reported that Nate Sicard of Ruggles Engineering had visited the Town Garage property site; Road Foreman Mark Chase dug test pits as Mr. Sicard observed. The Board reviewed an email from Mr. Sicard summarizing his findings from the test pits and recommending next steps in the process. A potential wastewater site, where sand was found down to seven feet, was identified; a mound system would be required. Discussion ensued.

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

The Board continued to review information and guidance from the Vermont League of Cities and Towns website. Current mandatory health and safety requirements from the CDC, Vermont Department of Health, the Agency of Commerce and Community Development, and the Secretary of State's Office place the maximum occupancy limits at 50 percent fire safety capacity, one person per 100 square feet, and a maximum of 75 people indoors. As discussed at the previous meeting, Act 162 of the Vermont Legislature allows municipal legislative bodies to vote to use Australian ballot for any town meeting in 2021. Discussion ensued.

- Ms. Ford moved to adopt the Australian ballot system of voting for the 2021 annual town meeting. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

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

At their previous meeting, the Board had requested that Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt draft a letter approving the agreement between LHA and the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department regarding the Town's boat wash/monitoring greeter station at the Harvey's Lake Fishing Access Area. At this meeting, the Board reviewed a letter drafted as requested.

- The Board signed the approval letter.

**13. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Northeast Kingdom Waste Management District regarding proposed 2021 budget**

The Board reviewed a cover letter, memorandum, public notice, and proposed 2021 budget. Total expenses increase from \$794,823 in the 2020 budget to \$809,527 in the 2021 proposed budget. A public informational meeting on the proposed 2021 budget will be held December 3, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. via Zoom telephone/internet conferencing.

**14. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Caledonia County regarding proposed 2021-2022 budget**

The Board reviewed an email, public notice, and proposed fiscal year 2022 budget. Total expenses decrease from \$357,266 in the fiscal year 2021 budget to \$346,000 in the fiscal year 2022 proposed budget. A public informational meeting on the proposed fiscal year 2022 budget will be held December 14, 2020 at noon at the Grandstand at the Caledonia County Courthouse.

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

Mr. Gates reported that there were no new developments regarding the appointment of an Animal Control Officer. Mr. Gates indicated that he had communicated to Peacham the Board's agreement to partner with Peacham for Animal Control Officer services.

**16. Other business presented by Selectboard**

**a. Budgeting for telephone/internet conferencing**

Ms. Ford suggested that the Board consider budgeting for a different telephone/internet conferencing system in 2021, as the Board has experienced some difficulty with GoToMeeting.

**17. Adjournment**

Mr. Jefferson moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 8:14 p.m.

*A true copy.*

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