

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

Members of the public participating via GoToMeeting telephone or video conference: Jonathan Carpenter and Kathleen Monroe.

1. Consideration of approval of minutes of regular meeting held November 23, 2020

- Ms. Ford moved to approve as presented the minutes of the regular meeting held November 23, 2020. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

2. 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, correspondence from Danville Highway Department regarding mutual aid for highway services during 2020-2021 winter season

The Board reviewed a letter indicating the Danville Highway Department's offer of highway services during the upcoming winter months if neighboring towns' highway departments become shorthanded during the pandemic. Mr. Chase indicated that highway departments of other local towns, including Barnet, have also offered to assist if neighboring highway departments are shorthanded. Discussion ensued.

b. Consideration of adoption of Anti-Idling Policy for Town Property

The Board reviewed a proposed policy. Mr. Chase indicated the policy is simply one of the samples proposed by the State, with the Town's name inserted where appropriate. Mr. Chase noted that adoption of an anti-idling policy is a requirement of the Diesel Emissions Reduction Grant the Town received for its upcoming dump truck purchase.

- Mr. Jefferson moved to approve as drafted the Anti-Idling Policy for Town Property. Seconded by Ms. Ford 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

Ms. Ford reported that she had contacted Constable David Stevenson regarding the traffic study. Mr. Stevenson had indicated that the study is complete; Ms. Ford will arrange for it to be delivered or picked up for the Board's review.

d. Consideration of, and take any action on, quotes for new pick-up truck

The Board continued its consideration of quotes for purchase of a new pick-up truck.

- The Board agreed to table further discussion of purchase of a new pick-up truck until spring 2021.

e. Other business

i. Barnet School plowing

The Board briefly discussed the agreement with Barnet School for snow plowing at the school during the winter season. Mr. Chase reported that both the Town and the school are satisfied with the agreement.

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

Ms. Ford indicated that she had only received one bid by the revised due date of December 1, 2020 from the three contractors solicited (Clean Cut Painting, Charles Somers, and Jacob Stevenson). The one bid, from Clean Cut Painting, was opened and reviewed by the Board. The total bid amount, for painting the entire exterior, is \$36,900. Discussion ensued.

- Mr. Jefferson moved to reject the bid received from Clean Cut Painting. Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote.

5. Consideration of, and take any action on, proposed errors and omissions certificate from Board of Listers

The Board reviewed a proposed errors and omissions certificate for four parcels owned by Green Mountain Power. These proposed changes would add a net total of \$1,729,300 in taxable value to the Grand List. Discussion ensued.

- The Board agreed to approve the proposed errors and omissions certificate; the Board signed the certificate.

6. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Fire & Rescue Department with nomination of Fire Chief for 2021

The Board read a letter nominating Ronald Morse for the position of Fire Chief for 2021.

- Ms. Ford moved to approve the nomination of Ronald Morse for the position of Fire Chief for 2021. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

7. Other business presented by other town officers

a. Consideration of correspondence from Transfer Station & Recycling Center Supervisor Bruce Marston regarding repairs to Transfer Station

The Board reviewed an email and attached photographs describing the repairs made to the Transfer Station building, which was damaged when struck by a dumpster while one dumpster was being exchanged for another by Casella. The repairs were performed by Mr. Marston and Recycling Center employee Daniel Ehlers.

- No action taken.

b. Consideration of proposed installation of ethernet wireless router at Town Clerk's Office

The Board reviewed a proposal from RB Technologies for the installation of an Ubiquiti ethernet wireless router. Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt explained that this installation was an unanticipated requirement for completion of the digitization grant project for the Town's land records. The router would allow for an additional, public, wireless access point. The new research computer will use this public wireless access; the public wireless will be available for public use as well. Mr. Heisholt explained that a portion of the total cost of \$639 is expected to be paid through the digitization grant. Discussion ensued.

- The Board agreed to approved the proposed installation.

8. Consideration of, and take any action on, issuance of year-end employee bonuses

Treasurer Benjamin Heisholt indicated that in 2019 the Board agreed to pay year-end bonuses of \$350 to full-time employees, \$200 to Assistant Town Clerk Catherine Roy, and \$150 each to Transfer

Station/Recycling Center employees Daniel Ehlers, Bruce Marston, Donald Nelson, and Shirley Warden. Discussion ensued.

- Mr. Gates moved to pay 2020 year-end bonuses of \$350 to full-time employees, \$200 to Assistant Town Clerk Catherine Roy, and \$150 each to Transfer Station/Recycling Center employees Daniel Ehlers, Bruce Marston, Donald Nelson, and Shirley Warden. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

9. Consideration of, and take any action on, adoption of amended Purchasing Policy

The Board reviewed a proposed revised purchasing policy. This revision, based on the current Vermont League of Cities and Towns' model policy, includes provisions and guidelines required for federal funding. Discussion ensued. The Board made edits to the purchasing limits for incidental, minor, and major purchases.

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

Ms. Ford indicated that there have been no further developments in this matter.

- The Board agreed to table discussion of this matter.

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

Mr. Gates indicated that there have been no further developments in this matter.

- The Board agreed to table discussion of this matter.

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

The Board reviewed, and Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt discussed, a December 9, 2020 email from the Vermont Secretary of State's Office's Elections Division. Among the information conveyed in the email was the indication that the legislature has been meeting to discuss further action that may be taken regarding annual town meetings. One item under discussion and consideration is permitting municipalities to postpone annual meeting until later in the year when it can be held under hopefully safer circumstances. The Board discussed this possibility in light of their previous decision to hold annual Town Meeting by Australian ballot.

- The Board agreed to not take any action at this time, but to continue to plan for Australian ballot for 2021 annual town meeting.

13. Consideration of, and take any action on, laboratory reports on closed landfill sampling from Endyne, Inc.

The Board reviewed laboratory reports from samples taken October 30, 2020.

- No action taken.

14. Consideration of, and take any action on, closed landfill groundwater/surface water and sediment sampling and landfill inspection from VHB

The Board reviewed a copy of a report sent by VHB to the Vermont Solid Waste Management Program regarding the October 2020 closed landfill inspection.

- No action taken.

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

Mr. Gates reported that there were no new developments in this matter.

- The Board agreed to table discussion of this matter.

16. Consideration of, and take any action on, proposed 2021 budget

The Board reviewed the first draft of a 2021 budget, amending several expenditure line-items.

17. Other business presented by Selectboard

a. Municipal Planning Grant complete

Ms. Ford reported that close-out is complete on a Municipal Planning Grant relating to the municipal building project.

b. Health Officer report – rental complaints

Health Officer Ms. Ford reported that there have been a few recent complaints regarding rental properties; these are subject to ongoing Health Officer investigation.

18. Adjournment

Ms. Ford moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 9:04 p.m.

A true copy.

Attest: _____ *Town Clerk*