

**MINUTES – REMOTE REGULAR SELECTBOARD MEETING  
TOWN OF BARNET, VERMONT  
MONDAY, DECEMBER 28, 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, Lister John Cook, Lister Sarah Cook, and Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt.

**Members of the public participating via GoToMeeting telephone or video conference:** Michael Bigelow, John Bruckner, Jonathan Carpenter, Katie Fiegenbaum (Caledonian Record), Mona Marceau, and Kathleen Monroe.

**1. Consideration of approval of minutes of regular meeting held December 14, 2020**

- Ms. Ford moved to approve as presented the minutes of the regular meeting held December 14, 2020. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

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

No other business was 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**

Ms. Ford reported that she had not yet received the report on the traffic study from Constable David Stevenson, but expects to receive it by the next Board meeting.

**b. Consideration of, and take any action on, issuance of year-end employee bonuses to part-time/seasonal Highway Department employee(s)**

Mr. Chase asked if the Board would consider adding one name to the list of employees receiving a year-end bonus, as agreed at the previous Board meeting. He indicated that part-time Highway Department employee Paul Gibson has been a regular contributor in the past year and is, in Mr. Chase's estimation, deserving of a bonus. Discussion ensued.

- Mr. Jefferson moved to pay a 2020 year-end employee bonus in the amount of \$175.00 to Highway Department employee Paul Gibson. Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote.

**c. Other business**

**i. Routine maintenance**

Mr. Chase reported that the Highway Department has spent most of its recent time performing routine winter road maintenance.

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

The Board discussed next steps in obtaining multiple bids for painting the library building's exterior.

- The Board agreed that Ms. Ford will draft a general advertisement inviting contractors to bid on painting the library; the advertisement will request a price for painting the entire building as well as

a price for painting just one side of the building. The due date for bid submission will be the first meeting in February (February 8).

**5. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Town Clerk's Office custodian Shirley Warden regarding wage payment schedule**

The Board read an email from Ms. Warden requesting that the Board cease paying her a weekly salary for her custodial services, and instead pay her based only on receipt of statements of hours worked.

Discussion ensued.

- Ms. Ford moved to pay Town Clerk's Office custodian Shirley Warden upon receipt of statements of hours worked instead of weekly salary. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

**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, correspondence from Vermont Department of Taxes regarding 2020 Equalization Study Results**

The Board reviewed the study results, as summarized below:

Education Grand List: \$244,033,700  
Equalized Education Grand List: \$245,033,507  
Common Level of Appraisal: 99.59% or 0.9959  
Coefficient of Dispersion: 5.63%

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

The Board reviewed a second draft of the proposed policy amendment, as revised based on the Board discussion their previous meeting.

- The Board agreed to approve the draft except for one small edit: the removal of any value limitation with regard to the bid process exception for professional services. The Board agreed to review and approve a third draft containing this edit at their next meeting.

**9. Consideration of, and take any action on, 2021 tax anticipation borrowing bids**

The Board reviewed bids for tax anticipation borrowing for calendar year 2021. Bids received are summarized below.

	<b>Loan Amount</b>	<b>Loan Rate</b>	<b>Deposit Rate</b>	<b>Line of Credit Rate</b>
Community National Bank	\$721,208.77	1.59%	1.84%	1.84%
Mascoma Bank	\$721,208.77	No bid	No bid	2.80%
Passumpsic Savings Bank:	\$721,208.77	1.19%	0.35%	1.14%
Union Bank:	\$721,208.77	0.75%	0.85%	1.10%

Treasurer Benjamin Heisholt presented an analysis of anticipated interest costs and earnings for each of the bids. Discussion ensued.

- Ms. Ford moved to accept the bid of Union Bank for a lump-sum loan of \$721,208.77 at a rate of 0.75% with reinvestment of proceeds in a deposit account with a rate of 0.85%. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

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

Ms. Ford discussed her recent communications with the abutting property owners. She suggested that the Board may benefit from her having a brief discussion of the matter with Town Attorney Steven Adler.

- The Board agreed to approve Ms. Ford's discussion of this matter with Town Attorney Steven Adler.

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

There was no new business to discuss regarding the next steps in the construction of the new town office.

- The Board agreed to table further discussion of this matter until after the Board has finalized the 2021 budget.

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

There was no new business to discuss regarding planning for the 2021 annual town meeting.

**13. Other business presented by Selectboard**

**a. Road sign security suggestion**

Ms. Ford reported that she had received a suggestion from a resident regarding a security device for prevention of sign theft. Road Foreman Mark Chase indicated that the Highway Department has tried using these devices in the past, but they have not proved effective. Discussion ensued.

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

The Board continued its review of the 2021 budget, briefly surveying the entire budget line-by-line and amending several revenue and expenditure line-items.

**15. Adjournment**

Ms. Ford moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

*A true copy.*

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