

**MINUTES – REMOTE REGULAR SELECTBOARD MEETING  
TOWN OF BARNET, VERMONT  
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2021**

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:** Kermit “Skip” Brill, Mona Marceau, and Kirt Mayland.

**1. Consideration of approval of minutes of regular meeting held January 25, 2021**

Ms. Ford moved to approve as presented the minutes of the regular meeting held January 25, 2021. 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, correspondence from Vermont Agency of Transportation regarding fiscal year 2022 Town Highway Grants, etc.**

The Board reviewed correspondence regarding town highway grant applications, annual town financial plan, certification of compliance for town road and bridge standards/network inventory, Class 2 centerline pavement marking, and town contact information. Mr. Chase discussed with the Board potential Class 2 paving grant projects. The Board noted that the State will allow towns to re-submit 2020 grant applications, because in 2020 grants were not awarded. The Town’s 2020 grant applications were for a paving project on Barnet Center Road and a culvert project on Roy Mountain Road. Mr. Chase suggested applying for a large combined grant project on Roy Mountain Road, which would include both paving and culvert replacements. Discussion ensued.

**b. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Vermont Agency of Transportation regarding special weight limits for highways and bridges**

The Board reviewed a letter and attached instructions regarding the Town’s annual obligation to report special weight limits for highways and bridges. Discussion ensued.

- Ms. Ford moved to report the same special weight limits in 2021 as were reported in 2020. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

**c. Other business**

**i. Winter road maintenance**

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

**4. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Frontage Road Land, LLC regarding preferred siting designation request for possible solar/conservation project**

The Board reviewed emails and attachments from Kirt Mayland of Frontage Road Land, LLC and Reservoir River Holdings regarding a request for preferred site designation for a proposed solar project off Garland Hill Road on the property of David Bogie (parcel ID #0014-01-80), as discussed at the previous Board meeting. Mr. Mayland appeared remotely and discussed the proposed project with the Board. Abutting land owner Kermit “Skip” Brill appeared remotely and discussed concerns about retaining all-terrain vehicle access on the property.

- The Board agreed to approve that the project location be designated as a “Preferred Site” under Section 5.103 of Rule 5.100, with the conditions that (1) the solar array would be located at least 150 feet off Garland Hill Road (with the trees along Garland Hill Road to remain), (2) at least 20 acres of the parcel would be placed into conservation, (3) the ATV club would continue to be able to utilize the dirt right-of-way to the west of the parcel, and (4) hunting would be permitted on the approximately 20 acres of conservation land; and with the stipulation that Frontage Road Land, LLC shall ensure upon its purchase of the land that these 4 conditions will “run with the land” and continue no matter any change in ownership of the land.

**5. Other business presented by other town officers**

There was no other business presented by other town officers.

**6. Consideration of, and take any action on, appointment of agent to convey real estate for lease-land property**

The Board reviewed correspondence from Town Agent Steven Adler regarding a real estate transaction involving a lease land property. The title insurance company involved in the transaction is of the opinion that Towns, such as Barnet, which initially decided to hold onto lease land and then decided after January 1, 2020 to give up lease land, now have to do a parcel-by-parcel release. Discussion ensued.

- Ms. Ford moved to release the lease land included in the real estate transaction and to appoint Steven Adler to be the Town’s agent to convey real estate for the transaction. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

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

The Board discussed plans for the February 23 informational hearing and the March 2 Australian ballot election.

- The Board agreed to advertise the hearing and election in the Caledonian Record and various social media outlets.

**8. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Caledonia Essex Area Ambulance Service, Inc. (CALEX) regarding appointment of Barnet representative on CALEX Board of Directors**

The Board reviewed correspondence indicating that Diane Thompson has been offered and accepted a seat on the CALEX Board of Directors, representing the Town of Barnet.

- Mr. Gates moved to ratify the appointment of Diane Thompson as Barnet representative on the CALEX Board of Directors. Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote.

**9. Consideration of, and take any action on, liquor license renewal application of West Barnet Quick Stop**

The Board reviewed the renewal application of West Barnet Quick Stop.

- The Board agreed to approve the application, and signed the application.

**10. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Springer Law Office regarding petition of T-Mobile pursuant to 30 V.S.A. § 248a(k) requesting a Certificate of Public Good for de minimis modification to a wireless telecommunications facility at 352 Tower Road**

The Board read a cover letter and reviewed the petition and associated documents in support of a petition on behalf of T-Mobile's application to the Vermont Public Utilities Commission to modify telecommunications antennas and equipment at an existing facility. Discussion ensued.

**11. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Caledonia County regarding fiscal year 2022 equalized grand list and county tax**

The Board reviewed an email and attached fiscal year 2022 budget information. The total county budget is proposed to be \$346,000; Barnet's county tax is proposed to be \$32,894.

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

The Board reviewed the final proposed 2021 budget, with a total tax appropriation of \$1,607,574.21. Discussion ensued.

- Ms. Ford moved to approve the final proposed 2021 budget. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

**13. Consideration of, and take any action on, proposed lease of second floor of public library building**

The Board reviewed the proposed two-year lease agreement, as approved at the previous Board meeting and signed by Ms. Ford and Karne Choling representative William Barry.

- Mr. Gates moved to ratify the Board's decision at its previous meeting to approve the proposed lease agreement. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

**14. Consideration of, and take any action on, applications for Uniform Municipal Excess Weight Permits**

The Board reviewed and approved the fleet applications of Bourne's Inc. & Bourne's Propane DBA Bourne's Energy, r.k. Miles, Inc., and VELCO.

**15. Other business presented by Selectboard**

No other business was presented by the Selectboard

**16. Adjournment**

Mr. Jefferson moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

*A true copy.*

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