

**MINUTES – REMOTE REGULAR SELECTBOARD MEETING
TOWN OF BARNET, VERMONT
MONDAY, MARCH 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: Jonathan Carpenter, Frank Jannarone, Heather Lindstrom, “Laura,” Kathleen Monroe, Skip Morrison, and “Romes.”

Ms. Ford called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. She indicated that there had been miscommunication indicating that the Board would be on video for this remote meeting. She reported that the Board would not be on video and that this matter would be further discussed under #7.

1. Consideration of approval of minutes of regular meeting held February 22, 2021

- Ms. Ford moved to approve as presented the minutes of the regular meeting held February 22, 2021. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

2. Organization of the Board:

a. Appoint Chair

- Mr. Jefferson moved to appoint Co-Chairs of Benjamin Gates and Dylan Ford. Seconded by Mr. Gates and approved by voice vote.

b. Appoint Road Commissioner(s)

- Ms. Ford moved to appoint Benjamin Gates as Road Commissioner. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

c. Appoint Tree Warden

- Mr. Gates moved to appoint Stanley Robinson as Tree Warden. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

d. Appoint Town Attorney

- Ms. Ford moved to appoint Steven Adler as Town Attorney. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

e. Appoint Grand Juror

- Ms. Ford moved to appoint David Willis as Grand Juror. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

f. Set date and time of meetings

- Ms. Ford moved to continue to hold regular meetings on the second and fourth Mondays of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Clerk’s Office. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

3. Annual review of Ordinance for Regulating All-Terrain Vehicles (ATVs)

The Board reviewed a list and a map of town highways, or sections thereof, requested. The request is for the same access as was granted in 2020. Discussion ensued. The Board members indicated that they had not received any complaints about operation of ATVs on town highways during the 2020 season.

- Mr. Jefferson moved to renew the Ordinance for Regulating All-Terrain Vehicles (ATVs) as adopted in 2010, with changes only in the modification of permitted town highway use; this new permitted use being as requested by the Barnet Trailblazers ATV Club at this Board meeting, to include all or a portion of Anderson Street, Barnet Center Road, Bony Woods Road, Brook Hill Road, Chamberlain Road, Cloud Brook Road, Ferguson Road, Garland Hill Road, Gilfillan Road, Goss Hill Road, Joe's Brook Road, Keyser Hill Road, Knights Lane, Little Scotland Road, McLaren Hill Road, Morse's Mill Road, Roy Mountain Road, Water Andric Road, West Barnet Road, West Main Street, and Whitehill Rd. Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote.

4. Other business presented by members of the public

There was no other business presented by members of the public.

5. Appearance by Road Foreman Mark Chase regarding Highway Department matters; take any action

a. Consideration of, and take any action on, 2021 Vermont Class 2 Roadway and Structures Grant applications

- Mr. Chase discussed his meeting with a contractor regarding the proposed construction project on Roy Mountain Road.
- Mr. Chase discussed his meeting with Timothy Ruggles of Ruggles Engineering and Mr. Gates at the bridge over the Stevens River on Garland Hill in West Barnet. He reported that Mr. Ruggles is optimistic that the project may be done without State of Vermont grant funding for approximately \$100,000. A more exact estimate and an engineering report will follow.
- The Board also discussed the bridge on Carter Street as a possible candidate for a Structures Grant application.

b. Other business

i. Carbide stinger tips for grader

Mr. Chase reported that the grader requires 100 new carbide stinger tips. The cost for these is quoted at \$24.15 each. Discussion ensued.

- Mr. Jefferson moved to authorize the purchase of 100 carbide stinger tips at the price of \$24.15. Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote.

ii. Pick-up truck check engine light

Mr. Chase reported that the check engine light on the pick-up truck (#007) recently illuminated. The code for the light indicated a possibility that the catalytic converter will require replacement. The cost for the repair is quoted at \$2,450. The dealer (Wells River Chevrolet) turned off the check engine light; it has not yet re-illuminated. Mr. Jefferson indicated that he had looked at the technical codes for the check engine light and found that the issue may fall under the extended warranty.

iii. Mud repair

Mr. Chase reported that the Highway Department is preparing to repair muddy roads in the forecasted stretch of warmer weather.

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, accommodations for public meeting participants with hearing impairments

Ms. Ford indicated that the Board had received an email from resident Kathleen Monroe, who requests accommodations for hearing-impaired persons at remote/electronic public meetings, including the use of video in addition to audio conferencing, and complains that previous requests of a similar nature had not been granted. Ms. Ford reported on her investigations into the Board's obligations to provide accommodations pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and into various options for accommodations. Ms. Ford stated that the Board had not yet received a specific request from a person with a hearing impairment; such a request would obligate the Board to provide accommodations if such accommodations would not constitute an undue burden on the Town or hinder the delivery of services to residents and taxpayers. Possible accommodations under the ADA include use of closed captioning or transcription service or the service of a sign language translator. The preferred accommodation is not generally the use of video. Ms. Ford indicated that the Board is exploring the possibility of adding closed captioning or transcription to its remote/electronic public meetings, but does not plan to use video in the near future because it seems to cause significant delays and gaps in video-audio feed. Discussion ensued.

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

The Board reviewed the bids as opened at their most recent meeting. The Board reviewed emails from Skip Morrison of Cousin's Painting, which addressed some of the Board's questions about his bid. Mr. Morrison also appeared remotely at this meeting and answered further questions from the Board. Mr. Jefferson discussed his communications with bidder Jake Stevenson. Mr. Stevenson indicated that his painting would be with a brush, not a sprayer.

- The Board agreed to further review the bids and table a decision on this matter to the next meeting.

9. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Reservoir Road Holdings regarding proposed Garland Hill solar project

The Board reviewed an email from Kirt Mayland indicating that, "After a series of conversations with [Green Mountain Power] the past few days it does not appear as if the cost of interconnection at that location will permit the project to go forward."

10. Consideration of, and take any action on, appropriation request from Pleasantview Cemetery

The Board reviewed a letter dated February 7, 2021 and received March 4, 2021, which requests a 2021 tax appropriation of \$6,750, including \$2,000 for headstone cleaning. The Board noted that the letter is received after the Board determined the Town's budget and the Town voters passed that budget. The budgeted appropriation is the same as it was in 2020, \$4,750. Discussion ensued.

- The Board agreed that Ms. Ford will discuss this matter with Jeffery Riley, Secretary/Treasurer of the Cemetery.

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

- The Board reviewed and approved the fleet applications of Connecticut Valley Trucking, Inc., Irving Oil, N. A. Manosh, Inc., Newton/ DuBois Construction Inc., and Spafford & Sons of Williston VT, Inc.

12. Other business presented by Selectboard

No other business was presented by the Selectboard.

13. Adjournment

Mr. Jefferson moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

A true copy.

Attest: _____ *Town Clerk*