

**MINUTES – REMOTE REGULAR SELECTBOARD MEETING
TOWN OF BARNET, VERMONT
MONDAY, APRIL 12, 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: Town Attorney Steven Adler, Collector of Delinquent Tax Lisa Bowden, Road Foreman Mark Chase, and Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt.

Members of the public participating via GoToMeeting telephone or video conference: Jonathan Carpenter, and “Chief.”

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

- Ms. Ford moved to approve as presented the minutes of the regular meeting held March 22, 2021. 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, 2021 Vermont Class 2 Roadway and Structures Grant applications

Mr. Chase and the Board discussed a project that would involve applications for both Class 2 Roadway and Structures grants, the scope of which would include rebuilding 3,500 feet (0.6 mile) of Roy Mountain Road southwest of its intersection with Garland Hill and including the portion that passes MacLeroy Lane. The project would rebuild the road base, install/replace several culverts, and pave the road surface. The total cost is expected to be approximately \$500,000.

- Ms. Ford moved to submit applications for Vermont Agency of Transportation Class 2 Roadway and Structures grants for the proposed project on Roy Mountain Road. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

b. Consideration of, and take any action on, quotes for town highway paving

The Board and Mr. Chase reviewed and discussed quotes from Blacktop and Pike Industries for proposed pavement resurfacing projects for 2021. Blacktop’s quotes reflect prices of \$75.00 to \$77.00 per ton for a depth of 1 ½ inches; Pike Industries’ quote reflects a price of \$70.89 per ton for a depth of 2 inches. These quotes are summarized below:

<u>Project</u>	<u>Blacktop</u>	<u>Pike Industries</u>
Academy Lane	\$13,754.70	\$16,304.70
Barnet Center Road	\$100,633.88	\$114,841.80
Groton Road	\$50,530.00	\$67,770.84
Harvey Mountain Road	\$120,188.25	\$129,728.70

- Ms. Ford moved to accept the quotes of Pike Industries for projects on Academy Lane, Groton Road, and Harvey Mountain Road, for a total of \$213,804.24.

c. Consideration of, and take any action on, quotes for stripping of gravel pit for sand and gravel extraction

The Board reviewed and discussed with Mr. Chase one bid received from Mathews Excavating, with a price of \$1.15 per cubic yard. Mr. Chase indicated that he had also solicited bids from three other contractors who did not respond.

- Mr. Jefferson moved to accept the bid of Mathews Excavating. Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote.

d. Other business

i. Chloride bids

The Board reviewed one bid for supply of chloride for the 2021 season.

- The Board agreed to table the decision on supplier of chloride to the next meeting.

ii. New dump truck update

Mr. Chase reported that assembly of the new dump truck is on schedule; it is expected to be delivered to R.R. Charlebois in two weeks, then be transferred to Tenco for installation of the body, etc.

iii. Grange Hall Lane

Mr. Jefferson indicated that he had received an inquiry from the Bayley-Hazen Snowmobile Club regarding use of Grange Hall Lane as a snowmobile trail. Mr. Chase indicated that the road is not a Town Highway but a private road.

4. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Collector of Delinquent Taxes Lisa Bowden regarding proposed tax sale proceedings

The Board read an email from Ms. Bowden, which reads: "This letter will serve to notify the Selectboard that I will soon be seeking legal assistance to move some delinquent properties to enforced collection action, including tax sale. I anticipate widening my search as there may be a conflict with the town attorney." Ms. Bowden appeared remotely at this meeting and indicated that she is seeking Board approval for legal expenses for several tax sale proceedings.

- Ms. Ford moved to approve payment of legal fees for several tax sale proceedings per Ms. Bowden's request. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

5. Consideration of, and take any action on, Green Up Day operations at Transfer Station

The Board reviewed email correspondence from Transfer Station & Recycling Center Supervisor Bruce Marston and Green Up Day Coordinator Caroline Demaio. The emails discuss the logistics of number and location of open-top (construction) dumpsters at the Transfer Station.

- The Board agreed to approve the use of open-top dumpsters or compactor for Green-Up collections, per Mr. Marston's discretion.

6. Other business presented by other town officers

a. Recycling Center security

The Board reviewed and discussed an email from Transfer Station & Recycling Center Supervisor Bruce Marston regarding a recent break-in at the Recycling Center and proposed improved security.

- Mr. Gates moved to approve the expenditure of up to \$150 for a security camera at the Recycling Center. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

7. Consideration of, and take any action on, quotes for landfill groundwater monitoring wells repair and decommissioning

Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt indicated that the Town is awaiting the submission of a second quote on the proposed monitoring well project.

- The Board agreed to table this matter.

8. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regarding determination to remove landfill from federal remedial action designation

The Board reviewed and discussed a letter indicating that the “EPA Superfund program completed its investigation of this site on October 28, 2020 and determined that this site was not an appropriate candidate for further federal remedial action.”

9. Consideration of, and take any action on, proposed conversion of remote meeting service from GoToMeeting to Zoom

Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt reviewed, and the Board discussed, information comparing GoToMeeting and Zoom. Below is summary of this information:

	<u>GoToMeeting (Pro)</u>	<u>Zoom (Business)</u>
Subscription cost (monthly)	\$19.00	\$14.99
Subscription cost (annually)	\$192.00	\$149.90
Toll-free audio cost (monthly)	\$5.00	\$100.00
Maximum participants	250	100

- The Board agreed to retain its subscription with GoToMeeting and not change to Zoom.

10. Consideration of, and take any action on, bidders for supplier of diesel fuel, heating fuel and propane for 2021-2022 season

Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt asked the Board which vendors to which they would like to send requests for bids on delivery of diesel fuel, heating fuel, and propane for the ensuing heating year. Discussion ensued.

- The Board agreed to send bid requests to Patten’s Gas, Fred’s Energy, Calkins Oil, Dead River Company, Walter E. Jock Company, CN Brown, D & C Transportation, Inc., Irving Oil, Bourne’s Energy, and Thomson Fuels.

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

Ms. Ford indicated that she had not spoken to Sexton Jeffery Riley regarding the cemetery’s 2021 appropriation request.

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

- The Board reviewed and approved the fleet applications of Calkins, Casella Construction, Inc., Fred’s Energy, Harold’s Concrete Construction, Limlaw Chipping & Land Clearing, Inc., and Thomson Fuels, LLC

13. Other business presented by Selectboard

a. Cemetery stone repair

Ms. Ford reported that she had spoken to Tom Gandin regarding cleaning and repair of stones at the Stevens Cemetery and Palmer Cemetery. Mr. Gandin will visit these cemeteries and report to the Board with a maintenance plan including cost estimates.

b. Anderson Street dogs and debris in river

Ms. Ford reports that she had received verbal complaints regarding dogs kept at 205 Anderson Street and regarding tires/debris thrown in the Stevens River by residents of this same address. Discussion ensued.

c. Barnet Fire District #2 water improvement project

Jonathan Carpenter, of the Fire District #2 Prudential Committee, appeared remotely and reported that the fire district will accept bids for their water improvement project on April 23. Parts of Church Street will require resurfacing as a result of this project. Discussion ensued.

d. Consideration of, and take any action on, Town Hall boundary line research, discussion, and negotiations

- Ms. Ford moved that the Board make a specific finding, pursuant to 1 V.S.A. Section 313 (a)(1)(F), that premature public knowledge of discussion concerning Town Hall boundary line research, discussions, and negotiations, including confidential attorney-client communications made for the purpose of providing professional legal services to the Board, would clearly place the Town of Barnet at a substantial disadvantage. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.
- Ms. Ford moved that the Board enter executive session pursuant to 1 V.S.A. Section 313 (a)(1)(F) to discuss Town Hall boundary line research, discussions, and negotiations, including confidential attorney-client communications made for the purpose of providing professional legal services to the Board, as premature public disclosure of which would clearly place the Town of Barnet at a substantial disadvantage. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote. Entered executive session at 8:18 p.m. Those present in executive session: Ms. Ford, Mr. Gates, Mr. Jefferson, Town Attorney Steven Adler, and Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt.
- Ms. Ford moved to exit executive session. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote. Exited executive session at 8:47 p.m.
- No action taken.

14. Adjournment

Mr. Jefferson moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 8:48 p.m.

A true copy.

Attest: _____ *Town Clerk*