

**MINUTES – REMOTE REGULAR SELECTBOARD MEETING
TOWN OF BARNET, VERMONT
MONDAY, APRIL 26, 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: 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: Sherry Barrett, Jonathan Carpenter, Jane Casavant, Stephen Casavant, and Mona Marceau.

1. Consideration of approval of minutes of regular meeting held April 12, 2021

- Ms. Ford moved to approve as presented the minutes of the regular meeting held April 12, 2021. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

2. Consideration of Animal Control Complaints regarding dogs kept at 205 Anderson Street

The Board reviewed two animal control complaints regarding dogs kept at 205 Anderson Street. Both complaints report that multiple dogs (four or five) have been heard howling and barking most of the day since May 2020. The Board reviewed 2021 licensing information for nine dogs licensed by Sherry Barrett at the address indicated above. The Board noted that Ms. Barrett was issued a notice of violation for a similar complaint in 2020.

Complainants Jane and Stephen Casavant, who are next-door neighbors to Sherry Barrett, appeared remotely and discussed their experience of excessive noise from Ms. Barrett's dogs. They indicated that Ms. Barrett has taken some steps to improve the situation, such as hanging a blanket in one of the windows, and that the problem had improved for a period, but that it has since intensified to an intolerable level. The Board indicated that they had viewed a video of the dogs barking as submitted by Ms. Casavant.

Ms. Barrett also appeared remotely. She indicated that one puppy, among the nine dogs licensed, has left the property and that she has found homes for two more puppies; this will soon decrease the total number of dogs on the property to six. She indicated that she has attempted control the noise and has sought professional dog training, but finds that the remaining dogs (an English mastiff, two beagles, and three coon hounds) are territorial and loud barkers by nature.

- Ms. Ford moved to assess a \$75 civil penalty for this second violation and issue a warning that the excessive noise must cease or the next violation will be met with greater penalties and possible impoundment. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

3. Other business presented by members of the public

a. Fire District #2 Prudential Committee Chair Jonathan Carpenter regarding Barnet Village water system infrastructure project

Mr. Carpenter appeared remotely and reported on the Fire District's water system project planned for 2021. He and the Board discussed the logistics of the project as they relate to road closures and

paving. Mr. Carpenter agreed to meet on site with Road Foreman Mark Chase to review the proposed project.

b. Collector of Delinquent Tax Lisa Bowden regarding proposed tax sales

Ms. Bowden appeared remotely and reported that Attorney James Murphy of the law firm Zuccaro & Willis has agreed to represent the Town in the proposed upcoming tax sales.

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

a. Consideration of, and take any action on, Roy Mountain Road construction project

The Board reviewed bids for excavation, culvert replacements, road base and drainage, and road construction services for the Roy Mountain Road construction project. Bids were received from three vendors, as listed below.

C & C Bunnell Excavating: \$123,550 (\$100.00 per hour for trucking)

Chief Crushing & Excavation, Inc.: \$179,416 (\$85.00 per hour for trucking)

Mathews Excavating: \$216,783 (\$85.00 per hour for trucking)

The Board noted that all three bids were imperfect with regard to matching the Town's specifications for the project. The Board attempted to harmonize the bids to determine the approximate comparative costs of each. The Board agreed that Mathews Excavating's bid most closely represented all the costs associated with the project per the Board's specifications.

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

b. Consideration of, and take any action on, quotes for supplier of chloride

The Board reviewed the only quote submitted, from Innovative Surface Solutions. This quote has a cost of \$0.83 per gallon for 4,300 estimated gallons.

- Ms. Ford moved to accept the quote of Innovative Surface Solutions. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

c. Other business

i. Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) training

Mr. Chase reported that the Highway Department employees had completed their required MSHA training.

ii. Routine road maintenance

Mr. Chase reported that the Highway Department has been spending much of its time performing routine road maintenance, including grading and rock-raking.

iii. Whitehill Road mud

Ms. Ford reported that she had received in inquiry about why a particular stretch of Whitehill Road is persistently muddy. Mr. Chase indicated that this section is swampy with poor drainage, likely with clay under the road surface.

5. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Northeast Kingdom Broadband Communications Union District (NEKCUD) regarding appointment of representatives to the governing board

The Board reviewed an email and attached form regarding the appointment of a representative and alternate representative to the NEKCUD.

- The Board completed and signed the form, appointing Kathleen Monroe as representative and Jerri Kohl as alternate.

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

The Board reviewed and discussed quotes from Gould Well Drilling and Platform Environmental Drilling and Remediation Services. Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt indicated that the scope of the project had been narrowed, now including only the decommissioning of one monitoring well per Vermont Agency of Natural Resources standards. Gould Well Drilling's quote totals \$613.50; Platform Environmental Drilling and Remediation Services' quote totals \$1,414.

- Mr. Gates moved to accept the quote of Gould Well Drilling. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

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

Ms. Ford reported that she had spoken with Pleasantview Cemetery Sexton Jeffery Riley, who indicated that a stone repair contractor had visited the cemetery to provide an assessment and service cost estimate. Mr. Riley indicated that the cemetery commission is satisfied to request funding for the project in 2022.

8. Consideration of, and take any action on, preparations for Memorial Day observances

The Board discussed details of plans for Memorial Day observances to be held Sunday, May 30, 2021 at the Passumpsic Village and Barnet Village memorial monuments.

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

The Board reviewed and approved the fleet applications of Chief Logging & Chipping Services, Inc. and Chief Crushing & Excavation, Inc.

10. Other business presented by Selectboard

11. Consideration of, and take any action on, Town Hall boundary line research, discussion, and negotiations (executive session anticipated pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(1)(F))

- 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, 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 8:28 p.m.
- No action taken.

12. Adjournment

Mr. Jefferson moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

A true copy.

Attest: _____ *Town Clerk*