

**MINUTES –REGULAR SELECTBOARD MEETING
TOWN OF BARNET, VERMONT
MONDAY, JULY 26, 2021**

Meeting convened at 7:00 p.m. in the conference room of the Barnet Fire & Rescue Station.

Board members present: Dylan Ford (presiding co-chair), Benjamin Gates, and Mark Jefferson.

Other Town officials and employees present: Road Foreman Mark Chase, Trustee of Public Funds William Graves, Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt, and Zoning Administrative Officer Shirley Warden.

Members of the public present: Jonathan Carpenter and Kathryn Roosa.

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

- Mr. Gates moved to approve as presented the minutes of the regular meeting held July 12, 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, paving of Church Street and Monument Circle in connection with Fire District #2 water infrastructure project

Fire District Prudential Committee Chair Jonathan Carpenter indicated that there has been a delay in procurement of PVC culvert, but the project remains on schedule.

b. Consideration of, and take any action on, 2021 Roy Mountain Road construction project

Mr. Chase reported that Mathews Excavating may commence work on culverts the week of August 2. The Board discussed public posting of road closures.

c. Consideration of, and take any action on, scrapping of replaced dump truck

The Board reviewed an email from the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation regarding scheduling for scrapping. The email states that, “it is fine to move the truck to the property of the party that is interested in salvaging the remains and then scrapping the truck there prior to selling and truck components.” Discussion ensued.

d. Consideration of, and take any action on, highway access on Goodwillie Road

Mr. Chase reported that he had inspected the new highway access on Goodwillie Road, as per the Board’s instructions at their previous meeting. He indicated that the new access is not problematic and is similar to the access for which a permit was issued in 2019.

e. Other business

i. New dump truck

Mr. Chase reported that the new dump truck is delivered, in use, and functional.

ii. Thank you from resident/taxpayer

Mr. Chase shared with the Board a “thank you” note from a resident/taxpayer of Old Silo Road expressing appreciation for the Highway Department’s grading and ditching work on that road.

iii. Warden Road tree

Resident Shirley Warden reported that there is a yellow birch tree on Warden Road that overhangs the road lowly and hazardously. Discussion ensued regarding problems of this nature on a number of roads, owing to recent rains.

iv. Crushing progress

Mr. Chase reported that approximately one-half of gravel crushing is completed. The crusher temporarily has left the site because more blasting must be done.

4. Appearance by Trustees of Public Funds regarding authority for expenditure of public funds

Trustee of Public Funds William Graves appeared and presented copies of documents from 1999 relating to the original creation of the Esden Fund and formation and election of the Trustees of Public Funds. Mr. Graves indicated that although these documents seem to give broad powers to the Trustees in tracking and caring for the funds and an advisory function in any expenditure of funds, they seem to give final authority for expenditure of fund income to the Selectboard. Mr. Graves discussed the history of the financial management of the Town portion of the fund.

Mr. Graves indicated that the Trustees would support expenditure of Esden Fund income for maintenance, repair, and improvements to these grounds and facilities. He also discussed the condition and maintenance of other Town buildings and properties.

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, policy regarding wearing of face masks and/or other public health measures in public buildings

The Board reviewed an email from Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt indicating that a member of the Board of Civil Authority has expressed a preference not to attend a public meeting where vaccination is not a requirement for attendees, mask wearing is not required, and attendees are not socially distanced. The Board also reviewed an email from the Vermont League of Cities and Towns, which advises regarding the Town's authority to adopt face-mask wearing mandates and other public health measures for public buildings. The email indicates that the Selectboard has authority to create this type of policy, but the Board of Civil Authority does not. Resident Kathryn Roosa appeared and suggested that the Board consider adopting a face mask requirement for public meetings. Discussion ensued.

- The Board agreed not to adopt a policy at this time.

7. Consideration of, and take any action on, Town Hall/Fire Station asbestos abatement

The Board reviewed an email from Clay Point Associates (CPA). The email reviews the results of the March 2020 asbestos abatement contractor bidding process, in which Environmental Hazards Management (EHM) was the low bidder by a significant margin. CPA recently contacted EHM, who proposed a cost increase of \$1,600, bringing their bid price to \$15,705.

- Mr. Gates moved to agreed to contract with EHM to abate asbestos at the Town Hall/Fire Station for the bid price of \$15,705. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

8. Consideration of, and take any action on, Transfer Station & Recycling Center facilities maintenance

The Board noted that there were no new developments with regard to this matter and agreed to table discussion to the next meeting.

9. Consideration of, and take any action on, list of dogs and wolf-hybrids not licensed or inoculated as required by law

The Board reviewed and certified a list of 46 unlicensed dogs.

- Mr. Gates moved to request that the Town Clerk's Office send notices to the owners of unlicensed dogs. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

10. Other business presented by Selectboard

a. Harvey's Lake Public Beach water testing

Town Health Officer Ms. Ford discussed her recent communications with members of the public, Deputy Town Health Officer Emil Pollack, and the State of Vermont regarding testing of public bathing water at Harvey's Lake Public Beach. Ms. Ford reported that testing for e. coli and coliform costs \$15 per test and testing for blue-green algae is considerably more costly. She indicated that testing is not mandatory per state requirements, but the State recommends testing for e. coli and coliform weekly.

- The Board agreed to approve expenditures for testing for e. coli and coliform a few times per year.

b. Planning Commission/Zoning Board legal advice

Ms. Ford reported that she had received a request from a member of the Planning Commission/Zoning Board for Selectboard approval of expenditure for legal advice on a possible zoning violation issue. Discussion ensued.

11. Consideration of, and take any action on, applications for employment for full-time Highway Department position (executive session anticipated pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(3))

- Mr. Gates moved to enter executive session to discuss applications for employment for full-time Highway Department position pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(3). Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote. Entered executive session at 8:17 p.m. Those present in executive session: Ms. Ford, Mr. Gates, Mr. Jefferson, Road Foreman Mark Chase and Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt.
- Mr. Gates moved to exit executive session. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote. Exited executive session at 8:50 p.m.
- No action taken.

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

The Board noted that there were no new developments in the matter and agreed to table further discussion to the next meeting.

13. Adjournment

- Mr. Gates moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

A true copy.

Attest: _____ *Town Clerk*