

**MINUTES –REGULAR SELECTBOARD MEETING
TOWN OF BARNET, VERMONT
MONDAY, AUGUST 9, 2021**

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

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

Other Town officials and employees present: Road Foreman Mark Chase, Trustee of Public Funds George Copenrath, Beach Committee Chair Christen Emerson, Lister John Fairchild, Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt, Beach Committee Member Jennifer Kierstead, Fire & Rescue Chief Ronald Morse, and Zoning Administrative Officer Shirley Warden.

Members of the public present: Jonathan Carpenter.

1. Consideration of approval of minutes of regular meeting held July 26, 2021

- Ms. Ford moved to approve as presented the minutes of the regular meeting held July 26, 2021. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson.
- Trustee of Public Funds George Copenrath indicated that, under item #4 of the minutes, the first sentence of the second paragraph does not accurately reflect the discussion and acts of the Trustees of Public Funds; he suggested that this sentence be omitted from the minutes.
- Ms. Ford withdrew her original motion and moved that the minutes be amended in the manner suggested by Mr. Copenrath and approved. 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. Consideration of, and take any action on, expenditure for legal opinion for Planning Commission/Zoning Board

Zoning Administrative Officer Shirley indicated that there had been no change in this matter since the last Board meeting: no application has been submitted and no Planning Commission/Zoning Board meeting has been held.

- The Board agreed to table this matter.

4. 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

The Board and Mr. Chase discussed the project with Fire District Prudential Committee Chair Jonathan Carpenter. Mr. Carpenter indicated that the Fire District continues to await delivery of necessary pipe for the project.

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

Mr. Chase reported on continuing work on this project, indicating that the first culvert replacement is complete.

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

Mr. Chase reported that the scrappage of dump truck #004 is scheduled for Friday, August 20, 2021 at John Bogie's garage in McIndoe Falls.

d. Consideration of, and take any action on, execution of agreement for municipal mitigation grants-in-aid for fiscal year 2022

The Board reviewed a standard grant agreement for the grants-in-aid project.

- The Board signed the grant agreement.

e. Other business

i. Routine summer projects and maintenance

Mr. Chase reported that the Highway Department continues to perform routine summer projects and road maintenance, including hauling gravel from the gravel pit and grading gravel roads.

5. Other business presented by other town officers

No other business was presented by other town officers.

6. Consideration of, and take any action on, expenditure of public funds for Harvey's Lake Beach playground project

Trustee of Public Funds George Coppenrath appeared and discussed the Trustees' recent decisions with regard to funding for the Beach. The Trustees approved a \$15,000 transfer from the Esden Fund to the Town Treasurer for the playground project, pending Selectboard approval. Mr. Coppenrath also reported that the Trustees had agreed to earmark some additional Esden Fund cash, perhaps a few thousand dollars, for other Beach improvements.

Beach Committee Chair Christen Emerson presented playground funding quotes that indicate total needed funds as \$26,998 and a current Beach Reserve Fund balance of \$19,109.08, resulting in additional needed funds of \$7,888.92.

- Ms. Ford moved to transfer \$15,000 from the Esden Fund to the Beach Reserve Fund for installation of a new playground and for other Beach improvements. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

7. Consideration of, and take any action on, certification of 2021 property tax rates

The Board reviewed the certification of tax rates for 2021, as prepared by Treasurer Benjamin Heisholt. Total tax rates (including all municipal and education taxes) are 2.2958 for homestead and for 2.2103 for non-homestead.

- Ms. Ford moved to approve the rates as presented. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote. The Board signed the certification.

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

The Board reviewed a proposed Asbestos Abatement Agreement as presented by Environmental Hazards Management per the Board's decision at their previous meeting.

- Ms. Ford moved to instruct Selectboard Clerk Benjamin Heisholt to sign the agreement. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

9. Consideration of, and take any action on, sign for Fire & Rescue Station

Mr. Jefferson reported that he had not yet been in contact with Scott Davis regarding this project. Fire & Rescue Chief Ronald Morse appeared and indicated that the Fire & Rescue Department would like to have input into the design of the sign. Discussion ensued.

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

The Board discussed design possibilities for improvement of the Transfer Station's compactor shed.

11. Consideration of, and take any action on, Town Clerk's Office roof warranty and repair/replacement

Ms. Ford reported that she had received an informal estimate for painting the Town Clerk's Office roof at \$4,000. Discussion ensued.

12. Consideration of, and take any action on, memorial for veterans of wars in Iraq and Afghanistan

The Board continued to discuss plans for a memorial at the Barnet Village monument.

- The Board agreed that Ms. Ford will contact Barnet resident/veteran David Curtin and Mr. Gates will contact Roland Bigelow of Veterans of Foreign Wars to gather information about how to proceed.

13. Other business presented by members of the public

a. John Fairchild regarding Stevens and Palmer Cemetery brush cutting

Mr. Fairchild indicated that he has been performing brush cutting at Stevens and Palmer Cemeteries. He asked if the Board would approve the Highway Department's assistance with the project in picking up and chipping brush.

14. Other business presented by Selectboard

No other business was presented by the Selectboard.

15. Consideration of, and take any action on, candidates for employment for full-time Highway Department position

- Ms. Ford moved to enter executive session to discuss candidates 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 7:39 p.m. Those present in executive session: Ms. Ford, Mr. Gates, Mr. Jefferson, Road Foreman Mark Chase 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 8:08 p.m.
- No action taken.

16. 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.

17. Adjournment

- Ms. Ford moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

A true copy.

Attest: _____ *Town Clerk*