

# DRAFT

## MINUTES –REGULAR SELECTBOARD MEETING TOWN OF BARNET, VERMONT MONDAY, AUGUST 23, 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:** Collector of Delinquent Tax Lisa Bowden, Road Foreman Mark Chase, Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt, Fire & Rescue Chief Ronald Morse, and Zoning Administrative Officer Shirley Warden.

**Members of the public present:** Caledonia County Sheriff's Deputy James Hemond, Jonathan Carpenter, and Wallace Thrall.

### 1. Consideration of approval of minutes of special meeting held August 9, 2021

- Mr. Gates moved to approve as presented the minutes of the special meeting held August 9, 2021. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

### 2. Consideration of approval of minutes of regular meeting held August 9, 2021

- Mr. Gates moved to approve as presented the minutes of the regular meeting held August 9, 2021. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

### 3. Consideration of approval of minutes of special meeting held August 16, 2021

- Mr. Gates moved to approve as presented the minutes of the special meeting held August 16, 2021. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

### 4. Appearance by Caledonia County Sheriff's Department regarding contracted patrols; take any action

Sheriff's Deputy James Hemond appeared and discussed with the Board the Sheriff's Department's patrols of Barnet in recent months and any potential changes to patrol patterns.

### 5. Other business presented by members of the public

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

### 6. Appearance by Collector of Delinquent Tax Lisa Bowden regarding 2021 tax sales

Ms. Bowden appeared and discussed with the Board the tax sale scheduled for October 13, 2021. She indicated that the reserve bid for each auction will be the total outstanding balance for the parcel including tax, interest, penalties, and all other costs. She indicated that the Board must determine what, if any, action will be taken by the Town if a reserve bid is not met.

### 7. 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 appeared. He reported that the project will commence not later than September 20, 2021.

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

Mr. Chase reported that the Highway Department awaits the availability of excavation contractor Mathews Excavating. The project did not progress in the past week because the contractor was unavailable.

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

Mr. Chase reported that the replaced dump truck (#004) was scrapped on Friday, August 20, 2021: the frame was cut and a three-inch hole was cut in the engine. Final grant documents must now be submitted for completion of the grant project.

**d. Other business**

**i. Regular maintenance and activities**

Mr. Chase reported that on routine Highway Department activities of recent weeks, including grading, chloride application, replacing street signs, roadside mowing, stockpiling materials, and blasting in the gravel pit for crushing activities.

**8. 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.

- The Board agreed to table this matter.

**9. Other business presented by other town officers**

There was no other business presented by other town officers.

**10. Consideration of, and take any action on, remote public access to Selectboard meetings**

The Board discussed the possibility of offering remote public access to Selectboard meetings through Zoom or similar software, in light of recent requests for remote access to public meetings and the local rise in Covid-19 infections related to the Delta variant.

- The Board agreed to continue to monitor this issue and track inquiries related to it.

**11. Consideration of, and take any action on, next steps in municipal office building project**

- The Board agreed to table this matter.

**12. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from NEK Broadband regarding press release on funding and Interim Director**

The Board read a press release reporting that 1) NEK Broadband has received \$276,250 from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 to support the next steps in creating 2,800 miles of fiber optic cable-based internet in the Northeast Kingdom, and 2) NEK Broadband has appointed Christa Shute, Esq. as Interim Executive Director. Discussion ensued. Ms. Ford noted that NEK Broadband has requested a meeting with the Board at its September 27, 2021 regular meeting.

**13. Consideration of, and take any action on, proposed Municipal Planning Grant application of McIndoe Falls Academy**

The Board reviewed a letter “inquiring if the...Selectboard is willing to be the applicant and fiscal agent for an FY22 Municipal Planning Grant application to partially fund the feasibility and conceptual building design work for the McIndoe Falls Academy Community Center.” McIndoe Falls Academy Board President Wallace Thrall appeared to discuss this matter with the Board.

- The Board agreed to postpone a decision regarding this matter until after the Planning Commission/Zoning Board meets and considers if it may wish to pursue an FY22 Municipal Planning Grant.

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

Mr. Gates reported that he had spoken to building contractor Benjamin Adams, who indicated that he would inspect the site to provide a recommendation, but would not have time to perform the work in 2021.

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

Mr. Jefferson reported that he had spoken to Barnet carpenter Scott Davis, who reported that he does not fabricate signs in full color. Fire & Rescue Chief Ronald Morse appeared and discussed quotes he had received from The Sign Depot in Lyndon. One particular option is a 4' x 6' two-sided sign with a total cost installed of \$815.00.

- Mr. Gates moved to agree to purchase the sign from The Sign Depot as quoted at an installed cost of \$815.00. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

Discussion ensued regarding legal requirements and logistics for the installation of the sign.

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

Mr. Gates reported that he had spoken to Roland Bigelow of Veterans of Foreign Wars, as per the Board's discussion that their previous meeting. Mr. Bigelow suggested that the Board consider adding a bronze plaque to one of the existing stones. Ms. Ford reported that she had spoken to Barnet resident/veteran David Curtin, as per the Board's discussion at their previous meeting. Mr. Curtin suggested that he could inquire with the Veteran's Administration regarding names of veterans whose hometown is Barnet. Mr. Curtin had also inquired regarding the ownership of the monument. Discussion ensued.

**17. Other business presented by Selectboard**

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

The Board reviewed an email from Town Attorney Steven Adler, along with the original document of the Settlement Agreement and Boundary Line Agreement signed by the Board August 16, 2021. The version signed by the Board August 16, 2021 was a copy, not the original document.

- The Board signed the original document of the Settlement Agreement and Boundary Line Agreement.

**18. Adjournment**

- Mr. Gates 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*