

MINUTES-REGULAR SELECTBOARD MEETING

TOWN OF BARNET, VERMONT

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2021

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

Other Town officials and employees present: Planning Commission & Zoning Board Chair Benjamin Adams, Road Foreman Mark Chase, Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt, Dam Committee member Joseph Mangiapane, Fire & Rescue Chief Ronald Morse, and Zoning Administrative Officer Shirley Warden.

Members of the public present: Jonathan Carpenter and William Piper.

1. Consideration of approval of minutes of regular meeting held September 13, 2021

- Mr. Gates moved to approve as presented the minutes of the regular meeting held September 13, 2021. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

2. Appearance by Northeast Kingdom Broadband (NEKBB) regarding business plan

William Piper of NEKBB appeared. He discussed the NEKBB's business plan, their five-year plan to bring broadband access to every 911 address in the region, and how these will affect the Town of Barnet. Included in this discussion were consideration of the four phases of the five-year broadband project, constraints that could be stumbling blocks for the project, and how American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding could benefit the project. Mr. Piper discussed a proposed agreement between NEKBB and member towns (including Barnet) to leverage town ARPA funds for partial funding of the infrastructure needed for NEKBB's plan.

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

Mr. Gates discussed his communications with the Vermont Agency of Transportation, who indicated that Bimson Drive has a 180-foot right-of-way at the location of the Fire & Rescue Station. The Board discussed the difficulty this new information presents in installing a new sign. Fire & Rescue Chief Ronald Morse appeared and discussed his communications with The Sign Deport regarding various sign options.

4. Other business presented by members of the public

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

5. Other business presented by other town officers

a. Planning Commission/Zoning Board Chair Benjamin Adams regarding permit application enforcement

Mr. Adams reported that the Zoning Board is having difficulty with property owners who have taken unpermitted actions and have not responded to mailings requesting compliance with the Zoning Bylaws. He asked if the Board would approve expenditures for legal advice and activity.

- The Board requested that the Zoning Board first seek advice from the Vermont League of Cities & Towns.

6. 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 and reported that the Fire District expects the project to commence soon, but does not have a definite date. He indicated that, based on the projected timeline of the project, the Town should advise Blacktop, the paving company hired for the project, that paving of the road will be delayed to 2022.

b. Consideration of, and take any action on, permit for construction trailer/storage container and sign in connection with Fire District #2 water infrastructure project

Zoning Administrative Officer Shirley Warden appeared and discussed a construction trailer/storage container at the Fire & Rescue Station and a sign to be placed at Church Street in connection with the Fire District #2 project. Ms. Warden indicated that a zoning permit is required, and presented an application that she had prepared. Prudential Committee Chair Jonathan Carpenter appeared and signed the application on behalf of the Fire District.

- Mr. Gates moved to waive permit and recording fees for the zoning permit. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

c. Consideration of, and take any action on, Carter Street culvert

Resident Jonathan Carpenter appeared and discussed a culvert near his residence on Carter Street. He indicated that malfunction of the culvert is causing water to be deposited in his driveway during rain events.

- The Board instructed Mr. Chase to inspect the site and provide a recommendation.

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

Mr. Chase reported that project is proceeding as planned. He indicated that the base of the road had been re-built, including new fabric, drainage and culverts. Remaining tasks include application of fine materials on top of the base and paving.

e. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Vermont Agency of Transportation regarding Bridge #10 over Passumpsic River on Comerford Dam Road

The Board noted that this correspondence is in regard to Bridge #10, not Bridge #3 as indicated in the agenda. The Board again reviewed and discussed the correspondence as originally discussed at the previous meeting. The required response form must include an estimated completion date for repairs. Mr. Chase indicated that he planned to meet with Shauna Clifford on September 29 to discuss this matter.

f. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Northeastern Vermont Development Association regarding Municipal Roads Grants-in-Aid Program for equipment purchase

The Board reviewed an email and attachment discussing available funding to purchase specific equipment to assist in maintaining roads to comply with the Municipal Roads General Permit. The Board discussed purchase of a leaf blower to clean leaves and sediment from ditches and reduce culvert plugging.

- The Board agreed to sign a letter of intent to participate in the program, pending Mr. Chase's investigation into the usefulness of a leaf blower.
- g. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Vermont Agency of Transportation regarding Transportation Alternatives Program Grant Opportunity**
The Board reviewed an email reporting the availability of funding for transportation alternatives projects.
- The Board agreed to not apply for this grant opportunity.
- h. Consideration of, and take any action on, uniform municipal excess weight permit applications**
The Board reviewed and approved the single-vehicle applications of T.B. Lincoln Loggers, Inc. and David Welch Trucking.
- i. Other business**
- i. Overhead doors**
Mr. Chase reported that one of the overhead doors at the Town Garage requires replacement of rails and the bottom panel of the door. He indicated that he had received one quote of \$3,500.
- The Board instructed Mr. Chase to request a quote from one other vendor.
- ii. Construction cones**
Fire & Rescue Chief Ronald Morse indicated that he had received a report that several orange construction cones belonging to the Town of Barnet had been delivered to the St. Johnsbury Police Station.
- Mr. Chase indicated that the Highway Department had also received this report and had retrieved the cones.

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

a. Consideration of, and take any action on, proposal and quote from Stuart Consulting for consulting services to assist with evaluation of Town Hall as site for town offices

The Board reviewed a proposal for compiling information, drafting and distributing an RPF for feasibility assessment, conceptual design, and project cost analysis, and reviewing submitted proposals. Total quoted cost is \$600.

- Mr. Gates moved to accept the proposal of Stuart Consulting. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

b. Other business

i. Town Hall asbestos abatement

The Board discussed the process for asbestos abatement at the Town Hall.

- The Board agreed to inquire with Clay Point Associates regarding the projected schedule for asbestos abatement.

8. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from resident Phil Sorrentino regarding beaver dams in Harvey's Lake channel

The Board reviewed email correspondence in which Mr. Sorrentino requested that the Board remove beavers and beaver dams in the channel. Dam Committee Member Joseph Mangiapane appeared and discussed his observation of the channel in recent months. He indicated that there is

one large beaver dam, which does not obstruct passage of watercraft. He indicated that he had not observed any beaver activity in the previous two weeks.

- The Board agreed to not perform any beaver or dam removal in the Harvey's Lake channel at this time. The Board agreed that Ms. Ford would respond to Mr. Sorrentino's inquiry.

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

Ms. Ford indicated that the Planning Commission/Zoning Board reported that it did not intend to apply for a fiscal year 2022 Municipal Planning Grant.

- Mr. Gates moved to agree to participate as applicant and fiscal agent for the fiscal year 2022 Municipal Planning Grant application to partially fund the feasibility and conceptual building design work for the McIndoe Falls Academy Community Center. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

10. Consideration of, and take any action on, determination of whether Town will bid on 2021 tax sales

Ms. Ford reported that a recent bankruptcy filing has made the sale of some of the properties listed in the tax sale notice uncertain. Discussion ensued.

- The Board agreed to request the appearance of Collector of Delinquent Tax Lisa Bowden at the next Board meeting.

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

Construction contractor Benjamin Adams appeared and discussed with the Board possible solutions and timeframe for the renovation of the compactor station/shed.

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

Mr. Gates reported that there was no new information regarding this matter.

13. Other business presented by Selectboard

There was no other business presented by the Selectboard.

14. Adjournment

- Mr. Gates moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

A true copy.

Attest: _____ *Town Clerk*