

MINUTES-REGULAR SELECTBOARD MEETING

TOWN OF BARNET, VERMONT

MONDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2021

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

Other Town officials and employees present: Collector of Delinquent Tax Lisa Bowden, Road Foreman Mark Chase, Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt, and Zoning Administrative Officer Shirley Warden.

Members of the public present: Jonathan Carpenter.

1. Consideration of approval of minutes of regular meeting held September 27, 2021

- Ms. Ford moved to approve as presented the minutes of the regular meeting held September 27, 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 Collector of Delinquent Tax Lisa Bowden regarding 2021 tax sales; take any action

Ms. Bowden appeared and discussed the tax sale scheduled for October 13, 2021. She indicated that some of the properties originally scheduled for tax sale have been withdrawn from the sale and that she anticipates all of the parcels remaining in the sale will be bid on.

- Ms. Ford moved that the Selectboard not bid on any of the parcels in the October 13, 2021 tax sale. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

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

Mr. Gates indicated that there have been no new developments in this matter.

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

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

The Board discussed this matter, which was originally discussed at their previous meeting, with resident Jonathan Carpenter, whose driveway is near the culvert in question. Mr. Chase indicated that he had not yet inspected the site.

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

Mr. Chase reported that the Highway Department is awaiting the arrival of Pike Industries to pave the road surface. He indicated that the next steps are to pave the base, perform shoulder work, install guardrails, then pave the top coat.

c. 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 reviewed its response to the correspondence regarding the Agency of Transportation's findings regarding Bridge #10. The response indicates that the Board

anticipates that it will repair the bridge by September 27, 2022. Mr. Chase reported that he had met with Shauna Clifford of the Agency of Transportation to discuss this bridge.

d. Consideration of, and take any action on, application for Highway Access Permit on Little France Road

The Board reviewed the application of Connor Langley for an additional access at 391 Little France Road. Mr. Chase indicated that he had not inspected the site, but was generally familiar with the site and did not foresee any difficulties with the proposed access.

- Ms. Ford moved to approve the application pending Mr. Chase's inspection and approval of the site. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

e. Consideration of, and take any action on, quotes for repairs to Town Garage overhead doors

Mr. Chase reported that he had sought a second quote for repair of an overhead door, as requested by the Board at the previous meeting. A new quote was received from Champlain Door Systems, for a price of \$2,000. This compares to the previously-received quote of \$3,500 from St. Johnsbury Overhead Doors.

- Mr. Jefferson moved to accept the quote of Champlain Door Systems to perform overhead door repairs at the Town Garage. Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote.

f. Consideration of, and take any action on, quotes for grader

Mr. Chase discussed replacement of the Town's grader. He indicated that, based on his discussions with vendors regarding supply chain, the Town would need to place an order this year in order to expect to receive a new grader in 2022. For a new grader with the same specifications as the current grader, Mr. Chase received quotes as summarized below:

- John Deere: \$379,800 less \$74,000 trade-in value = \$305,800
- Caterpillar: \$339,900 less \$60,000 trade-in value = \$279,900
- Mr. Gates moved to accept quote of Caterpillar and place an order for a grader. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

g. Consideration of, and take any action on, quotes for pick-up truck

Mr. Chase reported that he had made some initial attempts to obtain quotes for a new pick-up truck, but supply chain difficulties seem to be interfering with availability.

- The Board agreed to postpone consideration of purchase of a new pick-up truck until spring 2022.

h. Consideration of, and take any action on, quotes for mower

Mr. Chase discussed quotes received for a new mower for the Town's tractor. The quotes were as summarized below:

- Pete's Equipment: Diamond over-the-rail side-mount mower: \$63,500
- H.P. Fairfield: Tiger three-point-hitch mower: \$57,000
- H.P. Fairfield: Alamo three-point-hitch mower: \$43,500.

i. Consideration of, and take any action on, quotes for leaf blower

The Board reviewed an email acknowledging receipt of the Board's intent to participate in the Grants-in-Aid program for the purchase of a leaf blower. Mr. Chase reported that

he had spoken to Waterford's Highway Department regarding the leaf blower they recently acquired. Waterford had indicated that they use the leaf blower regularly and have found it to be an invaluable tool. Mr. Chase indicated that he had received a quote for a three-point-hitch leaf blower for \$5,500.

j. Consideration of, and take any action on, uniform municipal excess weight permit applications

- The Board reviewed and approved the single vehicle application of John B. Lantagne DBA JBL Logging & Excavation.

k. Other business

i. Pit work

Mr. Chase reported that the Highway Department has spent some of its recent time in the pit crushing and hauling gravel.

6. Other business presented by other town officers

There was no other business presented by other town officers.

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

a. Town Hall asbestos abatement

The Board reviewed an email from Clay Point Associates, which indicates that Environmental Hazards Management, Inc. plans to begin asbestos abatement at the Town Hall October 25, 2021.

b. Town Hall request for proposals

Ms. Ford reported that she had met with consultant Cynthia Stuart. Ms. Stuart plans to have a request for proposals for the Town Hall feasibility/engineering study prepared for the next Board meeting.

8. Consideration of, and take any action on, expenditures for Town officer email accounts

The Board reviewed an email from new Planning Commission/Zoning Board Secretary Dawn Holtz regarding obtaining an official Town email account. The Board reviewed pricing for barnetvt.org email accounts, which currently cost approximately \$100 per year.

- The Board agreed to request that Ms. Holtz obtain a free email account (e.g. Gmail) for her secretary correspondence, rather than a paid barnetvt.org account.

9. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Zoning Administrative Officer regarding zoning permit of Fire District #2

The Board reviewed its copy of the permit issued for Fire District #2 project, as discussed at the previous meeting.

10. Consideration of, and take any action on, 2022 health insurance benefits

The Board reviewed 2022 health insurance plan summaries from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Vermont (BCBS) and MVP Health Care (MVP). They also reviewed a report from Treasurer Benjamin Heisholt that indicates the costs of the 2021 Town health plan from BlueCross BlueShield of Vermont (BCBS) and projects the costs of 2022 plans for BCBS and MVP Health Care (MVP). The Town's total annual expense for 2022, with the current benefit offering, under the BCBS plan would represent a decrease from 2021 of \$5,899.84, and under the MVP plan would represent a decrease from 2021 of \$13,182.60. Discussion ensued.

11. Consideration of, and take any action on, CALEX EMS contract renewal

The Board reviewed the proposed three-year (2022-2024) ambulance services agreement.

- The Board agreed to invite CALEX to a meeting to discuss the proposed agreement.

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

Mr. Gates reported that there have been no new developments in this matter.

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

Mr. Gates reported that there have been no new developments in this matter.

14. Consideration of approval of outstanding check warrants

- The Board reviewed and approved all outstanding check warrants.

15. Other business presented by Selectboard

There was no other business presented by the Selectboard.

16. Adjournment

- Mr. Gates moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

A true copy.

Attest: _____ *Town Clerk*