

MINUTES-REGULAR SELECTBOARD MEETING

TOWN OF BARNET, VERMONT

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2021

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

Other Town officials and employees present: Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt (remotely via telephone), Transfer Station/Recycling Center Supervisor Bruce Marston, Transfer Station attendant Donald Nelson, and Zoning Administrative Officer/Transfer Station attendant Shirley Warden.

Members of the public present: None.

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. in the conference room of the Barnet Fire & Rescue Station (151 Bimson Drive).

1. Consideration of approval of minutes of regular meeting held November 8, 2021

Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt indicated that Lister Sarah Cook, who was present at the November 8, 2021 meeting, reported that the Listers would like item #9 of the minutes to be revised to reflect that the Listers are supportive of a shift to a hybrid Lister-Assessor model.

- Mr. Gates moved to approve, with amendment as requested by Ms. Cook, the minutes of the regular meeting held November 8, 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. Consideration of, and take any action on, sign for Fire & Rescue Station

Mr. Gates reported that he had discussed the sign with Shauna Clifford of the Vermont Agency of Transportation; Ms. Clifford had requested that the Town mark the planned location of the sign with a stake so that she can inspect the site.

4. Appearance by Transfer Station/Recycling Center employees regarding 2022 budget; take any action

Transfer Station/Recycling Center Supervisor Bruce Marston and attendants Donald Nelson and Shirley Warden appeared to discuss fees for waste disposal at the Transfer Station. Mr. Marston suggested that the Board increase fees for a number of disposal items. Below is a comparison of current fees and proposed new fees:

<u>Disposal Item</u>	<u>Current Fee</u>	<u>Proposed New Fee</u>
<i>Mixed Solid Waste:</i>		
13-gallon bag	\$1.00	\$2.00
30-gallon bag	\$2.00	\$3.00
42-gallon bag	\$3.00	\$4.00
55-gallon bag	\$5.00	\$6.00
<i>Construction & Demolition Debris:</i>		
Per cubic yard	\$15.00	\$20.00
Bulkies	\$15.00	\$17.00
Toilets, dishwashers, Refrigerators, A.C. units		\$5.00

Tires:

Without rims, <16.5”	\$3.00	\$4.00
With rims, <16.5”	\$5.00	\$6.00
Without rims, >16.5”	\$8.00	\$8.00
With rims, >16.5”	\$15.00	\$10.00
Truck/Farm Tractor		\$18.00 and up

The Board discussed the proposed changes with the staff, comparing current and proposed fees with those of other local towns.

- Mr. Gates moved to approve the proposed new Transfer Station fees effective January 1, 2022. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

5. Appearance by Planning Commission/Zoning Board regarding 2022 budget; take any action

Zoning Administrative Officer Shirley Warden appeared to discuss zoning permit-related fees. Ms. Warden presented a summary of fees charged by other local towns, and suggested that the Board increase fees for a number of items. Discussion ensued and resulted in agreement between the Board and Ms. Warden regarding proposed new fees. Below is a comparison of current fees and proposed new fees:

<u>Item</u>	<u>Current Fee</u>	<u>Proposed New Fee</u>
Basic Permit	\$20.00, plus \$15.00 recording fee	\$25.00, plus \$15.00 recording fee
Board Permit	\$30.00, plus \$15.00 recording fee	\$50.00, plus \$15.00 recording fee
Appeals	\$30.00, plus \$15.00 recording fee	\$50.00, plus \$15.00 recording fee

- Mr. Jefferson moved to approve the proposed new zoning permit-related fees effective January 1, 2022. Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote.

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

Mr. Chase was not present at this meeting; in his absence the Board discussed the following matters:

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

Mr. Gates reported that the project is almost complete, pending installation of guardrails.

b. Consideration of, and take any action on, quotes for deicing salt for the 2021-2022 season

Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt reported that the Town had not yet received a quote from American Rock Salt.

c. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Northeastern Vermont Development Association regarding equipment purchase grant award letter

The Board reviewed quotes for leaf blowers, as summarized below:

<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Model</u>	<u>Price</u>
HP Fairfield	Buffalo KB4	\$8,150.00
HP Fairfield	PTO Drive Turbine	\$5,500.00
Dad’s 4 By Tool & Supply	Harper 36” Fan	\$6,510.00

- Mr. Jefferson moved to approve the purchase of the PTO Drive Turbine from H.P. Fairfield. Seconded by Mr. Gates and approved by voice vote.

d. Other business

i. Dumping on North Monroe Road

Mr. Gates discussed reports of dumping of rubbish off North Monroe Road. He indicated that the Highway Department had inspected the site and confirmed the report. Discussion ensued.

7. Consideration of, and take any action on, changes to structure of office of Lister/Assessor

Ms. Ford reported that she had made a number of telephone calls exploring options for assessors to work in a hybrid Lister-Assessor office. She indicated that she had sent an email to NEMRC requesting a quote for services.

8. Other business presented by other town officers

a. Recycling Center staffing

Transfer Station/Recycling Center Supervisor and Transfer Station attendant Shirley Warden suggested that the Board consider adding additional staffing to assist at the Recycling Center on Saturdays, suggesting that the current staffing of one employee at the Recycling Center is inadequate. Discussion ensued.

- The Board agreed to budget an additional \$1,000 in the 2022 budget to cover payroll costs for an additional hour per week of attendant labor at the Recycling Center.

9. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Northeast Kingdom Broadband (NEKBB) regarding Optical Line Terminal (OLT) cabinet location

The Board reviewed correspondence requesting a pad or location in the Town where NEKBB can install an OLT cabinet and a back-up generator. Ms. Ford discussed her conversations with Kathleen Monroe, Primary Barnet Representative on the NEKBB Governing Board. Ms. Ford and Ms. Monroe have explored possible options, including the Barnet School, where there is an existing back-up generator. Ms. Ford noted that the ownership, control, and maintenance responsibility for this generator have not been fully determined.

10. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Clay Point Associates regarding Town Hall and Fire Station asbestos abatement

The Board reviewed an email and attached report of asbestos clearance activities. The Board noted that all clearance air samples collected from within the abatement work area in the Town Hall and Fire Station were determined to be less than 0.010 fibers per cubic centimeter, which is the Vermont Regulations for Asbestos Control standard for successful asbestos project completion.

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

The Board noted that proposals for Town Hall building and site condition assessment, etc. are due December 3, 2021. The Board discussed plans for a special meeting the week of December 6-10 to review and evaluate proposals.

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

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

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

The Board discussed language to include on the proposed memorial.

- The Board agreed that it would confer with resident David Curtin regarding language for the proposed memorial.

14. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Caledonia County Sheriff's Department regarding 2022 patrol service contract

The Board reviewed a proposed 2022 patrol service contract. Terms and conditions for the contract are the same as in the 2021 contract, except for the hourly patrol rate, which increases from \$37.00 to \$39.00.

- Mr. Gates moved to sign the contract for police services in the months of January through December 2022 with a minimum of ten hours per month and not to exceed \$7,500 for the contract year. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote. The Board signed the contract.

15. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Northeast Kingdom Waste Management District regarding proposed 2022 budget

The Board reviewed a memorandum, public notice for an informational budget meeting to be held December 14, 2021, and a proposed 2022 budget. The proposed budget reflects an increase in total budgeted expenditures from \$809,527.00 to \$846,615.50.

16. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Vermont League of Cities & Towns regarding loss control visit to Town buildings

The Board reviewed a report on a recent routine loss control visit to the Town Clerk's Office, Town Hall, Library, and Town Garage. The Board discussed the low and/or medium priority recommendations listed for each location.

17. Consideration of, and take any action on, proposed 2022 Town General Fund budget

The Board noted receipt of a first draft of a proposed 2022 General Fund budget.

- The Board agreed to table discussion of the budget to the next meeting.

18. Consideration of approval of outstanding check warrants

- The Board reviewed and approved all outstanding check warrants.

19. Other business presented by Selectboard

There was no other business presented by the Selectboard.

20. Consideration of, and take any action on, legal proceedings in Jere Kendall v. Town of Barnet

The Board reviewed an email from Collector of Delinquent Tax Lisa Bowden reporting on her appearance at a hearing November 22, 2021. The email indicates that the judge had determined that neither defendant had received proper service, Jere Kendall had not appeared at the hearing, and the matter was dismissed. Discussion ensued.

21. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence in connection with Town Hall boundary line agreement

The Board reviewed email correspondence from Town Attorney Steven Adler regarding this matter.

- No action taken.

22. Consideration of, and take any action on, tax appeal to Superior Court submitted by Great River Hydro LLC

The Board discussed its members' individual communications with state representatives Jane Kitchel, Marcia Martel, and Joe Benning.

- No action taken.

23. Adjournment

- Mr. Gates moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

A true copy.

Attest: _____ *Town Clerk*