

MINUTES - REGULAR SELECTBOARD MEETING

TOWN OF BARNET, VERMONT

MONDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2021

Meeting convened at 7:00 p.m. in-person at Barnet Fire & Rescue Station (151 Bimson Drive) and via GoToMeeting telephone/online conference. This meeting was recorded via GoToMeeting.

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

Other Town officials and employees participating in-person: Road Foreman Mark Chase.

Members of the public participating in-person: James Dillon, Julia Dillon, Eric Skovsted, and Mary Skovsted.

Other Town officials and employees participating via GoToMeeting: Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt.

Members of the public participating via GoToMeeting: Jennifer Crown and Mona Marceau.

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

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

2. Appearance by residents of Joe's Brook Road and Brook Hill Road regarding noise disturbance complaint; take any action

Joe's Brook Road residents Mary and Eric Skovsted and Brook Hill Road residents Julia and James Dillon appeared to present and discuss complaints regarding noise disturbance originating from 176 Brook Hill Road. Ms. and Mr. Skovsted submitted a letter which indicates its intention in the form of three goals: 1) "To formally share the extent of the...noise problem with the Town... 2) To present a petition of neighbors who agree that this is a problem and want a solution; 3) To ask for the Town's help in solving the problem." The letter alleges that Ms. and Mr. Skovsted have experienced excessive noise, continuous noise pollution and targeted noise harassment originating from 176 Brook Hill Road since moving to Joe's Brook Road in 2007. Ms. and Mr. Skovsted presented a petition signed by 18 neighbors on Joe's Brook Road and Brook Hill Road requesting that the Board take action against excessive noise at 176 Joe's Brook Road. Ms. and Mr. Skovsted also presented a log of noise events at 176 Brook Hill Road during the period of November 21, 2021 to December 27, 2021. The Board also read a letter from Barnet resident and building contractor William Graves, in which Mr. Graves describes the observation and experience of noise disturbance by Mr. Graves and his employees when his business was working at Ms. and Mr. Skovsted's farm in 2021. Discussion ensued, wherein Ms. and Mr. Skovsted and Ms. and Mr. Dillon detailed their experiences and discussed possible solutions with the Board.

- The Board agreed that Ms. Ford would investigate ordinance options and Mr. Gates would contact Caledonia County Sheriff's Department to discuss enforcement options.

3. Other business presented by members of the public

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

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

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

- No action taken.

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

a. Routine winter road maintenance

Mr. Chase reported that the Highway Department has spent much of its recent time performing routine winter road maintenance, including plowing, sanding, and salting roads.

b. Town Garage moisture solutions

Mr. Chase reported that the Town Garage building continues to have perennial struggles with moisture. As has been discussed in the past, the radiant floor heat melts and evaporates snow and ice that comes into the garage on equipment, etc., causing high humidity levels with resultant building maintenance concerns. Several years ago, a waste oil furnace was installed to help mitigate the moisture difficulty. Waste oil, however, has been more difficult to acquire in recent years. Diesel fuel from the Town's fuel supplier has been used, but this option also has become tenuous. Mr. Chase indicated that Arrow Equipment has offered to quote a through-wall heat exchanger/air conditioner. Discussion ensued.

- The Board instructed Mr. Chase to request quotes for a heat exchanger from Arrow Equipment and Vermont Mechanical, Inc.

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

The Board reviewed checklists of Lister tasks, which had been discussed at the previous meeting. These checklists had been since completed by each of the Listers in regard which tasks each Lister foresees as pertaining to the elected Listers and which to NEMRC's appraisers. Discussion ensued.

- The Board agreed to request from NEMRC two estimates representing two different task mixes generally apparent in the Listers' responses.

7. Other business presented by other town officers

There was no other business presented by other town officers.

8. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Fire & Rescue Department regarding nomination for the position of Fire Chief

The Board reviewed a letter "submitting the name of Ronald Morse for the position of Fire Chief in 2022."

- Ms. Ford moved to appoint Ronald Morse to the position of Fire Chief for 2022. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

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

The Board noted that there was no new information to report regarding this matter.

- No action taken.

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

The Board continued its review, discussion and amendment of the 2022 General Fund budget.

11. Consideration of approval of outstanding check warrants

- The Board reviewed and approved all outstanding check warrants.

12. Other business presented by Selectboard

a. 2022 Town Meeting plans

The Board noted recent activity in the Vermont Legislature with regard to proposed Covid-related allowances for towns that hold town meetings by floor vote.

- No action taken.

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

The Board noted that there was no new information to report regarding this matter.

- No action taken.

14. Adjournment

- Ms. Ford moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 8:41 p.m.

A true copy.

Attest: _____ *Town Clerk*