

MINUTES - REGULAR SELECTBOARD MEETING

TOWN OF BARNET, VERMONT

MONDAY, JANUARY 24, 2022

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 and Zoning Administrative Officer Shirley Warden.

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

Members of the public participating in-person: None.

Members of the public participating via GoToMeeting: Andrew McGregor (Caledonian-Record).

1. Consideration of approval of minutes of regular meeting held January 10, 2022

- Ms. Ford moved to approve as presented the minutes of the regular meeting held January 10, 2022. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

2. Consideration of approval of minutes of special meeting held January 18, 2022

Ms. Ford noted that the draft minutes identify Ms. Ford as the presiding co-chair, whereas they should identify Mr. Gates as the presiding co-chair.

- Ms. Ford moved to approve, with amendment in the correction of the identified co-chair, the minutes of the special meeting held January 18, 2022. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

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 he had received communication from Vermont Agency of Transportation representative Shauna Clifford indicating that she has *not* yet inspected the proposed site of the sign.

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

a. Consideration of, and take any action on, Town Garage moisture issue

The Board reviewed a quote from Kevin Morrison of Vermont Mechanical for dehumidifiers to address the Town Garage's issue with high humidity/moisture in the Town Garage. Mr. Morrison recommends that Board consider installation of two or more large dehumidifiers; one suggested option, a Aprilaire E130 130 Pint Whole House

Dehumidifier, is quoted at \$2,390.84. Discussion ensued regarding this proposed solution and other possible solutions to the problem.

b. Other business

i. Covid-positive policy

Mr. Chase reported that a Highway Department employee has tested positive for Covid-19; he asked for guidance from the Board regarding policy in responding to this situation.

- Ms. Ford moved to adopt the following policy for a period of one year beginning at the current date: 1) to require all employees who test positive for Covid-19 to take leave from work immediately upon notification of positive test for at least five (5) calendar days and until Covid-19-related symptoms are absent, and 2) to provide for full-time employees paid leave for one-half of each work day (Monday through Friday only) missed for Covid-positivity leave, up to a maximum of five (5) work days (i.e., maximum payment of 2.5 days wages). Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

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

Ms. Ford discussed her communication with Chris Miele of NEMRC. Mr. Miele had indicated that he is seeking clarification from the Listers regarding the proposed division of assessing tasks between Listers and NEMRC.

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, memorial for veterans of wars in Iraq and Afghanistan

The Board noted that they continue to seek input from Barnet resident and veteran David Curtin.

9. Consideration of, and take any action on, execution of 2022 tax anticipation borrowing documents

Treasurer Benjamin Heisholt reported that he had not received tax anticipation borrowing documents from Union Bank.

10. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Downs Rachlin Martin regarding Petition for Certificate of Public Good of SBA Communications Corporation (SBA)

The Board noted receipt of a Petition, together with supporting documents, which were e-filed with the Vermont Public Utility Commission. The Petition indicates that “SBA proposes a project of limited size and scope...involving the installation of a SmartSky telecommunication facility consisting of antennas, cabling, tower- and ground-mounted equipment and cabinets, all to be located at SBA’s existing tower facility at 16 Tower Road, Barnet, Vermont.”

11. Consideration of, and take any action on, applications for Uniform Municipal Excess Weight Permits

- The Board reviewed and approved the fleet permit applications of Bourne’s Inc. & Bourne’s Propane DBA Bourne’s Energy and Newport Sand & Gravel Co., Inc/Carroll Concrete Co., Inc.

12. 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.

13. Consideration of approval of outstanding check warrants

The Board reviewed and approved all outstanding check warrants.

14. Other business presented by Selectboard

a. Aquatic Nuisance Control Grant

Ms. Ford discussed the upcoming application deadline for 2022 Aquatic Nuisance Control Grants. Ms. Ford reported that a new Lake Harvey Association representative, Jackie Sprague, will be assisting the Town. Ms. Ford also noted that indications suggest that grant funding will be diminished in comparison to previous years and that this may signal a future trend. Discussion ensued regarding cost-benefit analysis of future applications for this grant program.

b. North Monroe Road dumping

Mr. Gates noted that the Highway Department had, upon his instruction, dumped two loads of sand at North Monroe Road in attempt to mitigate the dumping of trash at that location. Mr. Gates indicated that the Highway Department would pursue a more permanent solution in the spring.

15. 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. Mr. Gates reported on his discussion with the Waterford Board of Listers regarding dam assessment.

- No action taken.

16. Adjournment

- Ms. Ford moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

A true copy.

Attest: _____ *Town Clerk*