

# MINUTES - REGULAR SELECTBOARD MEETING

## TOWN OF BARNET, VERMONT

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 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 (presiding co-chair), Benjamin Gates, and Mark Jefferson.

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

**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:** Mona Marceau and Andrew McGregor (Caledonian-Record).

### 1. Consideration of approval of minutes of regular meeting held January 24, 2022

Mr. Gates noted that, under item 5.B.i., the discussion of the employee Covid-positive policy, the approved motion indicated that the policy is valid for a period of one year only, whereas the draft minutes were silent on this portion of the motion.

- Mr. Gates moved to approve, with amendment to item 5.B.i. to include in the motion the indication that the Covid-positive policy is valid for a period of one year only, the minutes of the regular meeting held January 24, 2022. 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 Road Foreman Mark Chase regarding Highway Department matters; take any action

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

Mr. Jefferson reported on his conversations with Kevin Morrison of Vermont Mechanical and Keith Gadapee of the Danville Highway Department. Discussion ensued regarding suggestions that arose from these conversations and other comments and suggestions received since the previous Board meeting.

- The Board agreed that Mr. Jefferson will contact the Town of Glover to discuss the air exchange system in their garage and the Town of Walden about the approach used in their recently-constructed garage.

#### b. Consideration of, and take any action on, 2022 highway and bridge weight restrictions

The Board reviewed a letter and attached instructions regarding the Town's annual obligation to report special weight limits for highways and bridges. Discussion ensued.

- Mr. Gates moved to report the same special weight limits in 2022 as were reported in 2021. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.
- c. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from American Rock Salt with quote for delivery of bulk ice control rock salt**
- The Board reviewed a quote from American Rock Salt for bulk ice control rock salt at a delivered price of \$90.00 per ton. Discussion ensued.
- Ms. Ford signed the quote with the Board's approval.
- d. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Innovative Surface Solutions with quote for delivery of chloride, chloride system, and tanks**
- The Board reviewed a proposed storage tank and equipment rental agreement. The agreement is for the Town's use of storage tanks and equipment to be used for application of liquid products for de-icing and dust control, and includes commitment by the Town to purchase not less than 16,141 gallons of liquid products per year. Proposed agreement is for a three-year term commencing March 12, 2022. Discussion ensued.
- Ms. Ford signed the agreement with the Board's approval.
- e. Consideration of, and take any action on, application by Heather Babcock for highway access permit on Warden Road**
- The Board reviewed an application for a permanent driveway on Warden Road. Mr. Chase reported that he had inspected the site and found it to be suitable for a driveway, with the recommended conditions of the installation of a 15-inch culvert along the ditchline and that the driveway be built not higher than the road height so water does not run out into the road. Discussion ensued.
- Mr. Jefferson moved to approve the permit application with the conditions recommended by Mr. Chase. Seconded by Mr. Gates and approved by voice vote.
- f. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Vermont Agency of Transportation regarding 2023 town highway grant applications, etc.**
- The Board reviewed an email and attachments. Discussion ensued regarding potential grant applications.
- g. Other business**
- i. Spare dump truck**  
Mr. Chase reported that the spare dump truck (#003) has a fuel tank leak and is currently at Robco in Ryegate for patch repair to the tank.
  - ii. Backhoe fuel leak**  
Mr. Chase reported that the backhoe has a fuel leak behind the motor. John Deere is scheduled to visit the Town Garage for repairs; it is unknown if the repair will be covered by warranty.
  - iii. Culvert thawing**  
Mr. Chase reported that the Highway Department has recently spent a great deal of time thawing frozen culverts.

**iv. Employee probation expiring**

Mr. Chase indicated that the initial probationary period of new Highway Department employee Christopher Bunnell expires soon.

- The Board agreed to schedule a probationary review for their next regular meeting.

**4. Other business presented by other town officers**

No other business was presented by other town officers.

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

Mr. Gates reported that he had not received any communication from the Vermont Agency of Transportation. Mr. Gates suggested that the Board consider placing a larger sign further up the embankment towards the Fire & Rescue Station, out of the State's Bimson Drive right-of-way. Discussion ensued.

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

Ms. Ford indicated that she had spoken with Chris Miele of NEMRC and that a remote/electronic meeting between NEMRC, the Listers, and herself is planned for Thursday, February 17.

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

The Board reviewed correspondence from resident veteran David Curtin, which includes a letter and suggested language for a plaque to add to the monument in Barnet Village.

- Mr. Gates moved to approve the language for the memorial monument as proposed by David Curtin. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

**8. Consideration of, and take any action on, scheduling of all-terrain vehicle ordinance review**

Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt noted that Section IX the Ordinance for Regulating All-Terrain Vehicles requires that, "Section IV.C. shall be reviewed annually with local VASA club and Selectboard at first regularly-scheduled Selectboard meeting following Annual Town Meeting." Section IV.C. regulates the Town Highways, or sections thereof, on which all-terrain vehicles may be operated from May 15 through October 1. Mr. Heisholt noted that the change in scheduled date for the 2022 Annual Town Meeting from the first Tuesday of March to April 25 means that the first regularly-scheduled Selectboard meeting after Annual Town Meeting will be May 9; this creates a short timeline between the annual review and the start of the ATV season (May 15). Discussion ensued.

- The Board agreed to perform a preliminary review of Section IV.C. at the Board's regular meeting March 14 and to vote at that meeting on preliminary approval of Town Highway access contingent on formal review and ratification of preliminary approval at the regular Board meeting to be held May 9.

**9. Consideration of, and take any action on, ratification of employee Covid-positive policy**

The Board noted that the employee Covid-positive policy approved at the regular Board meeting held January 24, 2022 was not properly warned, as it did not appear on the warning/agenda for that meeting. The Board noted that the approved policy is valid for one year only, as per item #1 of these minutes.

- Mr. Gates moved to ratify the approval of the employee Covid-positive policy adopted January 24, 2022. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

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

The Board reviewed an email and attached letter, which indicate that, due to complications related to COVID-19, the Northeast Kingdom Waste Management District's budget will be voted on by the Northeast Kingdom Waste Management District's Board of Supervisors instead of the voters of the district. Discussion ensued.

**11. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Caledonia Central Supervisory Union regarding mailing ballots for 2022 Caledonia Cooperative School District annual meeting**

The Board reviewed email correspondence from Superintendent Mark Tucker. Mr. Tucker notes that recent legislative action causes the Selectboard to become involved in decision-making for mailing school district election ballots. 17 V.S.A. § 2680(g)(2) reads, "A school board may, after receiving the approval of the legislative body of each member town in the district, vote to mail its annual meeting ballot to all active registered voters in the district. In such case, the town clerk and election officials in the member towns shall be responsible for the mailing of the ballots but all costs associated with the mailing of ballots shall be borne by the school district." Mr. Tucker asked the Selectboards of the towns of Barnet, Walden, and Waterford to consider approval of mailing annual meeting ballots to all active registered voters in the Caledonia Cooperative School District. Discussion ensued.

- Mr. Gates moved to deny the request to approve mailing school district annual meeting ballots to all active registered voters in the Caledonia Cooperative School District. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

**12. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from CAI Technologies with 2022-2023 tax map maintenance proposal and 2022-2023 tax map maintenance contract**

The Board reviewed the 2022-2023 proposal and contract. Terms of proposal and contract are the same as the 2021-2022 proposal and contract; the cost to the Town increases from \$2,575 in 2021-2022 to \$2,700 in 2022-2023.

- The Board agreed to sign the contract.

**13. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Northeast Kingdom Waste Management District regarding compost contamination warning**

The Board reviewed an email indicating that the Town of Barnet has been issued its first official warning regarding compost contamination. This notice provides two months for the town to inform its residents and to rectify the problem. The letter indicates that, "If there continues to be compost contamination (any trash items, plastics, metals, etc.) after the two months, Cloud Path Farm will issue a second warning. After three consecutive warnings, compost fees are subject to increase if contamination continues. After each warning, towns will have two months to address the situation." Discussion ensued.

**14. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Danville Planning Commission regarding proposed Zoning Bylaw amendment**

The Board reviewed an email indicating that Danville is taking action to update its Zoning Bylaw "to correct or clarify elements that are ambiguous or conflicting and to updated Permitted and

Conditional Uses in all districts.” Attachments to the email include a draft proposal, amendment report, and hearing notice.

**15. Consideration of, and take any action on, liquor license renewal application of West Barnet Quick Stop**

The Board reviewed the renewal application of West Barnet Quick Stop.

- Mr. Jefferson moved to approve the application. Seconded by Mr. Gates and approved by voice vote. The Board signed the application.

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

- The Board reviewed and approved the fleet applications of Austin Construction, Inc., Barrett Trucking Co., Inc., New England Quality Service, Inc., and Spafford & Sons of Williston, VT, Inc.

**17. 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.

**18. Consideration of approval of outstanding check warrants**

- The Board reviewed and approved all outstanding check warrants.

**19. Other business presented by Selectboard**

No other business was presented by the Selectboard.

**20. 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.

**21. Adjournment**

- Mr. Gates moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

*A true copy.*

*Attest:* \_\_\_\_\_ *Town Clerk*