

MINUTES - REGULAR SELECTBOARD MEETING

TOWN OF BARNET, VERMONT

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 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: Maurice Roberts.

Members of the public participating via GoToMeeting: Jonathan Carpenter, Mona Marceau, Andrew McGregor (Caledonian-Record), and Kathleen Monroe.

1. Consideration of approval of minutes of regular meeting held February 14, 2022

- Ms. Ford moved to approve as presented the minutes of the regular meeting held February 14, 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, quotes for 2022 roadside mowing

Mr. Chase presented quotes for rental of a roadside mower, as summarized below:

-Pete's Equipment Sales & Rentals: \$3,000 per week plus \$130 per hour trucking, 50 hours per week maximum

-H.P. Fairfield: \$4,500 per week, no cost trucking, unlimited hours

- Mr. Chase reported that the quote of Pete's Equipment Sales & Rentals had been selected; the roadside mower will be rented for the last week of July and first week of August.

b. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Vermont Agency of Transportation regarding 2023 town highway grant applications, etc.

Mr. Chase reported that he has not had any further discussion with the Vermont Agency of Transportation regarding grant projects.

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

Mr. Jefferson discussed his communications with the Towns of Walden, Cabot, and Glover. He reported that the situations in each of these towns' garages differ, and none

are exactly the same as Barnet's garage. He indicated that the Town of Glover does not have radiant heat, but has had an issue with moisture. He indicated that they are using dehumidifiers similar to those quoted by Vermont Mechanical and that these have worked well in mitigating the problem. Discussion ensued.

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

- The Board reviewed and approved the fleet applications of Bethel Mills, Inc., J.P. Sicard, Inc., Resource Management, Inc., and Thomson Fuels, LLC and the single-vehicle application of Mike Lemieux Trucking, Inc.

e. Other business

i. Routine road maintenance

Mr. Chase reported that the Highway Department continues to spend much of its time performing routine seasonal road maintenance, such as plowing, sanding and salting roads, and thawing culverts.

4. Other business presented by other town officers

There was no other business presented by other town officers.

5. Consideration of, and take any action on, billing for street lights at Harvey's Lake Public Beach

The Board reviewed email correspondence from Green Mountain Power regarding street lights at the Harvey's Lake Beach. The emails reflect a summer 2021 project that replaced a malfunctioning light and added a new one; the project was done at request of the Beach Committee with the Board's approval; the project resulted in three functioning lights at the Beach property. The email correspondence also reflects that at the time of the project it did not come to the Town's attention that the monthly costs for power for these lights are billed to Barnet Fire District # 5, not the Town. Maurice Roberts, Fire District #5 Prudential Committee member, appeared at this meeting to indicate that the Prudential Committee would prefer that the Town pay the power bill for the lights at the Beach. Mr. Roberts indicated that the Fire District pays \$13.25 per street light per month. Discussion ensued.

- Ms. Ford moved that the Board request that Green Mountain Power bill the Town of Barnet, rather than Barnet Fire District #5, for the monthly power bills for the three street lights at the Harvey's Lake Beach. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

6. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Town of Waterford regarding Hazard Mitigation Plan update

The Board reviewed an email notifying of Waterford's Hazard Mitigation Plan update and the opportunity to review and comment on the draft plan.

7. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Northeast Kingdom Waste Management District regarding Transfer Station re-certification

The Board reviewed an email and application documents, as prepared by the Northeast Kingdom Waste Management District, for the re-certification of the Barnet Transfer Station.

- The Board signed the several application documents requiring Selectboard signatures.

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

The Board discussed the next steps in installing a road-facing sign on the embankment leading to the Fire & Rescue Station, including communication with Fire Chief Ronald Morse.

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

Ms. Ford discussed her remote meeting with NEMRC and the Board of Listers. She reported that NEMRC has not yet submitted a quote for assessment services.

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

Mr. Gates reported that he had submitted the approved memorial language to Roland Bigelow of Veterans of Foreign Wars. He indicated that he had also communicated with Mr. Bigelow about the size of the space that the memorial will fill. Discussion ensued regarding a ceremony to commemorate the addition of this memorial.

11. Notice: All-terrain vehicle ordinance preliminary annual review: March 14, 2022

The Board noted that a preliminary annual review of the all-terrain vehicle ordinance will be conducted at the Board's regular meeting March 14, 2022.

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. Harvey Lake Dam

Ms. Ford provided an update on the status of the re-design or replacement of the Harvey's Lake Dam. She discussed how changes several years ago to State of Vermont regulations regarding dams caused increases in projected costs to above \$2.5 million. These changes have stalled progress on the project. In recent weeks, however, conversations have been re-engaged with Lake Harvey Association and others regarding possible solutions.

15. Consideration of, and take any action on, Highway Department employee probationary period review and wage adjustment

- Ms. Ford moved to enter executive session to discuss Highway Department employee probationary review and wage adjustment pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(3). Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote. Entered executive session at 7:50 p.m. Those present in executive session: Ms. Ford, Mr. Gates, Mr. Jefferson, Road Foreman Mark Chase and Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt.
- Ms. Ford moved to exit executive session. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote. Exited executive session at 8:05 p.m.
- Ms. Gates moved to ratify the discussion held in executive session regarding Highway Department probationary review and wage adjustment. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

16. 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.

17. Adjournment

- Ms. Ford moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

A true copy.

Attest: _____ *Town Clerk*