

MINUTES - SPECIAL SELECTBOARD MEETING

TOWN OF BARNET, VERMONT

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2, 2022

Meeting convened at 1:36 p.m. at Barnet Public Library (147 Church Street).

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

Other Town officials present: Lister Sally Cook, Lister John Cook, Justice of the Peace William Graves (via telephone), and Assistant Town Clerk Catherine Roy.

Members of the public present: Jay Ancel (Black River Design), Roseann Drew-Leute, and Rollin Tait (Black River Design).

1. Meet with Black River Design Architects regarding Town Hall project, including: review of initial plans; take any action

The purpose of the meeting, as explained by Jay Ancell, was to get the Selectboard's and clerk's input on the current design options. These options were created by Black River Design after considering the space needs as defined previously in the process.

The space needs assessment from 2016 indicated the Town may need up to 3,010'. The current space of the Town Hall is 2,700'. Discussion was had regarding whether all of the space in the 3,010' assessment is needed.

Black River Design presented five options.

Discussion ensued.

The Selectboard and clerk all agreed to use Option 4 as a new starting point. They offered changes in Option 4. Some suggestions included the following: full basement, mechanicals downstairs, elimination of separate reception area, and added storage accessible to those using the meeting room.

There was some discussion regarding type of heating for the new town offices. The board indicated they would like to consider wood pellets so room would have to be made in the basement for a pellet bin, etc. Discussion ensued regarding the balance of renewable energy usage and future cost and ease of acquisition and local maintenance of heating source.

Ms. Roy expressed her concern that the new design be conducive to election polling. The board agreed polling should be conducted at the new offices.

Mr. Graves recommended the board invest in a full basement for future space and ease of maintenance. The board agreed a full basement was essential.

Black River mentioned that if the board was still interested in moving forward with the design after the next meeting, incorporation of schematics and engineering costs would begin. Thereafter would be discussion of a timeline for the whole process.

2. Other business presented by Selectboard

Next meeting was agreed up: March 24, 2022 at 9 a.m. at the current Town Clerk's office

3. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 3:07 p.m.

A true copy.

Attest: _____ *Town Clerk*