

MINUTES - REGULAR SELECTBOARD MEETING

TOWN OF BARNET, VERMONT

MONDAY, APRIL 11, 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 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: Jonathan Carpenter.

Members of the public participating via GoToMeeting: Benoit, Mona Marceau, and Vanessa Symonick (News 7).

1. Consideration of approval of minutes of special meeting held March 28, 2022

Mr. Gates noted that he had been the Presiding Co-Chair of the meeting, not Ms. Ford as the minutes indicate.

- Mr. Gates moved to approve, with correction of Presiding Co-Chair, the minutes of the special meeting held March 28, 2022. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

2. Consideration of approval of minutes of regular meeting held March 28, 2022

Mr. Gates noted that he had been the Presiding Co-Chair of the meeting, not Ms. Ford as the minutes indicate.

- Mr. Gates moved to approve, with correction of Presiding Co-Chair, the minutes of the regular meeting held March 28, 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. Appearance by Road Foreman Mark Chase regarding Highway Department matters; take any action

a. Consideration of, and take any action on, Municipal Roads General Permit annual report

The Board review the annual report as prepared by Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt.

- With the Board's approval, Mr. Gates signed the report.

b. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Barnet Fire District #2 regarding Church Street water infrastructure project

The Board reviewed an email from Fire District Prudential Committee member Jonathan Carpenter, which indicates that the Fire District is prepared to begin moving equipment in for the bridge portion of the project the week of this meeting. Mr. Carpenter appeared at this meeting and discussed the project with the Board.

c. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans) regarding Bridge#10 inspection finding and repair plan

Mr. Chase reported that he has a meeting scheduled with VTrans representative Shauna Clifford on Monday, April 18, 2022; he plans to discuss this matter with her at that time.

d. 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 a meeting scheduled with VTrans representative Shauna Clifford on Monday, April 18, 2022; he plans to discuss this matter with her at that time.

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

Mr. Chase reported on his discussions with Kevin Morrison of Vermont Mechanical regarding finalization of details for the purchase of two dehumidifiers, as approved at the previous meeting.

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

- The Board reviewed and approved the fleet applications of Chief Crushing & Excavation, Inc., Chief Logging & Chipping Services, Inc., Fred's Plumbing & Heating, Inc./Fred's Propane, Inc. d.b.a. Fred's Energy, and Limlaw Chipping & Land Clearing, Inc.
- The Board reviewed and approved the single vehicle applications of Daren LaHaye and Superior Plus Energy Services.

g. Other business

i. Dump truck purchase planning

Mr. Chase reported on his preliminary exploration of pricing and availability of dump trucks for purchase. The Board's truck purchasing schedule has the next dump truck purchase in 2023. Discussion ensued.

ii. New grader delivery forecast

Mr. Chase reported that the Caterpillar sales department originally indicated that the Town should expect delivery of the new grader in April or May 2022; the schedule for delivery is now uncertain but much later than originally anticipated.

iii. Old grader

Mr. Chase reported that the old grader has a cracked manifold. Discussion ensued.

5. Other business presented by other town officers

a. Zoning Administrative Officer Shirley Warden regarding zoning permit applications for Town Garage property

Ms. Warden appeared and presented a zoning application for two job trailers to be placed on the Town Garage property, per discussion at the previous Board meeting.

- With the Board's approval, Ms. Ford signed the application.

6. Consideration of, and take any action on, complaint regarding dumping of waste off North Monroe Road

The Board discussed a complaint received regarding dumping on Town property off North Monroe Road near the bridge over the Connecticut River to Monroe, New Hampshire. Discussion ensued.

- The Board requested that Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt contact the Caledonia County Sheriff's Department to request assistance with investigation of the issue.

7. Consideration of, and take any action on, procurement of diesel fuel, heating fuel, and propane for the 2022-2023 season

Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt asked how the Board would like to approach procurement of diesel fuel, heating fuel, and propane for the 2022-2023 season.

- The Board agreed to solicit bids for the delivery of diesel fuel, heating fuel, and propane for the 2022-2023 season in the same manner as the process was performed in the previous year.

8. Consideration of, and take any action on, bids for mowing of town properties

The Board reviewed bids for mowing of town properties, as summarized below:

Benoit Landscaping: \$3,800 (annual cost for 2022 only)

Weaver Construction: \$4,455 (annual cost for each year of two-year contract 2022-2023)

Discussion ensued.

- Mr. Jefferson moved to accept the bid of Benoit Landscaping. Seconded by Mr. Gates and approved by voice vote.

9. Consideration of, and take any action on, planning for expenditure and documentation of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding

Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt indicated that ARPA reporting is due at the end of April. He asked how the Board plans to approach expenditure and documentation of funds; he suggested that the Board consider hiring a consultant to assist the Town. Discussion ensued.

- The Board agreed that Ms. Ford would contact Northeastern Vermont Development Association to discuss the Board's options.

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

Mr. Gates indicated that there was no new information to report or discuss regarding this matter.

Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt indicated he had spoken to Fire Chief Ronald Morse, who reported that he had not received any recent communication from The Sign Depot.

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

Mr. Gates indicated that there was no new information to report or discuss regarding this matter.

12. Consideration of approval of outstanding check warrants

- The Board reviewed and approved all outstanding check warrants.

13. Other business presented by Selectboard

a. Next regular meeting

The Board noted that the next regular meeting must be cancelled or rescheduled due to conflict with Town Meeting (Monday, April 25, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.). Discussion ensued.

- The Board agreed to reschedule the April 25, 2022 regular meeting for Monday, April 18, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. at the Barnet Public Library.

b. Homestead Declarations due April 18th

The Board read a notice stating that the Town of Barnet will assess a penalty in the maximum percentages allowable pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 5410(g) for 2022 Homestead Declarations (Vermont Department of Taxes form HS-122) filed after April 18, 2022 and other non-compliance of Homestead Declaration filing requirements.

c. Memorial Day services planning

The Board began planning for the Sunday, May 29th services at Passumpsic and Barnet Village.

14. Consideration of, and take any action on, evaluation of appointed public officers/employees

- Mr. Gates moved to enter executive session to discuss evaluation of appointed public officers/employees pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 313(a) (1,3 & 4). Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote. Entered executive session at 7:49 p.m. Those present in executive session: Ms. Ford, Mr. Gates, Mr. Jefferson, and Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt.
- Mr. Gates moved to exit executive session. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote. Exited executive session at 7:53 p.m.
- Mr. Gates moved to accept the stipulation for a public reprimand for violating the Town of Barnet's conflict of interest policy which has been signed by Planning Commission and Zoning Board member Dakota Butterfield and Town Attorney Steve Adler. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

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

- Mr. Gates moved that the Board make a specific finding, pursuant to 1 V.S.A. Section 313 (a)(1)(E), that premature public knowledge of discussion concerning pending legal proceedings in the tax appeal to Superior Court submitted by Great River Hydro LLC would clearly place the Town of Barnet at a substantial disadvantage. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.
- Mr. Gates moved that the Board enter executive session pursuant to 1 V.S.A. Section 313 (a)(1)(E) to discuss pending legal proceedings in the tax appeal to Superior Court submitted by Great River Hydro LLC, as premature public disclosure of which would clearly place the Town of Barnet at a substantial disadvantage. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote. Entered executive session at 7:54 p.m. Those present in executive session: Ms. Ford, Mr. Gates, Mr. Jefferson, and Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt.
- Mr. Gates moved to exit executive session. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote. Exited executive session at 8:04 p.m.
- No action taken

16. Adjournment

- Mr. Gates moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

A true copy. Attest: _____ Town Clerk