

MINUTES - SPECIAL SELECTBOARD MEETING

TOWN OF BARNET, VERMONT

TUESDAY, APRIL 12, 2022

Meeting convened at 8:30 a.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 present: Dylan Ford (presiding co-chair), Benjamin Gates, and Mark Jefferson.

Other Town officials present: Justice of the Peace William Graves, Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt, Assistant Town Clerk Catherine Roy, and Zoning Administrative Officer Shirley Warden.

Members of the public present: Jay Ancel (Black River Design), David Hollocher, Alexandra Huff (News 7), David Schimke, and Rollin Tait (Black River Design).

Members of the public participating remotely: Millie Curtis.

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

The purpose of the meeting, as introduced by Mr. Ancel, was to gather the Board's and other officers' input on third scheme design plans. This new option was created by Black River Design after considering the space needs as defined previously in the process and hearing the input of the Board and other officers on the original design options and second scheme design plans.

Black River Design presented a photographic review of visits to town offices in Montpelier, Newport, and St. Johnsbury. Black River Design then reviewed plans for third scheme design "Option 2A." Discussion ensued.

Several issues were discussed by the Board, other officers, and members of the public; some of these are summarized below:

- The importance of allowing natural light in various spaces and means of achieving this.
- The importance of providing access to hearing impaired persons in meeting spaces and the means to achieve this.
- The advantages and disadvantages of combined workspaces/offices versus separate workspaces/offices (e.g., Listers, Zoning, Collector of Delinquent Taxes).
- The possibility of using the front of the building as a primary entrance.
- Issues relating to energy efficiency and planning for future energy efficiencies.

The Board and other officers agreed on several proposed changes to Option 2A; below is a non-exhaustive list of these proposed changes:

- If possible, the meeting hall should be enlarged by widening the space (moving the northern wall of the space a few feet further north).
- The spaces labeled "work/lunch space" and "work room" should be combined as a single "work room" and the space of the combined room should be smaller than the combined total space of the two smaller rooms.

- Direct access from the Town Clerk's Office space to the meeting hall should be re-introduced.
- A large workspace counter should be introduced along the wall between the secure hallway and the work room.
- Better lines of sight from the Town Clerk's Office to the vault should be introduced.

2. Other business presented by Selectboard

No other business was discussed.

3. Adjournment

- Mr. Jefferson moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Gates and approved by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 9:56 p.m.

A true copy.

Attest: _____ *Town Clerk*