

MINUTES - SPECIAL SELECTBOARD MEETING

TOWN OF BARNET, VERMONT

MONDAY, APRIL 18, 2022

Meeting convened at 7:00 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 and employees present: Road Foreman Mark Chase, Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt, and Zoning Administrative Officer Shirley Warden.

Members of the public present: None.

1. Consideration of approval of minutes of regular meeting held April 11, 2022

- Mr. Jefferson moved to approve as presented the minutes of the regular meeting held April 11, 2022. Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote.

2. Consideration of approval of minutes of special meeting held April 12, 2022

- Ms. Ford moved to approve as presented the minutes of the special meeting held April 11, 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, application of Arthur Roy for highway access on Garland Hill

The Board reviewed an application for an access to be used for maple sap gathering. Mr. Chase reported on his inspection of the site, indicating that that he found it to be suitable for approval with the condition that a 24-inch culvert be installed in the road's ditch line.

- With the Board approval, Mr. Gates signed the permit as approved with the condition as suggested by Mr. Chase.

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

The Board reviewed two emails indicating that starting on Monday, April 18, 2022, the bridge on Church Street in Barnet Village will be closed to through traffic until further notice. The Barnet Fire District No. 2, along with their contractor and engineer, are beginning phase II of the water system improvement project. Construction traffic will be prevalent as they work in the Church Street and the Monument Circle area. Anderson Street will remain open. The work will be primarily between 7:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., but extended hours may occur on occasion.

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 on his meeting with Lance Duquette of VTrans. Mr. Duquette had indicated that this bridge repair is too costly for a Structures Grant application; VTrans is investigating other funding sources.

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

Mr. Chase reported that in his meeting with Lance Duquette of VTrans he had also discussed fiscal year 2023 grant applications. Mr. Chase had agreed to apply for a Structures Grant to repair bridge #9 on West Main Street near McKinley Drive and for a Class 2 Roadway grant for a paving project on a section of West Barnet Road from the park-and-ride to Kid Row.

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

Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt reported that two dehumidifiers had been ordered from Air Marketing Group, as per the Board's decision at their previous meeting.

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

- The Board reviewed and approved the single vehicle application of John B. Lantagne d.b.a. JBL Logging & Excavation.

g. Other business

i. Pick-up truck body repairs

Mr. Chase presented, and the Board reviewed, two estimates for repair of the pick-up truck's body: one from Darling Auto Repair (South Ryegate, VT) and another from Erik's Auto Body (North Haverhill, NH).

- Because this matter was not warned the Board agreed to table it.

ii. Pot holes

Mr. Jefferson reported that he had received a few comments regarding pot holes on West Barnet Road.

- Mr. Chase indicated that the Highway Department plans to repair the pot holes but is awaiting delivery of cold patch.

5. Other business presented by other town officers

There was no other business presented by other town officers.

6. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Zoning Administrative Officer regarding zoning permit for Town Garage construction trailers, etc.

The Board reviewed a letter and permit copy advising the Board that their application for a zoning permit for two construction trailers and a portable toilet at the Town Garage property had been approved pending a fifteen-day appeal period.

7. Consideration of, and take any action on, planning for Annual Town Meeting

The Board discussed logistics for the meeting and preparation for specific articles on the warning.

8. Consideration of, and take any action on, planning for Memorial Day services

Ms. Ford reported on her communications with David Rock regarding bag pipe performance. The Board agreed to request that resident David Curtin give an address at the each of the services.

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

Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt indicated that he had contacted the Caledonia County Sheriff's Department to request assistance with investigation and that he had not yet received a reply.

10. Consideration of, and take any action on, planning for expenditure and documentation of American Rescue Plan Act funding

The Board reviewed correspondence from Northeastern Vermont Development Association and information from the Vermont League of Cities and Towns. Discussion ensued.

- Mr. Gates moved to elect to take the standard allowance for revenue loss for the entire amount of the Town's ARPA award. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

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

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

- The Board agreed to table this matter.

12. 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 present or discuss regarding this matter.

- The Board agreed to table this matter.

13. Consideration of approval of outstanding check warrants

- The Board reviewed and approved all outstanding check warrants.

14. Other business presented by Selectboard

a. Speed cart

Ms. Ford reported that Constable David Stevenson had suggested that the Town consider purchasing a "speed cart": a mobile trailer with mounted traffic speed display. Ms. Ford indicated that she is investigating grant opportunities for such equipment. Discussion ensued.

b. Constable duties

Ms. Ford reported that Constable David Stevenson had indicated that he may consider seeking authority to issue traffic tickets. Discussion ensued.

15. Consideration of, and take any action on, next steps in Town Hall project

Mr. Gates discussed his communications with Wells River Savings Bank regarding a 0.59-acre land-only parcel the Bank owns, which is located at the corner of Church Street and Bimson Drive (parcel #0022-01-03). The Bank has offered to donate this parcel to the Town. Mr. Gates suggested that the Town accept this donation in anticipation of using this parcel for a parking lot which could be used for overflow parking for larger events at the renovated Town Hall or for other events in Barnet Village. Discussion ensued.

- Ms. Ford moved to accept from Wells River Saving Bank a parcel located at the corner of Church Street and Bimson Drive and identified as Town parcel #0022-01-03. 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

Ms. Ford indicated that there was no new information to present or discuss regarding this matter.

- The Board agreed to table this matter.

17. Adjournment

- Ms. Ford 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*