

MINUTES - REGULAR SELECTBOARD MEETING

TOWN OF BARNET, VERMONT

MONDAY, JUNE 27, 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, Lister John Fairchild, Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt, and Zoning Administrative Officer Shirley Warden.

Other Town officials and employees participating via GoToMeeting: None.

Members of the public participating in-person: Harry Adamek, Mildred Curtis, David Hollocher, James MacDonald, and Kathleen Monroe.

Members of the public participating via GoToMeeting: Mona Marceau, and Amy Ash Nixon (Caledonian-Record).

1. Consideration of approval of minutes of regular meeting held June 13, 2022

The Board reviewed an email from Planning Commission/Zoning Board member Elizabeth Evans, which suggested clarifying wording in Item 3.

Mr. Gates suggested that the Board make the following amendments to the draft minutes:

- a) Under Item 3, in the first sentence, to change the phrase “regulation cannabis” to “cannabis regulation.”
- b) Under Item 3, in the second sentence, to change the phrase “in regards in the” to “in regards to the.”
- c) Under Item 3, in the fourth sentence, to change the phrase “opt out” to “opt in.”
- d) Under Items 18, 20, 21, and 22, to add in each motion to enter executive session a reference to the statute cited for each respective item in the agenda.

- Mr. Gates moved to approve the draft minutes with amendments as listed above. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

2. Appearance by Northeast Kingdom Broadband (NEK BB) regarding update and draft American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds contract; take any action

Barnet NEK BB representative Kathleen Monroe appeared and provided an update on the status of NEK BB’s proposal for ARPA funds to be used for broadband infrastructure. Ms. Monroe spoke regarding participation in ARPA funding projects by other local towns, and answers to the Board’s questions regarding ARPA funding and internet service pricing. Ms. Monroe indicated that participation in the matching funds project would require Selectboard action not later than July 1, 2022. Ms. Monroe presented a proposed agreement/contract and suggested the Board may wish to consider a qualified, contingent approval of the contract at this meeting. Discussion ensued.

- No action taken.

3. Appearance by Barnet Energy Committee regarding committee activities and energy-saving resources for town residents; take any action

Energy Committee members Harry Adamek, Mildred Curtis, and David Hollocher appeared and introduced the recently-formed committee to the Board. The Committee members reviewed their formation history, membership, recent activities, and goals. They discussed their current project to promote and participate in construction of window insert kits in Barnet residences.

4. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from resident Susan Wright regarding Roy Mountain Road yield sign

The Board read a letter describing Ms. Wright's witnessing of motorists' failure to legally yield at a yield sign at the intersection of Roy Mountain Road with West Barnet Road. Ms. Wright's letter reports that she rarely witnesses motorists properly yield at this intersection, and that she recently witnessed a near-accident (involving her husband traveling on West Barnet Road) resulting from a motorist's failure to yield. Ms. Wright's letter requests that the Board change the yield sign to a stop sign. Discussion ensued. Road Foreman Mark Chase noted that he has witnessed similar motorist behavior at the intersection of Barnet Center Road with Joe's Brook Road.

- The Board agreed to request that Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt investigate the process required to legally change a yield sign to a stop sign.

5. Other business presented by members of the public

a. Resident James MacDonald regarding Harvey's Lake Beach

Mr. MacDonald, who lives near the public beach, appeared and asked a) when buoys would be installed to demarcate the boundary of the public beach, and b) why the gate from Sunny Beach Lane to the public beach has been left unlocked this summer. Discussion ensued.

6. Appearance by Road Foreman Mark Chase regarding Highway Department matters; take any action

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

Mr. Chase reported that no new activity has transpired regarding this matter.

b. Consideration of, and take any action on, application of Josh Lamothe for highway access permit on Old Silo Road

The Board reviewed the application for a driveway. Mr. Chase reported on his inspection of the site, indicating that visibility is good and no culvert is needed in the right-of-way. Mr. Chase recommended approval of the permit.

- Mr. Gates moved to approve the permit. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote. Ms. Ford signed the permit.

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

There were no applications submitted for Uniform Municipal Excess Weight Permits.

d. Other business

i. Church Street paving

Mr. Chase reported that he had contacted Blaktop regarding paving Church Street as contracted.

ii. Chloride price increase

Mr. Chase reported that he had received notification from Innovative Surface Solutions that the per-gallon price for chloride will increase to \$1.11.

iii. Sand screening

Mr. Chase reported that the sand screening project has been completed.

iv. Roadside mowing

Mr. Chase reported that roadside mowing has commenced; a rental over-the-rail mower will also be used later in the summer.

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

Road Foreman Mark Chase reported that he had received pricing information from Carroll Concrete for concrete blocks to control access to the roadside along North Monroe Road: 3' x 6' blocks are priced at \$65 each; 3' x 3' blocks are priced at \$45 each. Discussion ensued.

- The Board requested that Mr. Chase investigate pricing for delineator posts as an alternative to concrete blocks.

8. Consideration of amendment of Ordinance regarding Street Naming and Street Addressing; take any action

The Board reviewed changes to the ordinance as proposed by Zoning Administrative Officer Shirley Warden.

- Mr. Gates moved to approve as presented the changes to the ordinance as proposed by Ms. Warden. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.
- The Board agreed to request that Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt investigate the process to legally amend the ordinance.

9. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Planning Commission/Zoning Board (PC/ZB) regarding appointments to PC/ZB, Rules of Procedure, and sub-committees

The Board read an email containing several requests. The requests and Board actions are summarized below.

a. Nomination of Dennis McLam for a new term on the PC/ZB

- Mr. Gates moved to re-appoint Dennis McLam to the PC/ZB. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

b. Nomination of Dawn Holtz as a new PC/ZB member to fill a vacancy and to continue as the board secretary in addition to serving on the board

- Mr. Gates moved to appoint Dawn Holtz to the PC/ZB as a member and to re-appoint her as PC/ZB secretary. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

Note: The above description accurately reflects the motion approved by the Selectboard, however the appointment of Dawn Holtz as PC/ZB secretary was invalid because this appointment is outside the scope of the Selectboard's authority; the PC/ZB secretary is appointed by the PC/ZB itself. The above-described approved motion is effective as regards Dawn Holtz's appointment as a member of the PC/ZB. See minutes of Selectboard meeting held July 11, 2022 (Item 2).

c. Request for the town lawyer to review the recently updated PC/ZB Rules of Procedure before finalizing and voting

- Mr. Gates moved to approve expenditures for the PC/ZB to seek legal advice for review of PC/ZB Rules of Procedure. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

d. Request for guidance/legal advice on members of the public serving on PC/ZB sub-committees

- Mr. Gates moved to approve expenditures for the PC/ZB to seek legal advice on members of the public serving on PC/ZB sub-committees. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

10. Other business presented by other town officers

No other business was presented by other town officers.

11. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Endyne, Inc. with results of analyses of groundwater samples at closed landfill

The Board reviewed a cover letter and laboratory report on results of analyses performed for samples collected May 24, 2022.

- No action taken.

12. Consideration of, and take any action on, regarding planning for American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds expenditures

The Board recapitulated and furthered their discussion at their previous meeting regarding expenditure of ARPA funds for non-municipal entities.

- Mr. Gates moved that the Board designate ten percent (10%) of the Town's total ARPA funding to be granted to non-municipal entities based in or with a connection to the Town of Barnet, to be distributed at the Board's discretion to qualifying applicants who timely file an application not later than September 12, 2022. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

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

The Board discussed the challenges of acquiring a sign using the vendor originally contacted.

- The Board agreed to request that Fire & Rescue Chief Ronald Morse contact sign company Signarama to request a quote.

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

Mr. Gates reported that there was no new activity to report or discuss regarding this matter.

- No action taken.

15. Consideration of approval of outstanding check warrants

- The Board reviewed and approved all outstanding check warrants.

16. Other business presented by Selectboard

No other business was presented by the Selectboard.

17. Consideration of, and take any action on, compensation of Board of Listers

- Mr. Gates moved to enter executive session to discuss compensation of the Board of Listers pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(3). Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote. Entered executive session at 8:46 p.m. Those present in executive session: Ms. Ford, Mr. Gates, Mr. Jefferson, Lister John Fairchild, 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 8:52 p.m.
- Mr. Gates moved to accept the recommended wage increase for the Board of Listers as discussed in executive session. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

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

The Board noted that there was no new activity to report or discuss regarding this matter.

- No action taken.

19. 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 activity to report or discuss regarding this matter.

- No action taken.

20. Adjournment

- Mr. Gates moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 8:54 p.m.

A true copy. Attest: _____ *Town Clerk*