

MINUTES - REGULAR SELECTBOARD MEETING

TOWN OF BARNET, VERMONT

MONDAY, JULY 25, 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, Dam Committee member George Coppenrath, Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt, Dam Committee member Joseph Mangiapane, and Zoning Administrative Officer Shirley Warden.

Other Town officials and employees participating via GoToMeeting: None.

Members of the public participating in-person: William Graves and Jeremy Roberts.

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

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

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

2. Other business presented by members of the public

There was no other business presented by members of the public.

3. 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 New Hampshire Department of Transportation work on Barnet-Monroe bridge

The Board reviewed an email indicating that New Hampshire Department of Transportation will be working this summer on the Barnet-Monroe bridge connected with North Monroe Road. The email requests Board permission for the work, which will include temporary signals.

- The Board agreed to grant permission for the proposed work.

b. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Vermont Agency of Transportation regarding Town Highway Structures Grant standard grant agreement

The Board reviewed an email and attached grant agreement for the Town's fiscal year 2023 Structures Grant.

- The Board signed the agreement.

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 discussed his communications with Shauna Clifford of VTrans. He indicated that he is awaiting further communication from Ms. Clifford in order to determine the exact requirements of the prescribed bridge repairs.

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

Mr. Chase reported that due to ledge material in the area he was unable to effectively lodge the delineator posts which were purchased to mitigate the problem of waste dumping. Discussion ensued.

- The Board instructed Mr. Chase to seek a quote for installation of guardrail on North Monroe Road.

e. Other business

i. Gravel crushing

Mr. Chase indicated that Chief Crushing & Excavation proposes to begin their gravel crushing project at the Town gravel pit on or near August 15th.

ii. Roadside mowing

Mr. Chase indicated that the Highway Department will receive a rental roadside mower from Pete's Equipment Sales & Rentals on August 1st.

iii. Pick-up truck

Mr. Chase indicated that the pick-up truck (#007) remains in the shop for repairs of corrosion; the corrosion was found to be more severe than anticipated.

4. Consideration of, and take any action on, list of dogs and wolf-hybrids not licensed or inoculated as required by law

The Board reviewed a list of 30 unlicensed dogs owned by 15 different owners.

- The Board requested that the Town Clerk's Office send notices with notification of late fees pursuant to the Animal Control Ordinance.

5. Consideration of, and take any action on, Dam Committee activities and appointment of new Dam Committee members

Committee member Ms. Ford discussed recent Dam Committee activities. The Board reviewed a proposed letter from the Selectboard to the Vermont Dam Safety Program regarding certain planned maintenance items at the Harvey's Lake Dam.

- The Board agreed to sign the proposed letter; the Board signed the letter.

Ms. Ford reported that the Committee had nominated Robert Dufresne to become a Committee member to replace David Price, who recently resigned.

- Mr. Gates moved to appoint Robert Dufresne to the Dam Committee. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

6. Other business presented by other town officers

There was no other business presented by other town officers.

7. Consideration of, and take any action on, proposed change of speed limit on West Main Street

Road Foreman Mark Chase reported that 25 miles-per-hour speed limit signs had been posted at the Barnet-Peacham town line, in accordance with the Board's discussion at their previous meeting. This posting change will make enforceable the speed limit stipulated by the Speed Limit Ordinance for the full length of West Main Street (a portion of Town Highway #1), from its intersection with McLam Lane (Town Highway #62) westward to the Barnet-Peacham town line.

8. Consideration of, and take any action on, proposed change of yield sign(s) to stop sign(s)

The Board reviewed correspondence from Vermont League of Cities & Towns, which advises that the location of “yield” and “stop” signs must be specifically articulated in a town ordinance in order for them to be enforceable. Discussion ensued.

- The Board agreed to not take any action with regard to changing yield signs to stop signs at Roy Mountain Road/West Barnet Road or Barnet Center Road/Joe’s Brook Road intersections.

9. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Vermont Agency of Transportation regarding 2023 municipal park-and-ride grant program

The Board reviewed an email from Nate Sicard regarding engineering and cost estimate for a proposed park-and-ride facility at the corner of Church Street and Bimson Drive, on property the Town is in process of acquisition from Wells River Savings Bank. Discussion ensued.

10. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Northeast Kingdom Broadband (NEKBB) regarding proposed optical line terminal (OLT) site on Town property

The Board read an email indicating that NEKBB is no longer considering the site at Gilfillan Road/West Barnet Road for OLT location due to its distance from the network backbone.

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

The Board discussed inquiries about applications for funding for non-municipal entities. Transfer Station & Recycling Center attendant Shirley Warden suggested that the Board consider using ARPA funds for proposed repair/maintenance of the Transfer Station’s compactor building.

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

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

- No action taken.

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

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

- No action taken.

14. Consideration of approval of outstanding check warrants

- The Board reviewed and approved all outstanding check warrants.

15. Other business presented by Selectboard

a. Beach Committee resignation

The Board read an email from Beach Committee member Tina Bearce communicating Ms. Bearce’s resignation from the Beach Committee effective July 23, 2022.

- Mr. Gates moved to accept the resignation of Beach Committee member Tina Bearce. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

b. Beach buoys

Ms. Ford reported that the buoys at the Harvey’s Lake Beach were installed prior to Harvey’s Lake Day on July 23rd.

c. Correspondence from Zoning Administrative Officer regarding abutter’s notice for permit issued to Deborah J Robinson/Blue Sky Builders

The Board reviewed an approved permit for a seasonal dwelling in a condominium at Campers Lane.

d. Slayton Lane health inspection

Health Officer Ms. Ford reported that she had performed the health inspection at Slayton Lane as discussed at the previous Board meeting. Sheriff's Department participation was not required.

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

- Mr. Gates moved that the Board make a specific finding, pursuant to 1 V.S.A. Section 313 (a)(1)(A), that premature public knowledge of discussion concerning proposed contracts with construction manager firms 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)(A) to discuss proposed contracts with construction manager firms, 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 7:36 p.m. Those present in executive session: Ms. Ford, Mr. Gates, Mr. Jefferson, Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt, William Graves, and Jeremy Roberts.
- Mr. Gates moved to exit executive session. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote. Exited executive session at 8:26 p.m.
- No action taken

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

The Board discussed the status of communications and negotiations with Great River Hydro regarding a proposed multi-year agreement for fixed property tax valuation.

18. Adjournment

- Mr. Gates moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

A true copy. Attest: _____ Town Clerk