

MINUTES - REGULAR SELECTBOARD MEETING

TOWN OF BARNET, VERMONT

MONDAY, AUGUST 8, 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, Benjamin Gates (presiding co-chair), and Mark Jefferson.

Other Town officials and employees participating in-person: Dam Committee member Richard Downer, 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: Robert Abbott.

Members of the public participating via GoToMeeting: None.

1. Consideration of approval of minutes of regular meeting held July 25, 2022

Mr. Jefferson moved to approve as presented the minutes of the regular meeting held July 25, 2022. Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote.

2. Other business presented by members of the public

a. Robert Abbott regarding Church Street traffic

Mr. Abbott, a resident of Church Street, appeared and discussed traffic on Church Street. He indicated that he has observed a significant number of vehicles using Church Street as a through-road or shortcut between US Route 5 South and the northerly portion of Bimson Drive. He suggested that traffic on Church Street should be restricted to vehicles accessing properties (residences, businesses, etc.) on Church Street only and that through-traffic should be prohibited. He suggested that the Board initiate a traffic and engineering study to learn more about traffic volume and patterns on Church Street. Discussion ensued.

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

Mr. Chase did not appear at this meeting; in his absence the Board discussed the following matters:

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

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

- No action taken.

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

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

- No action taken.

c. Other business

No other business was discussed.

4. Other business presented by other town officers

a. Appearance by Town Health Officer regarding water sample test at Harvey's Lake Beach

Town Health Officer Ms. Ford reported that water sample testing was performed on samples taken from Harvey's Lake Beach. The results, according to Ms. Ford, indicated the absence of both coliform and E. coli.

5. Consideration of, and take any action on, certification of 2022 property tax rates

The Board reviewed the certification of tax rates for 2021, as prepared by Treasurer Benjamin Heisholt. Total tax rates (including all municipal and education taxes) are 2.0712 for homestead and for 2.0320 for non-homestead.

- Ms. Ford moved to approve the rates as presented. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote. The Board signed the certification.

6. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation regarding planned Harvey's Lake Dam maintenance

The Board reviewed an email from Benjamin Green of the Dam Safety Division indicating that the Board's planned work on the Harvey's Lake Dam "appears to constitute an alteration to the dam and will therefore require application and authorization through the Dam Safety Program." The email indicates that the Dam Safety Division is available to visit the site and discuss the proposed project. Ms. Ford read a proposed letter in response to Mr. Green's email, which requests that Mr. Green meet with the Board/Dam Committee at the dam.

- The Board agreed to authorize Ms. Ford's signing of the proposed response letter to Mr. Green.

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

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

- No action taken.

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

Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt indicated that he had received an inquiry from the McIndoe Falls Fire District (Barnet Fire District #3) about the protocol for receipt of ARPA funding the Board agreed to grant the Fire District at the Board's 14 March 2022 meeting.

- The Board agreed to authorize immediate payment to Barnet Fire District #3 in the amount of \$15,000 in ARPA funding as approved 14 March 2022, in advance of the Fire District's expenditures related to their request for funds.

The Board reviewed a request for funding from North Country Longspurs and a new request from McIndoe Falls Fire District (Barnet Fire District #3). The Board agreed that it will compile all new requests and review them at its September 12, 2022 meeting.

9. 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.

10. 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.

11. Consideration of approval of outstanding check warrants

- The Board reviewed and approved all outstanding check warrants.

12. Other business presented by Selectboard

There was no other business presented by the Selectboard.

13. Consideration of, and take any action on, proposed notice of violation for vehicle(s) in Town Highway right-of-way

The Board reviewed a proposed violation letter and an excerpt from the Barnet Zoning Bylaws as presented by Zoning Administrative Officer Shirley Warden. The excerpt, along with information provided by Ms. Warden, suggests that a residence on Anderson Street may be in violation of the Bylaws for an unpermitted junkyard and for infraction against shoreland regulations; the proposed letter notifies the landowner of the observed violation(s). Ms. Warden appeared and discussed the matter with the Board. She noted that the property also has one or more motor vehicles parked within the Town's right-of-way on Anderson Street.

- The Board agreed to send a letter from the Board to the landowner instructing the landowner to remove the motor vehicle(s) from the Town's right-of-way.

14. 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.

15. Consideration of, and take any action on, tax appeal to Superior Court submitted by Great River Hydro LLC (executive session anticipated pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(1)(E))

- Ms. Ford moved that the Board make a specific finding, pursuant to 1 V.S.A. Section 313 (a)(1)(F), that premature public knowledge of discussion concerning a tax appeal to Superior Court 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.
- Ms. Ford moved that the Board enter executive session pursuant to 1 V.S.A. Section 313 (a)(1)(F) to discuss a tax appeal to Superior Court 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 7:50 p.m. Those present in executive session: Ms. Ford, Mr. Gates, Mr. Jefferson, and Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt.
- Ms. Ford moved to exit executive session. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote. Exited executive session at 8:14 p.m.
- No action taken

16. Adjournment

- Ms. Ford moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 8:14 p.m.

A true copy. Attest: _____ *Town Clerk*