

# MINUTES - REGULAR SELECTBOARD MEETING

## TOWN OF BARNET, VERMONT

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 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:** Road Foreman Mark Chase, 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:** Lisa Bowden, Joyce Evans, William Graves, Heather Lindstrom, Amy Ash Nixon (Caledonian-Record), and Mary Jane Sheerin.

**Members of the public participating via GoToMeeting:** Mona Marceau.

### 1. Consideration of approval of minutes of regular meeting held August 22, 2022

- Ms. Ford moved to approve as presented the minutes of the regular meeting held August 22, 2022. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

### 2. Consideration of approval of minutes of special meeting held August 29, 2022

- Ms. Ford moved to approve as presented the minutes of the special meeting held August 29, 2022. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

### 3. Consideration of, and take any action on, applications by non-municipal entities for American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding

The Board reviewed its policy for grants to non-municipal entities, as established at its June 27, 2022 meeting. The policy states that ten percent (10%) of the Town's total ARPA funding is to be awarded to non-municipal entities. The Town's total ARPA funding allocation is \$487,847.30; the total non-municipal grants available will be \$48,784.73.

The Board reviewed and discussed grant applications from entities as summarized below:

Barnet Congregational Church:

- \$11,816.50 for project to install chairlifts
- \$1,190.00 for installation of HEPA air filtration units
- \$7,000.00 to \$10,000.00 for ceiling painting
- \$3,000.00 to \$3,500 for repair/preservation of church bell

McIndoes Academy Community Center:

- \$35,000 for roof project

North Country Longspurs:

- \$300.00 for sponsorship of Juniors Acquiring Knowledge Ethics & Sportsmanship outdoor learning event

- Ms. Ford moved to award ARPA funding to applicants for the proposed projects/events as described in their applications as follows: \$20,000.00 to Barnet Congregational Church, \$28,000.00 to McIndoes Academy Community Center, and \$300.00 to North Country Longspurs. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

**4. Other business presented by members of the public**

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

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

**a. Consideration of, and take any action on, application for Highway Access Permit on Denio Road**

The Board reviewed the application submitted by Caleb Temple. Mr. Chase reported that he had visited the parcel but could not determine the location of the proposed access. The application did not contain a description of the location or a sketch.

- No action taken.

**b. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from resident Frank Jannarone regarding intersection of Harvey Mountain Road and West Main Street**

The Board reviewed an email from Mr. Jannarone, which describes the intersection of West Main Street and Harvey Mountain Road in West Barnet Village and expresses Mr. Jannarone's concern that the intersection is unsafe and his suggestion that a wide white stop line or the word "STOP" painted on the road at the stop sign on West Main Street. Discussion ensued.

- The Board agreed to contact an owner of a property at the intersection whose shrub is restricting vision to at the intersection.

**c. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence regarding 2022 gravel crushing costs**

The Board reviewed invoices submitted by Chief Crushing & Excavation (CCE) for CCE's expenses relating to drilling and blasting for Barnet's the 2021 and 2022 gravel crushing projects. The invoices (from Austin Powder) indicate costs of \$18,005.10 in 2021 and \$27,596.74 in 2022. CCE indicates that this increase in costs was not anticipated when their bid for crushing services was submitted to the Town. As discussed at the August 29, 2022 Board meeting, the Board considered providing additional funding to CCE, above the quoted per-cubic-yard crushing cost, to cover these unanticipated expenses.

- Mr. Jefferson moved to pay CCE an additional \$10,000 above their quoted per-cubic-yard crushing cost for 2022 gravel crushing. Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote.

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

Mr. Chase reported, and the Board reviewed an email and attached photographs documenting, that the temporary shoring has been installed on Bridge #10, per State of Vermont guidelines.

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

The Board reviewed a quote from Vermont Recreational Surfacing & Fencing to install guardrail on North Monroe Road. Quoted prices are \$5,043.00 for the north side of North Monroe Road and \$2,489.00 for the south side of North Monroe Road. Discussion ensued.

- No action taken.

**f. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from New Hampshire Department of Transportation regarding work on bridge over Connecticut River from North Monroe Road**

The Board reviewed an email providing an update regarding this project, indicating that one-lane alternating traffic controlled by temporary traffic signals will be used.

**g. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation regarding Municipal Roads General Permit re-issuance**

The Board reviewed an email with attached public and draft General Permit for stormwater discharges from municipal roads.

**h. Other business**

**i. Staff vacations**

Mr. Chase reported on scheduling of vacations for Highway Department employees.

**ii. Employee anniversary**

Mr. Chase reported that a Highway Department employee is approaching a one-year employment anniversary.

- The Board agreed to schedule an executive session agenda item for performance evaluation and wage adjustment review at their next regular meeting.

**iii. Crushing project complete**

Mr. Chase reported that the 2022 gravel crushing project at the Town gravel pit is complete.

**6. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Board of Listers regarding Grand List Errors and Omissions certificate**

The Board reviewed a certificate listing three changes to the 2022 grand list. The changes reduce the overall value of the grand list by \$43,500.

- The Board agreed to sign the certificate; the Board signed the certificate.

**7. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Town Health Officer regarding health inspection at Slayton Lane**

The Board reviewed a copy of an email to a tenant regarding health inspection violations which must be cured by the tenant. Health Officer Ms. Ford commented on the status of the case.

**8. Other business presented by other town officers**

**a. Tax sale planning**

Collector of Delinquent Tax Lisa Bowden informed the Board that she is planning to conduct a tax sale near the end of 2022 or beginning of 2023.

**9. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Caledonia Central Supervisory Union regarding proposed solar installation at Barnet School property**

The Board reviewed an email indicating that the Caledonia Cooperative School District Board was approached in spring 2022 by a resident inquiring about the Barnet School hosing a solar installation. The email's stated intention was to inform the Board of this proposed project and to inquire about the Board's knowledge of any businesses in Barnet that may wish to be a net metering customer. Discussion ensued.

**10. Consideration of, and take any action on, Snow Plowing and Maintenance Services Agreement with Caledonia Cooperative School District (CCSD)**

The Board reviewed their 2019 agreement with CCSD, which automatically renews annually unless either party terminates the agreement with notice.

- Ms. Ford moved to maintain the same agreement with CCSD. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

**11. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Northeast Kingdom Waste Management District (NEKWMD) regarding proposed amendment to Charter**

The Board reviewed a proposal to amending the charter of NEKWMD to eliminate the Australian Ballot method of voting on the annual budget and allow the NEKWMD Board of Supervisors to approve the annual budget of the district.

**12. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Norwich Technologies regarding Notice of Application for Certificate of Public Good for solar project on property of Milarepa Center**

The Board reviewed a notice and attached documentation relating to the proposed project on US Route 5 South.

**13. Consideration of, and take any action on, proposed Church Street traffic study**

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

- No action taken.

**14. 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.

**15. 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.

**16. 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.

**17. Consideration of approval of outstanding check warrants**

- The Board reviewed and approved all outstanding check warrants.

**18. Other business presented by Selectboard**

There was no other business presented by the Selectboard.

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

The Board reviewed and discussed responses received to inquiries sent to construction management candidates, as discussed at the Board's previous meeting.

- No action taken.

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

- 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 8:14 p.m. Those present in executive session: Ms. Ford, Mr. Gates, Mr. Jefferson, 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 8:26 p.m.
- No action taken

**21. Adjournment**

- Mr. Jefferson moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

*A true copy. Attest:* \_\_\_\_\_ *Town Clerk*