

# MINUTES - REGULAR SELECTBOARD MEETING

## TOWN OF BARNET, VERMONT

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2022

Meeting convened at 7:02 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:** Town Attorney Steven Adler, Road Foreman Mark Chase, Lister John Fairchild, Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt, Fire Chief Ronald Morse, 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 Eric Skovsted.

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

### 1. Consideration of approval of minutes of regular meeting held September 12, 2022

- Mr. Gates moved to approve as presented the minutes of the regular meeting held September 12, 2022. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

### 2. Other business presented by members of the public

#### a. Resident Eric Skovsted regarding noise disturbance on Brook Hill Road

Mr. Skovsted of Brook Hill Road appeared and read a prepared statement regarding harassment and noise disturbance he alleges has been directed towards his family by a neighbor on Brook Hill Road. The statement does not request any specific action by the Board. The Board noted that it has discussed this ongoing matter in the past. Discussion ensued regarding consideration of adoption of a noise ordinance.

#### b. Harvey Mountain Road highway access

Steven Adler reported that a the highway access of a residence on Harvey Mountain Road has a steep drop from the road pavement to driveway surface.

- Road Foreman Mark Chase indicated that he would inspect the site and repair as necessary.

### 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 Bridge#10 inspection finding and repair plan

Mr. Chase reported that there was no new information 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

Mr. Chase reported that there was no new information to report or discuss regarding this matter.

- No action taken

**c. Other business**

**i. Truck and equipment budgeting**

Mr. Chase reported on solicitation of quotes for dump trucks and other equipment for budget purposes.

**4. 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 increase the overall value of the grand list by \$48,100.

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

**5. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Zoning Administrative Officer regarding abutter's notice for permit issued for construction on Campers Lane**

The Board reviewed an abutters notice for a seasonal cabin at 190 Campers Lane.

**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, next steps in Town Hall project**

The Board reviewed and discussed a draft of a request for proposals for demolition of the fire station at the Town Hall property.

- Mr. Gates moved to accept and adopt the draft as the final version of the request for proposals and to distribute pursuant to the Board's purchasing policy. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

**8. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Vermont Natural Resources Board regarding Act 250 Minor Notice and Draft Permit for project on Keyser Hill Road**

The Board noted that the Natural Resources Board had retracted this notice because it had been distributed prematurely.

- No action taken.

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

Fire & Rescue Chief Ronald Morse appeared and discussed his efforts to procure a sign. He reported that he had contacted Legacy Signs of Derby, Vermont; he shared with the Board a sketch of a proposed sign. Mr. Morse indicated that he is awaiting a price quote for the proposed sign.

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

Mr. Gates reported that there was no new information 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, Highway Department employee evaluation and wage adjustment**

- Mr. Gates moved that the Board enter executive session pursuant to 1 V.S.A. Section 313 (a)(3) to discuss a Highway Department employee evaluation and wage adjustment. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote. Entered executive session at 8:03 p.m. Those present in executive session: Ms. Ford, Mr. Gates, Mr. Jefferson, Town Attorney Steven Adler, Road Foreman Mark Chase, 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 8:08 p.m.
- Mr. Gates moved to adjust the wage of Highway Department employee Christopher Bunnell as per the Board's discussion in executive session.

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

- Mr. Gates 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.
- Mr. Gates 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 8:09 p.m. Those present in executive session: Ms. Ford, Mr. Gates, Mr. Jefferson, Town Attorney Steven Adler, 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 8:51 p.m.
- No action taken

**15. Adjournment**

- Mr. Gates moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 8:51 p.m.

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