

MINUTES - REGULAR SELECTBOARD MEETING

TOWN OF BARNET, VERMONT

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 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: Collector of Delinquent Tax Lisa Bowden, and Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt.

Other Town officials and employees participating via GoToMeeting: None.

Members of the public participating in-person: Michael Kennedy.

Members of the public participating via GoToMeeting: Kathleen Monroe.

1. Consideration of approval of minutes of regular meeting held November 14, 2022

- Mr. Gates moved to approve as presented the minutes of the regular meeting held November 14, 2022. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

2. Consideration of approval of minutes of special meeting held November 18, 2022

- Mr. Gates moved to approve as presented the minutes of the special meeting held November 18, 2022. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

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

Barnet Congregational Church Trustee Lisa Bowden appeared to discuss the Board's grant of ARPA funds to the Church, which was approved at the Board meeting held September 12, 2022. The approval was for \$20,000 for projects/events described in the Church's application; the application included the following items:

- \$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

The Board reviewed a documented request from the Church for reimbursement out of the approved funding in the amount of \$7,850. This amount includes \$350 for painting a door, \$4,900 for rebuilding a bell support, \$2,500 for rebuilding stairs for accessing the bell, and \$100 for access panel repair. Ms. Bowden indicated that the request for funding should be \$7,500, as the painting project was not in the scope of the approved funding. She indicated that the other items in the request are in the overall scope of the approved funding, but the spending for each project does not match the individual estimates for projects as appeared in the original application. Ms. Bowden discussed the reasons for the discrepancies.

- Mr. Gates moved to approve funding for Barnet Congregational Church as per any requests for funding within the overall parameters of their approved application (\$20,000 for certain

listed projects) without regard to the spending within the specific project categories in their application, allowing the Church to re-allocate the funds as needed to projects within the scope of their approved application. Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote.

4. Other business presented by members of the public

a. Collector of Taxes Lisa Bowden regarding tax sale

Ms. Bowden reported that she is preparing to hold a tax sale in early 2023.

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

Mr. Chase did not appear at his meeting. In his absence the Board discussed the below-described matters:

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

Mr. Gates reported that large boulders have been delivered by Chief Crushing & Excavation along the shoulders of North Monroe Road, to serve as a deterrent for parking and dumping. Placement and positioning of the boulders remains to be completed.

b. Consideration of, and take any action on, inspection of Roy Mountain Road/Jewett Brook Road intersection

Resident Michael Kennedy appeared to follow up on his discussion of this matter with the Board at their previous meeting. Mr. Kennedy acknowledged that the Highway Department had installed a “sharp turn” sign near the problem intersection. He and the Board discussed possible further safety measures, including cutting trees in the right-of-way near the intersection.

- The Board agreed to instruct Mr. Chase to inspect the site and provide a recommendation

c. Other business

i. New grader delivered

Mr. Gates reported that the Town’s new Caterpillar grader has been delivered.

6. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Zoning Administrative Officer regarding abutters notice for permit issued to Eleanor & Shawn Bourbeau

The Board reviewed and briefly discussed a notice for a permit for a shipping container storage unit on West Barnet Road.

7. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Dam Committee member Sue Coppenrath regarding resignation from Committee

The Board reviewed an email indicating that Ms. Coppenrath is resigning as a member of the Dam Committee.

- Mr. Gates moved to accept the resignation of Sue Coppenrath as a member of the Dam Committee. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

8. Other business presented by other town officers

No other business was presented by other town officers.

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

a. Consideration of, and take any action on, proposed contract documents from Estes & Gallup

The Board discussed the proposed contract documents, noting that they are currently under legal review.

b. Consideration of, and take any action on, interior demolition of Town Hall building

The Board discussed plans to demolish the interior of the Town Hall to prepare for renovation.

- The Board agreed to postpone plans for demolition until after the conclusion of discussions with Preservation Trust of Vermont regarding grant funding.

c. Other business

No other business was discussed.

10. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Northeast Kingdom Waste Management District regarding proposed 2023 budget

The Board reviewed the proposed 2023 budget, with total expenses of \$885,280, an increase of 4.5% over the 2022 budget.

11. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from resident David Warden regarding Chamberlin Road

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

- No action taken

12. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Northeast Kingdom Broadband regarding optical line terminal siting

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

- No action taken

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

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

- No action taken

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

The Board noted that there was no new information 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

The Board reviewed correspondence confirming that the Vermont Superior Court has accepted the Town's settlement agreement with Great River Hydro and has dismissed the appeals.

16. Consideration of, and take any action on, 2023 Town General Fund budget

The Board began its review and development of the 2023 budget.

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, correspondence from attorney Clarke Atwell regarding appeal of zoning permit issued to Michael & Jane Lawton

- 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 an appeal of a zoning permit issued to Michael & Jane Lawton 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 an appeal of a zoning permit issued to Michael & Jane Lawton, 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 7:45 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 8:00 p.m.
- No action taken

20. Consideration of, and take any action on, 2023 Town General Fund budget (continued)

The Board continued its review and development of the 2023 budget.

21. Adjournment

- Mr. Gates moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 8:44 p.m.

A true copy. Attest: _____ Town Clerk