

MINUTES - REGULAR SELECTBOARD MEETING

TOWN OF BARNET, VERMONT

MONDAY, DECEMBER 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: None.

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

1. Consideration of approval of minutes of regular meeting held November 28, 2022

- Mr. Jefferson moved to approve as presented the minutes of the regular meeting held November 28, 2022. Seconded by Ms. Ford 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 Northeast Kingdom Broadband regarding underground conduit along Tower Road

The Board reviewed email correspondence from NEK Broadband regarding installation of underground conduit along Tower Road, including a proposal with maps and plans. Road Commissioner Mr. Gates reported that he had approved commencement of work, as the project was time-sensitive due to weather and time of year. Mr. Gates also reported that he had received a comment from an abutting landowner indicating that markers for the project along the Town's right-of-way indicate that poles will be installed, although these were not a part of proposal. Discussion ensued.

- The Board agreed that Mr. Chase and Mr. Gates will follow up with NEK Broadband to confirm that pole installation is not part of the proposed project.

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

Mr. Chase reported that the large boulders delivered by Chief Crushing & Excavation have been placed and positioned along the shoulders of North Monroe Road to serve as a deterrent for parking and dumping. The Board hopes that this will be sufficient deterrence but will continue to monitor the location.

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

Mr. Chase reported that he had inspected the site, as discussed at the previous meeting, to assess if additional measures may prevent future accidents. Discussion ensued.

d. Other business

i. Truck repair

Mr. Chase reported that dump truck #001 is currently not running and will be taken to Advantage Truck Group in Lancaster for diagnosis and repair.

ii. Road salt sales

Mr. Gates reported that the Town has raised its price for sale of road salt from \$100 to \$115 per ton, based on the 2022 increase in cost to the Town.

- The Board agreed to approve the increase.

4. Other business presented by other town officers

No other business was presented by other town officers.

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

a. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Vermont Agency of Transportation regarding Park-and-Ride Grant

The Board reviewed correspondence between the Vermont Agency of Transportation and engineer Nate Sicard of Ruggles Engineering Services regarding archaeological review and landscape planning. The Board reviewed Mr. Sicard's revised grant application to include planning and costs for these items.

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

Mr. Gates updated the Board on recent activities related to legal review of the contract documents.

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

Mr. Gates reviewed an email from Jay Ancel of Black River Design regarding Preservation Trust of Vermont funding and various historic preservation considerations.

d. Other business

No other business was discussed.

6. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Barnet Fire & Rescue regarding appointment of Fire Chief

The Board reviewed a letter submitting the name of Ronald Morse for the position of Fire Chief for 2023.

- Ms. Ford moved to appoint Ronald Morse to the position of Fire Chief for the year 2023. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

7. Consideration of, and take any action on, scheduling of next regular Board meeting

The Board noted that the date of the next regular Board meeting will fall on a Town holiday, December 26. Discussion ensued.

- The Board agreed to cancel its regular meeting December 26, 2022, and replace it with a special meeting to be held December 27, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

8. Consideration of, and take any action on, 2022 year-end employee bonuses

The Board reviewed the minutes of Board meeting held December 13, 2021 which indicate that the Board had agreed to pay 2021 year-end bonuses of \$350 to full-time employees, \$200 to Assistant Town Clerk Catherine Roy, \$175.00 to part-time Highway Department Employee Paul Gibson, and \$150 each to Transfer Station/Recycling Center employees Daniel Ehlers, Bruce Marston, Donald Nelson, and Shirley Warden.. Discussion ensued.

- Ms. Ford moved to pay 2022 year-end bonuses of \$500 to full-time employees, \$300 to Assistant Town Clerk Catherine Roy, \$150 to part-time Highway Department Employees Paul Gibson and Steve Mosher, and \$175 each to Transfer Station/Recycling Center employees Daniel Ehlers, Bruce Marston, Donald Nelson, and Shirley Warden. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

9. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Caledonia County Sheriff's Department with proposed 2023 service contract

The Board reviewed a proposed 2023 patrol service contract. Terms and conditions for the contract are the same as in the 2022 contract.

- Ms. Ford moved to sign the contract for police services in the months of January through December 2023 with a minimum of ten hours per month and not to exceed \$7,500 for the contract year. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote. The Board signed the contract.

10. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Caledonia County regarding fiscal year 2024 budget

The Board reviewed notices of meetings to be held November 28, 2022 and January 31, 2022 to present the 2024 county budget.

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

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 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

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

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, sign for Fire & Rescue Station

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, memorial for veterans of wars in Iraq and Afghanistan

Ms. Ford reported that she had received one quote for a bronze plaque to install at the memorial. Total quoted cost is \$7,650 for a full-size plaque or \$4,895 for half-size. Addition of the State of Vermont seal to the full-sized plaque is an additional \$175. Discussion ensued.

- The Board agreed to wait for the receipt a second quote before proceeding.

16. Consideration of approval of outstanding check warrants

- The Board reviewed and approved all outstanding check warrants.

17. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from attorney Clarke Atwell regarding appeal of zoning permit issued to Michael & Jane Lawton

The Board noted that a hearing via video conference will be held January 30, 2022.

18. Other business presented by Selectboard

a. Harvey's Lake Dam Committee

Ms. Ford reported on the recent activities of the Dam Committee. She indicated that that the Committee is considering contracting to perform a Hazard Classification Assessment of the dam. Discussion was had regarding options for funding this work.

- The Board agreed to request that the Committee submit an estimate for the assessment not later than January 9, 2023.

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

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

20. Adjournment

- Ms. Ford moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

A true copy. Attest: _____ Town Clerk