

# MINUTES - SPECIAL SELECTBOARD MEETING

## TOWN OF BARNET, VERMONT

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 27, 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:** Lister John Fairchild, Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt, Lister David Warden, 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 December 12, 2022

- Mr. Gates moved to approve as presented the minutes of the regular meeting held December 12, 2022. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson 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

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 Northeast Kingdom Broadband regarding underground conduit along Tower Road

The Board reviewed emails from the abutting property owner whose concerns were discussed at the previous meeting and from Northeast Kingdom Broadband. The emails indicate that the concerns were resolved.

#### b. Other business

##### i. Dump Truck #001 repairs

Mr. Gates reported that repairs to Dump Truck #001, as discussed at the previous meeting, are nearly complete; the truck should be returned to use this week.

##### ii. Dump Truck body damage

Mr. Gates reported that the dump truck operated by Highway Department employee Jason LeClair suffered damage to its body when it slid off Gilchrist Lane recently.

### 4. Other business presented by other town officers

#### a. Appearance by Listers regarding budgeting for Lister consultant

Lister Chair John Fairchild appeared and discussed the 2023 budget for NEMRC to serve as a consultant to the Board of Listers. Mr. Fairchild indicated that, based on 2022

usage, \$4,000 would be a reasonable budget figure. Discussion ensued regarding this budget and possible Lister wage adjustments.

**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 email notification that the Town's project was chosen to receive its requested funding, and email confirmation of the Town's submission of a signed Project Commitments Form.

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

Mr. Gates reported that the contract documents remain under legal review.

**c. Other business**

**i. Correspondence from Board advisor William Graves**

The Board reviewed and discussed an email encouraging the Board to prioritize reflecting the Town Hall's historic and tradition characteristics in renovation plans. Discussion ensued regarding historic building elements and costs of retaining or highlighting these.

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

Ms. Ford discussed her communications with Gary Thompson of the McIndoe Falls Fire District regarding defined costs for their grant request. Mr. Thompson indicated that the Fire District will be able to provide more defined and reliable costs estimates in April 2023.

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

Mr. Warden appeared and discussed his correspondence to the Board, as discussed at recent Board meetings. The Board reviewed a map of current Warden Road and Chamberlin Road, as compared to the layout and naming of Warden Road and Chamberlin Road that Mr. Warden states were originally intended by the Town in 1998. Discussion ensued. The Board noted that public hearings will be necessary duly to consider Mr. Warden's suggestion.

**8. 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 business to report or discuss regarding this matter.

- The Board agreed that Mr. Jefferson would contact Town Attorney Steven Adler to inquire about the status of the proposed easement.

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

The Board noted that there was no new business 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 business 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**

### **a. Harvey's Lake Dam Committee**

Ms. Ford reported that she plans to meet with Dam Committee member Robert Dufresne on Wednesday, December 28, 2022 to discuss funding for the proposed project as discussed at the previous Board meeting.

## **13. Consideration of, and take any action on, 2023 Town General Fund budget**

### **a. Consideration of, and take any action on, 2023 Town employee wage adjustments**

- Mr. Gates moved to enter executive session to discuss performance evaluations and/or wage rate adjustments for Town employees and officers pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(3). Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote. Entered executive session at 7:43 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.
- Mr. Gates moved to ratify the discussion held in executive session regarding performance evaluations and wage rate adjustments for Town employees and officers. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

## **14. 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 there was no new business to report or discuss regarding this matter.

- No action taken

## **15. Adjournment**

- Mr. Gates moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

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