

MINUTES - REGULAR SELECTBOARD MEETING

TOWN OF BARNET, VERMONT

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2023

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, and Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt, Fire & Rescue 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: Eric Skovsted.

Members of the public participating via GoToMeeting: Jonathan Carpenter and Mona Marceau.

1. Consideration of approval of minutes of regular meeting held January 23, 2023

- Ms. Ford moved to approve as presented the minutes of the regular meeting held January 23, 2023. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

2. Other business presented by members of the public

a. Appearance by resident Eric Skovsted regarding Joe's Brook Road neighborhood noise harassment

Mr. Skovsted appeared and asked for an update on the Board's activities related to this matter since the previous Board meeting. Mr. Gates reported that he had spoken with Caledonia County Sheriff James Hemond. Mr. Gates indicated that Mr. Hemond had advised against the adoption of a noise ordinance to help resolve this matter and had recommended that Mr. Skovsted seek the services of the Community Restorative Justice Center to help mediate the dispute.

3. Appearance by Zoning Board/Planning Commission regarding proposed Zoning Administrative Officer assistant position

The Board reviewed an email from Planning Commission & Zoning Board Secretary Dawn Holtz regarding the proposed addition of a position of Zoning Administrative Officer assistant. The ideal candidate for this position would learn the Administrative Officer position, serve as a deputy to current Administrative Officer Shirley Warden, and replace Ms. Warden when she retires. The Board discussed this proposal with Ms. Warden.

- The Board agreed in principle to the proposal; they agreed to gather more information to form a job description including approximate number of hours per week or month.

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

a. Consideration of, and take any action on, applications for Uniform Municipal Excess Weight Permits

- The Board reviewed and approved the fleet applications of Barrett Trucking Co, Inc., Riggs Distler & Co, Inc., and Velco; the Board reviewed and approved the single vehicle application of Omar Smith.

b. Consideration of, and take any action on, quotes for roadside mower

The Board reviewed quotes for boom mowers as summarized below:

<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Make/Model</u>	<u>Total Price</u>
Pete's Equipment	Diamond RBM-C-T	\$38,965.73
HP Fairfield	Tiger RBM 20	\$65,750.00
HP Fairfield	Tiger RM 16	\$62,750.00
HP Fairfield	Alamo RM 180	\$47,500.00

- Ms. Ford moved to approve the purchase of a Diamond RBM-C-T as quoted from Pete's Equipment. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

c. Consideration of, and take any action on, amendment of Personnel Policy regarding Highway Department fringe benefits

The Board discussed the amendments to the Personnel Policy proposed by Mr. Jefferson at the previous meeting: a) to provide a minimum payment to Highway Department employees when they are called in off-hours to perform emergency work (e.g., clearing trees from roads), and b) to provide an increase in vacation time accrual at fifteen (15) years of employment.

- Mr. Jefferson moved to amend Section VI, Part E of the Personnel Policy to adjust the rate of accrual of vacation time, providing that paid vacation time for all full-time employees shall accrue at the rates of four (4) hours per month for the first two years of employment, eight (8) hours per month for the third through the eighth years of employment, ten (10) hours per month for the ninth through fourteenth years of employment, twelve (12) hours per month for the fifteenth through nineteenth years of employment, and thirteen and one-quarter (13.25) hours per month for the twentieth year of employment and following. Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote.
- The Board agreed to table the question of a policy for a minimum payment to Highway Department employees when called in off-hours.

d. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Vermont Agency of Transportation regarding 2024 town highway grant applications, etc.

The Board reviewed an email and attached documents. The Board discussed with Mr. Chase options for grant applications.

- The Board agreed to apply for a Class 2 Roadway grant.

e. Other business

i. Pit loader

Mr. Chase reported that the old loader, which is kept at the gravel pit, is at North Country Hydraulics in Littleton, New Hampshire for repair of the bucket cylinder.

5. Consideration of, and take any action on, candidates for office of Town Attorney

The Board reviewed an email from Town Attorney Steven Adler indicating that Mr. Adler expects 2023 to be his last year of law practice and asking the Board how it would like to proceed with regard to the Town Attorney position.

- The Board agreed to retain Mr. Adler's Town Attorney service for as long as he is in practice, then appoint a new Town Attorney after his retirement.

6. Other business presented by other town officers

a. E911 Address Ordinance

Zoning Administrative Officer Shirley Warden inquired about the status of the amendment of the E911 Address Ordinance. Discussion ensued.

7. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Vermont Department of Health regarding Town Health Officer recommendation

The Board reviewed a letter and attached recommendation form and oath form related to the appointment of Town Health Officer. The term of the current Town Health Officer expires March 31, 2023.

- No action taken.

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

a. Purchasing policy

Mr. Gates indicated that in the legal review of the Construction Management contract a question has arisen about performance and payment bonds. The Town's Purchasing Policy requires, "For construction projects, language that sets a requirement for...performance and payment bonds in the amount of 100% of the contract price from the contractor awarded the bid." The Board discussed whether the Town would require performance and payment bonds for the Town Hall project, and if not, if the Board will approve proceeding without the bonds required in the Purchasing Policy.

- Ms. Ford moved to waive the requirements for performance and payment bonds, as required by the Purchasing Policy, for the Construction Management contract for the Town Hall project. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

b. Park-and-ride grant

The Board reviewed the standard grant agreement for the park-and-ride grant for the parking lot at the corner of Church Street and Bimson Drive.

- The Board agreed to sign the agreement; Mr. Gates signed the agreement.

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

Mr. Jefferson reported on his communications with Town Attorney Steven Adler regarding the proposed easement. Mr. Jefferson indicated that Mr. Adler has forwarded the Board's easement amendments to Northeast Kingdom Broadband.

10. 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.

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

Ms. Ford reported that Gandin Brothers of South Ryegate does not offer bronze plaque. She also reported that she emailed International Bronze of Fort Myers, Florida requesting a quote, but has not yet received a response.

- The Board agreed to postpone ordering a plaque to allow additional time for receipt of a quote from International Bronze.

12. Consideration of approval of outstanding check warrants

- The Board reviewed and approved all outstanding check warrants.

13. Other business presented by Selectboard

a. Harvey's Lake Dam

Ms. Ford reported on her recent communications with the Harvey's Lake Dam Committee.

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

- Ms. Ford moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

A true copy. Attest: _____ *Town Clerk*