

MINUTES - REGULAR SELECTBOARD MEETING

TOWN OF BARNET, VERMONT

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 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 (presiding co-chair), Benjamin Gates, 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: Caledonia County Sheriff James Hemond.

Members of the public participating via GoToMeeting: Neil Glassman and Kathleen Monroe.

1. Consideration of approval of minutes of regular meeting held February 13, 2023

- Mr. Gates moved to approve as presented the minutes of the regular meeting held February 13, 2023. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

2. Other business presented by members of the public

a. Appearance by Caledonia Sheriff James Hemond regarding law enforcement

Mr. Hemond discussed with the Board various topics relating to the Sheriff's Department's patrol contract with the Town, including enforcement of the Animal Control Ordinance and the All-Terrain Vehicle Ordinance.

3. Appearance by Northeast Kingdom Broadband representatives regarding appointment of representative and alternate representative from Barnet to the Northeast Kingdom (NEK) Broadband board; take any action

The Board reviewed an email from Kathleen Monroe, Barnet's representative to the NEK Broadband board. The email indicates that Ms. Monroe will be stepping down as town representative at the end of her current term in March and that alternate representative Jerri Kohl has also resigned. Ms. Monroe recommends that the Board appoint Neil Glassman as representative and herself as alternate. Ms. Monroe and Mr. Glassman appeared remotely at this meeting and discussed this matter with the Board. The Board thanked Ms. Monroe for her service to the Town as representative to the NEK Broadband board.

- Mr. Gates moved to appoint Neil Glassman as Barnet's representative to the NEK Broadband Board and Kathleen Monroe as Barnet's alternate representative to the NEK Broadband board. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

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 Bethel Mills, Inc., JP Sicard, Inc., and NA Manosh, Inc., and the single vehicle application of Palmer Lawncare & Transportation.

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

The Board agreed to table discussion of this matter.

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

The Board reviewed and discussed an email and attachments.

- The Board agreed to pursue a grant application to continue the construction and paving project on Roy Mountain Road, contingent on receipt of quotes for the project.

d. Consideration of, and take any action on, application of Jacob Rivers for Highway Access on Little France Road

The Board reviewed an application for a permanent driveway installation. Mr. Chase indicated that he had not yet inspected the site.

- The Board agreed to table a decision on this application.

e. Other business

i. Dump truck #005

Mr. Chase reported that Truck #005 requires repair to its transmission; it will be towed to McDevitt Trucks in Lancaster, NH.

ii. Loader #011

Mr. Chase reported that the older loader (#011) has been delivered to North Country Hydraulics as discussed at the previous meeting. Required repairs are estimated to cost \$3,900.

iii. Dump truck #002

Mr. Chase reported that Truck #002 suffered a broken axle. It is currently at John Bogie's garage for repairs.

5. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Christene Demers regarding resignation from Beach Committee

The Board read a letter indicating that Ms. Demers is resigning her position on the Harvey's Lake Beach Committee effective February 20, 2023.

- Mr. Gates moved to accept the resignation of Christene Demers. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

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, preparations for Annual Town Meeting

The Board discussed preparations for Town Meeting, including answers to anticipated questions from voters.

8. Warning: Annual Review of Ordinance for Regulating All-Terrain Vehicles to be held March 13, 2023

The Board reviewed a warning and trail map in connection with the annual review to be held at the regular meeting March 13, 2023.

9. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Vermont Department of Taxes regarding Request for List Value Adjustment

The Board reviewed a letter reporting the Department of Taxes' evaluation and conclusions regarding the Town's Request for a List Value Adjustment in connection with 2021 tax appeals on two parcels owned by Great River Hydro LLC. In the cases of both parcels the Department of Taxes found that the Town followed Best Practices as defined by Property Valuation and Review and therefore the Town's education tax liability will be recalculated. This determination will result in the Town remitting \$465,363.93 less in education property tax for grand list year 2022.

10. 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.

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

The Board reviewed the final versions of the Architect contract (Black River Design) and the Construction Management contract (Estes & Gallup). Discussion ensued.

- The Board agreed to sign Architect contract and the Construction Management contract as presented. The Board signed the contracts.

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

The Board reviewed email correspondence between NEK Broadband and Town Attorney Steven Adler regarding the terms and conditions of a proposed easement. Mr. Jefferson reported on his communications with Mr. Adler.

- No action taken.

13. 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.

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

Ms. Ford discussed her communications with International Bronze, including review of their quote of \$4,995.00 for a bronze plaque of the Town's intended design measuring 30" x 40". The quote is for a standard rectangle shape; to match the trapezoidal shape of the other plaques at the monument would be an additional cost.

- The Board moved to place the order with International Bronze and to authorize Ms. Ford to make final decisions on order details.

15. Consideration of approval of outstanding check warrants

- The Board reviewed and approved all outstanding check warrants.

16. Other business presented by Selectboard

No other business was presented by the Selectboard.

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 receipt of an Act 250 permit issued for the subject parcel. Discussion ensued.

- No action taken.

18. Adjournment

- Mr. Gates moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

A true copy. Attest. _____ *Town Clerk*