

MINUTES - REGULAR SELECTBOARD MEETING

TOWN OF BARNET, VERMONT

MONDAY, MARCH 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, 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: Gary Allard, Albert Despins III, and Howard Remick.

Members of the public participating via GoToMeeting: None.

1. Consideration of approval of minutes of regular meeting held February 27, 2023

- Ms. Ford moved to approve as presented the minutes of the regular meeting held February 27, 2023. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

2. Organization of the Board:

a. Appoint Chair

- Ms. Ford moved to appoint Co-Chairs of Benjamin Gates and Dylan Ford. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

b. Appoint Road Commissioner(s)

- Ms. Ford moved to appoint Benjamin Gates as Road Commissioner. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

c. Appoint Tree Warden

- Ms. Ford moved to appoint Stanley Robinson as Tree Warden. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

d. Appoint Town Attorney

- Ms. Ford moved to appoint Steven Adler as Town Attorney. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

e. Appoint Grand Juror

- Ms. Ford moved to appoint David Willis as Grand Juror. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

f. Appoint Northeast Kingdom Waste Management District Supervisor and Alternate

- Ms. Ford moved to appoint William Douglas as Northeast Kingdom Waste Management District Supervisor. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.
- Ms. Ford moved to appoint Bruce Marston as Northeast Kingdom Waste Management District Alternate. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

g. Set date and time of meetings

- Ms. Ford moved to continue to hold regular meetings on the second and fourth Mondays of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Fire & Rescue Station. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

3. Consideration of, and take any action on, annual review of Ordinance for Regulating All-Terrain Vehicles (ATVs)

The Board reviewed a list and a map of town highways, or sections thereof, requested. Discussion ensued. The Board indicated that this request is for the same access as was granted in 2022 and several years prior. The Board members indicated that they had not received any complaints about operation of ATVs on town highways during the 2022 season. The Board read a letter from Ferguson Road resident Wendy Fearon. The letter complains that in 2022 there was no signage posted at the intersection of East Peacham Road and Ferguson Road, nor at the intersection of Strobridge Hill and Ferguson Road. The letter indicates that illegal ATV traffic to and from these locations along Ferguson Road resulted from this lack of signage; the letter requests signage be posted in 2023. ATV Club member Albert Despina III, who was present at this meeting, indicated that ATV traffic is not permitted at the locations referred in the letter, and that it is not the Club's practice to post signage at locations where ATV traffic is not permitted. Discussion ensued.

- Ms. Ford moved to renew the Ordinance for Regulating All-Terrain Vehicles (ATVs) as adopted in 2010, with changes only in the modification of permitted town highway use, this new permitted use being as requested by the Barnet Trailblazers ATV Club at this Board meeting, to include all or a portion of Anderson Street, Barnet Center Road, Bony Woods Road, Brook Hill Road, Chamberlain Road, Cloud Brook Road, Ferguson Road, Garland Hill Road, Gilfillan Road, Goss Hill Road, Joe's Brook Road, Keyser Hill Road, Knights Lane, Little Scotland Road, McLaren Hill Road, Morse's Mill Road, Roy Mountain Road, Water Andric Road, West Barnet Road, West Main Street, and Whitehill Rd. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

4. Other business presented by members of the public

There was no other business presented by members of the public.

5. 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 Connecticut Valley Trucking, Inc., Consolidated Communications, and R.K. Miles, Inc. and the single vehicle application of Mike Lemieux Trucking, Inc.

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

Mr. Chase reported on his inspection of the site of the requested access. He indicated that visibility is good and there no need for a culvert, as there is no ditch.

- The Board agreed to approve the permit; Mr. Gates signed the permit.
- c. 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.
- d. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Innovative Surface Solutions regarding quote for delivery of chloride**
- The Board reviewed a quote from Innovative Surface Solutions for the 2023 season. Total cost per gallon delivered for the estimated 5,000 gallons is \$1.11.
- The Board agreed to approve the quote; Mr. Gates signed the quote.
- e. Other business**
- i. Truck repairs**
- Mr. Chase reported that all the trucks requiring repairs had been repaired and returned to service.

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, sign for Fire & Rescue Station

Fire & Rescue Chief Ronald Morse indicated that there was no new business to report or discuss regarding this matter.

- No action taken.

8. Consideration of, and take any action on, request for proposals for mowing of town properties

The Board discussed the annual process for solicitation of quotes for mowing and lawn maintenance.

- The Board agreed to place a newspaper advertisement soliciting bids and to send a request for proposals to Benoit Landscaping and Little Acres Landscaping.

9. Consideration of, and take any action on, renewal of lease of Barnet Public Library building

The Board reviewed an email from Librarian Dylan Ford indicating that the lease of the second floor of the Library building to Karme Choling has expired and that Karme Choling has expressed interest in a two-year renewal of the lease at the same terms. Discussion ensued.

- Mr. Jefferson moved to renew the lease of the second floor of the Library building to Karme Choling for two years at the same terms as the previous lease. Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote.

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

The Board reviewed and discussed an email from Rollin Tait of Black River Design summarizing the current situation of the project. Discussion also was had regarding the proposed use of vault space by Barnet Historical Society.

- No action taken.

11. 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, as discussed at previous meetings. The term of the current Town Health Officer expires March 31, 2023.

- The Board agreed to table this matter.

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, memorial for veterans of wars in Iraq and Afghanistan

Ms. Ford reported that she had placed an order with International Bronze as per the Board's instructions. The Board now awaits delivery of the order.

- No action taken.

14. Consideration of approval of outstanding check warrants

- The Board reviewed and approved all outstanding check warrants.

15. Other business presented by Selectboard

No other business was presented by the Selectboard.

16. 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.

17. Consideration of, and take any action on, evaluation of appointed public officers/employees

- Ms. Ford moved to enter executive session to discuss evaluation of appointed officers/employees pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 313(a) (3 & 4). Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote. Entered executive session at 7:34 p.m. Those present in executive session: Ms. Ford, Mr. Gates, Mr. Jefferson, Road Foreman Mark Chase, and Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt.
- Ms. Ford 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

18. Adjournment

- Ms. Ford moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

A true copy. Attest: _____ *Town Clerk*