

MINUTES - REGULAR SELECTBOARD MEETING

TOWN OF BARNET, VERMONT

MONDAY, MARCH 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: David Warden.

Members of the public participating via GoToMeeting: Neil Glassman and Karen Kotecki.

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

- Mr. Gates moved to approve as presented the minutes of the regular meeting held March 13, 2023. 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 Collector of Delinquent Tax Lisa Bowden regarding tax sales

Ms. Bowden appeared and discussed the tax sales scheduled for March 30, 2023. The Board reviewed a list of the properties involved in the sale and discussed the potential for any of the properties not to attract a minimum bid (the total of tax, interest, penalties, and fees due).

- Mr. Jefferson moved to authorize Mr. Gates to bid the minimum bid on behalf of the Town on each of the properties in the case that a minimum bid is not made by another bidder, with this authorization contingent on a positive recommendation for this course of action from Town Attorney Steven Adler prior to the tax sales. Seconded by Ms. Ford 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 Austin Construction, Beacon Sales Acquisition, Calkins, Casella Construction, and SD Ireland.

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. Other business

i. Equipment repaired

Mr. Chase reported that all Highway Department equipment requiring repairs has been repaired and returned to service.

ii. Ineffective radios

Mr. Chase reported that the Highway Department's radios have often been ineffective due to poor reception in many parts of Town. He indicated that Central Vermont Communications will soon visit the Town Garage to diagnose the problem and suggest solutions.

iii. Mud season maintenance

Mr. Chase reported that the Highway Department has spent much of its recent time performing routine mud season maintenance, including repairing potholes, plowing, and sanding. Some grading has been performed.

5. Other business presented by other town officers

There was no other business presented by other town officers.

6. Consideration of, and take any action on, applications for renewal of liquor and tobacco licenses

The Board reviewed the liquor and tobacco license renewal applications of West Barnet Quick Stop.

- Mr. Gates moved to approve the liquor and tobacco license renewal applications of West Barnet Quick Stop. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

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

The Board read an email from Rollin Tait of Black River Design discussing the schedule for project costing. Discussion ensued.

- No action taken.

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

- The Board agreed to appoint Dylan Ford as Town Health Officer. Ms. Ford signed the recommendation form.

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

Karen Kotecki of Northeast Kingdom Broadband (NEKBB) and Neil Glassman, Barnet's representative to NEKBB, appeared remotely and discussed the proposed easement.

- Mr. Gates moved to approve as proposed the utility easement deed with NEKBB. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote. The Board signed the utility easement deed.

10. Consideration of approval of outstanding check warrants

- The Board reviewed and approved all outstanding check warrants.

11. Other business presented by Selectboard

a. Church Street planning group

Ms. Ford discussed a group of Barnet Village residents who are organizing to discuss village center (Church Street) community planning. The group may apply for a Better

Communities Grant if a suitable project is agreed upon. A meeting will be held March 29, 2023 at the Library.

12. 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.

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

- Mr. Gates 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 7:54 p.m. Those present in executive session: Ms. Ford, Mr. Gates, Mr. Jefferson, Road Foreman Mark Chase, 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 7:58 p.m.
- No action taken

14. Adjournment

- Mr. Gates moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

A true copy. Attest: _____ *Town Clerk*