

MINUTES - REGULAR SELECTBOARD MEETING

TOWN OF BARNET, VERMONT

MONDAY, APRIL 10, 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, 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: None.

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

- Ms. Ford moved to approve as presented the minutes of the regular meeting held March 27, 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 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 Agri-Mark Inc., DBA Cabot Creamery, AmeriGas, Limlaw Chipping & Land Clearing, Inc., Thomson Fuels, and Stacey Thompson Properties, LP; the Board reviewed and approved the single vehicle applications of John B. Lantagne DBA JBL Logging & Excavation, Swan Sitework, LLC, and Thomson Timber Harvesting & Trucking, LLC.

b. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Vermont Agency of Transportation regarding grants-in-aid

The Board reviewed an email inviting municipalities to participate in the Municipal Roads Grants-in-Aid Program, which “provides funding for municipalities to implement best management practices (BMPs) in accordance with the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Municipal Roads General Permit (MRGP).” Mr. Chase indicated that the Town received funding for this grant program in fiscal year 2021 for ditching and culvert work on County Hill Road. Unfortunately, the Town’s contractor was unable to complete the work prior to the end of the grant performance period in December 2022. Mr. Chase suggested the Town re-apply for the grant program this year for the same work on County Hill Road. Discussion ensued.

- The Board agreed to sign a letter of intent to participate in the Grants-in-Aid program.

c. Other business

i. Dump truck #001 repair

Mr. Chase reported that Dump Truck #001 is currently out of service due to a broken rear leaf spring. The required new leaf spring has been ordered from Advantage Truck Group.

ii. Grader service

Mr. Chase reported that Southworth Milton Caterpillar recently visited the Town Garage to perform service on the new grader. This required shimming and bleeding of air in one of the cylinders.

iii. Routine spring maintenance

Mr. Chase reported that the Highway Department has been spending much of its time recently performing routine spring road maintenance such as grading, rock raking, and picking up trees.

4. Other business presented by other town officers

There was no other business presented by other town officers.

5. Consideration of, and take any action on, results of tax sale held March 30, 2023

Mr. Gates reported on the results of the tax sale held March 30, 2023. He indicated that, as per the Board's decision at their previous meeting, he had requested the opinion of Town Attorney Steven Adler regarding the Town bidding the minimum bid on tax sale properties if necessary. Mr. Adler had given a positive opinion, that the Town should bid on properties if a minimum bid is not achieved. Mr. Gates reported that the Town was the winning bidder with the minimum bid on two properties, as follows: 1) parcel #0025-01-25 owned by James Kendall (bid of \$61,557.11) and 2) parcel #0025-01-10 owned by James Kendall and Jere Kendall (bid of \$63,663.31). Discussion ensued.

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

The Board noted that that there was no new information to consider or take action on regarding this matter.

- The Board agreed that Mr. Gates will follow up with Black River Design to see what the current schedule is for project costing, etc.

7. Consideration of, and take any action on, proposals for 2023 mowing of town properties

The Board reviewed bids for mowing of eleven (11) properties for the 2023 mowing season. One bid was received from JK Construction/Waterford Lawn Care for a total cost of \$3,700. Discussion ensued.

- Mr. Jefferson moved to accept the bid of JK Construction/Waterford Lawn Care. Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved voice vote.

The Board also reviewed an email from Beach Committee Chair Christen Emerson. The email inquires about requesting proposals for mowing of the Beach property.

- The Board agreed to retain the services of Dennis McLam, who has mowed the Beach property for several years, for the 2023 season. They also agreed to request that the Beach

Committee communicate scope of work and expectations to Mr. McLam and report to the Board if any communication directly between the Board and Mr. McLam is necessary.

8. Consideration of, and take any action on, Green-Up Day operations

The Board reviewed an email from Barnet Green Up Day Coordinator Dawn Holtz. Ms. Holtz inquired about two matters relating to Green Up Day operations, described as follows:

- 1) The dates people can bring Green Up bags to the Transfer Station. Ms. Holtz proposes three Saturdays: April 29, May 6, and May 13. She also asked if bags would go in with regular trash like last year, rather than in a separate dumpster.
 - 2) On May 6, the actual Green Up day, Ms. Holtz asked if a Town truck could be parked at the Fire & Rescue Station (or somewhere else) from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. so people can bring their full bags and drop them off and for those who cannot get to the dump themselves. Ms. Holtz also requests transport of any collected bags to the Transfer Station. Ms. Holtz proposes to be stationed there with some light snacks/refreshments for participants. Ms. Holtz will check with Fire Chief Ronald Morse about using the Fire & Rescue Station.
- The Board agreed as follows:
 - To approve proposed Green Up bag collection days at the Transfer Station of April 29, May 6, and May 13.
 - To approve collection of Green Up bags at the Transfer Station with regular trash, rather than a separate dumpster.
 - That in lieu of a Town dump truck, Mr. Gates will bring a trailer to the Fire & Rescue Station for Green Up Day use.

9. Consideration of, and take any action on, purchasing of diesel fuel, heating fuel, and propane for the 2023-2024 season

Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt asked the Board how it would like to proceed regarding purchasing of diesel fuel, heating fuel, and propane for the 2023-2024 season.

- The Board agreed to issue a request for proposals by placing an advertisement in the newspaper, and by mailing and emailing the same vendors from whom the Town requested proposals last year. The Board agreed to require variable price bids to be tied to a national market price index benchmark (e.g., Mont Belvieu Tet, Long Island Rack).

10. Consideration of, and take any action on, opioids settlement action required

The Board reviewed emails from Vermont League of Cities & Towns and National Opioid Settlements Implementation Administrator indicating that the Town is eligible to claim a small share of settlement funding in connection with a settlement agreement between several states and five opioid manufacturers. Settlements claimed must be used for opioid crisis abatement; if the Town does not claim its share, this amount will go to the Vermont crisis abatement fund.

- Ms. Ford moved to not claim the Town's share of funding from this settlement. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

11. Consideration of, and take any action on, notice of homestead declaration filing requirements

The Board reviewed a notice indicating that The Town of Barnet, Vermont will assess a penalty in the maximum percentages allowable pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 5410(g) for Homestead Declarations (Vermont Department of Taxes form HS-122) filed after April 18, 2023, and other non-compliance of Homestead Declaration filing requirements. A Homestead Declaration must be filed each year by every Vermont resident whose property meets the definition of a homestead. A Vermont

Homestead is the principal dwelling and parcel of land surrounding the dwelling, owned and occupied by a resident individual as the individual's domicile April 1.

12. Consideration of approval of outstanding check warrants

The Board reviewed and approved all outstanding check warrants.

13. Other business presented by Selectboard

a. Veterans memorial plaque

Mr. Gated reported on his discussions with Gandin Brothers of Ryegate regarding mounting the new veterans memorial plaque at the Soldiers Monument. He indicated that Gandin Brothers is able and available to perform the mounting. Discussion ensued.

b. Boat monitoring employee age

Ms. Ford reported that she had received an inquiry regarding the minimum age for an employee for the boat monitoring program at Harvey's Lake. She indicated that the program is considering hiring a fifteen-year-old. Discussion ensued.

c. Town Plan

Ms. Ford discussed her conversation with Alison Low of Northeastern Vermont Development Association. Ms. Low has indicated that the development of the revised Town Plan has gone well, is nearing completion, but may exceed the \$5,000 budget. Discussion ensued.

d. Zoning permit legal advice

Zoning Administrative Officer Shirley Warden appeared and indicated that the Zoning Board has a legal inquiry to make regarding a permit that is scheduled for a hearing April 11, 2023.

- The Board agreed to approve the Zoning Board's inquiry with Attorney Clarke Atwell regarding the permit scheduled for a hearing before the Zoning Board.

e. School election date

Ms. Ford discussed her communication with Superintendent Mark Tucker regarding the proposed change of the date of the Annual School Election to the same date as Town Meeting (the first Tuesday in March).

14. Adjournment

- Ms. Ford 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