

MINUTES - REGULAR SELECTBOARD MEETING

TOWN OF BARNET, VERMONT

MONDAY, JUNE 26, 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 and Benjamin Gates (presiding co-chair).

Other Town officials and employees participating in-person: Road Foreman Mark Chase, Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt, Town Hall Clerk of the Works Jeremy Roberts, Zoning Administrative Officer Shirley Warden.

Other Town officials and employees participating via GoToMeeting: None.

Members of the public participating in-person: James MacDonald and David Warden.

Members of the public participating via GoToMeeting: None.

1. Consideration of approval of minutes of regular meeting held June 12, 2023

- Ms. Ford moved to approve as presented the minutes of the regular meeting held June 12, 2023. Seconded by Mr. Gates 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, acquisition of tablet computer and cellular service for Highway Department

Mr. Chase reported that he has a meeting planned with Doug Morton of Northeastern Vermont Development Association to discuss system requirements for a mobile tablet for road inventory purposes.

b. Consideration of, and take any action on, replacement of pick-up truck

Mr. Chase reported that he had completed purchase of a 2024 GMC Sierra 3500 HD from St. Johnsbury GMC, with trade-in of the Highway Department's 2015 Chevrolet Silverado 2500 HD. The Board had previously approved Mr. Chase's purchase of a pick-up. The Board reviewed the invoice, which shows a net cost (after trade-in) of \$48,000. Mr. Chase reported that the installation of a plow will soon follow.

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

There were no new applications to consider or on which to take action.

d. Other business

i. Street sign

Mr. Chase reported that a resident has requested a “hidden drive ahead” sign on Harvey Mountain Road. Mr. Chase indicated that the location of the proposed sign would be on the lawn of another resident. Discussion ensued.

- The Board instructed Mr. Chase to speak to the owner of the property on which the sign would be installed before installation.

ii. Driveways culverts

Mr. Chase reported that two property owners have requested replacement and extension of existing driveway culverts. Discussion ensued.

- Ms. Ford moved to replace the two driveway culverts in question and to add a twenty (20) foot extension to each for a price of \$700 for each extension, and to add extensions when replacing existing culverts for a similar price for any other requests received in 2023. Seconded by Mr. Gates and approved by voice vote.

iii. Beaver trapping

Mr. Chase reported that Keith Tillotson has trapped six beavers on Comerford Dam Road and two beavers on Little France Road. These trappings, for maintenance of water crossings, are performed for \$50 each.

iv. Tractor repairs

Mr. Chase reported that the Highway Department tractor is currently at John Bogie’s shop in McIndoe Falls for repairs.

4. Consideration of, and take any action on, Harvey’s Lake Beach security system

The Board reviewed an email indicating that the Lake Harvey Association has offered to fund a camera as a security system for the entrance/exit of the beach. Discussion ensued.

- The Board agreed to refer this matter to the Beach Committee.

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, amendment of Purchasing Policy

Ms. Ford noted that the current version of the Purchasing Policy does not include any Harvey’s Lake Beach personnel in the list of purchasing agents (page 2). Discussion ensued.

- Ms. Ford moved to revise the Purchasing Policy to add the Chair of the Beach Committee as a Purchasing Agent. Seconded by Mr. Gates and approved by voice vote.

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

a. Progress report

- Mr. Gates provided a brief synopsis of the activity of his building working group.
- Clerk of the Works Jeremy Roberts appeared and discussed electrical installation and Vermont Division of Fire Safety permitting.
- The Board discussed publishing a notice that the Town Hall will be moved temporarily to the left of where it currently stands.

b. Consideration of, and take any action, approved Zoning Permit Application

The Board reviewed the approved application. Zoning Administrative Officer Shirley Warden reported that no appeals of the permit have been filed thus far.

c. Other business

- Resident David Warden suggested that the Board publish more information about progress of the project.
- Mr. Warden, a member of the Barnet Historical Society (BHS), discussed BHS uses of the renovated Town Hall and distributed a document entitled “Barnet Historical Society Needs.”

8. Consideration of, and take any action on, replacement of fencing at Barnet Public Library

Ms. Ford reported that Christopher Doolan of Barnet has inspected the fence and will provide the Town with a few options for replacement with pricing.

9. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Vermont League of Cities & Towns PACIF regarding insurance on tax sale properties

The Board reviewed an email providing options and advice regarding insuring the properties on which the Town was the winning bidder at the March 30, 2023 tax sale. Discussion ensued.

- Ms. Ford moved to table consideration of insuring these properties until the end of the one-year redemption period. Seconded by Mr. Gates and approved by voice vote.

10. Consideration of approval of outstanding check warrants

- The Board reviewed and approved all outstanding check warrants.

11. Other business presented by Selectboard

a. Park-and-ride moving container placement request

The Board reviewed a request for placement of two moving containers at the park-and-ride for a period of two days. The reason for the request is that the delivery service requires a paved level surface.

- The Board agreed to approve the placement of the containers as requested with the condition that they be placed at the park-and-ride for not more than forty-eight (48) hours.

12. Consideration of, and take any action on, appeal of zoning permit issued to Michael & Jane Lawton

The Board reviewed correspondence and attachments from attorney Clarke Atwell indicating that a motion for summary judgment has been filed.

- No action taken.

13. Adjournment

- Ms. Ford moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Gates and approved by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

A true copy. Attest: _____ Town Clerk