

MINUTES - REGULAR SELECTBOARD MEETING

TOWN OF BARNET, VERMONT

MONDAY, JULY 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 (presiding co-chair), Benjamin Gates, and Mark Jefferson

Other Town officials and employees participating in-person: Road Foreman Mark Chase and Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt.

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 June 26, 2023

Ms. Ford noted that in Item #8 Doolan Fence is referenced, whereas the reference should be to Christopher Doolan.

- Mr. Gates moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held June 26, 2023, with amendment as suggested by Ms. Ford. 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, acquisition of tablet computer and cellular service for Highway Department

Mr. Chase reported that he continues to await a meeting 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, application of Jonathan Brown for Highway Access Permit on Symns Pond Road

The Board reviewed an application for a permanent access. Mr. Chase reported that he had inspected the location and found it to be acceptable for an access with no culvert required.

- The Board signed the permit.

c. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans) regarding installation of new weight limit bridge signs

The Board read a letter indicating that VTTrans plans to install new signs with weight limits for emergency vehicles on some municipal-owned bridges throughout the state before a July 30, 2023 deadline pursuant to the Fixing American's Surface Transportation Act.

d. Other business

i. State of Vermont Standard Grant Agreement for Municipal Mitigation Grants in Aid

The Board reviewed a grant agreement for a culvert project in West Barnet.

- The Board signed the agreement.

ii. State of Vermont Standard Grant Agreement for Town Highway Class 2 Roadway grant

The Board reviewed a grant agreement for a paving project on Roy Mountain Road.

- The Board signed the agreement.

iii. Gravel pit stripping

Mr. Chase reported that Mathews Excavating has commenced stripping the gravel pit for sand.

iv. Flooding report

Mr. Chase reported that Town roads have not yet received any significant damage from the heavy rainstorms throughout the state on the date of this meeting. He indicated that a small wash-out did occur on Keyser Hill Road on Friday, July 7.

v. Routine maintenance

Mr. Chase reported that the Highway Department has spent much of its recent time performing routine summer road maintenance, such as roadside mowing and grading.

4. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from website host KeVaCo regarding security, compliance, and privacy

The Board reviewed an email and attached letter from the Town's website host and website design consultant KeVaCo. These discuss new software aimed at adding security and addressing new and developing concerns over privacy and compliance with ADA requirements. The cost of new software is a one-time fee of \$250 plus an additional \$50 annually. Discussion ensued.

- The Board agreed to request that Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt seek independent guidance on the information presented in the email.

5. Consideration of, and take any action on, position of Town Hall Caretaker

The Board discussed the position of Town Hall Caretaker. This position, currently filled by David Stevenson, was an on-call role for responding to maintenance and other issues that arose when the Town Hall was in use sporadically or was dormant. The role also incorporates set-up and tear-down of voting booths, etc. for elections; elections were formerly held at Town Hall but now primarily at the Fire & Rescue Station.

- The Board agreed to table discussion of this matter until planning for the 2024 budget, at which time it will consider converting this position to an elections-related job rather than related to buildings maintenance.

6. Consideration of, and take any action on, Fire & Rescue Station oil tank inspection report from Irving Energy

The Board reviewed an oil tank inspection report from the Town's new delivery service supplier, Irving Energy. The report indicates that a small platform with two steps must be constructed at the site of delivery of fuel to the Fire & Rescue Station. This construction would be aimed at ensuring delivery safety, as the delivery access point is currently overhead. This construction must be completed by October 1, 2023 or the deliveries will not be made.

- Mr. Gates moved to request that William Graves Builders construct a platform with steps as required. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

7. Other business presented by other town officers

There was no other business presented by other town officers.

8. Consideration of, and take any action, amendment of Purchasing Policy

The Board reviewed a new amendment of the Purchasing Policy, drafted per the Board's vote at their previous meeting. The only change to the policy is the addition of "Beach Committee Chair" to the list of Purchasing Agents.

- Mr. Gates moved to ratify the amendment of the Purchasing Policy. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote. The Board signed the amended policy.

9. 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, including noting the following updates:

- Interior demolition is planned for the week of this meeting (week of July 10, 2023).
- Temporary moving of the building is planned for the week of July 17, 2023.
- Temporary power for the building has been set up.
- Items to be retained have been removed from the building, with the exception of the wall clock and several elections crowd control stanchions/belts.

b. Consideration of, and take any action, Barnet Historical Society (BHS) space requests

BHS member David Warden appeared and discussed space requirements of BHS, archival storage items and efficient storage facilities, distribution of historical items in various locations, and potential use of a portion of the basement space labeled as "undeveloped" in the current plans.

c. Other business

No other business was discussed.

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

Ms. Ford reported that there was no new information to discuss or act on relating to this matter.

- No action taken.

11. Consideration of approval of outstanding check warrants

- The Board reviewed and approved all outstanding check warrants.

12. Other business presented by Selectboard

a. Dam Committee update

Ms. Ford reported that the Dam Committee met with Nicole Buck of Northstar Hydro, Inc. regarding gaining traction on a project for future dam alteration to prevent backflow into Harvey's Lake. The Committee also met with Sascha Pealer of the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation regarding needs for upstream hydrology numbers.

13. Adjournment

- Mr. Gates moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

A true copy. Attest: _____ *Town Clerk*