

MINUTES - REGULAR SELECTBOARD MEETING

TOWN OF BARNET, VERMONT

MONDAY, JULY 24, 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: Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt.

Other Town officials and employees participating via GoToMeeting: None.

Members of the public participating in-person: Alan Boye and David Warden.

Members of the public participating via GoToMeeting: None.

1. Consideration of approval of minutes of regular meeting held July 10, 2023

- Ms. Ford moved to approve as presented the minutes of the regular meeting held July 10, 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 Beach Committee regarding beach gate walkway repairs; take any action

Ms. Ford read an email from Beach Committee Chair Christen Emerson regarding two maintenance items for the beach, as described below:

- Gate walkway repair. The walkway requires minimal resurfacing to smooth out, including a little machine time and approximately three yards of staymat. The Beach Committee asks if the Highway Department will complete the repairs, or if not, if the project should be put out to bid or performed by local contractor Shane Stevenson for \$500.
- Brush piles on the beach lawn remaining from brush trimming project in early June. The Beach Committee asks if the Highway Department will remove these piles, which will require manual labor because equipment cannot be driven across the beach lawn.
- The Board agreed to instruct Road Foreman Mark Chase to evaluate and facilitate completion of these projects as appropriate.

4. Appearance by Road Foreman Mark Chase regarding Highway Department matters; take any action

Mr. Chase was not present at this meeting. In his absence, the Board discussed the below-described matters:

a. Consideration of, and take any action on, acquisition of tablet computer and cellular service for Highway Department

Road Commissioner Mr. Gates indicated that there had been no further developments in this matter.

- No action taken.

b. Other business

i. Dump Truck #005 repairs

Mr. Gates reported that Dump Truck #005 is at John Bogie's garage for repair of a radiator.

ii. Routine maintenance

Mr. Gates reported that the Highway Department has spent much of its recent time performing routine maintenance, such as mowing roadsides, grading, and cleaning ditches.

5. Other business presented by other town officers

a. Town Health Officer report

Town Health Officer Ms. Ford discussed two recently received reports, as described below:

- An apparently rapid racoon was sighted on West Main Street in West Barnet. The Town Health Officer only acts in cases of rabid animals when there is a bite; Ms. Ford gave the reporter contact information for the Vermont USDA Rabies Hotline.
- Apparent illegal burning was observed in Passumpsic Village. The fire was reduced to ashes before Ms. Ford was able to inspect the site. Ms. Ford will send a letter to the alleged illegal burner.

6. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Barnet Historical Society (BHS) regarding display of historic road plow

The Board reviewed an email and attached photos proposing to display at the Fire & Rescue Station a road plow used in construction of the turnpike road from Wells River to McIndoe Falls in 1830. BHS member Alan Boye discussed this proposal with the Board.

- The Board agreed to request that Mr. Boye discuss this proposal with Fire & Rescue Chief Ronald Morse.

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

a. Progress report

Mr. Gates provided a brief update on recent developments, as summarized below:

- The house moving company is scheduled to move Town Hall, temporarily to the west of its current location, on Thursday or Friday of the week of this meeting.
- A meeting of Mr. Gates's working group is scheduled for the week following this meeting.
- All required permits for the project are in place.

b. Other business

No other business was discussed.

8. 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.

9. Consideration of approval of outstanding check warrants

- The Board reviewed and approved all outstanding check warrants.

10. Other business presented by Selectboard

a. Fireworks parking concern

Mr. Jefferson reported that he had received a comment from a resident concerned about road safety in connection with the annual Lake Harvey Association fireworks display, which takes place the third Saturday of July. The resident indicated that vehicles park along roadsides in several viewing locations, creating hazards in some places. Discussion ensued.

b. Fire truck brakes

Mr. Gates reported that he had received a comment with concern about the condition of the brakes in the Town's fire trucks. Discussion ensued.

Note: Following this meeting, a review of the fire trucks found that all trucks have a current Vermont inspection.

11. Adjournment

- Ms. Ford moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

A true copy. Attest: _____ Town Clerk