

MINUTES - REGULAR SELECTBOARD MEETING

TOWN OF BARNET, VERMONT

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 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: None.

Members of the public participating via GoToMeeting: None.

1. Consideration of approval of minutes of regular meeting held August 28, 2023

- Mr. Gates moved to approve as presented the minutes of the regular meeting held August 28, 2023. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

2. Other business presented by members of the public

No other business was 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, informal quote letter from Cargill Salt

The Board reviewed a quote letter indicating a price of \$95.00 per ton for delivery of deicer salt for the 2023-2024 season.

- The Board agreed to accept the quote; Ms. Ford signed the quote letter.

b. Consideration of, and take any action on, annual review of Snow Plowing and Maintenance Services Agreement with Caledonia Cooperative School District

The Board reviewed the 2019 agreement, which automatically renews annually.

- The Board agreed to continue with the same agreement unchanged.

c. Other business

i. Gravel crushing

Mr. Chase reported that the Highway Department was on schedule to complete 2023 gravel crushing operations the week of this meeting.

ii. New dump truck

Mr. Chase reported that the new dump truck had been delivered and is in service.

iii. Tractor and mower

Mr. Chase reported that the tractor was scheduled for transportation to Morrisville for installation of a new mower.

4. Consideration of, and take any action on, appointment to fill pending vacancy on Planning Commission/Zoning Board

The Board noted that there was no new activity or information to discuss or on which to take action.

- No action taken.

5. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Board of Listers regarding Grand List Errors and Omissions certificate

The Board reviewed two certificates. The first proposed to reduce the value of SPAN 033-010-11098, owned by the Town of Barnet, from \$15,400 to \$0.00; on this parcel the Listers failed to change the tax status to “tax exempt” when the parcel transferred ownership to Town property. The second proposed to adjust the current use exemption of SPAN 033-010-11311, owned by Kevin Knights, from \$20,400 to \$73,600.

- Mr. Gates moved to approve the two certificates. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote. The Board signed the certificates.

6. Other business presented by other town officers

a. Town Plan hearing

Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt asked the Board when they would like to hold a public hearing for review of the proposed amendment and readoption of the Town Plan.

- The Board agreed to hold a public hearing at their regular meeting October 9, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

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

a. Progress report

Mr. Gates provided an update on the status of the project, noting that progress is going according to plan and that the building is scheduled to be moved onto its new foundation at the end of the week of this meeting.

b. Other business

No other business was discussed.

8. Consideration of, and take any action on, appointment of Animal Control Officer

The Board reviewed correspondence and an invoice from Candace Dane, Animal Control Officer for the Town of St. Johnsbury. Ms. Dane’s invoice is for \$78.86 for visits to Northeast Vermont Regional Hospital in St. Johnsbury and to Roy Mountain Road in Barnet relating to animals kept at 1998 Roy Mountain Road. Ms. Ford discussed her conversation with Ms. Dane regarding Barnet’s vacancy in its Animal Control Officer position.

- The Board agreed to approve payment of Ms. Dane’s invoice.
- The Board agreed to advertise the vacancy in the Animal Control Officer position on Front Porch Forum.

9. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Vermont Department of Health regarding appointment of Deputy Health Officer

The Board reviewed a letter and attached forms indicating the Deputy Health Officer term of Dr. Emil Pollak will expire on October 31, 2023 and requesting a recommendation for appointment for a new term. The Board also reviewed an email from Dr. Pollak indicating that he would like to continue as Deputy Health Officer.

- Mr. Gates moved to recommend Dr. Pollak for reappointment as Deputy Health Officer. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote. Ms. Ford signed the recommendation form.

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

The Board noted that there was no new activity or information to discuss or on which to take action.

- 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

There was no other business presented by the Selectboard.

13. Consideration of, and take any action on, zoning permit application for parcel #0014-01-70

The Board noted that there was no new activity or information to discuss or on which to take action.

- No action taken.

14. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Highway Department employee Glenn Fearon regarding fringe benefits

- Mr. Gates moved to enter executive session to discuss fringe benefits of appointed officers/employees pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(3). Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote. Entered executive session at 7:28 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.
- Mr. Gates moved to request that Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt seek quotes from Vermont League of Cities & Towns for long-term and short-term disability insurance. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

15. Adjournment

- Mr. Gates moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

A true copy. Attest: _____ Town Clerk