

## MINUTES - REGULAR SELECTBOARD MEETING

### TOWN OF BARNET, VERMONT

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 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:** Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt, Fire & Rescue Chief Ronald Morse, 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 October 23, 2023

- Mr. Gates moved to approve as presented the minutes of the meeting held October 23, 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 Fire & Rescue Chief Ronald Morse regarding Fire Station sign; take any action

The Board reviewed an email with attached images of a proposed road sign for the Fire & Rescue Station. Mr. Morse appeared and discussed the sign with the Board.

- Mr. Gates moved to accept the proposed sign design and approve payment for purchase. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

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

Mr. Chase did not appear at this meeting; in his absence the Board discussed the following matters:

##### a. Consideration of, and take any action on, signage at West Main Street/Harvey Mountain Road intersection

The Board discussed intersection traffic safety as discussed at the previous Board meeting; the Board also reviewed new correspondence from resident Kathleen Monroe. Road Commissioner Mr. Gates reported that the Highway Department had installed a “stop ahead” sign and will request that the Vermont Agency of Transportation paint the road surface with signage next summer.

##### b. Consideration of, and take any action on, purchase of tablet computer

Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt discussed details of the purchase of a tablet computer for the Highway Department. The Board approved purchase of an Apple iPad tablet computer with a cost of \$649 at their August 28, 2023 meeting. After that decision, Mr. Heisholt found that the Town's information technology consultant, RB Technologies, only supports Windows products. Other products, such as the Apple iPad, could be purchased, but would not have RB Technologies anti-virus and monitoring software installed and would not be supported for maintenance. If under RB Technologies support, additional fees of \$32 per month for anti-virus/monitoring and \$135 per hour for maintenance would apply. The Board reviewed approximate pricing for Microsoft (\$948) and Android (\$549) products. Discussion ensued.

- The Board agreed to affirm its August 28, 2023 decision, if agreeable with Road Foreman Mark Chase.

**c. Other business**

**i. Loader quote**

Mr. Gates indicated that the Town had received a quote for the purchase of a new Hyundai wheeler loader. Total cost after trade-in of the Town's 2010 John Deere wheel loader is \$110,000.

- No action taken.

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

Zoning Administrative Officer Shirley Warden indicated that there was no new information to discuss or on which to take action regarding this matter.

- No action taken.

**6. Consideration of, and take any action on, appointment to fill vacancy on Dam Committee**

Ms. Ford indicated that there was no new information to discuss or on which to take action regarding this matter.

- No action taken.

**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 on, next steps in Town Hall project**

**a. Progress report**

Mr. Gates reported on the Building Working Group's meeting on the day of this meeting. He provided an update on the project, including the following points:

- A guaranteed maximum price is expected to be received soon; it should be available for the next Board meeting.
- The Town Hall foundation is now sealed and backfilled; drainage work is in progress.
- An electrical conduit line has been installed.
- The basement floor will be poured soon.

**b. Other business**

**i. Correspondence from resident Sally Cook regarding snow-melt system**

The Board read an email suggesting that the Town consider installing an in-ground snow-melt system for the entry to the renovated Town Hall. Discussion ensued.

- No action taken.

**9. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Calex Ambulance Service regarding contract changes**

The Board reviewed an email and attached letter advising the Board of notice of Calex's non-renewal under Section 9 of the ambulance services agreement, effective January 1, 2024. This letter indicates that Calex intends to continue to provide services on January 1, 2024 on a month-by-month basis under the terms for year 2024; the cost for services will be \$45.00 per capita. Discussion ensued.

- The Board agreed to request that Calex Chief Michael Wright visit a Board meeting to discuss this matter.

**10. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Repro Digital regarding annual report contract renewal**

The Board reviewed a proposed contract renewal for printing of the annual report. Prices for the same terms as the 2022 annual report (625 copies) are \$2,698.00 for the 2023 report only or \$2,530.00 per year for both 2023 and 2024 reports.

- Mr. Gates moved to agree to the proposed contract renewal for two years (2023 and 2024). Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

**11. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Vermont Department of Housing and Community Development regarding invitation to commemorate Vermont and the semiquincentennial**

The Board reviewed an email and proposed resolution inviting the Board to resolve to participate in 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary commemorations.

- Mr. Gates moved to sign the proposed resolution. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

**12. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Vermont Public Utility Commission regarding Notice of Hearing on Barnet Solar LLC certificate of public good for solar facility**

The Board reviewed a Notice of Hearing indicating that the Public Utility Commission will hold a scheduling conference on November 16, 2023.

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

Ms. Ford indicated that there was no new information to discuss or on which to take action regarding this matter.

- No action taken.

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

Librarian Ms. Ford indicated that there was no new information to discuss or on which to take action regarding this matter.

- No action taken.

**15. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Vermont League of Cities & Towns regarding disability insurance quotes**

The Board reviewed quotes for short-term and long-term disability insurance from Modern Woodmen of America. Quotes are as follows: Hartford: \$318.09 per month; Companion: \$323.13 per month; Madison: \$1,871 per year (approximately \$156 per month). The Board noted that these carriers offer a higher benefit maximum for both short-term and long-term disability benefits. Discussion ensued.

- The Board agreed to seek clarification regarding cost breakdown for short-term vs. long-term disability coverage.

**16. Consideration of approval of outstanding check warrants**

- The Board reviewed and approved all outstanding check warrants.

**17. Other business presented by Selectboard**

**a. Veteran's plaque**

Ms. Ford discussed the new plaque for Soldiers' Monument in Barnet Village. She indicated that the plaque has been installed, but a service to commemorate the installation of the plaque is not yet scheduled. Discussion ensued.

- No action taken.

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

Zoning Administrative Officer Shirley Warden appeared and discussed this matter with the Board.

- The Board agreed to authorize Ms. Warden to inquire with Town Attorney Steven Adler about transferring this case to a different attorney.

**19. Adjournment**

- Mr. Gates moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

*A true copy. Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ Town Clerk*