

DRAFT

MINUTES - REGULAR SELECTBOARD MEETING

TOWN OF BARNET, VERMONT

MONDAY, DECEMBER 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: 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: David Warden.

Members of the public participating via GoToMeeting: Robert Farlice-Rubio and Mona Marceau.

1. Consideration of approval of minutes of regular meeting held November 27, 2023

- Mr. Gates moved to approve as presented the minutes of the meeting held November 27, 2023. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

2. Consideration of, and take any action on, animal control complaint form received from Marta Pierce regarding dog kept on Bimson Drive

The Board reviewed a form complaining regarding incidents involving a dog kept in a second-floor apartment at 264 Bimson Drive. The complaint describes multiple incidents since August 13, 2023 of the dog running at large and causing a disturbance on the property where Ms. Pierce dwells, adjacent to 264 Bimson Drive. The complaint indicates that the names of the dog's owners are unknown.

- The Board agreed that Ms. Ford will contact Ms. Pierce to discuss the complaint and attempt to discover the names of the dog's owners.

3. Other business presented by members of the public

a. Appearance by Caledonia-1 Representative Robert Farlice-Rubio regarding Municipal Technical Assistance Program

Mr. Farlice-Rubio appeared remotely via GoToMeeting. The Board reviewed an email from Mr. Farlice-Rubio and discussed potential funding opportunities. At the Board's request, Mr. Farlice-Rubio indicated that he would seek clarification regarding eligibility for bridge-related projects and timing of projects.

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, Highway Access Permit application of Peter Lewis for access on Warden Road

The Board reviewed an application for a permanent highway access near Warden Road's intersection with Barnet Center Road. Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt reported that Road Foreman Mark Chase had inspected the site and found it suitable for a highway access. Zoning Administrative Officer Shirley Warden indicated that a permit was previously issued for the same access location.

- The Board agreed to table this matter pending discovery of any previously approved permits.

b. Other business

No other business was discussed.

5. Appearance by Zoning Administrative Officer Shirley Warden regarding zoning permit application fees; take any action

Ms. Warden appeared and proposed that the Board consider adding a fee, or clarification regarding fees, for denial of zoning permit applications. She indicated that clarification of the fee structure would be helpful for permits that are denied rather than being returned to the applicant for re-submission or referred to the Board for consideration for a variance. Discussion ensued.

- Mr. Gates moved to add language to the list of zoning permit fees to indicate that denied permit applications are subject to zoning permit fees. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

6. Other business presented by other town officers

No other business was presented by other town officers.

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

a. Progress report

Mr. Gates reported on recent developments in the project, including the following:

- The concrete for the basement floor has been poured.
- Temporary lighting and heating for the project have been installed.
- Clerk of the Works Jeremy Roberts is in the process of obtaining quotes for lighting and electrical installations for the project.

b. Consideration of, and take any action on, quote for builders' risk insurance

The Board reviewed a quote from Acadia Insurance through Vermont League of Cities & Towns PACIF. Total quoted premium for period of November 29, 2023 through November 29, 2024 is \$3,231.

- Mr. Gates moved to accept the quote. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

c. Other business

No other business was discussed.

8. Consideration of, and take any action on, 2023 year-end employee bonuses

The Board reviewed minutes of the Board meeting held December 12, 2022 which indicate that the Board had agreed to pay 2022 year-end bonuses of \$500 to full-time employees, \$300 to Assistant Town Clerk Catherine Roy, \$150 each to part-time Highway Department Employees Paul Gibson and Steve Mosher, and \$175 each to Transfer Station/Recycling Center employees Daniel Ehlers, Bruce Marston, Donald Nelson, and Shirley Warden. Discussion ensued.

- Mr. Gates moved to pay 2023 year-end bonuses of \$500 to full-time employees, \$300 to Assistant Town Clerk Catherine Roy, \$150 each to part-time Highway Department Employees Paul Gibson and Steve Mosher, and \$175 each to Transfer Station/Recycling Center employees Daniel Ehlers, Bruce Marston, Donald Nelson, and Shirley Warden. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

9. 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.

10. 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.

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

Ms. Ford indicated that there was no new information to discuss or on which to take action regarding this matter. She indicated that this project will be dormant until spring and can be left off the agenda until that time.

- No action taken.

12. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence regarding disability insurance quotes

The Board reviewed quotes as reviewed at previous meetings. Discussion ensued.

- Mr. Gates moved to decline to accept all disability insurance quotes received and continue to provide short-term extended sick leave to eligible employees in accordance with the current personnel policy. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

13. Other business presented by Selectboard

No other business was presented by the Selectboard.

14. Consideration of approval of outstanding check warrants

- The Board reviewed and approved all outstanding check warrants.

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

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.

16. Consideration of, and take any action on, 2024 Town General Fund budget

Fire & Rescue Chief Ronald Morse appeared and discussed the Fire & Rescue Department budget with the Board. The Board made amendments to the draft Fire & Rescue Department budget.

17. Consideration of, and take any action on, compensation for Planning Commission/Zoning Board Secretary

- Ms. Gates moved to enter executive session to discuss compensation for the Planning Commission/Zoning Board Secretary pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(3). Seconded by Mr.

Jefferson and approved by voice vote. Entered executive session at 7:49 p.m. Those present in executive session: Ms. Ford, Mr. Gates, Mr. Jefferson, 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 7:50 p.m.
- Mr. Gates moved to pay the recently appointed Planning Commission/Zoning Board Secretary at the same wage rate as the previous Planning Commission/Zoning Board Secretary. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

18. Consideration of, and take any action on, 2024 Town General Fund budget (continued)

The Board reviewed an amended draft budget. The Board made various amendments to the draft budget.

19. Adjournment

- Mr. Gates moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

A true copy. Attest: _____ *Town Clerk*