

MINUTES - REGULAR SELECTBOARD MEETING

TOWN OF BARNET, VERMONT

MONDAY, JANUARY 22, 2024

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.
- **Via GoToMeeting online video conference:** None.

Other Town officials and employees participating:

- **In-person:** Road Foreman Mark Chase, Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt, and Zoning Administrative Officer Shirley Warden.
- **Via GoToMeeting online video conference:** None.

Members of the public participating:

- **In-person:** Rachel Kittredge, Laurajean Stewart, and Wallace Thrall.
- **Via GoToMeeting online video conference:** None.

Approval of Minutes

1. Consideration of approval of minutes of regular meeting held January 8, 2024

- Ms. Ford moved to approve as presented the minutes of the regular meeting held January 8, 2024. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

Appearances by Members of the Public

2. Consideration of, and take any action on, animal control complaint received from Laurajean Stewart regarding dog kept on Church Street

The Board reviewed an animal control complaint form of alleging violations of the ordinance by a standard male labradoodle owned by Rachel Kittredge and housed at an address on Church Street. The complaint alleges that on January 15, 2024, and ongoing for years, Ms. Kittredge has allowed her dog to defecate on Ms. Stewart's property at Monument Circle and in other public areas. The Board heard comments from Ms. Kittredge and Ms. Stewart, both of whom were present at this meeting. Ms. Kittredge stated that there has been only one incident of her dog defecating on Ms. Stewart's property and that she had removed the fecal material promptly afterwards. Discussion ensued.

- The Board indicated that the ordinance prohibits defecation by animals in public areas and private property of another person and requires immediate removal and sanitary disposal of fecal material (Section 4). The Board instructed Ms. Kittredge to ensure that her dog is in compliance with this section of the ordinance in the future.

3. Other business presented by members of the public

a. Appearance by Wallace Thrall of McIndoes Academy Community Center regarding Municipal Technical Assistance Program (MTAP)

Mr. Thrall appeared and asked the Board to consider using MTAP funding for the benefit of the McIndoes Academy Community Center. Mr. Thrall indicated that the Town is pre-approved for the funding, and all that would be required to apply this funding to the Academy would be a letter of support from the Board. He indicated that the Academy would provide all administrative requirements for the funding. Discussion ensued.

Appearances by Town Officers

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

a. Consideration of, and take any action on, applications for Uniform Municipal Excess Weight Permits

- The Board reviewed and approved the fleet applications of Barrett Trucking Co., Inc. and Bourne's, Inc. & Bourne's Propane dba Bourne's Energy.

b. Other business

i. Cloud Brook Road stone

Ms. Ford reported that a large stone/boulder has been pushed up by frost above the road surface on Cloud Brook Road. Discussion ensued.

5. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Fire & Rescue Department regarding appointment of Fire Chief

The Board reviewed a letter submitting the name of Ronald Morse for the position of Fire Chief for 2024.

- Ms. Ford moved to appoint Ronald Morse to the position of Fire Chief for the year 2024. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote. The Board expressed their thanks for Chief Morse's service.

6. Other business presented by other town officers

There was no other business presented by other town officers.

New Business

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

a. Progress report

Mr. Gates reported that exterior electrical installation has commenced and that concrete blocks are on site for construction of the vault. He reported that the exterior walls are stripped back and prepared for installation of insulation. A change in insulation materials was approved due to unavailability of stone wool insulation.

b. Consideration of, and take any action on, Barnet Historical Society (BHS) space in lower level

BHS President David Warden appeared and discussed storage space to be used by BHS on the lower level of the Town Hall. Mr. Warden presented a list of current BHS space requirements and items to be stored. Discussion ensued.

c. Other business

No other business was discussed.

8. Consideration of, and take any action on, execution of documents for 2024 tax anticipation borrowing

The Board reviewed documents from Community National Bank relating to 2024 tax anticipation borrowing.

- The Board signed the tax anticipation borrowing documents.

9. Consideration of, and take any action on, warning for 2024 annual town meeting

The Board reviewed the draft of a proposed 2024 Annual Town Meeting warning. The warning is similar to the 2023 Annual Town Meeting warning, with two differences: 1) the addition of an article for a new social service agency appropriation request and 2) the addition of an article for the proposed renewal of a property tax exemption.

- The Board signed the warning.

10. Other business presented by Selectboard

a. Annual reports

The Board discussed assignments of Board members for drafting reports for the annual Town Report, including the Selectboard report and Memorial Day report.

Check Warrants

11. Consideration of approval of outstanding check warrants

- The Board reviewed and approved all outstanding check warrants.

Anticipated Executive Session(s)

12. Consideration of, and take any action on, zoning permit application for parcel #0014-01-70 (executive session anticipated pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 313 (a)(1)(E))

Zoning Administrative Officer Shirley Warden reported that a revised version of the notice of violation, amended per the suggestion of attorney Brian Monaghan, had been sent to the landowner.

Budget

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

The Board reviewed an amended draft budget, making various further amendments.

- Mr. Gates moved to approve the budget as amended. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

Adjournment

14. Adjournment

- Ms. Ford moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 8:34 p.m.

A true copy. Attest: _____ Town Clerk