

MINUTES - REGULAR SELECTBOARD MEETING

TOWN OF BARNET, VERMONT

MONDAY, MARCH 11, 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 (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:** Jonathan Brown and Quinton Liberty.
- **Via GoToMeeting online video conference:** None.

Approval of Minutes

1. Consideration of approval of minutes of regular meeting held February 26, 2024

- Mr. Jefferson moved to approve as presented the minutes of the regular meeting held February 26, 2024. Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote.

Organization of the Board

2. Appoint Chair

- Mr. Jefferson moved to appoint Co-Chairs of Benjamin Gates and Dylan Ford. Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote.

3. Appoint Road Commissioner(s)

- Mr. Jefferson moved to appoint Benjamin Gates as Road Commissioner. Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote.

4. Appoint Tree Warden

- Mr. Jefferson moved to appoint Stanley Robinson as Tree Warden. Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote.

5. Appoint Town Attorney

- Mr. Jefferson moved to appoint Steven Adler as Town Attorney. Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote.

6. Appoint Grand Juror

- Mr. Jefferson moved to appoint David Willis as Grand Juror. Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote.

7. Appoint Northeast Kingdom Waste Management District Supervisor and Alternate

- Mr. Jefferson moved to appoint William Douglas as Northeast Kingdom Waste Management District Supervisor and to appoint Bruce Marston as Northeast Kingdom Waste Management District Alternate. Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote.

8. Set date and time of meetings

- Mr. Jefferson moved to continue to hold regular meetings on the second and fourth Mondays of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Fire & Rescue Station. Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote.

Appearances by Members of the Public

9. Consideration of, and take any action on, annual review of Ordinance for Regulating All-Terrain Vehicles (ATVs)

The Board reviewed a list and a map of town highways, or sections thereof, requested. Discussion ensued. The Board indicated that this request is for the same access as was granted in 2023 and several years prior. The Board members indicated that they had not received any complaints about operation of ATVs on town highways during the 2023 season. Discussion ensued.

- Mr. Jefferson moved to renew the Ordinance for Regulating All-Terrain Vehicles (ATVs) as adopted in 2010, with changes only in the modification of permitted town highway use, this new permitted use being as requested by the Barnet Trailblazers ATV Club at this Board meeting, to include all or a portion of Anderson Street, Barnet Center Road, Bony Woods Road, Brook Hill Road, Chamberlain Road, Cloud Brook Road, Ferguson Road, Garland Hill Road, Gilfillan Road, Goss Hill Road, Joe’s Brook Road, Keyser Hill Road, Knights Lane, Little Scotland Road, McLaren Hill Road, Morse’s Mill Road, Roy Mountain Road, Water Andric Road, West Barnet Road, West Main Street, and Whitehill Rd. Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote.

Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt reported that the local ATV club had indicated there is funding available from the statewide ATV club organization for enforcement of local ATV Ordinances. The Board discussed potential future use of this funding.

10. Other business presented by members of the public

There was no other business presented by members of the public.

Appearances by Town Officers

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

a. Consideration of, and take any action on, bids for purchase of loader

The Board reviewed and discussed bids from vendors for the purchase of a loader, as summarized below:

Model: John Deere 524P

- Vendor: United Construction & Forestry
- Price: \$209,399
- Less trade-in allowance: -\$60,500
- Total cost: \$148,899

Model: Caterpillar 926

- Vendor: Milton Cat
- Price: \$209,900
- Less trade-in allowance: -\$60,000

- Total cost: \$149,900
- Model: Hyundai HL 940 (used – 66 hours with 8 months less warranty)
- Vendor: Pete’s Equipment Sales & Rentals
- Price: \$154,700
- Less trade-in allowance: -\$47,000
- Total cost: \$107,000
- Model: Hyundai HL 940 (new)
- Vendor: Pete’s Equipment Sales & Rentals
- Price: \$166,700
- Less trade-in allowance: -\$47,000
- Total cost: \$119,700
- Model: Kamatsu WA270-8
- Vendor: Anderson Equipment Company
- Price: \$209,000
- Less trade-in allowance: -\$55,000
- Total cost: \$154,000
- Model: Sany SW305K
- Vendor: CCR Sales & Service
- Price: \$160,000
- Less trade-in allowance: -\$50,000
- Less municipal discount: -\$19,000
- Total cost: \$91,000

- The Board agreed to table discussion of this matter.

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

- The Board reviewed and approved the fleet applications of Connecticut Valley Trucking, Inc., Limlaw Chipping & Land Clearing, Inc., and R.K. Miles, Inc., and the single vehicle applications of John B. Lantagne DBA JBL Logging & Excavation and Swan Sitework, LLC.

c. Other business

i. Weather challenges

Mr. Chase reported on various weather challenges the Highway Department has faced recently, including mud and winter weather.

ii. Anderson Street highway access

Zoning Administrative Officer Shirley appeared and discussed a zoning permit application for a residential building project on Anderson Street. She indicated there is a driveway currently in place and it is not clear if a Highway Access Permit is required.

- The Board agreed to instruct Mr. Chase to inspect the driveway for compliance with the Highway Access Ordinance.

12. Other business presented by other town officers

No other business was presented by other town officers.

New Business

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

a. Progress report

Ms. Ford reported on progress on construction of the vault and framing of walls for interior main floor spaces.

b. Other business

No other business was discussed.

14. Consideration of, and take any action on, request for proposals (RFPs) for mowing of town properties

Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt asked for the Board's instruction regarding RFPs for 2024 mowing of properties.

- The Board agreed to place an advertisement in the Caledonian-Record and to send RFPs directly to several local mowing contractors and those with whom the Town has recently done business.

15. Other business presented by Selectboard

a. Library apple trees

Ms. Ford, Librarian of the Barnet Public Library, reported that a local arborist donated their time to prune the library's apple trees.

Check Warrants

16. Consideration of approval of outstanding check warrants

- The Board reviewed and approved all outstanding check warrants.

Anticipated Executive Session(s)

17. 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))

- Mr. Jefferson moved that the Board make a specific finding, pursuant to 1 V.S.A. Section 313 (a)(1)(E), that premature public knowledge of discussion concerning a zoning permit application for parcel #0014-01-70 would clearly place the Town of Barnet at a substantial disadvantage. Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote.
- Mr. Jefferson moved that the Board enter executive session pursuant to 1 V.S.A. Section 313 (a)(1)(E) to discuss a zoning permit application for parcel #0014-01-70, as premature public disclosure of which would clearly place the Town of Barnet at a substantial disadvantage. Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote. Entered executive session at 7:46 p.m. Those present in executive session: Ms. Ford, Mr. Jefferson, Zoning Administrative Officer Shirley Warden, and Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt.
- Mr. Jefferson moved to exit executive session. Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote. Exited executive session at 7:58 p.m.
- No action taken.

Adjournment

18. Adjournment

- Mr. Jefferson moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

A true copy. Attest. _____ *Town Clerk*