

MINUTES - REGULAR SELECTBOARD MEETING

TOWN OF BARNET, VERMONT

MONDAY, MARCH 25, 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, Lister John Fairchild, Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt, and Zoning Administrative Officer Shirley Warden.
- **Via GoToMeeting online video conference:** None.

Members of the public participating:

- **In-person:** Gretchen Baker, James Gingue, Ross Page, and Allen Thresher.
- **Via GoToMeeting online video conference:** None.

Approval of Minutes

1. Consideration of approval of minutes of regular meeting held March 11, 2024

- Mr. Jefferson moved to approve as presented the minutes of the regular meeting held March 11, 2024. Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote.

2. Consideration of approval of minutes of special meeting held March 18, 2024

- Mr. Jefferson moved to approve as presented the minutes of the special meeting held March 18, 2024. Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote.

Appearances by Members of the Public

3. Appearance by Bayley-Hazen Road Snowmobile Club regarding snowmobile access on town highways; take any action

Ross Page and Allen Thresher of the snowmobile club appeared and discussed proposed changes in snowmobile access on town highways. Mr. Page indicated that, due to changes in access on private property, the club may need additional access on Chamberlin Road, Morrison Hill Road, Laird Road, and Bony Woods Road in order to maintain connections in its current trail system.

- The Board requested that the club propose a definite plan for proposed additional access so that the Board can duly warn consideration of a proposed change in town highway access.

4. Appearance by John Fairchild regarding maintenance of Stevens Cemetery; take any action

Mr. Fairchild appeared and discussed the line of trees behind the Stevens Cemetery. He indicated that a number of large trees present a threat to the stones in the cemetery. One tree has already fallen and is leaning against another. Mr. Fairchild recommends cutting four or five of the trees down; he

requested authorization to request quotes from a tree service. Mr. Fairchild indicated that the trees appear to be on the neighbor's property; he has already discussed the matter with the neighbor.

- The Board agreed to authorize Mr. Fairchild to obtain quotes for tree removal.

5. Other business presented by members of the public

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

Appearances by Town Officers

6. 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 the bids considered at its previous meeting (see minutes of regular meeting held March 11, 2024) and acknowledged receipt of a new proposal from Wood's CRW Corporation for a Volvo L70H for a price of \$207,900 less \$45,000 trade-in allowance for a total price of \$162,900.

The Board discussed the bids with Mr. Chase and sales representatives Gretchen Baker (United Construction & Forestry/John Deere) and James Gingue (Anderson Equipment Company/Kamatsu).

- Ms. Ford moved to purchase a Kamatsu WA270-8 loader as per the bid from Anderson Equipment Company. Seconded by Mr. Gates and approved by voice vote.

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

- The Board reviewed and approved the fleet applications of Agri-Mark, Inc. DBA Cabot Creamery, Austin Construction, Inc., AmeriGas, Beacon Sales Acquisition, Calkins, Chief Logging & Chipping Services, Inc., Chief Crushing & Excavation, Inc., Dead River Company, Renaud Brother's Inc., SD Ireland, and Valley Crane Services, Inc., and the single vehicle application of Mike Lemieux Trucking, Inc.

c. Other business

i. Pick-up truck accident

Mr. Chase reported there was a minor single-vehicle accident involving the pick-up truck that caused truck body damage.

- The Board agreed to authorize Mr. Chase to file an insurance claim and obtain quotes for repairs.

ii. Various weather

Mr. Chase reported that the Highway Department has spent much of its recent time maintaining roads through various late winter/early spring weather including snowstorms and mud.

7. Other business presented by other town officers

No other business was presented by other town officers.

New Business

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

a. Progress report

Mr. Gates discussed recent developments in Town Hall renovations, including framing interior walls. Mr. Gates noted that a few minor changes in interior framing plans have been made.

b. Other business

No other business was discussed.

9. Consideration of, and take any action on, Town mileage reimbursement rate

The Board reviewed a press release issued by the Internal Revenue Service indicating that, beginning January 1, 2024, its standard mileage rate has increased to 67 cents per mile driven for business use.

- Ms. Ford moved to increase the Town's mileage reimbursement rate to 67 cents per mile. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

10. Other business presented by Selectboard

There was no other business presented by the Selectboard.

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))

- Ms. Ford 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 Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.
- Ms. Ford 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 Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote. Entered executive session at 8:02 p.m. Those present in executive session: Ms. Ford, Mr. Gates, Mr. Jefferson, Zoning Administrative Officer Shirley Warden, and Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt.
- Ms. Ford moved to exit executive session. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote. Exited executive session at 8:11 p.m.
- No action taken.

Adjournment

13. Adjournment

- Mr. Jefferson moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 8:11 p.m.

A true copy. Attest: _____ Town Clerk