

MINUTES - REGULAR SELECTBOARD MEETING

TOWN OF BARNET, VERMONT

MONDAY, APRIL 8, 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 Benjamin Gates.
- **Via GoToMeeting online video conference:** None.

Other Town officials and employees participating:

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

Members of the public participating:

- **In-person:** Dawn Holtz.
- **Via GoToMeeting online video conference:** None.

Approval of Minutes

1. **Consideration of approval of minutes of regular meeting held March 25, 2024**

- Mr. Gates moved to approve as presented the minutes of the regular meeting held March 25, 2024. Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote.

Appearances by Members of the Public

2. **Appearance by Green Up Day organizer Dawn Holtz regarding Town operations for Green Up Day; take any action**

Barnet Green Up Day Coordinator Dawn Holtz appeared and discussed Green Up Day operations with the Board.

- Mr. Gates moved to follow the same Green Up Day operations as were used in 2023, including the following: 1) Green Up bag collection days at the Transfer Station of April 27, May 4, and May 11; 2) collection of Green Up bags at the Transfer Station with regular trash, rather than a separate dumpster; and 3) in lieu of a Town dump truck, Mr. Gates will bring a trailer to the Fire & Rescue Station for Green Up Day use. Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote.

3. **Other business presented by members of the public**

No other business was presented by members of the public.

Appearances by Town Officers

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 below-described matters:

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

- The Board reviewed and approved the fleet applications of E.C. Morrison Trucking & Excavating, LLC, Fornwalt Excavation, LLC, Harold's Concrete Construction, Structural Wood Corporation, and W.B. & R.L. Martin, Inc. DBA Martin's Quarry, and the single vehicle application of Speer's Crane Service, LLC.

b. Other business

No other business was presented.

5. Other business presented by other town officers

No other business was presented by other town officers.

New Business

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

a. Progress report

Ms. Ford reported that interior construction continues to progress. The St. Johnsbury Academy electrical students have been working on wiring the past few weeks. Work on the septic system has also commenced.

b. Other business

No other business was presented.

7. Consideration of, and take any action on, bids for 2024 mowing of Town properties

The Board reviewed bids for mowing of Town properties for the 2024 season. The bids submitted were as summarized below:

C & C Maintenance: \$8,450
JK Builder & Company LLC: \$4,000
KLC Lawn & Garden: \$9,528.75
Precision Lawn Care LLC: \$28,000
Pro Lawn Care LLC: \$1,320
Tom's Property Service LLC: \$14,150

- Mr. Gates moved to accept the bid of JK Builder & Company LLC. Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote.

8. Consideration of, and take any action on, final results of 2023 tax sale

The Board reviewed a report of the final results of the March 30, 2023 tax sale, after the end of the one-year redemption period. The two properties on which the Town was the default winning bidder were both redeemed by the property owner. The Town earned \$15,026.40 in interest on the bids.

9. Consideration of, and take any action on, request for proposals for suppliers of fuel for 2024-2025

Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt asked the Board how it would like to proceed regarding purchasing of diesel fuel, heating fuel, and propane for the 2024-2025 season.

- Mr. Gates moved to issue a request for proposals by placing an advertisement in the newspaper, and by mailing and emailing the same vendors from whom the Town requested proposals last year, and to require variable price bids to be tied to a national market price index benchmark (e.g., Mont Belvieu Tet, Long Island Rack). Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote.

10. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Northeast Kingdom Broadband regarding appointment of Town representatives to governing board

The Board reviewed emails regarding the annual appointment of Town representatives. An email from current alternate representative Kathleen Monroe indicated that Ms. Monroe will resign effective April 22, 2024. Discussion ensued.

- The Board agreed to table this matter and to contact Ms. Monroe regarding a proposed replacement for alternate representative.

11. Consideration of, and take any action on, plans for 2024 Memorial Day observances

The Board discussed plans for Memorial Day observances to be held May 26, 2024.

12. Consideration of, and take any action on, notice of homestead declaration filing requirements

The Board reviewed a notice indicating that The Town of Barnet, Vermont will assess a penalty in the maximum percentages allowable pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 5410(g) for Homestead Declarations (Vermont Department of Taxes form HS-122) filed after April 15, 2024, and other non-compliance of Homestead Declaration filing requirements. A Homestead Declaration must be filed each year by every Vermont resident whose property meets the definition of a homestead. A Vermont Homestead is the principal dwelling and parcel of land surrounding the dwelling, owned and occupied by a resident individual as the individual's domicile April 1.

13. Other business presented by Selectboard

a. Knights Lane turnaround

Ms. Ford reported that she had received an inquiry about the turnaround at the end of Knights Lane. The resident inquiring indicated that the turnaround has not been plowed after snowstorms. Discussion ensued.

Old Business

14. Consideration of, and take any action on, replacement of library fence

The Board discussed the installation of a replacement fence at the library building property. Mr. Gates suggested that the library contact Dana Young regarding a split-rail fence option.

Check Warrants

15. Consideration of approval of outstanding check warrants

- The Board reviewed and approved all outstanding check warrants.

Anticipated Executive Session(s)

16. Consideration of, and take any action on, zoning permit application for parcel #0021-21-01 (executive session anticipated pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 313 (a)(1)(E))

The Board reviewed documents relating to the appeal of the Zoning Administrative Officer's decision. Discussion ensued.

- No action was taken.

Adjournment

17. Adjournment

- Mr. Gates moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

A true copy. Attest: _____ *Town Clerk*