

## MINUTES - REGULAR SELECTBOARD MEETING

### TOWN OF BARNET, VERMONT

MONDAY, JUNE 10, 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:** Lister Nancy Bishop, Road Foreman Mark Chase, Lister John Fairchild, Highway Department Employee Glenn Fearon, Northeast Kingdom Broadband Representative Neil Glassman, Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt, and Zoning Administrative Officer Shirley Warden.
- **Via GoToMeeting online video conference:** None.

#### Members of the public participating:

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

#### Approval of Minutes

##### 1. Consideration of approval of minutes of special meeting held May 13, 2024

- Ms. Ford moved to approve as presented the minutes of the special meeting held May 13, 2024. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

##### 2. Consideration of approval of minutes of regular meeting held May 13, 2024

- Ms. Ford moved to approve as presented the minutes of the regular meeting held May 13, 2024. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

#### Appearances by Members of the Public

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

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

#### 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, grant agreement for Class 2 Roadway grant

The Board reviewed the grant agreement for a paving project on West Barnet Road.

- With the Board's approval, Mr. Gates signed the agreement.

###### b. Consideration of, and take any action on, application of Sara Rauschenberg for highway access on Little France Road

The Board reviewed an application for a permanent residential driveway. Mr. Chase reported that he had visited the site and found there is a driveway already in place at a former field access. Mr. Chase reported that the site is suitable for a driveway, with good visibility.

- The Board agreed to approve the permit application; Mr. Gates signed the permit application.

**c. Consideration of, and take any action on, Certification of Compliance for Town Road and Bridge Standards and Network Inventory**

The Board reviewed a completed certificate of compliance form; the Town is required to file this form annually with the Vermont Agency of Transportation.

- The Board signed the certification.

**d. Other business**

**i. Park-and-ride clean-up**

Mr. Chase reported that the Vermont Department of Corrections has completed a clean-up project at the park-and-ride facility. A large load of trash was removed from the embankment behind the parking lot and the grass along the embankment was trimmed. The Highway Department assisted with a dump truck for hauling trash materials.

**ii. Harvey's Lake Beach trash collection**

Mr. Chase reported that he had received a request from the Beach Committee for the Highway Department to perform regular trash collection at the Harvey's Lake Beach during the summer season. Discussion ensued.

- The Board agreed to instruct the Highway Department not to perform trash collection at the Harvey's Lake Beach. The Board agreed it will contact the Beach Committee regarding trash collection solutions.

**iii. Routine maintenance**

Mr. Chase reported that the Highway Department has spent much of its recent time performing routine summer road maintenance such as ditching, mowing brush, and grading.

**iv. Roy Mountain Road project**

Mr. Chase reported that he plans to meet soon with contractors for the Roy Mountain Road paving project.

- The Board instructed Mr. Chase to solicit quotes from several excavating contractors.

**5. Appearance by Dam Committee regarding control station/dam reconstruction analysis; take any action**

The Board reviewed a proposal from McFarland Johnson for engineering services for dam reconstruction analysis, to include preparation of documentation to support a zoning permit for Harvey's Lake Dam. Ms. Ford represented the Dam Committee and discussed the need for this project. Discussion ensued.

- The Board agreed to sign the proposal; Mr. Gates signed the proposal.

**6. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Board of Listers regarding state mandated reappraisal notice**

The Board reviewed a letter from the Listers indicating that the Town expects to receive a state-mandated reappraisal notice and recommending that the Board approve retaining NEMRC as the Town's reappraisal contractor. Listers John Fairchild and Nancy Bishop appeared and discussed this matter with the Board.

- The Board agreed to instruct the Board of Listers to prepare a request for proposals and send to several candidates for reappraisal contractor.

**7. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Vermont Department of Taxes regarding approved Grand List extension**

The Board reviewed an email and attached notice indicating that the Town has been granted a 30-day extension of time to complete work relating to duties of the Listers as mentioned in 32 V.S.A. § 4341.

**8. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Fire & Rescue Department regarding expiration of term of Fire Warden**

Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt indicated that this item was placed on the agenda in error: the term of current Fire Warden Christopher Bunnell is active through June 2028.

**9. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Zoning Administrative Officer regarding abutters notice for permit issued to parcel on Granger Street**

The Board reviewed an abutters notice for a permit issued to Thomas & Susannah Gould for a porch.

**10. Other business presented by other town officers**

No other business was presented by other town officers.

New Business

**11. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Northeast Kingdom Broadband (NEK Broadband) regarding proposed merger with CV Fiber**

The Board reviewed emails from the Clerk of the NEK Broadband Board and Barnet Representative to the NEK Broadband Board Neil Glassman regarding the proposed merger between two Communications Union Districts (CUDs) NEK Broadband and CVFiber pursuant to 30 V.S.A. § 3052(a). Mr. Glassman appeared and discussed the proposed merger with the Board. He noted potential benefits and possible drawbacks of a merger and indicated he believes the impact of the merger on the Town will be positive or at worst net neutral.

**12. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Endyne, Inc. regarding laboratory report on groundwater monitoring at former landfill**

The Board reviewed the report on groundwater monitoring at the former landfill on Town Forest Road performed May 2024.

**13. Other business presented by Selectboard**

**a. Candidate for Animal Control Officer**

Ms. Ford reported that a potential candidate for Town Animal Control Officer has emerged. This candidate will appear at a future Board meeting to discuss the position with the Board.

**b. Disposal of wood waste materials at Transfer Station**

Ms. Ford indicated that Transfer Station/Recycling Center employee Daniel Ehlers has inquired if the Board would approve burning of wood waste materials collected at the Transfer Station. Mr. Ehlers had reported that the Transfer Station collects a significant

amount of untreated construction lumber, etc.; he believes it may be economically beneficial for the Town to burn these materials rather than disposing of them as construction debris. Discussion ensued.

- The Board agreed not to pursue Mr. Ehlers's suggestion at this time.

#### Old Business

#### **14. Consideration of, and take any action on, next steps in Town Hall project**

##### **a. Progress report**

Mr. Gates provided an update on recent activity at the Town Hall renovation site, including installation and painting of sheetrock. He indicated that the current construction timeline estimate is for the project to be completed in time for the building to host the General Election in November.

##### **b. Other business**

No other business was discussed.

#### **15. Consideration of, and take any action on, appointment of assistant/acting Zoning Administrative Officer (ZAO)**

Zoning Administrative Officer Shirley Warden discussed progress on this project. She indicated there is a potential candidate for the assistant/acting ZAO position. Ms. Warden will discuss this matter further with the Zoning Board at their next meeting.

#### **16. Consideration of, and take any action on, replacement of library fence**

Librarian Dylan Ford indicated that there was no new information to discuss or on which to take action regarding this matter.

- No action was taken.

#### Check Warrants

#### **17. Consideration of approval of outstanding check warrants**

- The Board reviewed and approved all outstanding check warrants.

#### Anticipated Executive Session(s)

#### **18. 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 noted that there was no new information to discuss or on which to take action regarding this matter.

- No action was taken.

#### **19. Consideration of, and take any action on, Highway Department employee leave of absence (executive session anticipated pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 313 (a)(3))**

- Ms. Ford moved to enter executive session to discuss Highway Department employee leave of absence pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(3). Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote. Entered executive session at 7:44 p.m. Those present in executive session: Ms. Ford, Mr. Gates, Mr. Jefferson, Road Foreman Mark Chase, Highway Department Employee Glenn Fearon, 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 8:35 p.m.
- The Board agreed to take no action on this matter at this time and to continue discussion at a future Board meeting.

Adjournment

**20. Adjournment**

- Ms. Ford moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

*A true copy. Attest:* \_\_\_\_\_ *Town Clerk*