

## MINUTES - REGULAR SELECTBOARD MEETING

### TOWN OF BARNET, VERMONT

MONDAY, JULY 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:** 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, Highway Department employee Glenn Fearon, Highway Department Employee Glenn Fearon, Northeast Kingdom Broadband Representative Neil Glassman, Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt, Dam Committee member Joseph Mangiapane, and Fire & Rescue Chief Ronald Morse.
- **Via GoToMeeting online video conference:** None.

#### Members of the public participating:

- **In-person:** Karla Cornelius, David Hollocher, Sal Perillo, Jackie Sprague, and Sherman Sprague.
- **Via GoToMeeting online video conference:** None.

#### Approval of Minutes

##### 1. **Consideration of approval of minutes of regular meeting held June 24, 2024**

- The Board agreed to table approval of minutes because (1) Mr. Jefferson did not participate in the June 24 meeting and (2) Ms. Ford, who participated in the June 24 meeting, was not present at this meeting.

#### Appearances by Members of the Public

##### 2. **Appearance by Lake Harvey Association (LHA) regarding proposed petition regarding wake sports on Harvey's Lake; take any action**

Members of LHA and other interested parties appeared and discussed the activity of wake sports on Harvey's Lake. LHA President Karla Cornelius and Vice President Jackie Sprague discussed recent Vermont legislation, which prohibits wake sports on Vermont lakes other than areas that are (1) greater than fifty (50) acres, (2) at least 500 feet from the shore, and (4) at least twenty (20) feet deep. This definition allows 133 acres of Harvey's Lake to be eligible for wake sports. LHA representatives advocate prohibiting wake sports on Harvey's Lake altogether; those present at this meeting cited studies and presented arguments centered on erosion harms and on the assertion that wake sports are enjoyed by few on Harvey's Lake whereas the activity inhibits the enjoyment of the lake of many others. LHA proposes to present a petition to the State of Vermont for the prohibition of wake sports on Harvey's Lake and requests that the Board endorse the petition. Discussion ensued between the Board, LHA, those supporting the prohibition, and those opposed to the prohibition.

- The Board requested that LHA send a copy of the proposed petition and any other relevant information to the Board for their review and future consideration.

### 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, request by Karne Choling for mirror at intersection of Patneau Land and West Barnet Road

Mr. Chase reported that he had contacted a few vendors of signs and found that prices for larger mirrors, which are recommended for this location, are around \$1,000. The Board discussed safety and liability issues in connection with the installation of this mirror.

- No action taken.

#### b. Consideration of, and take any action on, Standard Grant Agreement for fiscal year 2025 municipal mitigation Grant-in-Aid

The Board reviewed the agreement for an implementation of best management practices in accordance with the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation's Municipal Roads General Permit (MRGP) on eligible road segments that are not fully compliant with the MRGP.

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

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

- The Board reviewed and approved the fleet applications of P & L Loggers of Vermont and R.L. Trucking of Vermont.

#### d. Other business

##### i. Truck #002 body repairs

Mr. Chase presented a quote for repair of body damage on the side of the truck caused by the truck's wing plow. Quote from Eric's Automotive totals \$3,500. Discussion ensued.

- Mr. Jefferson moved to approve repairs to Truck #002 per the quote from Eric's Automotive. Seconded by Mr. Gates and approved by voice vote.

##### ii. Rainstorm repairs

Mr. Chase reported that Barnet town highways had sustained a few small washouts, downed trees, and plugged culverts as the result of recent rainstorms.

### 5. Other business presented by other town officers

#### a. Appearance Fire & Rescue Chief Ronald Morse regarding Fire & Rescue Station driveway and parking lot

Mr. Morse suggested the Board consider paving the driveway and parking lot of the Fire & Rescue Station. Discussion ensued.

#### New Business

### 6. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Northeast Kingdom Broadband (NEKBB) preliminary merger plan update

The Board reviewed an email from Barnet representative to NEKBB Neil Glassman and attached update from NEKBB regarding their proposed merger with CVFiber. Mr. Glassman appeared at this meeting and discussed the proposed merger with the Board, indicating that he will attend merger meetings to represent the interests of the Town.

## **7. Other business presented by Selectboard**

There was no other business presented by the Selectboard.

### Old Business

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

### **a. Progress report**

Mr. Gates reported that re-finishing of the Town Hall's historic hardwood floors is scheduled to be performed soon. Restoration of windows and preparations for paving the parking lot are also in progress.

### **b. Other business**

#### **i. Environmental clean-up**

Mr. Gates reported on communications with Atlas Technical Consultants regarding treatment of stockpiled contaminated soil from the Town Hall site.

## **9. Consideration of, and take any action on, appointment of Planning Commission/Zoning Board (PC/ZB) members**

The Board noted that there was no new information to discuss or on which to take action regarding this matter.

- No action was taken.

## **10. Consideration of, and take any action on, appointment of assistant/acting Zoning Administrative Officer**

The Board noted that there was no new information to discuss or on which to take action regarding this matter.

- No action was taken.

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

The Board noted that there was no new information to discuss or on which to take action regarding this matter.

- No action was taken.

### Appearances by Town Officers (continued)

## **12. Other business presented by other town officers (continued)**

### **a. Appearance by Dam Committee member Joseph Mangiapane**

Mr. Mangiapane discussed proposed improvements to the Harvey's Lake Dam, including work proposed by welder Theodore Faris for repair of the date gate stanchion. Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt confirmed he had received a quote for this work from Mr. Faris, which had a cost of \$3,295.

### Check Warrants

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

- The Board reviewed and approved all outstanding check warrants.

### Anticipated Executive Session(s)

**14. Consideration of, and take any action on, Highway Department employee leave of absence**

- Mr. Jefferson 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. Gates and approved by voice vote. Entered executive session at 8:04 p.m. Those present in executive session: Mr. Gates, Mr. Jefferson, Road Foreman Mark Chase, Highway Department Employee Glenn Fearon, and Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt.
- Mr. Jefferson moved to exit executive session. Seconded by Mr. Gates and approved by voice vote. Exited executive session at 8:18 p.m.
- No action taken.

Adjournment

**15. Adjournment**

- Mr. Jefferson moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Gates and approved by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 8:19 p.m.

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