

**MINUTES – REGULAR SELECTBOARD MEETING  
TOWN OF BARNET, VERMONT  
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 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, Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt, Fire & Rescue Chief Ronald Morse, and Zoning Administrative Officer Shirley Warden.
- **Via GoToMeeting online video conference:** None.

**Members of the public participating:**

- **In-person:** Mark Bowen, James MacDonald, Michael McLellan, Jan Parsons, Joe Suyemoto, and Michael Thomas.
- **Via GoToMeeting online video conference:** Kyle Berge, Mona Marceau, “Jan P.”

Approval of Minutes

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

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

Appearances by Members of the Public

**2. Appearance by Michael McLellan and Michael Thomas regarding bicycle trail connector route; take any action**

Mr. McLellan and Mr. Thomas appeared and presented to the Board their proposal to create a connector bicycle route between Lamoille Valley Rail Trail in Danville to Cross Vermont Trail in Wells River using the Bayley Hazen corridor, where possible, as a potential route. The group’s goal is to invite Town cooperation to make the route as safe as possible for bicyclists and motorists, and as visible as possible, using appropriate road signage. Estimated cost of signage, which will be funded by the group, is \$3,120. Discussion ensued.

- The Board agreed to cooperate with the group’s plan for signage, giving their support for moving forward with the project.

**3. Appearance by citizens regarding establishment of Town emergency recovery/relief fund and advisory committee; take any action**

The Board reviewed a letter from the individuals organizing the emergency recovery fund, as discussed at prior meetings. The letter indicates the group’s nominations for fund advisory committee officers. The nominated voting members are Kyle Berge, Natalie Kitchel, Jan Parsons, Caroline DeMaio, and Mary Scott; the nominated non-voting fund administrator is Joe Breidenstein. Jan Parsons appeared and discussed the advisory committee with the Board.

- Ms. Ford moved to appoint an emergency recovery fund advisory committee membership of Kyle Berge, Natalie Kitchel, Jan Parsons, Caroline DeMaio, and Mary Scott, and non-voting fund administrator Joe Breidenstein. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

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

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

#### Appearances by Town Officers

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

##### a. Consideration of, and take any action on, road repairs in connection with July 2024 flooding event

Mr. Chase provided an update on the status of road repairs. He reported that the Highway Department continues to smooth out rough patches and improve areas that were initially repaired only to passable status.

##### b. Consideration of, and take any action on, bids for park-and-ride project

The Board reviewed and discussed bids submitted for the park-and-ride project, which were as summarized below:

Bogie Mountain Trucking & Excavating: \$82,250

KML: \$37,180

Mathews Excavating: \$66,136

- Mr. Jefferson moved to accept the bid of KML. Seconded by Mr. Gates and approved by voice vote.

##### c. Consideration of, and take any action on, annual review of Snow Plowing and Maintenance Services Agreement with Caledonia Cooperative School District

The Board reviewed the 2019 agreement, which automatically renews annually.

- The Board agreed to continue with the same agreement unchanged.

##### d. Other business

###### i. Employee return

Mr. Chase reported that the full-time employee who was out on leave has returned to work.

###### ii. Church Street project

Mr. Chase reported that the Church Street project is scheduled to commence soon, as early as the week of this meeting.

###### iii. Drilling for blasting

Mr. Chase reported that drilling at the gravel pit in preparation for blasting has commenced.

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

##### a. Appearance by Fire & Rescue Chief Ronald Morse regarding flood materials removal

Chief Morse appeared and reported that the State of Vermont has completed removal of flood materials from public rights-of-way, pursuant to their memorandum of understanding with the Town, thus ending the memorandum. Discussion ensued regarding removal of hazardous waste materials collected at the Town Garage.

## New Business

### **7. Consideration of, and take any action on, initiating request for proposals for engineering for repair of flood damages to Harvey's Lake Public Beach and parking area**

The Board discussed plans for repair of flood damages with Zoning Administrative Officer Shirley Warden and residents James MacDonald and Joe Suyemoto. Ms. Ford discussed information gathered at a meeting with the Vermont Governor's office on August 27. Ms. Warden discussed information she has obtained at various site meetings and telephone conversations with State officials. Discussion ensued regarding permitting requirements for repair work of public and private property.

- Mr. Gates moved to permit the Beach Committee to move forward with planning and engineering request for proposals and to move forward with remediation of flood damage at Harvey's Lake Public Beach and parking area. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

### **8. Consideration of, and take any action on, hiring of administrative assistant for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) grant funding for July 2024 flooding disaster**

The Board discussed the proposal to hire an administrator for FEMA grant funding documentation and reporting. The Board noted that FEMA funding will reimburse all administrative costs.

- The Board agreed to advertise for the proposed position.

### **9. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Vermont Department of Housing & Community Development regarding Village Center Designation renewals**

The Board reviewed an email reporting that, with the passage of Act 181 of the Vermont legislature, eight-year renewals of Village Center Designations are no longer required. The Board noted that the Town Plan should be revised to reflect this change.

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

No other business was presented by the Selectboard.

## Old Business

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

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

Mr. Gates reported that the renovation project is in its closing stages. Construction manager Estes & Gallup plans to turn the project over to the Town on October 1. A punch-list walk-through is scheduled for September 23.

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

##### **i. Telephone and internet service**

Discussion was had about plans for installation of telephone and internet service.

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

Zoning Administrative Officer Shirley Warden reported that there was no new information to discuss or on which to act.

- No action was taken.

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

Librarian Dylan Ford reported that fencer Steve Murray had inspected the site and recommended a military-style stacked split-rail fence. He quoted a price of \$945.

- Mr. Gates moved to approve Steve Murray's quote and the expenditure of \$945 from the municipal building fund. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

Check Warrants

**14. Consideration of approval of outstanding check warrants**

- The Board reviewed and approved all outstanding check warrants.

Adjournment

**15. Adjournment**

- Ms. Ford moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

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