

**MINUTES – REGULAR SELECTBOARD MEETING  
TOWN OF BARNET, VERMONT  
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 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 (presiding co-chair) and Benjamin Adams.
- **Via GoToMeeting online video conference:** None.

**Other Town officials and employees participating:**

- **In-person:** 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:** Roseann Leute.
- **Via GoToMeeting online video conference:** “Jan P” and “Mona.”

Approval of Minutes

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

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

Appearances by Members of the Public

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

**a. Appearance by Barnet Historical Society (BHS) regarding BHS archival storage**

Roseann Leute and John Fairchild appeared and discussed the archival storage needs of BHS. Ms. Leute indicated that there is concern among the members of BHS that the lower-level storage areas in the renovated Town Hall may not be suitable. She discussed other possible solutions. Discussion ensued. Ms. Ford indicated that she believes the storage areas in the lower level of the Town Hall could be suitable for some of BHS’s archival materials. Although these areas are not workspaces there are other suitable workspaces in the main level of the building. Ms. Ford noted that the Board has included this planned use of space throughout the renovation process.

**b. Appearance by Roseann Leute regarding Harvey’s Lake Beach repairs**

Ms. Leute inquired about plans for repairs of the beach property following the July flood.

- The Board indicated that the Beach Committee is working on repair plans and is currently seeking proposals from sitework contractors.

Appearances by Town Officers

**3. Appearance by Road Foreman Mark Chase regarding Highway Department matters; take any action**

Mr. Chase did not appear at this meeting.

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

- The Board agreed to table discussion of this matter.

**b. Other business**

No other business was discussed.

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

No other business was presented by other town officers.

New Business

**5. Consideration of, and take any action on, proposals for borrowing for flood recovery expenses**

The Board reviewed proposals for short-term borrowing for flood recovery expenses, as discussed at the previous Board meeting. All proposals were for a one-year line of credit with the maximum amount of \$1,500,000. A summary of the bids received is as follows:

<u>Financial Institution</u>	<u>Rate (per annum)</u>
Community Bank	5.45%
Community National Bank	5.23%
Mascoma Bank	6.75%
Passumpsic Savings Bank	5.03%
Union Bank	6.50%

- Mr. Adams moved to accept the proposal of Passumpsic Savings Bank. Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote.

**6. Consideration of, and take any action on, policy on use of Town Hall by non-Town of Barnet municipal/civic entities**

The Board reviewed minutes of their September 23, 2024 meeting. Under item #7. b. the Board voted to “use the renovated Town Hall building for municipal government/civic use only and not allow it to be used for private events.” The Board noted that this policy is not completely clear about use of the building by municipal entities other than the Town of Barnet, such as the Barnet fire districts.

- Mr. Adams moved to allow use of the Town Hall conference room/public areas, with due permission for each event from the Selectboard, by municipal entities within the boundaries of the town of Barnet only (i.e., fire districts), in addition to regular use of the building by the Town of Barnet itself. Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote.

**7. Consideration of, and take any action on, proposed 2025 service contract from Caledonia County Sheriff’s Department**

The Board reviewed a letter and attached proposed contract. The contract indicates that the hourly rate for patrols is \$42.00 per hour, inclusive of evening and Saturday hours. This, along with the other terms of the contract, are unchanged from 2024.

- Mr. Adams moved to sign the service contract, specifying a budget of \$7,500 for the contract year. Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote. Ms. Ford signed the contract.

**8. Other business presented by Selectboard**

There was no other business presented by the Selectboard.

Old/Continuing Business

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

**a. Progress report**

Ms. Ford reported that she had received a report from Mr. Gates that there has been some progress in negotiations regarding remaining costs for the project.

**b. Other business**

No other business was discussed.

**10. Consideration of, and take any action on, revision of Animal Control Ordinance**

The Board reviewed correspondence from Town Attorney Steven Adler. Discussion ensued.

- The Board agreed to instruct Mr. Adler to move forward with the ordinance adoption process with the ordinance draft as proposed, with the same penalties and costs as proposed in the original draft and naming six enforcement officers, as follows: the three Selectboard members, the two elected Constables, and the appointed Animal Control Officer.

Check Warrants

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

- The Board reviewed and approved all outstanding check warrants.

Adjournment

**12. Adjournment**

- Mr. Adams moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 7:31 p.m.

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