

**MINUTES – REGULAR SELECTBOARD MEETING
TOWN OF BARNET, VERMONT
MONDAY, DECEMBER 23, 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), Benjamin Gates, and Benjamin Adams.
- **Via GoToMeeting online video conference:** None.

Other Town officials and employees participating:

- **In-person:** Lister Nancy Bishop, Road Foreman Mark Chase, Beach Committee Member Christen Emerson, Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt, Beach Committee Member Jennifer Kierstead, Lister Celina Wright, and Beach Manager Samantha Zita.
- **Via GoToMeeting online video conference:** None.

Members of the public participating:

- **In-person:** Derek Fenoff.
- **Via GoToMeeting online video conference:** Mona Marceau.

Approval of Minutes

1. Consideration of approval of minutes of regular meeting held December 9, 2024

- Mr. Gates moved to approve as presented the minutes of the meeting held December 9, 2024. Seconded by Mr. Adams and approved by voice vote.

Appearances by Members of the Public

2. Other business presented by members of the public

a. South Peacham Brook flooding

Beach Committee member Christen Emerson discussed recent flooding of South Peacham Brook near its confluence with the Stevens River. Discussion regarding permitting requirements for a project to mitigate future damage.

Appearances by Town Officers

3. Appearance by Beach Committee: Open and review bids from contractors for Harvey's Lake Beach flood repair work; take any action

The Board reviewed one bid received for sitework for repair of flood damages per the Beach Committee's request for proposals. Bid received from Kirk Fenoff & Son Excavating, LLC in the amount of \$131,181. Discussion ensued between the Board and the Beach Committee members present regarding the scope of the project and permitting. The Beach Committee reported that all required permits have been approved.

- Mr. Gates moved to accept the bid of Kirk Fenoff & Son Excavating, LLC. Seconded by Mr. Adams and approved by voice vote.

4. Appearance by Board of Listers: Review and execution of reappraisal agreement from NEMRC; take any action

The Board reviewed a proposed reappraisal agreement as per the proposal approved at the previous Board meeting. Discussion ensued with Listers present, Nancy Bishop and Celina Wright.

- The Board signed the agreement.

The Listers present asked about the arrangement of the Listers office at the renovated Town Hall, particularly about the design, cost, and placement of a piece of tax map display furniture.

- The Board agreed that the Listers may design, purchase, and place a tax map display as per their requirements.

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

a. Equipment and staff update

Mr. Chase reported that all Highway Department staff are at work and all equipment is in working condition.

b. Flood response update

Mr. Chase reported that he and Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt have met with the Federal Emergency Management Agency and are working on a damage inventory and flood cost tabulation. Discussion ensued regarding further flood response work required, including the possibility of using a civil engineer to design stream work and obtain permitting.

c. Winter maintenance

Mr. Chase reported that much of the Highway Department's recent time has been devoted to winter road maintenance, including plowing, salting, and sanding roads during and after storms.

6. Other business presented by other town officers

There was no other business presented by town officers.

New Business

7. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Northeast Kingdom Waste Management District regarding 2025 budget

The Board reviewed a letter and attached approved 2025 budget. Total budgeted expenditures are \$1,030,997.00.

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, correspondence regarding James and Denise Day flood damage to private property

The Board reviewed an email from Bruce Melendy of Northeastern Vermont Development Association regarding this matter as discussed at the previous Board meeting. Mr. Melendy's email summarizes his involvement with the case and an attached copy of a letter from James and Denise Day summarizes their request for assistance.

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

a. Progress report

Mr. Gates provided an update; recent progress has included the installation of storm windows and painting of the basement vault. Plans are in place for installation of electrical wiring in preparation for the fire suppression system in the first floor vault.

b. Other business

No other business was discussed.

Check Warrants

11. Consideration of approval of outstanding check warrants

- The Board reviewed and approved all outstanding check warrants.

Budget

12. Consideration of, and take any action on, 2025 Town General Fund budget

The Board continued their review of the 2025 General Fund budget, adjusting various line items.

Adjournment

13. Adjournment

- Mr. Gates moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Adams and approved by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

A true copy. Attest: _____ *Town Clerk*