

**MINUTES – REGULAR SELECTBOARD MEETING
TOWN OF BARNET, VERMONT
MONDAY, 24 MARCH 2025**

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 Benjamin Adams.
- **Via GoToMeeting online video conference:** None.

Other Town officials and employees participating:

- **In-person:** Road Foreman Mark Chase, Dam Committee member George Coppenrath, Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt, Dam Committee member Joseph Mangiapane, and Zoning Administrative Officer Shirley Warden.
- **Via GoToMeeting online video conference:** Northeast Kingdom Community Broadband Representative Neil Glassman.

Members of the public participating:

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

Approval of Minutes

1. Consideration of approval of minutes of regular meeting held 10 March 2025

- Ms. Ford moved to approve as presented the minutes of the regular meeting held 10 March 2025. Seconded by Mr. Adams and approved by voice vote.

Organization of the Board

2. Appoint Town Attorney

- The Board agreed to table this matter.

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 Dam Committee regarding dam hydraulic study; take any action

Dam Committee members George Coppenrath appeared and discussed a proposal received from engineering firm McFarland Johnson for a project consisting of conducting and reporting on a hydrologic and hydraulic alternatives analysis of potential dam modifications to Harvey's Lake Dam for submission to the Vermont Dam Safety Program. The total cost of the project is not to exceed \$30,000.

- Ms. Ford moved to sign the proposal/agreement with McFarland Johnson. Seconded by Mr. Adams and approved by voice vote.

5. Appearance by Northeast Kingdom Broadband (NEK Broadband) regarding proposed letter of support for application for BEAD funding; take any action

The Board reviewed an email and proposed letter of support for NEK Broadband's application for BEAD funding, which would fund the build-out of 30 miles of fiber to service 163 addresses.

Barnet's representative to NEK Broadband, Neil Glassman, appeared remotely and discussed this matter with the Board; he requested that the Board sign a letter of support along the lines of the letter presented. Discussion ensued.

- The Board agreed to sign the letter of support.

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

a. Consideration of, and take any action on, application of Jennifer and Lars Botzjorns for highway access permit on Chamberlain Road

Mr. Chase reported that he had not yet inspected the site of this proposed access.

- The Board agreed to table this matter.

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

- The Board reviewed and approved the fleet permit applications of Agri-Mark, Inc. DBA Cabo Creamery, AmeriGas, Barrett Trucking Co., Inc., Calkins, Chief Crushing & Excavation, Inc., Chief Logging & Chipping Services, Inc., Kennedy Excavation, LLC, and WB and RL Martin, Inc. DBA Martin's Quarry.

c. Other business

i. Patneaude Lane bridge

The Board and Mr. Chase discussed the status of the Patneaude Lane bridge. The original bridge was damaged in the July 2024 flood and a temporary bridge was installed over it. Recently, the original bridge has become increasingly damaged, compromising the integrity of the temporary bridge. The temporary bridge has been judged unsafe for vehicular traffic and the road and bridge have been closed.

Discussion ensued regarding solutions to the problem.

ii. Schoolhouse Road sink hole

A reported sink hole on Schoolhouse Road was discussed.

7. Other business presented by other town officers

There was no other business presented by other town officers.

New Business

8. Other business presented by Selectboard

a. Harvey's Lake Beach debris removal

Ms. Ford spoke regarding debris removal that must be performed at the beach prior to the excavation work to be completed by Fenoff Excavating.

- The Board agreed to approve the performance of the proposed debris removal.

Old/Continuing Business

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

a. Progress report

Mr. Gates discussed recent progress on the project. The operations of the Town Offices (Town Clerk's Office, Listers, etc.) moved into the building earlier this month. Some bugs

remain to be worked out with the HVAC system. Several smaller punch-list projects, including the keying of locks, remain to be completed.

b. Consideration of, and take any action on, planning for open house event

The Board continued its planning for an open house event to be held in April or May.

c. Other business

Mr. Gates reported that a few minor septic system issues were recently resolved.

10. Consideration of, and take any action on, renewal of lease of library building space to Karme Choling

Ms. Ford reported that there are no new developments regarding this matter.

- No action taken.

Check Warrants

11. Consideration of approval of outstanding check warrants

- The Board reviewed and approved all outstanding check warrants.

Executive Session(s) Anticipated

12. Consideration of, and take any action on, appointment of, and remuneration for, Zoning Administrative Officer (executive session anticipated pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(3))

- Ms. Ford moved that the Board enter executive session pursuant to 1 V.S.A. Section 313(a)(3) to discuss, appointment of, and remuneration for, a Zoning Administrative Officer. Seconded by Mr. Adams and approved by voice vote. Entered executive session at 7:28 p.m. Those present in executive session: Ms. Ford, Mr. Gates, Mr. Adams, and Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt.
- Ms. Ford moved to exit executive session. Seconded by Mr. Adams and approved by voice vote. Exited executive session at 7:35 p.m.
- Ms. Ford moved to appoint Dennis Marquise as Zoning Administrative Officer to pay him at the rate discussed in executive session. Seconded by Mr. Gates and approved by voice vote.

13. Consideration of, and take any action on, appointment of, and remuneration for, Town Hall cleaning services (executive session anticipated pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(3))

The Board noted that Scott Liveston, who had been hired for the cleaning position at the Town Hall, has resigned.

- Ms. Ford moved that the Board enter executive session pursuant to 1 V.S.A. Section 313(a)(3) to discuss, appointment of, and remuneration for, Town Hall cleaning services. Seconded by Mr. Adams and approved by voice vote. Entered executive session at 7:36 p.m. Those present in executive session: Ms. Ford, Mr. Gates, Mr. Adams, and Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt.
- Ms. Ford moved to exit executive session. Seconded by Mr. Adams and approved by voice vote. Exited executive session at 7:41 p.m.
- Ms. Ford moved to hire Annette Hyder for Town Hall cleaning service and to pay her at the rate discussed in executive session. Seconded by Mr. Adams and approved by voice vote.

Adjournment

14. Adjournment

- Ms. Ford moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Adams and approved by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

A true copy. Attest: _____ Town Clerk