

MINUTES – REGULAR SELECTBOARD MEETING
TOWN OF BARNET, VERMONT
MONDAY, 14 APRIL 2025

Meeting convened at 7:00 p.m. in-person at Barnet Town Hall (154 Church Street) 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:** Road Foreman Mark Chase and Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt.
- **Via GoToMeeting online video conference:** None.

Members of the public participating:

- **In-person:** Robert Abbott, Vegan Aharonian, Jan Enthoven, Ben Morehouse, and Shirley Warden.
- **Via GoToMeeting online video conference:** None.

Approval of Minutes

1. Consideration of approval of minutes of regular meeting held 24 March 2025

- Mr. Gates moved to approve as presented the minutes of the regular meeting held 24 March 2025. Seconded by Mr. Adams and approved by voice vote.

Organization of the Board

2. Appoint Town Attorney

Ms. Ford suggested that the Board inquire about the availability of attorney Brain Monaghan to serve as appointed Town Attorney or on an ad hoc basis.

- The Board agreed that Ms. Ford will inquire with Mr. Monaghan.

Appearances by Members of the Public

3. Other business presented by members of the public

a. Mattress and boxspring cost increase

Shirley Warden indicated that there is an impending cost increase for the Town's disposal of mattresses and boxsprings. She noted that Northeast Kingdom Waste Management District is encouraging citizens to break down their boxsprings and burn/dispose or recycle parts as appropriate as a cost savings.

b. Benefit dinner

Shirley Warden announced there will be a benefit dinner and auction to benefit local resident Ryan Hall on April 19th.

Appearances by Town Officers

4. Appearance by Board of Listers regarding 2025 Assessor Services Agreement; take any action

The Board reviewed a proposed Assessor Services Agreement from NEMRC. Terms and conditions are similar to 2024; costs are Assessor hourly rate of \$95 and Senior Appraiser hourly rate of \$145.

- The Board agreed to sign the agreement; the Board signed the agreement.

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

a. Consideration of, and take any action on, proposals for remediation of Patneau Lane bridge

The Board reviewed proposals for remediation of the compromised temporary bridge over Stevens River on Patneau Lane. The Board noted that quotes were requested on an open-ended basis, requesting contractors to provide recommended solutions. Therefore, the scope of each proposal is unique. Proposals were as summarized below:

<u>Contractor</u>	<u>Total Quoted Cost</u>
Austin Construction (Option A)	\$35,200
Austin Construction (Option B)	\$81,400
Miller Construction, Inc.	\$35,000 to \$50,000 (time and materials)
Winterset, Inc.	\$311,250

- Mr. Gates moved to accept Austin Construction's Option B proposal, which is to de-launch the temporary bridge, demolish the original bridge deck and south abutment, place stone fill at south riverbank, and lengthen the temporary bridge 20' and reset the temporary bridge. Seconded by Mr. Adams and approved by voice vote.

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

Mr. Chase reported on his site inspection. He indicated that the visibility is good, and the site is a suitable for a highway access; the condition of the installation of a 15" diameter or larger culvert is recommended.

- The Board agreed to approve the permit with the condition recommended by Mr. Chase; Mr. Gates signed the permit.

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

- The Board reviewed and approved the fleet applications of E.C. Morrison Trucking & Excavating LLC, Fornwalt Excavation LLC, Harold's Concrete Construction, John Lantagne DBA JBL Logging & Excavation, Sidney Smith Trucking, and the single vehicle application of Superior Plus Energy Services.

d. Other business

i. FEMA progress

Mr. Chase reported that he continues to meet with FEMA representatives in the process of conducting site inspections and compiling documentation for reimbursement of costs for the July 2024 flooding event.

ii. Gravel pit repairs

Mr. Chase reported that he is in process of collecting quotes for damages caused by July 2024 flooding.

6. Other business presented by other town officers

There was no other business presented by other town officers.

New Business

7. Consideration of, and take any action on, bids for 2025 mowing of Town properties

The Board reviewed bids for mowing Town properties, as summarized below:

<u>Bidder</u>	<u>Bid Total</u>
JK Builder & Company LLC	\$6,250
Labree Outdoor Services	\$11,000
Valley Lawn Care	\$7,150

- Mr. Gates moved to accept the bid of JK Builder & Company LLC. Seconded by Mr. Adams and approved by voice vote.

8. Consideration of, and take any action on, request for proposals for supply of diesel fuel, heating fuel, and propane

Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt asked the Board how it would like to proceed regarding purchasing of diesel fuel, heating fuel, and propane for the 2025-2026 season.

- The Board agreed to issue a request for proposals in the same manner as the previous season: by placing an advertisement in the newspaper, and by mailing and emailing the same vendors from whom the Town requested proposals last year, and to require variable price bids to be tied to a national market price index benchmark (e.g., Mont Belvieu Tet, Long Island Rack).

9. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Monaghan Safar PLLC regarding engagement as bond counsel for Municipal Climate Recovery Fund financing

The Board reviewed an engagement agreement and a resolution regarding necessity for municipal climate recovery fund financing.

- The Board agreed to sign the engagement agreement and the resolution; the Board signed the engagement agreement and the resolution.

10. Consideration of, and take any action on, adoption of Local Hazard Mitigation Plan

The Board reviewed correspondence from Vermont Emergency Management and the Town's consultant, OPH Consulting Services, regarding the final approval of the new Local Hazard Mitigation Plan. The Board also reviewed a Certificate of Local Adoption for proposed Board signature.

- The Board agreed to sign the Certificate of Local Adoption; the Board signed the Certificate of Local Adoption.

11. Consideration of, and take any action on, application of West Barnet Quick Stop for liquor license and tobacco license

The Board reviewed the application for the annual renewal of a second-class liquor license and tobacco license of West Barnet Quick Stop.

- Mr. Gates moved to approve the applications. Seconded by Mr. Adams and approved by voice vote.

12. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Zoning Administrative Officer with abutter notice for permit issued to Janet Warner for structures on Bimson Drive

The Board reviewed a notice of a permit issued for a 50' x 32' single family home with a 32' x 32' attached garage. The property abuts the Town's Fire & Rescue Station property at 151 Bimson Drive.

- No action taken.

13. Consideration of, and take any action on, plans for 2025 Memorial Day services

The Board discussed plans for Memorial Day observances to be held on Sunday, May 30th at 9 a.m. at Passumpsic and at 9:30 a.m. at Barnet Village.

14. Other business presented by Selectboard

a. Harvey's Lake Beach grant funding

Ms. Ford discussed a community spaces grant for which Beach Committee is applying.

Old/Continuing Business

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

a. Progress report

The Board noted that this meeting is held at the new Town Hall conference room space, as have several recent public meetings, marking a movement in the direction of completion of the project. Mr. Gates reported on developments on several final punch list items.

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

The Board continued to discuss details of the open house event to be held May 17th.

c. Other business

No other business was discussed.

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

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

- No action taken.

Check Warrants

17. Consideration of approval of outstanding check warrants

- The Board reviewed and approved all outstanding check warrants.

Executive Session(s) Anticipated

18. Consideration of, and take any action on, proposed resolution regarding Zoning Bylaws enforcement for zoning violation on parcel ID #0014-01-70 (executive session anticipated pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(1)(E))

- Mr. Gates moved that the Board make a specific finding, pursuant to 1 V.S.A. Section 313(a)(1)(E), that premature public knowledge of discussion concerning Zoning Bylaws enforcement for zoning violation on parcel ID #0014-01-70 would clearly place the Town of Barnet at a substantial disadvantage. Seconded by Mr. Adams and approved by voice vote.
- Mr. Gates moved that the Board enter executive session pursuant to 1 V.S.A. Section 313(a)(1)(E) to discuss Zoning Bylaws enforcement for zoning violation on parcel ID #0014-01-70, as premature public disclosure of which would clearly place the Town of Barnet at a substantial disadvantage. Seconded by Mr. Adams and approved by voice vote. Entered executive session at 7:42 p.m. Those present in executive session: Ms. Ford, Mr. Adams, Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt, and Shirley Warden.
- Mr. Gates moved to exit executive session. Seconded by Mr. Adams and approved by voice vote. Exited executive session at 7:46 p.m.
- Mr. Gates moved to sign the enforcement resolution as discussed in executive session. Seconded by Mr. Adams and approved by voice vote. The Board signed the resolution.

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

- Mr. Gates moved that the Board enter executive session pursuant to 1 V.S.A. Section 313(a)(3) to discuss salary payment for the outgoing Zoning Administrative Officer. Seconded by Mr. Adams and approved by voice vote. Entered executive session at 7:46 p.m. Those present in executive session: Ms. Ford, Mr. Gates, Mr. Adams, Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt, and Shirley Warden
- Mr. Gates moved to exit executive session. Seconded by Mr. Adams and approved by voice vote. Exited executive session at 7:50 p.m.
- Mr. Gates moved to compensate outgoing Zoning Administrative Officer Shirley Warden as discussed in executive session. Seconded by Mr. Adams and approved by voice vote.

Adjournment

20. Adjournment

- Mr. Gates moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Adams and approved by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

A true copy. Attest: _____ *Town Clerk*