

**MINUTES – REGULAR SELECTBOARD MEETING**  
**TOWN OF BARNET, VERMONT**  
**MONDAY, 28 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, 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, Northeast Kingdom Broadband Representative Neil Glassman, and Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt.
- **Via GoToMeeting online video conference:** None.

**Members of the public participating:**

- **In-person:** Leland Alper, Vegan Aharonian, and Shirley Warden.
- **Via GoToMeeting online video conference:** Tom Berthoff.

Approval of Minutes

**1. Consideration of approval of minutes of regular meeting held 14 April 2025**

- Ms. Ford moved to approve as presented the minutes of the regular meeting held 14 April 2025. Seconded by Mr. Adams and approved by voice vote.

Organization of the Board

**2. Consideration of, and take any action on, appointment of Town Attorney**

Ms. Ford reported that she had attempted to contact Brian Monaghan to inquire about his availability, as discussed by the Board, but had not reached him yet.

- No action was taken.

**3. Consideration of, and take any action on, appointment of Ethics Liaison**

The Board reviewed training literature/guidance from the Vermont League of Cities & Towns regarding new Vermont ethics and conflicts of interest requirements. One requirement is the appointment of an employee or Selectboard member as ethics liaison to the State Ethics Commission and a Designated Complaint Recipient to receive complaints alleging violations of the Municipal Code of Ethics. Discussion ensued.

- Ms. Ford moved to appoint Assistant Town Clerk Samantha Zita as ethics liaison to the State Ethics Commission. Seconded by Mr. Adams and approved by voice vote.
- Ms. Ford moved to appoint Assistant Town Clerk Samantha Zita as Designated Complaint Recipient. Seconded by Mr. Adams and approved by voice vote.

Appearances by Members of the Public

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

No other business was 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, remediation of Patneau Lane bridge**

Mr. Chase discussed with the Board the status of the bridge and temporary remediation measures. Karne Choling representative Vegan Aharonian discussed his communications with Austin Construction, including regarding possibilities for stabilization of the embankment below the bridge and the installation of a footbridge for use during construction. He indicated that Karne Choling requests a footbridge as a means of continuing use of their meditation retreat during programming while the vehicle bridge is closed.

- The Board agreed that it will review and consider a proposal from Austin Construction for the installation of a footbridge.

**b. Consideration of, and take any action on, application of Jacob Stevenson and Angela Roy for highway access permit on Garland Hill**

Mr. Chase reported on his site inspection. He indicated that visibility is good, and the site is 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 application of Limlaw Chipping & Land Clearing Inc.

**d. Other business**

**i. Federal Emergency Management Agency**

Mr. Chase reported that he continues to meet weekly with Federal Emergency Management Agency as the Town continues to compile documentation for reimbursement of costs for July 2024 flooding.

**ii. Gravel pit repairs request for proposals**

Mr. Chase reported that he has issued a request for proposals for repair of damages to the gravel pit caused by July 2024 flooding.

**iii. Paving request for proposals**

Mr. Chase reported that he has issued a request for proposals for 2025 paving projects and for the Roy Mountain Road reconstruction grant project.

**iv. Gravel crushing request for proposals**

Mr. Chase reported that he has issued a request for proposals for gravel crushing services.

**v. Seasonal road maintenance**

Mr. Chase reported that the Highway Department has commenced grading gravel road surfaces; he indicated that mud season has passed in most areas.

**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, appointment of representative(s) to NEKCV Communications Union District Governing Board**

The Board reviewed correspondence from NEKCV Communications Union District regarding the annual appointment of a Town Representative to the governing board. Current Town Representative Neil Glassman appeared and discussed the Communications Union District with the Board. He indicated his willingness to continue to serve as representative.

- Ms. Ford moved to appoint Neil Glassman as Barnet's Representative to the NEKCV governing board. Seconded by Mr. Adams and approved by voice vote.

#### **8. Consideration of, and take any action on, appointment of E911 Coordinator**

- Ms. Ford moved to appoint Ronald Morse as E911 Coordinator. Seconded by Mr. Adams and approved by voice vote.

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

##### **a. Morrison Hill all-terrain vehicle (ATV) traffic**

Ms. Ford reported that she has received complaints of illicit ATV traffic on Morrison Hill. Discussion ensued.

- The Board agreed to request that Constable David Stevenson patrol Morrison Hill to attempt to identify the ATV operators and enforce the Town's ordinance.

#### Old/Continuing Business

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

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

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 17<sup>th</sup>.

##### **c. Other business**

No other business was discussed.

#### **11. Consideration of, and take any action on, plans for 2025 Memorial Day services**

The Board continued its discussion of plans for Memorial Day observances to be held on Sunday, May 30<sup>th</sup> at 9 a.m. at Passumpsic and at 9:30 a.m. at Barnet Village.

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

The Board reviewed a revised version of the lease renewal.

- The Board agreed to sign the revised lease renewal; Ms. Ford signed the revised lease renewal.

#### Check Warrants

#### **13. Consideration of approval of outstanding check warrants**

- The Board reviewed and approved all outstanding check warrants.

#### Executive Session(s)

#### **14. Other business presented by Selectboard (continued)**

**a. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Vermont League of Cities & Towns regarding Patneaude Lane remediation**

- 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 correspondence from Vermont League of Cities & Towns regarding Patneaude Lane remediation 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 correspondence from Vermont League of Cities & Towns regarding Patneaude Lane remediation, 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 7:33 p.m. Those present in executive session: Ms. Ford, Mr. Gates, Mr. Adams, Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt, and Road Foreman Mark Chase.
- Ms. Ford moved to exit executive session. Seconded by Mr. Adams and approved by voice vote. Exited executive session at 7:48 p.m.
- No action was taken.

Adjournment

**15. Adjournment**

- Ms. Ford moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Adams and approved by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

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