

MINUTES – REGULAR SELECTBOARD MEETING
TOWN OF BARNET, VERMONT
MONDAY, 12 MAY 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, Recycling Center attendant Daniel Ehlers, Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt, Transfer Station/Recycling Center Supervisor Bruce Marston, and Transfer Station attendant Donald Nelson.
- **Via GoToMeeting online video conference:** None.

Members of the public participating:

- **In-person:** Vegan Aharonian, William Brauer, Jan Enthoven, Gerard Haase-Dubosc, Darcy Nelson, Norman Patneaude, Nancy Wallace, and Shirley Warden.
- **Via GoToMeeting online video conference:** Kerry Colby and Rosemary Gingue.

Approval of Minutes

1. Consideration of approval of minutes of regular meeting held 28 April 2025

- Mr. Adams moved to approve as presented the minutes of the regular meeting held 28 April 2025. Seconded by Mr. Gates 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.

Appearances by Members of the Public

3. Appearance by resident Jeffrey Pratt regarding stream alteration in Passumpsic Village; take any action

Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt reported that Mr. Pratt had indicated he would not appear at this meeting.

- No action taken.

4. Other business presented by members of the public

There was no other business presented by members of the public.

Appearances by Town Officers

5. Appearance by Dam Committee regarding beaver dam removal; take any action

Ms. Ford, a member of the Dam Committee, discussed difficulties with beaver dams in the lake channel. She reported that the lake water level is high, presenting potential erosion challenges. The beaver dams seem to be contributing to the problem. Vermont Fish & Wildlife has advised that the Town may not trap the beavers and suggested the Town try a “beaver deceiver” device to deter beaver dam construction. Lake Harvey Association has offered to contribute funds to cover expenses for installation of such a device, up to half its cost to a maximum of \$3,000. The device is expected to cost approximately \$6,000. Discussion ensued.

- The Board agreed to manually remove the beaver dams in the channel and to table further discussion of a “beaver deceiver.”

6. 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 reported that Austin Construction had performed temporary remediation in the form of bank stabilization and re-setting of the temporary bridge. The bridge is re-opened to traffic at this time; more extensive temporary work remains scheduled as planned. Representatives of Karne Choling appeared and discussed with the Board their request for the installation of a temporary footbridge at the site of the vehicular bridge to be used while the latter is closed during upcoming construction. The Board reviewed a quote from Austin Construction for the installation of the temporary footbridge; total cost quoted is \$15,000. Karne Choling representatives offered to seek donations for contributions towards the cost of the footbridge.

- No action taken.

b. Consideration of, and take any action on, bids for 2025 paving projects

The Board reviewed bids for 2025 paving projects on Anderson Street, Sunnyside Lane, and Little France Road, as summarized below:

Pike Industries: \$95,697.00

- Mr. Adames moved to accept the bid of Pike Industries. Seconded by Mr. Gates and approved by voice vote.

c. Consideration of, and take any action on, bids for excavation services for Roy Mountain Road reconstruction grant project

The Board reviewed bids for excavation services for the Roy Mountain Road reconstruction grant project, as summarized below:

Chief Crushing & Excavation: \$107,760

KML Excavation: \$224,720

- Mr. Adams moved to accept the bid of Chief Crushing & Excavation. Seconded by Mr. Gates and approved by voice vote.

d. Consideration of, and take any action on, bids for 2025 gravel crushing services

The Board reviewed bids for 2025 gravel crushing services, as summarized below:

Chief Crushing & Excavation -

50/50 mix: \$7.12 per cubic yard

Straight ledge: \$7.62 per cubic yard

Manchester Brook Materials (Darcy Nelson) -

50/50 mix: \$9.95 per cubic yard

Straight ledge: \$12.07 per cubic yard

Simpson Dirtworx -

50/50 mix: \$16.50 per cubic yard

Straight ledge: \$16.50 per cubic yard

- Mr. Gates moved to accept the bid of Chief Crushing & Excavation. Seconded by Mr. Adams and approved by voice vote.

e. Consideration of, and take any action on, bids for 2025 sand screening services

The Board reviewed bids for 2025 sand screening services, as summarized below:

Chief Crushing & Excavation: \$2.21 per cubic yard

Manchester Brook Materials (Darcy Nelson): \$4.00 per cubic yard

Simpson Dirtworx: \$3.50 per cubic yard

- Mr. Adams moved to accept the bid of Chief Crushing & Excavation. Seconded by Mr. Gates and approved by voice vote.

f. Consideration of, and take any action on, bids for 2025 gravel pit stripping services

The Board reviewed bids for 2025 stripping and removal of overburden, as summarized below:

Manchester Brook Materials (Darcy Nelson) –

Over sand/gravel: \$2.05 per cubic yard

Over ledge: \$2.15 per cubic yard

Mathews Excavating (Darrell Mathews) –

Over sand/gravel: \$1.75 per cubic yard

Over ledge: \$2.20 per cubic yard

Simpson Dirtworx -

Over sand/gravel: \$7.50 per cubic yard

Over ledge: \$7.50 per cubic yard

- Mr. Gates moved to accept the bid of Mathews Excavating. Seconded by Mr. Adams and approved by voice vote.

g. Consideration of, and take any action on, application of Jeb Heaney for highway access permit on Garland Hill

Mr. Chase reported that the highway access at this site is pre-existing. He indicated that visibility is good, and the site is suitable for highway access; no conditions are recommended.

- Mr. Gates moved to approve the highway access permit. Seconded by Mr. Adams and approved by voice vote. Mr. Gates signed the permit.

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

- The Board reviewed and approved the fleet applications of Calkins, Fred's Energy, and Darrell Mathews/DBA Mathews Excavating, and the single vehicle application of Nathan Foster.

i. Other business

No other business was discussed.

7. Other business presented by other town officers

There was no other business presented by other town officers.

New Business

8. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Northeast Kingdom Waste Management District regarding box-spring and mattress fees

The Board reviewed a letter indicating that the price to dispose of box-springs and mattresses will be dramatically increasing immediately. Towns can expect to pay \$45 to \$50 per piece to dispose of these items. Transfer Station/Recycling Center Supervisor Bruce Marston, Recycling Center attendant Daniel Ehlers, and Transfer Station attendant Donald Nelson appeared to discuss whether and how much the Town will increase the price it charges residents and taxpayers for disposal of these items. Mr. Nelson indicated that he estimates the Transfer Station receives approximately 100 of these items annually.

- Mr. Gates moved to charge residents and taxpayers at the Barnet Transfer Station \$40 for twin and full size box-springs and mattresses, \$45 for queen size box-springs and mattresses, and \$50 for king size box-springs and mattresses. Seconded by Mr. Adams and approved by voice vote.

9. Consideration of, and take any action on, addition of internet service at Harvey's Lake Beach

The Board reviewed correspondence from the Beach Committee requesting funding for internet service at Harvey's Lake Beach to support game cameras or security cameras to deter break-ins and vandalism. A community member has offered to donate the cameras. Discussion ensued.

- The Board agreed that Ms. Ford will seek further information from the Beach Committee regarding this request.

10. Consideration of, and take any action on, scheduling of second regular meeting in May

The Board discussed scheduling for the second regular meeting in May, which falls on Memorial Day.

- Mr. Adams moved to reschedule the second regular meeting in May for Tuesday, May 27. Seconded by Mr. Gates and approved by voice vote.

11. Other business presented by Selectboard

a. Class 4 road gravel request

Mr. Adams indicated that he had received a request for a load of gravel to be delivered to Tower Road, a Class 4 road. The requester offered to donate his time and equipment for repair of the road using the gravel.

- The Board agreed that Road Foreman Mark Chase will visit the site to evaluate.

Old/Continuing Business

12. 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 17th.

c. Other business

No other business was discussed.

13. 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 26th at 9 a.m. at Passumpsic and at 9:30 a.m. at Barnet Village.

Check Warrants

14. Consideration of approval of outstanding check warrants

- The Board reviewed and approved all outstanding check warrants.

Adjournment

15. Adjournment

- Mr. Gates moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Adams and approved by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 8:34 p.m.

A true copy. Attest: _____ *Town Clerk*