

MINUTES – REGULAR SELECTBOARD MEETING

TOWN OF BARNET, VERMONT

MONDAY, 27 OCTOBER 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:** Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt and Fire & Rescue Chief Ronald Morse.
- **Via GoToMeeting online video conference:** None.

Members of the public participating:

- **In-person:** Leland Alper, Richard Carilo, and Janice Parsons.
- **Via GoToMeeting online video conference:** Mona Marceau.

Approval of Minutes

1. Consideration of approval of minutes of regular meeting held 13 October 2025

- Mr. Adams moved to approve as presented the minutes of the regular meeting held 13 October 2025. Seconded by Mr. Gates and approved by voice vote.

Appearances by Members of the Public

2. Other business presented by members of the public

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

Appearances by Town Officers

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

a. Consideration of, and take any action on, progress report on reimbursement funding for July 2024 flooding disaster

Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt reported on the progress in compiling and reporting documentation for reimbursement funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency and Federal Highway Administration. He indicated there are ongoing delays in receipt of funding due to the shutdown of the federal government.

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

- The Board reviewed and approved the single vehicle application of McHargs Logging and Trucking.

c. Other business

i. Paving

Mr. Gates reported that the Highway Department continues to await Pike Industries' availability to complete paving projects prior to winter.

4. Other business presented by other town officers

a. Animal Control Officer action on Comerford Dam Road animals

Ms. Ford, who is Town Health Officer, discussed her communications with Animal Control Officer M. Joy Morse regarding action taken by Ms. Morse when a Barnet resident living on Comerford Dam Road recently was arrested and taken into custody pending court proceedings. Ms. Morse took two dogs and a cat kept at the arrested individual's property into her custody, at the request of the Caledonia County Sheriff's Department. Ms. Ford discussed Ms. Morse's efforts to find medium-term or long-term housing for these animals.

- No action taken.

New Business

5. Consideration of, and take any action on, 2026 health insurance benefits

The Board reviewed estimated costs for health insurance benefits, as prepared by Treasurer Benjamin Heisholt based on rates published by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Vermont and MVP Healthcare. Discussion ensued.

- The Board agreed to table further discussion to the next meeting.

6. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Caledonia County Sheriff's Department regarding 2026 service contract

The Board reviewed a letter and attached proposed contract. The contract indicates a proposed hourly rate for patrols of \$60.00 per hour. This represents an increase of \$18.00 over the 2025 rate (\$42.00 per hour).

- Mr. Gates moved to sign the service contract, specifying a budget of \$7,500 for the contract year. Seconded by Mr. Adams and approved by voice vote. The Board signed the contract.

7. Other business presented by Selectboard

There was no other business presented by the Selectboard.

Old/Continuing Business

8. Consideration of, and take any action on, sale of former Town Clerk's Office at 1743 US Route 5 South

Mr. Adams reported on his communications with realtor Tim Scott. Mr. Scott indicates that there has been some interest in the property for residential use. A few potential buyers have been discouraged by the septic system's limitations.

- No action taken.

9. Consideration of, and take any action on, Barnet Historical Society (BHS) storage space at Town Hall

BHS member Richard Carilo indicated that he has attempted to contact Kevin Morrison of Vermont Mechanical about dehumidification of the lower-level vault, as requested by the Board; Mr. Carilo has not yet spoken with Mr. Morrison.

The Board also discussed BHS's potential use of the second floor of the library building, which will be vacant at the end of 2025 following the non-renewal of Karne Choling's lease.

- No action taken.

10. Other business presented by other town officers (continued)

a. Appearance by Fire & Rescue Chief Ronald Morse regarding communication from Northeast Kingdom Broadband (NEKBB) regarding optical line terminal (OLT) siting

Chief Morse reported that he had received an inquiry from NEKBB about siting an OLT at the Fire & Rescue Station. Discussion ensued.

- The Board agreed to authorize Chief Morse to proceed with discussion with NEKBB about their proposed OLT siting.

Check Warrants

11. Consideration of approval of outstanding check warrants

- The Board reviewed and approved all outstanding check warrants.

Adjournment

12. Adjournment

- Mr. Gates moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Adams and approved by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 7:17 p.m.

A true copy. Attest: _____ Town Clerk