

MINUTES – REGULAR SELECTBOARD MEETING

TOWN OF BARNET, VERMONT

MONDAY, 24 NOVEMBER 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:** Leland Alper, Joseph Breidenstein, Richard Carilo, John Fairchild, and Jeffrey Pratt.
- **Via GoToMeeting online video conference:** Mona Marceau and Jan Parsons.

Approval of Minutes

1. **Consideration of approval of minutes of regular meeting held 10 November 2025**

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

Appearances by Members of the Public

2. **Appearance by resident Jeffrey Pratt regarding berm on Simpson Brook embankment; take any action**

Mr. Pratt discussed a berm on his property along the Simpson Brook in Passumpsic, as had been discussed in a previous meeting (see minutes, 10 March 2025). The berm was created when an emergency stream alteration was performed near his home in the immediate aftermath of the July 2024 flood. Mr. Pratt requests the Town make repairs to this, including removing the berm. Mr. Pratt indicated that he had met with Sacha Pealer of the Vermont Watershed Management Division, who had advised that this emergency work does require remediation. Discussion was had about whether the Town or property owner is responsible for remediation of streambank flood damage.

- The Board requested that Mr. Pratt send to Ms. Ford the communication from Sacha Pealer regarding requirements for remediation in this location.

3. **Appearance by Barnet Historical Society (BHS) regarding use of second floor of library building and storage space at Town Hall; take any action**

BHS member John Fairchild asked the Board if they would consider allowing BHS to use the second floor of the library building. Discussion ensued. Ms. Ford indicated that Karne Choling has confirmed they will not renew their lease for use of the space beyond the end of 2025.

BHS member Richard Carilo appeared and discussed his communications with Kevin Morrison of Vermont Mechanical regarding the installation of a dehumidification system in the Town Hall's lower-level vault. He reported that the installation should be feasible and without complications. Mr.

Morrison quotes \$400 for the equipment. Mr. Carilo indicated that BHS would pay for the installation.

- Mr. Gates moved to allow BHS to install a dehumidification system in the Town Hall's lower-level vault. Seconded by Mr. Adams and approved by voice vote.
- Mr. Gates moved to allow BHS to use the second floor of the library building for BHS purposes. Seconded by Mr. Adams and approved by voice vote.

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 Road Foreman Mark Chase regarding Highway Department matters; take any action

a. Consideration of, and take any action on, request for change in speed limit on Harvey Mountain Road

Mr. Gates discussed progress on reviewing this request. It was found that a speed study will be required to initiate the process. Mr. Gates suggested that, due to seasonal traffic on the road in question, the study, and the process of considering a change in speed limit, be postponed until May 2026.

- Mr. Gates moved to table consideration of this request for change in speed limit until May 2026. Seconded by Mr. Adams and approved by voice vote.

b. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Vermont Agency of Transportation regarding untraveled portion of Town Highway 87

Mr. Gates discussed his review of the process for discontinuance, which revealed that a motion by the Board is required to initiate. Following this, a hearing must be noticed.

- Mr. Gates moved to discontinue the untraveled portion of Town Highway 87 as discussed at the 10 November 2025 Board meeting. Seconded by Mr. Adams and approved by voice vote.

c. 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.

d. Other business

i. Roy Mountain Road construction project

Mr. Chase reported that this project is now complete, including all paving work.

ii. Winter road maintenance

Mr. Chase reported that the Highway Department has commenced performing winter road maintenance as weather requires.

iii. New dump truck

Mr. Chase reported that there is no new information to report on delivery of the new dump truck ordered by the Town.

6. Other business presented by other town officers

There was no other business presented other town officers.

New Business

7. Consideration of, and take any action on, donation for flood relief fund

The Board reviewed a donation and related email. Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt reported that this item was included on the agenda because it appeared the donation was intended for the inactive flood recovery fund and would require Board action to determine how to apply it. However, it turns out the donation was intended for the Harvey's Lake Beach flood recovery fund, or Harvey's Lake Beach generally. Therefore, no action by the Board is required.

- No action taken.

8. Consideration of, and take any action on, insurance status of non-employee worker

Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt explained that one of the Town's non-employee workers is not covered by their own business insurance. The Town will therefore be charged by its insurance carrier for this worker at a rate of \$8.68 per \$100; in the case of this worker the cost to the Town is expected to be approximately \$87. Discussion ensued.

- The Board agreed to ask this non-employee worker if they would like to transition to an employee role.

9. Other business presented by Selectboard

No other business was presented by the Selectboard.

Old/Continuing Business

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

The Board continued its consideration of its 2026 health insurance benefits offering. Discussion was had about the experiences of other local towns who have switched from BlueCross BlueShield to MVP. Road Foreman Mark Chase and Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt discussed input from current users of the Town's benefits.

- Mr. Gates moved to offer the MVP Platinum Standard Plan and to offer a health reimbursement account with an annual maximum reimbursement of \$3,000 for each eligible employee. Seconded by Mr. Adams and approved by voice vote.

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

Mr. Adams indicated that there was no new information to discuss or on which to take action regarding this matter. Discussion was had about installing a low-temperature alert system for the building.

- No action taken.

Check Warrants

12. Consideration of approval of outstanding check warrants

- The Board reviewed and approved all outstanding check warrants.

Adjournment

13. Adjournment

- Mr. Gates moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Adams and approved by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 8:24 p.m.

A true copy. Attest: _____ *Town Clerk*