

MINUTES – REGULAR SELECTBOARD MEETING
TOWN OF BARNET, VERMONT
MONDAY, 8 DECEMBER 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) and Benjamin Adams.
- **Via GoToMeeting online video conference:** None.

Other Town officials and employees participating:

- **In-person:** Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt and Animal Control Officer M. Joy Morse.
- **Via GoToMeeting online video conference:** None.

Members of the public participating:

- **In-person:** None.
- **Via GoToMeeting online video conference:** Mona Marceau.

Approval of Minutes

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

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

Executive Session(s) Anticipated

2. Consideration of, and take any action on, compensation of Animal Control Officer (executive session anticipated pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(3))

- Mr. Adams moved that the Board enter executive session pursuant to 1 V.S.A. Section 313(a)(3) to discuss compensation of the Animal Control Officer. Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote. Entered executive session at 7:01 p.m. Those present in executive session: Ms. Ford, Mr. Adams, Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt, and Animal Control Officer M. Joy Morse.
- Ms. Ford moved to exit executive session. Seconded by Mr. Adams and approved by voice vote. Exited executive session at 7:07 p.m.
- Mr. Adams moved to approve an hourly wage rate for Animal Control Officer M. Joy Morse as per the discussion in executive session. Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote.

Appearances by Town Officers

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

Mr. Chase did not appear at this meeting. In his absence the Board discussed the below-described matters:

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

Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt discussed complications that have arisen with application for reimbursement for culvert work on Pearlmont Road, due to permitting requirements.

b. Other business

No other business was discussed.

4. Other business presented by other town officers

a. Town Health Officer update regarding dog bite

Town Health Officer Ms. Ford discussed a bite report received from Northeastern Vermont Regional Hospital regarding an incident at Patneau Lane. The bite seems to have been intra-domestic, occurring on the dog owner's property. Ms. Ford is awaiting further information.

Appearances by Members of the Public

5. Other business presented by members of the public

a. Appearance by Daniel Ehlers regarding dog barking

Mr. Ehlers asked if the Board had received any recent complaints about his dogs barking, as was discussed at the Board's meeting 13 October 2025. He indicated that there had been some barking in recent days, but it had been confined to a mostly-enclosed porch. He anticipates barking will intensify when hockey begins at a nearby ice rink: the noise caused by the sport provokes a barking response from his dogs.

- The Board indicated they had not received any new barking complaints regarding Mr. Ehlers's dogs. They indicated that Mr. Ehlers must continue to prevent his dogs from barking for prolonged periods, as ordered at the 13 October 2025 meeting.

New Business

6. Consideration of, and take any action on, donation from Dirdaze Adventure Rally

The Board reviewed a letter and enclosed check for \$500. The letter indicates that the donation should be used for "flood recovery, dirt road maintenance, or other needs as you see fit." Treasurer Benjamin Heisholt asked the Board how they would like to use the funds. Discussion ensued.

- The Board agreed to apply the donation to the 2025 Highway Department budget.

7. Consideration of, and take any action on, 2025 year-end employee bonuses

The Board reviewed minutes of the Board meeting held 9 December 2024, which indicate that the Board had agreed to pay 2024 year-end bonuses of \$500 to full-time employees, \$300 to Assistant Town Clerk Catherine Roy, \$150 each to part-time Highway Department Employees Paul Gibson and Steve Mosher, and \$175 each to Transfer Station/Recycling Center employees Daniel Ehlers, Bruce Marston, Donald Nelson, and Shirley Warden. These were the same bonuses as approved in 2022 and 2023. Discussion ensued.

- Mr. Adams moved to pay 2025 year-end bonuses of \$600 to full-time employees, \$350 to Assistant Town Clerk Samantha Zita Furbert, \$175 to part-time Highway Department employee Steve Mosher, and \$200 each to Transfer Station/Recycling Center employees Daniel Ehlers, Bruce Marston, Donald Nelson, and Shirley Warden. Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote.

8. Other business presented by Selectboard

There was no other business presented by the Selectboard.

Old/Continuing Business

9. Consideration of, and take any action on, Simpson Brook stream/streambank remediation

Ms. Ford reported that Jeffrey Pratt would not attend this meeting and had requested the Board table discussion until he is able to attend a meeting.

- The Board agreed to table discussion of this matter.

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

Mr. Adams reported that there was no new information to discuss or on which to take action regarding this matter.

- No action taken.

Check Warrants

11. Consideration of approval of outstanding check warrants

- The Board reviewed and approved all outstanding check warrants.

Budget

12. Consideration of, and take any action on, 2026 Town General Fund budget

The Board began reviewing the first draft of a 2026 General Fund budget.

Adjournment

13. Adjournment

- Mr. Adams moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

A true copy. Attest: _____ Town Clerk