

MINUTES – REGULAR SELECTBOARD MEETING

TOWN OF BARNET, VERMONT

MONDAY, 27 APRIL 2026

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:** Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt.
- **Via GoToMeeting online video conference:** None.

Members of the public participating:

- **In-person:** Robert Gerrish, Annette Jewell, and Michael Thomas
- **Via GoToMeeting online video conference:** “Michael” and Dawn Sarette.

Approval of Minutes

1. **Consideration of approval of minutes of regular meeting held 13 April 2026**

- Mr. Adams moved to approve as presented the minutes of the regular meeting held 13 April 2026. Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote.

Appearances by Members of the Public

2. **Appearance by Cross Vermont Trail Association regarding Bayley Hazen Connector trail spring update; take any action**

Michael Thomas of Cross Vermont Trail Association appeared and provided a spring update on the Bayley Hazen Connector trail, which includes Barnet town highways. The Board gave permission for this usage in 2025. Signage for the trail system was posted in summer 2025. The Board indicated they did not receive negative feedback about the trail system last year.

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

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

Appearances by Town Officers

4. **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 items below:

a. **Consideration of, and take any action on, applications of Philip Hayward for highway access permits on Denio Road and Comerford Dam Road**

Mr. Gates reported that Mr. Chase had conducted site inspections at the two sites. Mr. Chase recommends the Denio Road site for approval with no conditions, but the Comerford Dam Road site requires follow-up with the landowner and is not recommended for approval at this time.

- Ms. Ford moved to approve the highway access permit application for Denio Road with no conditions. Seconded by Mr. Adams and approved by voice vote.

- The Board agreed to table the application for highway access on Comerford Dam Road.
- b. Consideration of, and take any action on, applications of Steven & Dawn Sarette for highway access permit on Ferguson Road**
Mr. Gates reported that Mr. Chase had conducted a site inspection for this application. The Board reviewed Mr. Chase’s comments, which are as follows: “Line of sight is good in both directions. Will need to install at least a fifteen-inch diameter culvert in the ditch line. Will need to cut back into your land for flat access; do not ramp drive into road.” Discussion ensued.
 - Ms. Ford moved to approve the highway access permit application with the conditions that the applicant must install culvert of a diameter of at least fifteen inches in the ditch line and will need to cut back into the applicant’s land for flat access, without ramping the drive into the road. 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**
 - Treasurer Benjamin Heisholt provided any update on reimbursement funding progress, including development on Federal Highway Administration reimbursement request submissions.
 - d. Consideration of, and take any action on, applications for uniform municipal excess weight permits**
 - The Board reviewed and approved the fleet application of McElwain Contracting LLC.
 - e. Other business**
 - i. Tower Road utility work**
Mr. Gates reported that Green Mountain Power will perform utility work within the Town’s right of way on Tower Road.
 - ii. Paving quotes**
Mr. Gates reported that Mr. Chase will present paving quotes to the Board at its next meeting.

5. Other business presented by other town officers

a. Animal Control complaint

Ms. Ford reported that an animal control complaint was received and acted on by the Animal Control Officer. Subsequent action of the Board may be required.

New Business

6. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Passumpsic Fire District #1 regarding resignation of Fire District officers

The Board reviewed correspondence advising that all officers of Passumpsic Fire District #1, which operates the Passumpsic Water System, intend to resign at the District’s May 2026 meeting. If replacement volunteers do not step forward, the District expects all volunteer activity to cease at that time, to include core water system functions such as billing, testing, meter reading, system maintenance, hydrant maintenance, and customer responses.

Annette Jewell, District Prudential Committee member, appeared and discussed with the Board implications of officer resignations.

The Board communicated that it understands the seriousness of the issue at hand and is willing to assist the District with ensuring public health in delivery of safe water supply. However, the Town's responsibilities are separate from those of the District. The District is a separate municipal corporation, it owns and operates the water system, and it is District officers who are resigning.

7. Consideration of, and take any action on, policy for placement of political signs on town property

Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt reported that he had received a request from a representative of a candidate for Sheriff to post a political sign in the triangle at the intersection of Little France Road and US Route 5 South. He indicated he was not aware of a Selectboard policy on posting political signs on Town property. Discussion ensued.

- Ms. Ford moved to draft a policy prohibiting the posting of political signs on Town property. Seconded by Mr. Adams and approved by voice vote.

8. Consideration of, and take any action on, purchase of Town Hall copier

Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt reported that he had received proposals for purchase of a new copier for the Town Hall. The prices range in the "minor purchases" category of the purchasing policy (\$2,500 to \$7,500), requiring prior approval of the Selectboard for purchases within the budget. The Selectboard did budget for this purchase in 2026. Discussion ensued.

- Ms. Ford moved to authorize the Town Clerk to purchase a new copier for the Town Hall for a price of not more than \$5,000. Seconded by Mr. Adams and approved by voice vote.

9. Consideration of, and take any action on, plans for 2026 Memorial Day services

The Board continued discussing plans for Memorial Day observances to be held on Sunday, May 24th at 9 a.m. at Passumpsic and at 9:30 a.m. at Barnet Village.

10. Other business presented by Selectboard

No other business was presented by the Selectboard.

Check Warrants

11. Consideration of approval of outstanding check warrants

- The Board reviewed and approved all outstanding check warrants.

Adjournment

12. Adjournment

- Mr. Adams moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

A true copy. Attest: _____ Town Clerk