

DRAFT

**MINUTES – REGULAR SELECTBOARD MEETING
TOWN OF BARNET, VERMONT
MONDAY, 8 JUNE 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 (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, Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt, Transfer Station/Recycling Center Supervisor Bruce Marston, Transfer Station Attendant Shirley Warden, and Lister Celina Wright.
- **Via GoToMeeting online video conference:** None.

Members of the public participating:

- **In-person:** Janice Parsons and Caledonia County Sheriff Brandon Thraikill.
- **Via GoToMeeting online video conference:** Michael Miller.

Approval of Minutes

1. Consideration of approval of minutes of rescheduled regular meeting held 27 May 2026

- Mr. Gates moved to approve as presented the minutes of the rescheduled regular meeting held 27 May 2026. Seconded by Mr. Adams and approved by voice vote.

Appearances by Members of the Public

2. Appearance by Caledonia County Sheriff Brandon Thraikill regarding mid-year Sheriff's Department update; take any action

Sheriff Thraikill appeared and spoke about Sheriff's Department general operations and local activities under Town contract.

- The Board expressed their appreciation for the Sheriff's Department's presence in Town and helpfulness in conducting law enforcement in Town.
- No action taken.

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 Transfer Station/Recycling Center staff regarding Transfer Station/Recycling Center matters; take any action

Transfer Station/Recycling Center Supervisor Bruce Marston and Transfer Station Attendant Shirley Warden appeared and discussed the below-described matters with the Board:

- a. **Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Northeast Kingdom Waste Management District regarding fee changes effective 1 June 2026**

The Board reviewed an email and attached letter advising of increases in fees for freon-containing appliances, recycling pick-up stop fees, and compost collection fees.

b. Consideration of, and take any action on, Transfer Station/Recycling Center user fee changes

The Board, Mr. Marston, and Ms. Warden discussed local user fee changes to coordinate with waste district fee changes and other changes.

- The Board agreed to increase fees for large freon-containing appliances (refrigerators, freezers, water coolers, etc.) to \$15.00 per unit, to maintain fees for smaller freon-containing appliances (air conditioners, dehumidifiers, etc.) at \$5.00 per unit, and to add a fee for wheelbarrow tires at \$2.00 per unit.

c. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Vermont Waste Management and Prevention Division regarding Transfer Station inspection follow-up

The Board reviewed an email and attached inspection form and photographs regarding a 30 April 2026 inspection and action items to be completed in response to the inspection. Discussion ensued.

- No action taken.

5. Appearance by Board of Listers regarding Lister matters; take any action

Lister Celina Wright appeared and discussed the below-described matters with the Board:

a. Consideration of, and take any action on, update on valuation of telecommunications facilities

The Board reviewed correspondence from Vermont Department of Taxes advising Listers that, under Act 145 (H.657) of 2024, certain communications network infrastructure will be set in the State and local Grand List as real property and taxed at its fair market value beginning with the 2026 Grand List. Listers are required to use the values Vermont Property Valuation & Review provides for communications property. Ms. Wright discussed this matter with the Board.

b. Consideration of, and take any action on, update on valuation of leases of telecommunications facilities

Ms. Wright indicated that there are State law changes to the valuation of leases of telecommunications facilities as well; these valuations will be handled by the Board of Listers.

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

Mr. Chase appeared and discussed the below-described matters with the Board:

a. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Vermont Agency of Transportation with recommendation of closure of Bridge #42 on Garland Hill

i. Consideration of, and take any action on, planning for possible temporary bridge

Mr. Chase reported that there have been no updates on the Town's application to the Vermont Agency of Transportation for a temporary bridge. Ms. Ford discussed her communications with former State Senator Jane Kitchel regarding this matter.

- No action taken.

ii. Consideration of, and take any action on, planning for repairs or replacement of existing bridge structure

Mr. Chase indicated that there was no new information to report or discuss regarding this matter.

- No action taken.

b. Consideration of, and take any action on, application of Andrew Sullivan for highway access permit on Comerford Dam Road

Mr. Chase reported that he had inspected the site and found it to be suitable for the proposed use with no culvert required and no conditions applied; he recommended approval.

- The Board agreed to approve the highway access permit application without conditions. Mr. Gates signed the permit.

c. Consideration of, and take any action on, application of Paul Ugo for highway access permit on Joe's Brook Road

Mr. Chase reported that he had inspected the site and found it to be suitable for the proposed use with the condition that a culvert with a diameter of at least fifteen (15) inches must be installed in the ditch line; he recommended approval with this condition.

- The Board agreed to approve the highway access permit application with the condition that a culvert with a diameter of at least fifteen (15) inches must be installed in the ditch line; Mr. Gates signed the permit.

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

- The Board reviewed and approved the fleet application of Peckham Materials Corp.

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

The Board reviewed an updated project tracking spreadsheet presented by Treasurer Benjamin Heisholt. This reflects that the Town has received \$1.3 million of anticipated \$1.9 million federal Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) project reimbursements. None of the anticipated \$330,000 state FEMA projects reimbursements or \$1.1 Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) projects reimbursements have been received to date. Mr. Heisholt discussed ongoing communications with FEMA and FHWA representatives.

- No action taken.

f. Other business

i. Town Forest Road sign request

The Board reviewed a request for road signage ("dead end road," "35 m.p.h.," etc.) submitted by Transfer Station/Recycling Center Supervisor Bruce Marston. Discussion ensued.

- The Board instructed Mr. Chase to review the request and order and install signs as appropriate.

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 Waite-Heindel Environmental Management regarding sampling at former landfill

The Board reviewed an email, cover letter, and attached laboratory report with results analyses performed for samples taken at the former landfill in May 2026. The email indicates that results are comparable to previous years, suggesting that the State will continue to request annual sampling.

- No action taken.

9. Other business presented by Selectboard

a. Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) site inspections

Ms. Ford discussed her communications with Vermont Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation regarding past projects funded by LWCF. Projects located at Harvey's Lake Beach and Harvey's Lake Dam are due for a five-year self-inspection. Ms. Ford has volunteered to complete this task.

- No action taken.

Old Business

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

Ms. Ford reported on recent developments with this item. Two Passumpsic residents recently have expressed interest in involvement. Ms. Ford continues to communicate with pertinent State officials.

- No action taken.

11. Consideration of, and take any action on, library electrical bill

Ms. Ford discussed her communications with Ash Electric regarding combining the library building's two meter boxes into one. Ash Electric indicates they can perform this project; the Library plans to combine this with other electrical projects to be completed soon. Once the meter boxes are combined, power to the second floor will be turned on.

- No action taken.

12. Consideration of, and take any action on, proposed adoption of parking ordinance

Mr. Gates discussed his exploration of parking enforcement on Anderson Street, per the Board's discussion at its previous meeting. The Sheriff's Department reports that enforcement cannot be performed unless the Town adopts a parking ordinance. The Board reviewed a proposed parking ordinance, as drafted by Mr. Gates based on the Vermont League of Cities & Towns's model ordinance. The Board made several minor amendments to the draft.

- Mr. Adams moved to adopt the ordinance as amended. Seconded by Mr. Gates and approved by voice vote.

13. Consideration of, and take any action on, proposed change of speed limit on Harvey Mountain Road

The Board recommenced discussion of amending the speed limit ordinance as it pertains to Harvey Mountain Road (Town Highway #10), from its intersection with West Main Street to its intersection with Aiken Farm Road.

- The Board agreed to commence a speed study to evaluate the proposed change of speed limit.

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 8:03 p.m.

A true copy. Attest. _____ *Town Clerk*