Approved (on 19 August 2026)

MINUTES – REGULAR SELECTBOARD MEETING

TOWN OF BARNET, VERMONT

MONDAY, 27 JULY 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 and Planning Commissioner/Zoning Board Chair Dennis McLam.
- **Via GoToMeeting online video conference:** None.

Members of the public participating:
- **In-person**: None.
- **Via GoToMeeting online video conference:** Mona Marceau and Michael Miller.

<u>Approval of Minutes</u>

1. **Consideration of approval of minutes of regular meeting held 13 July 2026**
   - Mr. Ford moved to approve as presented the minutes of the regular meeting held 13 July 2026. Seconded by Mr. Adams and approved by voice vote.

<u>Appearances by Members of the Public</u>

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

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

<u>Appearances by Town Officers</u>

3. **Appearance by Road Foreman Mark Chase regarding Highway Department matters; take any action**
   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, installation of temporary bridge**
      Mr. Gates reported that there was no new information to discuss or upon which to take action regarding this mater.
         - No action taken.

      ii. **Consideration of, and take any action on, planning for repairs or replacement of existing bridge structure**
      Mr. Gates discussed his communications with Nate Sicard of Ruggles Engineering Services, Inc. (RES) regarding this project. RES recently was selected by the Board to perform engineering and consulting services for the Town's bridge repair projects associated with 2024 flooding. Mr. Gates proposed the Town hire RES for engineering services for this Bridge #42 project on a time and materials basis, to be performed in conjunction with the 2024 flood repair projects.

- The Board agreed to hire Ruggles Engineering Services on a time and materials basis to perform engineering services for replacement of Bridge #42.

b. **Consideration of, and take any action on, quote(s) for 2026-2027 delivery of deicing salt**
The Board reviewed a quote from Cargill for delivery of deicing salt for the 2026-2027 season; delivered price per ton is $115.
- The Board agreed to sign the quote; the Board signed the quote.

c. **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 $1.956 million of anticipated $1.978 million federal Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) project reimbursements. None of the anticipated $330,000 state FEMA projects reimbursements or $1.16 million Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) projects reimbursements have been received to date. This data is unchanged from the most recent Board meeting. Mr. Heisholt discussed ongoing communications with FEMA and FHWA representatives.

d. **Other business**
No other business was discussed.

4. Appearance by Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt regarding Assistant Town Clerk hours; take any action

Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt requested that the Selectboard approve increasing the weekly hours of the Assistant Town Clerk position from 25 to 30, indicating that office workload has increased over the course of the past several years, necessitating this hours increase. Mr. Heisholt indicated that he foresees Assistant Town Clerk becoming a full-time position in the near future.

- Ms. Ford moved to approve increasing the weekly hours Assistant Town Clerk position from 25 to 30. Seconded by Mr. Adams and approved by voice vote.

5. Consideration of, and take any action on, amendment of personnel policy regarding employee breaks

Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt asked about employee breaks for town office staff, indicating that with an increase in weekly hours for the Assistant Town Clerk, one or more daily breaks may be offered. The personnel policy does not make reference to work breaks for Town Clerk's Office staff.

- The Board agreed to not adopt any new addition to the employee policy for work breaks for Town Clerk's Office staff, but to authorize the Town Clerk to manage this policy at the Town Clerk's Office level.

6. Other business presented by other town officers

There was no other business presented by other town officers.

<u>New Business</u>

7. Consideration of, and take any action on, re-scheduling of 10 August 2026 regular meeting

The Board noted that the regular meeting scheduled for 10 August 2026 will fall on the evening before the Vermont Primary Election, when the conference room will be in use. Discussion ensued.

- Ms. Ford moved to cancel the regular meetings scheduled for 10 August 2026 and 24 August 2026 and to schedule special meetings for 19 August 2026 and 31 August 2026. Seconded by Mr. Adams and approved by voice vote.

8. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence (abutter notice) from Planning Commission/Zoning Board regarding notice of hearing for permit application of Lisa Suyemoto (Sunny Beach Lane)

The Board reviewed a notice of a hearing regarding a proposed conditional use approval to substantially improve a cottage in a flood hazard zone located at 148 Sunny Beach Lane in the Village District. The Board noted that the hearing for this permit will be held 18 August 2026.

- No action taken.

9. Other business presented by Selectboard

No other business was presented by the Selectboard.

<u>Old Business</u>

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

Ms. Ford reported that there was no information to report or discuss regarding this matter.

- No action taken.

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

Library Director Ms. Ford discussed that the second floor of the library building, which is in use by the Historical Society, does not have power as the Town awaits a resolution to this matter. Discussion ensued.

- The Board agreed to request that Jeremy Roberts inspect the site and provide a recommendation.

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

The Board noted that there was no information to report or discuss regarding this matter.

- No action taken.

13. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Vermont Department of Taxes regarding communications network infrastructure Grand List valuation and tax appeal process

The Board discussed the tax appeal process for VTel Wireless, who have appealed the grievance hearing decision of the Board of Listers and have submitted a proposed stipulation agreement for the appeal. Discussion ensued.

- No action taken.

14. Consideration of, and take any action on, proposed addition of Justice of the Peace election to back of the 2026 General Election ballot

Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt noted that, at their previous meeting, the Board had voted to approve the appearance of the Justice of the Peace election on the back of the 3 November 2026 General Election ballot. However, the item did not appear on the agenda for that meeting; Mr. Heisholt therefore suggested that Board vote to ratify their approval at this duly warned meeting.

- Mr. Gates moved to ratify the Board's approval of the appearance of the Justice of the Peace election on the back of the 3 November 2026 General Election ballot. Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote.

Check Warrants

15. Consideration of approval of outstanding check warrants

- The Board reviewed and approved all outstanding check warrants.

Executive Session(s) Anticipated

16. Consideration of, and take any action on, wage adjustment for Zoning Administrative Officer (executive session anticipated pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(3))

- Ms. Ford moved to enter executive session to discuss wage adjustment for the Zoning Administrative Officer pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(3). Seconded by Mr. Adams and approved by voice vote. Entered executive session at 7:30 p.m. Those present in executive session: Ms. Ford, Mr. Gates, Mr. Adams, Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt, and Planning Commission/Zoning Board Chair Dennis McLam.
- Mr. Gates moved to exit executive session. Seconded by Mr. Adams and approved by voice vote. Exited executive session at 7:38 p.m.
- Mr. Adams moved to approve the wage adjustment as discussed in executive session. Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote.

Adjournment

17. Adjournment

- Mr. Gates moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Adams and approved by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 7:39 p.m.

A true copy. Attest: ______________________________ *Town Clerk*