

MINUTES – SPECIAL SELECTBOARD MEETING
TOWN OF BARNET, VERMONT
MONDAY, 31 AUGUST 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 Fire & Rescue Chief Ronald Morse.
- **Via GoToMeeting online video conference:** None.

Members of the public participating:

- **In-person:** David Roth, Timothy Scott, and David Tucker.
- **Via GoToMeeting online video conference:** Robert Blechl and “Tom.”

Approval of Minutes

1. Consideration of approval of minutes of special meeting held 19 August 2026

- Mr. Adams moved to approve as presented the minutes of the regular meeting held 19 August 2026. Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote.

Appearances by Members of the Public

2. Appearance by David Roth, candidate for State Senator; take any action

Mr. Roth appeared, introduced himself as a candidate and resident of St. Johnsbury. He discussed current political issues, including homelessness and related concerns in St. Johnsbury. David Tucker, a Candidate for State Representative, also appeared and commented.

- 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 Fire & Rescue Chief Ronald Morse regarding proposed Agreement of Dispatch Services with Grafton County Sheriff's Department; take any action

The Board reviewed the proposed agreement. Fire & Rescue Chief Ronald Morse appeared and provided comments on the agreement. He indicated that the terms appear to be acceptable and recommended that the Board sign the agreement.

- The Board agreed to sign the agreement; Mr. Gates signed the agreement.

5. 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, 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 reported that there was no new information to discuss or upon which to take action regarding this mater.

 - No action taken.
- b. **Consideration of, and take any action on, progress report on reimbursement funding for July 2024 flooding disaster**

The Board reviewed a 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.

 - No action taken.
- c. **Other business**
 - i. **West Barnet Road construction project**

Ms. Ford reported that she had received a number of calls regarding the road construction project on the western end of West Barnet Road. These included complaints about periodic closure of the road for periods of up to 30 minutes, general flow of traffic delays, and quality of construction. Discussion ensued.

 - No action taken.

6. Other business presented by other town officers

There was no other business presented by other town officers.

New Business

7. Other business presented by Selectboard

a. Constable speed studies

Ms. Ford reported that Constable David Stevenson will perform speed studies on Church Street and West Main Street, per discussion at the previous meeting.

- No action taken.

b. Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grant inspection reports

Ms. Ford reported that she had completed the required grant inspection reports for LWCF projects. She noted that some questions answered in the report are inapplicable to the locations; for example, the question “is the location open to the public and accessible?” must be answered in the negative for Harvey’s Lake Dam.

- No action taken.

Old Business

8. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Northeastern Vermont Development Association (NVDA) regarding town representative to NVDA Board of Directors

The Board read an email from resident Daniel Deatruck indicating that if the position of town representative to the NVDA Board of Directors is still available, he would like to serve in this capacity.

- Ms. Ford moved to appoint Daniel Deatruck to as Barnet's representative to the NVDA Board of Directors. Seconded by Mr. Adams and approved by voice vote.

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

Ms. Ford reported that she had contacted two Passumpsic residents who had expressed interest in serving on the Fire District Prudential Committee/Water District. They both responded and are in contact with the Vermont Drinking Water & Groundwater Protection Division.

- No action taken.

Check Warrants

10. Consideration of approval of outstanding check warrants

- The Board reviewed and approved all outstanding check warrants.

Executive Session(s) Anticipated

11. Consideration of, and take any action on, proposed sale of former Town Clerk's Office located at 1743 US Route 5 South (executive session anticipated pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(1)(A))

- Ms. Ford moved that the Board make a specific finding, pursuant to 1 V.S.A. Section 313(a)(1)(A), that premature public knowledge of discussion concerning the proposed sale of former Town Clerk's Office located at 1743 US Route 5 South would clearly place the Town of Barnet at a substantial disadvantage. Seconded by Mr. Adams and approved by voice vote.
- Ms. Ford moved that the Board enter executive session pursuant to 1 V.S.A. Section 313(a)(1)(A) to discuss the proposed sale of former Town Clerk's Office located at 1743 US Route 5 South, as premature public disclosure of which would clearly place the Town of Barnet at a substantial disadvantage. Seconded by Mr. Adams and approved by voice vote. Entered executive session at 7:21 p.m. Those present in executive session: Ms. Ford, Mr. Gates, Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt, and Timothy Scott.
- Mr. Gates moved to exit executive session. Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote. Exited executive session at 7:46 p.m.
- No action taken.

Adjournment

12. Adjournment

- Mr. Gates moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

A true copy. Attest: _____ Town Clerk