

**MINUTES – REGULAR SELECTBOARD MEETING
TOWN OF BARNET, VERMONT
MONDAY, 12 OCTOBER 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, and Town Representative to Northeastern Vermont Development Association Daniel Deatruck.
- **Via GoToMeeting online video conference:** None.

Members of the public participating:

- **In-person:** Gary Bissell and Michael Oestinger.
- **Via GoToMeeting online video conference:** Robert Blechl and Michael Miller.

Approval of Minutes

1. **Consideration of approval of minutes of regular meeting held 28 September 2026**
 - Mr. Gates moved to approve as presented the minutes of the regular meeting held 28 September 2026. Seconded by Mr. Adams and approved by voice vote.
2. **Consideration of approval of minutes of special meeting held 3 October 2026**
 - Mr. Gates moved to approve as presented the minutes of the special meeting held 3 October 2026. Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote.

Appearances by Members of the Public

3. **Appearance by resident Ben St. James regarding Flock/mass surveillance cameras ordinance; take any action**

Mr. St. James did not appear at this meeting. In his absence, the Board reviewed an email from Mr. St. James asking if the Board should consider issuing an ordinance enacting a moratorium on installation of Flock cameras. Discussion ensued.

4. **Other business presented by members of the public**
 - a. **Appearance by Gary Bisson and Michael Oestinger regarding snowmobile traffic on bridge #42 (Garland Hill)**

Mr. Bissell and Mr. Oestinger inquired about access across bridge #42, which is currently closed, during the winter snowmobiling season. A potential alternative route would cross the river on private land further downstream but would require different access on West Barnet Road/West Main Street compared with the access usually granted by the Board. Discussion ensued.

- The Board indicated that it is attempting to procure a temporary bridge to give access across bridge #42 until a permanent replacement bridge can be built; the

timing of this installation is this uncertain at this time. Snowmobile travel across the existing bridge is prohibited.

- The Board agreed that it would grant the proposed change in access on West Barnet Road/West Main Street if the bridge closure makes this necessary.

Appearances by Town Officers

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

a. Consideration of, and take any action on, contract with Cintas for delivery of uniforms, etc.

The Board reviewed a proposed contract for delivery of uniforms, rags, etc. Discussion ensued.

- The Board agreed to sign the proposed contract.
- Ms. Ford signed the contract.

b. Consideration of, and take any action on, application of Paul Ugo for highway access on Joe's Brook Road/Barnet Center Road

The Board reviewed the proposed driveway access on Joe's Brook Road. Mr. Chase reported on his site visit and discussion of the proposed location with Mr. Ugo; Mr. Chase recommends approval of the permit without conditions.

- The Board agreed to approve the permit without conditions.
- Ms. Ford signed the permit.

c. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Vermont Agency of Transportation with recommendation of closure of Bridge #10 on Comerford Dam Road

The Board noted that there was no new information to discuss or upon which to take action regarding this mater.

- No action taken.

d. 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

The Board noted 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

The Board noted that there was no new information to discuss or upon which to take action regarding this mater.

- No action taken.

e. 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

have been received to date. In a significant development since the last Board meeting, all the \$1.16 million Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) projects reimbursements have been received. Mr. Heisholt discussed ongoing communications with FEMA and FHWA representatives. Discussion ensued regarding repayment of financing for flood expenditures.

- No action taken.

f. Consideration of, and take any action on, proposed contract with Ruggles Engineering Services for preliminary, design, bid, and construction oversight services to replace Bridge 34, Bridge 41 and Bridge 44, damaged or destroyed during July 2024 flood event.

The Board reviewed the proposed contract. Discussion ensued.

- Mr. Gates moved to sign the contract. Seconded by Mr. Adams and approved by voice vote.
- Mr. Gates signed the contract.

g. Other business

No other business was discussed.

6. Other business presented by other town officers

a. Town Health Officer inspection of septic system

Town Health Officer Ms. Ford reported on her inspection of a septic system on the property of Kevin Morrison on Pavilion Lane. A neighbor had reported a failed system; Ms. Ford did not observe any system failure in her inspection.

b. Northeastern Vermont Development Association (NVDA) regional plan

Barnet representative to NVDA Daniel Deatrick reported on the proposed adoption of a new regional plan and explained how it will affect Barnet. He indicated that each town's representative will vote on the adoption; he recommends supporting the adoption. Discussion ensued.

- The Board agreed to support Mr. Deatrick's recommendation and proposed action in voting in favor of the regional plan.

New Business

7. Consideration of, and take any action on, appointment of Beach Committee member(s)

The Board read an email indicating that the Beach Committee nominates Barbara Kristoff to fill the vacancy on the Beach Committee.

- Mr. Gates moved to appoint Barbara Kristoff as a member of the Beach Committee. Seconded by Mr. Adams and approved by voice vote.

8. Consideration of, and take any action on, errors and omissions certificate from Board of Listers

The Board reviewed an errors and omissions certificate with proposed decreases in assessed value for two parcels causing a total decrease in Grand List assessed value of \$383,253.74. Discussion ensued.

- The Board agreed to sign the certificate.
- The Board signed the certificate.

9. Consideration of, and take any action on, proposed amendment of Personnel Policy regarding Assistant Town Clerk benefits

Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt made reference to the discussion at the previous meeting regarding changes to the paid time off benefits for the Assistant Town Clerk. He asked if the Board would like to apply similar changes to other benefits in the personnel policy, such as health insurance and dental insurance. Discussion ensued.

- The Board agreed to table discussion of this matter.

10. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Vermont Environmental Health Division regarding 30-day termination notice for Deputy Health Officer

The Board reviewed an email and attachment indicating that the term of Deputy Health Officer Emil Pollak is expiring 31 October 2026. Discussion ensued.

- The Board agreed to table this matter until the Board receives communication from Mr. Pollak about his willingness to serve another term.

11. Consideration of, and take any action on, proposed Ambulance Services Agreement with CALEX Area Ambulance Service

The Board reviewed an email and attached proposed renewal of an ambulance services agreement. The proposed terms of the three-year agreement include no increase in rate in 2027 (\$74,430), a three percent increase in 2028 (\$76,662.90), and a three percent increase over the 2028 rate in 2029 (\$78,962.79). Discussion ensued.

- The Board agreed to sign the agreement.
- The Board signed the agreement

12. Consideration of, and take any action on, Title VI program implementation and appointment of Coordinator

The Board reviewed email correspondence describing the requirement that recipients of federal transportation funds adopt a Title VI program and appoint a program Coordinator. Ms. Ford discussed her research regarding this requirement. Discussion ensued.

- Mr. Gates moved to delegate authority to Ms. Ford to appoint a Title VI program Coordinator. Seconded by Mr. Adams and approved by voice vote.

13. Other business presented by Selectboard

There was no other business presented by the Selectboard.

Old Business

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

The Board noted that the former Town Clerk's Office sold for \$85,500 at auction on 3 October 2026. Discussion ensued regarding the disposition of these anticipated proceeds of the sale.

- Mr. Gates moved to appropriate the proceeds of the sale to the Municipal Buildings Fund. Seconded by Mr. Adams and approved by voice vote.

Further discussion was had regarding the Town's other fiscal planning, including dump truck purchases and bridge repairs.

- Mr. Gates moved to rescind his motion to appropriate the proceeds of the sale to the Municipal Buildings Fund. Seconded by Mr. Adams and approved by voice vote.

- Mr. Gates moved to table this matter to the next meeting. Seconded by Mr. Adams and approved by voice vote.

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

Ms. Ford spoke regarding her progress in addressing the compliance directives discussed at previous meetings.

- No action taken.

Check Warrants

16. Consideration of approval of outstanding check warrants

- The Board reviewed and approved all outstanding check warrants.

Adjournment

17. Adjournment

- Mr. Gates moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Adams and approved by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

A true copy. Attest: Benjamin _____ *Town Clerk*