DRAFT

MINUTES – REGULAR SELECTBOARD MEETING

TOWN OF BARNET, VERMONT

MONDAY, 26 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, Benjamin Gates (presiding co-chair), 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 Collector of Delinquent Taxes Jeremy Roberts
- **Via GoToMeeting online video conference:** None.

Members of the public participating:
- **In-person**: Leland Alper, Suzann Duquette, Jan Enthoven, Dylan Strand, and Kasey Strand.
- **Via GoToMeeting online video conference:** John Kiernan, Margaret Kucia, Michael Miller, Mona, and Robert.

Approval of Minutes

1. **Consideration of approval of minutes of regular meeting held 12 October 2026**
   - Ms. Ford moved to approve as presented the minutes of the regular meeting held 12 October 2026. Seconded by Mr. Adams and approved by voice vote.

Appearances by Members of the Public

2. **Appearance by residents Suzann Duquette and Jan Enthoven regarding removal of easement for septic system at Town Hall property and compensation for removal of tree near Town Hall property; take any action**

Ms. Duquette and Mr. Enthoven appeared and discussed a subsurface septic easement the Town owns on the property of Ms. Duquette and Mr. Enthoven; the easement was acquired as a term/condition of an August 2021 Settlement Agreement and Boundary Line Agreement between the Town and Ms. Duquette and Mr. Enthoven. Ms. Duquette and Mr. Enthoven requested that the Town release the easement because the Town did not utilize it in the installation of a septic system for the renovated Town Hall; a subsurface septic system outside the easement area was installed instead. Ms. Duquette and Mr. Enthoven indicated they would like to withdraw their request for compensation for removal of a tree near the Town Hall property, which is referred to in this agenda item. Discussion ensued.

- Ms. Ford moved to release the subsurface septic easement included as a term/condition in the August 2021 Settlement Agreement and Boundary Line Agreement between the Town and Ms. Duquette and Mr. Enthoven. Seconded by Mr. Adams and approved by voice vote.

3. **Appearance by Passumpsic Village resident Dylan Strand regarding resignation of Passumpsic Fire District #1 officers and appointment of new officer(s); take any action**

Mr. Strand appeared and discussed the situation confronting Fire District #1 following the resignation of all the Fire District's officers, as discussed at previous Board meetings. Mr. Strand asked the Board to appoint him a member of the Fire District's Prudential Committee to begin the process of reconstituting the Fire District's government.

- Ms. Ford moved to appoint Dylan Strand as a member of Fire District #1's Prudential Committee. Seconded by Mr. Adams and approved by voice vote.

4. Other business presented by members of the public

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

Appearances by Town Officers

5. Appearance by Collector of Delinquent Tax Jeremy Roberts regarding tax sale to be held 29 October 2026; take any action

Mr. Roberts appeared and discussed the forthcoming tax sale. He noted that only two of the four parcels on the original tax sale notice will be sold, as the taxes for two of the parcels have been paid. Mr. Roberts, quoting correspondence from Town Attorney James Barlow, noted that if no one else bids on a property, the Town can place a bid to acquire it. To do this, an authorized member of the Board must attend the sale and place the Town's bid. The Board must decide which, if any, properties it wants to bid on and designate a member to place the Town's bid. Discussion ensued.

- Mr. Adams moved to appoint Mr. Gates to attend the tax sale and to authorize him to place a bid to acquire either or both of the two parcels if no one else bids on them. Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote.

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

a. Consideration of, and take any action on, quotes for purchase of dump truck

The Board reviewed quotes for purchase of a dump truck, as summarized below:

Vendor	Make	Wheels	Description	Price
Alamo Group (HP Fairfield)	Western Star	10	Fully assembled	$317,951
Freightliner & W.S. of ME	Freightliner	10	Fully assembled	$276,500
Tracey Road Equipment	Western Star	10	Fully assembled	$364,374
Viking-Cives	Viking	10	Body & equipment	$108,900

Discussion ensued. Mr. Chase noted that Freightliner & Western Star of Maine will accept the Town's Dump Truck #001 (2015 Freightliner) in trade for $40,000; the other dealers listed will not accept a trade-in for the proposed purchases.

- Mr. Gates moved to purchase a ten-wheel Freightliner per the quote from Freightliner & Western Star of Maine ($276,500) and to trade the Town's Dump Truck #001 in exchange for $40,000. Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote.

b. Consideration of, and take any action on, quotes for purchase of sander for pick-up truck

Mr. Chase indicated that the need to purchase a sander for the pick-up was based on the closure of Bridge #42 on Garland Hill; this closure creates a dead end that will be difficult to maneuver for sanding with a dump truck. However, the Highway Department is collaborating with the landowner at the location on construction of a turn-around, which may allow use of a dump truck, making unnecessary the purchase of a sander. For this reason, Mr. Chase suggested tabling this matter.

- The Board agreed to table this matter.

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

Mr. Chase indicated that there were no new developments regarding this matter.

- 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

Mr. Chase indicated that there were no new developments 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 were no new developments regarding this matter.

- 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. All the $1.16 million Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) projects reimbursements have been received. This data is unchanged from the most recent Board meeting. 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, application(s) for uniform municipal excess weight permit(s)

- The Board reviewed and approved the single vehicle application of Allen Chace.

g. Other business

No other business was discussed.

7. Other business presented by other town officers

No other business was presented by other town officers.

<u>New Business</u>

8. Consideration of, and take any action on, contract with Alarmco, Inc. for alarm monitoring at Town Hall

The Board reviewed the proposed contract with an annual fee of $480. Discussion ensued.

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

9. Consideration of, and take any action on, 2027 health insurance benefits

The Board reviewed estimated costs for health insurance benefits, as prepared by Treasurer Benjamin Heisholt based on rates published by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Vermont and MVP Healthcare. Discussion ensued.

- Mr. Gates moved to offer the MVP Platinum Standard Plan and a health reimbursement account with an annual maximum reimbursement of $3,000 for each eligible employee. Seconded by Mr. Adams and approved by voice vote.

10. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from Vermont Superior Court regarding Lake Harvey Wakesports Petition

The Board reviewed notices pertaining to a petition concerning wakesports on Harvey's Lake. The Board noted that it is not a party to the petition. Discussion ensued.

- No action taken.

11. Other business presented by Selectboard

There was no other business presented by the Selectboard.

Old Business

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

Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt indicated that he had inquired with the Assistant Town Clerk regarding her interest in health insurance and dental insurance benefits; he indicated that the Assistant Town Clerk is not interested in taking these benefits at this time.

- The Board agreed to table this matter indefinitely.

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

Ms. Ford reported that Emil Pollak has indicated he is willing to serve another term as Deputy Health Officer.

- Mr. Adams moved to recommend Emil Pollak to be re-appointed to the office of Deputy Health Officer. Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote.

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

Barnet resident Margaret Kucia appeared remotely and discussed her steps toward developing a Title VI program for the Town, a task for which she had volunteered and was appointed by Ms. Ford.

- Ms. Ford moved to appoint Margaret Kucia as the Town's Title VI Coordinator. Seconded by Mr. Adams and approved by voice vote.

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

The Board discussed the appropriation of the proceeds of the pending sale of the former Town Clerk's Office, which the Board anticipates to be $85,500.

- Mr. Adams moved to deposit the proceeds of the sale of the former Town Clerk's Office into the Truck Fund in the Reserve Fund. Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote.

16. 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

17. Consideration of approval of outstanding check warrants

- The Board reviewed and approved all outstanding check warrants.

Adjournment

18. Adjournment

- Mr. Gates moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Adams and approved by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 7:49 p.m.

A true copy. Attest: _____ *Town Clerk*