

**MINUTES
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
TOWN OF BARNET, VERMONT
MARCH 2, 2010**

The meeting was called to order at 11:10 a.m. at the Barnet Elementary School gymnasium by Moderator Dennis McLam.

ARTICLE 1. To elect a Moderator.

- Moderator stated that one-year term of Dennis McLam is expiring.
- Dennis McLam nominated.
- Motion made that nominations cease. Seconded.
- Moderator instructed Town Clerk to cast one ballot for Dennis McLam.

ARTICLE 2. To elect all other Town Officers as required by law and additional Town Officers as approved by the voters.

Selectman

- Moderator stated that three-year term of Jeremy Roberts is expiring.
- Jeremy Roberts nominated.
- Motion made that nominations cease. Seconded.
- Moderator instructed Town Clerk to cast one ballot for Jeremy Roberts.

Lister

- Moderator stated that three-year term of Andrew Mosedale is expiring.
- Andrew Mosedale nominated.
 - Andrew Mosedale declined nomination.
- David Warden nominated by Gary Briggs.
- Motion made that nominations cease. Seconded by Mona Marceau.
- Moderator instructed Town Clerk to cast one ballot for David Warden.

Auditor – Full term

- Moderator stated that three-year term of Jeffrey Riley is expiring.
- Jeffrey Riley nominated by Ronald Langley.
- Mona Marceau made motion that nominations cease. Seconded.
- Moderator instructed Town Clerk to cast one ballot for Jeffrey Riley.

Auditor – Partial term

- Moderator stated that two years of the three-year term of Celina Wright remain due to Wright's resignation.
- Gordon Goss nominated by Theodore Faris.
 - Gordon Goss declined nomination.
- No further nominations were made.

- Moderator stated that in the omission of further nominations, the Selectboard will make an appointment for the fulfillment of this office.

Collector of Delinquent Tax

- Moderator stated that one-year term of Lisa Bowden is expiring.
- Lisa Bowden nominated by Mark Gilleland.
- John Cook made motion that nominations cease. Seconded by Mona Marceau.
- Moderator instructed Town Clerk to cast one ballot for Lisa Bowden.

Grand Juror

- Moderator stated that one-year term of Michael Bergeron is expiring.
- Michael Bergeron nominated by Mona Marceau.
- Theodore Faris made motion that nominations cease. Seconded.
- Moderator instructed Town Clerk to cast one ballot for Michael Bergeron.

Town Agent

- Moderator stated that one-year term of Jay Abramson is expiring.
- Jay Abramson nominated by Mona Marceau.
- Motion made that nominations cease. Seconded.
- Moderator instructed Town Clerk to cast one ballot for Jay Abramson.

Trustee of Public Funds

- Moderator stated that three-year term of William Graves is expiring.
- William Graves nominated by Mona Marceau.
- Motion made that nominations cease. Seconded.
- Moderator instructed Town Clerk to cast one ballot for William Graves.

Library Trustee

- Moderator stated that five-year term of Teresa Fairchild is expiring.
- Sarah Walls nominated by Dylan Ford.
- Motion made that nominations cease. Seconded.
- Moderator instructed Town Clerk to cast one ballot for Sarah Walls.

ARTICLE 3. To consider and act upon the report of the Town Auditors.

- Mona Marceau made motion to accept the report of the Town Auditors as it appears on page thirty of the Town Report. Seconded.
- Passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 4. Shall the Town of Barnet appropriate the sum of Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$250.00) to the American Red Cross, Northern Vermont Chapter?

- Motion made to so move. Seconded.
- Elizabeth McFaul asked if this appropriation was related to the swimming lessons at Harvey's Lake Beach, adding that there were no lessons in 2009.

- Theodore Faris responded that swimming lessons are not related to this appropriation.
- Passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 5. Shall the Town of Barnet appropriate the sum of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) to Area Agency on Aging for Northeastern Vermont?

- Motion made to so move. Seconded.
- Passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 6. Shall the Town of Barnet appropriate the sum of Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) to the Barnet Historical Society to be used for maintaining the Goodwillie House?

- Motion made to so move. Seconded.
- Passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 7. Shall the Town of Barnet appropriate the sum of Two Thousand Three Hundred Dollars (\$2,300.00) to Caledonia Home Health Care?

- Motion made to so move. Seconded.
- Passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 8. Shall the Town of Barnet appropriate the sum of Seven Thousand One Hundred Sixty Dollars (\$7,160.00) to CALEX Ambulance Service?

- Motion made to so move. Seconded.
- Catherine Hinchey asked what effect this appropriation has, and whether these funds are used to pay for services for those who do not have health insurance.
 - With permission of the voters, non-voter Jay Wood, CALEX Director, responded: Town appropriations account for between eight and nine percent of CALEX's total budget. These funds go to CALEX's general fund.
- Passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 9. Shall the Town of Barnet appropriate the sum of Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) to Catamount Arts?

- Motion made to so move. Seconded.
- Passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 10. Shall the Town of Barnet appropriate the sum of One Thousand Seven Hundred Dollars (\$1,700.00) to Fairbanks Museum and Planetarium?

- Motion made to so move. Seconded.
- Passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 11. Shall the Town of Barnet appropriate the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000) to the Lake Harvey Association to be used for a boat monitoring/wash program dedicated to the prevention of milfoil and other invasive species at Harvey's Lake?

- Motion made to so move. Seconded.
- Hezzie Somers asked how efficient this boat wash program is.
 - Theodore Faris responded, stating that this concern was raised by the Selectboard.
- Catherine Hinchey asked why zero dollars appeared for the actual 2009 expense of the boatwash project on page fifty-two of the Town Report if the Town appropriated \$10,000 last year. Also asked if this appropriation would cover expense of the program from May to September.
 - Theodore Faris responded: The amounts on page fifty-two are for start-up expenses of the project. The appropriation to the Lake Harvey Association is found on page forty-nine under "Annual Appropriations."
 - Jan Sherman responded: In 2009 the \$10,000 was overspent by \$2,439.69 in order to keep the boatwash in operation from May through September. The over-expenditure was reimbursed to the Town through donations.
- Passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 12. Shall the Town of Barnet appropriate the sum of One Thousand Seven Hundred Seventy-Four Dollars (\$1,774.00) to Northeast Kingdom Human Services, Inc.?

- Motion made to so move. Seconded.
- Passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 13. Shall the Town of Barnet appropriate the sum of Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$250.00) to Northeast Kingdom Learning Services, Inc.?

- Motion made to so move. Seconded.
- Passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 14. Shall the Town of Barnet appropriate the sum of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) to Northeast Kingdom Youth Services?

- Motion made to so move. Seconded.
- Passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 15. Shall the Town of Barnet appropriate the sum of One Thousand One Hundred Dollars (\$1,100.00) to Rural Community Transportation?

- Motion made to so move. Seconded.
- Passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 16. Shall the Town of Barnet appropriate the sum of Four Hundred Dollars (\$400.00) to Umbrella Inc.?

- Motion made to so move. Seconded.
- Shirley Warden asked why the amount is \$400, stating that she thought the amount last year was \$750.
 - Theodore Faris responded: Seven hundred fifty dollars was requested in 2008, but in 2009 and 2010 four hundred was requested.
- Passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 17. Shall the Town of Barnet appropriate the sum of Two Hundred Eighty Dollars (\$280.00) to the Vermont Center for Independent Living?

- Motion made to so move. Seconded.
- Passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 18. Shall the Town of Barnet appropriate the sum of Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000.00) to the West Barnet Senior Meal Site?

- Motion made to so move. Seconded.
- Passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 19. To see if the Town will elect two members of the Budget Committee for three years, and if so to provide for their election.

Decision to elect

- Motion made to elect two members of the Budget Committee for three years. Seconded.
- Passed by voice vote.

Election

- Benjamin Gates nominated by Theodore Faris.
- Andrew Mosedale nominated by William Graves.
- Motion made that nominations cease. Seconded.
- Moderator instructed Town Clerk to cast one ballot each for Benjamin Gates and Andrew Mosedale.

ARTICLE 20. To see what arrangements the Town and Town School District will vote for the collection of its taxes and by what lawful official for the ensuing year.

- Lisa Bowden made motion that taxes be made payable to the Town Treasurer during business hours on or before October 16, 2010, with said taxes to be actually received in hand by said Treasurer on or before the due date without regard to postmark; and thereafter said taxes shall be payable to the Collector of Delinquent Tax with interest at the rate of 1% per month or fraction thereof for the first three months, and thereafter at the rate of 1 ½ % per month or fraction thereof, plus the collector's fee as provided by law. Seconded.
- Passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 21. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise to defray the expenses and liabilities of the Town for the current year.

- Theodore Faris made motion to raise the sum of \$581,696 for the Selectmen's budget as on page fifty-two of the Town Report and \$491,050 for the Highway budget as on page fifty-six of the Town Report, for a total of \$1,072,746.
- Catherine Hinchey spoke, congratulating the Selectmen for being fiscally responsible, and expressing her wish that the federal government would do the same.
 - Theodore Faris responded, thanking Ms. Hinchey for her comment and the Town for their support.
- Joseph Barrett spoke, indicating that there was a "special person" in attendance that the members needed to recognize.
 - Theodore Faris spoke regarding a 2009 Highway Department accident causing the injury of employee Thomas Gould. Faris expressed thankfulness that Mr. Gould was healed from his serious injury and able to attend Town Meeting less than a year after the accident. Also expressed thankfulness to rescue worker Theresa Conant, who happened upon the scene of the accident as it happened. Faris credited Conant with saving Mr. Gould's life, and presented her with a book, *The Right Stuff*, by Tom Wolfe.
 - Barnet Fire & Rescue member Cheryl Gajtka spoke, crediting Barnet Fire & Rescue for their team effort in saving Mr. Gould's life.
- Mona Marceau spoke, congratulating the Selectboard for completing the Town Garage project without borrowing, but asking why the Selectboard overspent their original budget for the project.
 - Theodore Faris responded: Several large expenditures were the result of unanticipated increases in pricing.
 - Jeremy Roberts responded: The St. Johnsbury Academy, due to lack of enrollment, was forced to withdraw from the project before it was complete. The Board therefore hired the Vermont Offender Work Program to finish the work. The Board tried to limit expenses where possible, such as by purchasing vinyl rather than concrete siding.

Meeting recessed for lunch at 11:55 a.m.

Meeting reconvened at 1:03 p.m.

- Grace Gershuny expressed concern that there was no line item in the budget for Green-Up Day. Ms. Gershuny also spoke generally about 2010 Green-Up Day.
- Passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 22. Shall the Town vote to exempt from taxation the property owned by the Barnet Historical Society located in Barnet Center and known as the Goodwillie House for a period not to exceed five years, pursuant to 32 VSA Section 3840?

- Motion made to so move. Seconded.
- Theodore Faris spoke, stating that this article is warned as a “housekeeping” issue. The Town has for many years voted to exempt the Goodwillie House from taxation. This year the Historical Society approached the Board to alert them that the exemption had expired and needed to be renewed.
- Hezzie Somers asked how much tax revenue the Town would lose by passing this article.
 - Theodore Faris responded that the property has not been taxed in recent years, so there would be no revenue lost.
- Passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 23. Shall the Town vote to repeal in whole the tax on business personal property in accordance with 32 VSA Section 3849?

- Marvin Bailey spoke to clarify that this article would repeal the tax on municipal business personal property tax only, as the Town does not have authority to vote to repeal state taxes.
- Mona Marceau asked how much tax revenue would be lost by passing this article.
 - Marvin Bailey responded that business personal property tax generates approximately \$3,000 in revenue.
 - James McFaul stated that information regarding this article appears in the Listers’ Report on page thirty-one of the Town Report.
- Mona Marceau asked if passage of this article would change the grand list value of the properties in question.
 - Theodore Faris responded that business personal property is taxed separately from real estate, so passage of this article would not affect the grand list value of any individual parcels of real estate.
- David Warden stated that business personal property tax tends to encourage business owners to carry a lower inventory on April 1st, which is not conducive to good business practices.
- Passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 24. To transact any other business that may legally come before the meeting.

- Shirley Warden spoke regarding several matters:
 - 2010 Green-Up Day.
 - The Northeast Kingdom Waste Management District's collection of hazardous materials at the Transfer Station on Wednesday, June 16, 2010 from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.
 - Commended Selectman Jeremy Roberts for his leadership and efforts in the planning and building of the new Town Garage.
- Jeremy Roberts was given a standing ovation.
- Anika Lamp drew a winner for a raffle conducted during Town Meeting to benefit her participation in the Barnet Junior Historical Society's trip to Switzerland. Sheri Colby-Schenck was the winner.
- Theodore Faris spoke regarding the potential move of the Transfer Station to the parcel of land on which the new Town Garage was built. Faris stated that this project is "on the back burner" at this time. The Town has made significant investments in the current Transfer Station that it would like to amortize before changing locations.
- Sherry Tolle spoke to encourage participation in the bottle drive at the Transfer Station. Funds benefit the Barnet Good Neighbor Fund, a charity benefiting Barnet families in need.
- Moderator Dennis McLam stated that polls will be open for Australian ballot voting on the Northeast Kingdom Waste Management District's budget until 7 p.m.
- Mona Marceau made motion to adjourn. Seconded. Passed by voice vote.
- Meeting adjourned at 1:17 p.m.

Dennis McLam, Moderator

Theodore Faris, Selectman

Attest: Benjamin Heisholt, Town Clerk