

MINUTES - SELECTMEN'S MEETING
TOWN OF BARNET, VT
MONDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2010

Meeting convened at 7:00 p.m. in the conference room of the Barnet Town Clerk's Office.

Board members present: Selectmen Theodore Faris, Jeremy Roberts, and Gary Bunnell.

Meeting Chair: Co-Chair Theodore Faris presiding as Chair for this meeting.

Others present: Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt, Road Foreman Timothy Gibbs, Collector of Delinquent Tax Lisa Bowden, Sally Cook (Caledonian Record), George Copenrath (Sawyer & Ritchie Agency), and Shirley Warden.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Motion made by Roberts to approve as presented the minutes of the regular meeting held November 22, 2010. Seconded by Bunnell and approved by voice vote.

**CORRESPONDENCE FROM SAWYER & RITCHIE AGENCY
REGARDING PROPERTY AND LIABILITY INSURANCE**

Reviewed several items of correspondence from Sawyer & Ritchie Agency and from Vermont League of Cities & Towns (VLCT), the Town's current property and liability insurance provider, regarding their quotes for 2011 insurance coverage. George Copenrath of Sawyer & Ritchie Agency appeared and answered several questions from the Board regarding differences in coverage limits between the quotes of VLCT and of Sawyer & Ritchie. Below are the total quoted annual premiums of the two providers for 2011 property and liability insurance:

Vermont League of Cities & Towns:	\$36,944
Sawyer & Ritchie Agency:	\$30,704

After brief discussion, motion made by Faris to accept the proposal of Sawyer & Ritchie Agency and use their services for the Town's 2011 property and liability insurance coverage. Seconded by Roberts and approved by voice vote.

**APPEARANCE BY COLLECTOR DELINQUENT TAX LISA BOWDEN
REGARDING TAX SALE**

Faris explained that resident Theodore Soares appeared at the previous Board meeting to voice a grievance concerning the conduct of Bowden with regard to a tax sale scheduled on Mr. Soares's property. Faris also explained that he has had several conversations with Mr. Soares since the previous Board meeting, in which Mr. Soares has discussed proposals for payment plans.

Bowden explained that she has not received any payment from Mr. Soares since August 2010. She also explained that she cannot accept the terms of Mr. Soares's proposal because it would overturn the vote of the Town at Town Meeting, in which the penalties and interest for delinquent taxes are prescribed.

Discussion followed. Bowden spoke regarding her collection philosophy, policies, and practices. She explained that she *does* make use of payment plans and is lenient, on the basis of individual circumstances, regarding the amount of regular payments. She is attempting to increase the

percentage of these plans that are in writing; however this has not been the practice during the tenures of the previous two Collectors.

CORRESPONDENCE FROM BARNET FIRE & RESCUE REGARDING NOMINATION OF 2011 CHIEF

Read letter stating that at its business meeting held on Tuesday, December 7, 2010, Barnet Fire & Rescue nominated Ronald Morse for the position of Chief.

A motion was made by Roberts that the Board accept the nomination of Barnet Fire & Rescue and appoint Ronald Morse as Chief. Seconded by Bunnell and approved by voice vote.

CORRESPONDENCE FROM NORTHEASTERN VERMONT DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION (NVDA) REGARDING ENERGY AUDIT GRANTS

Read email correspondence regarding energy audit grants available to municipalities for audits of public or town-owned buildings. Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt explained that Board discussed these grants at their meeting of February 22, 2010. At that time the Board voted to not participate in this grant program. Recently Heisholt was again contacted by NVDA because the program has changed to no longer require Town matching funds.

After brief discussion, the Board agreed that Roberts will investigate this grant and reply to this recent communication.

CORRESPONDENCE FROM FEDERAL REGULATORY COMMISSION REGARDING ORDER GRANTING EXTENSION OF TIME TO TRANSCANADA HYDRO NORTHEAST, INC.

Briefly reviewed notice indicating that TransCanada has been granted an extension of time for the completion of a project involving replacement of waterwheels and upgrade of generators at the Comerford Station.

DISCUSSION REGARDING E911 ROAD NAME DESIGNATION FOR MCINDOE FALLS STATION PRIVATE ACCESS ROAD

Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt discussed recent telephone communications with TransCanada Hydro Northeast, Inc., in which TransCanada inquired regarding the naming of the private access road to McIndoe Falls Station, a matter discussed at the Board meeting of May 10, 2010.

After brief discussion, the Board agreed to forward this matter to Zoning Administrative Officer Shirley Warden.

**CORRESPONDENCE FROM CHARTER COMMUNICATIONS
REGARDING REQUEST OF PERMISSION FOR PLACEMENT OF
UNDERGROUND FACILITIES ON GARLAND HILL**

Read letter requesting allowance for trenching, conduits, and burial of cable in connection with permits recently issued by the Board to Green Mountain Power Corporation and FairPoint Communications. The project is designed to allow for the removal of aerial lines over Interstate 91, north of Garland Hill.

After brief discussion the Board granted this permission. Board requested that Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt send a letter to Charter Communications informing them of this approval.

DECISION REGARDING BIDS FOR 2011 TAX ANTICIPATION LOAN

Reviewed bids for tax anticipation borrowing for calendar year 2011. Bids received from Community National Bank, Passumpsic Savings Bank, and Union Bank.

After brief discussion, a motion was made by Roberts to accept the bid of Passumpsic Savings Bank, borrowing \$505,150.00 at a rate of 1.23%, and reinvesting any surplus funds at a rate of 1.24%. Seconded by Bunnell and approved by voice vote.

DISCUSSION REGARDING RESERVE FUND INVESTMENTS

Reviewed quotes obtained by Treasurer Benjamin Heisholt from local banks for interest rates on money market accounts and short-term certificates of deposit.

After brief discussion, a motion made by Roberts to deposit roughly two-thirds of reserve funds in Passumpsic Savings Bank's money market account (interest rate 0.95%) and one-third in Wells River Savings Bank's money market account (interest rate 1.10%). Seconded by Bunnell and approved by voice vote.

OUTSTANDING CHECK WARRANTS

Reviewed and signed all outstanding check warrants.

2011 BUDGET DISCUSSION

Began discussion and editing of preliminary budget, as prepared by Treasurer Benjamin Heisholt.

EXECUTIVE SESSION REGARDING PERSONNEL MATTERS

Motion made by Roberts to enter executive session. Seconded by Bunnell and approved by voice vote. Entered executive session at 9:00 p.m.

Motion made by Roberts to exit executive session. Seconded by Bunnell and approved by voice vote. Exited executive session 9:12 p.m.

No action taken.

EXECUTIVE SESSION REGARDING LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

Motion made by Roberts to enter executive session. Seconded by Bunnell and approved by voice vote. Entered executive session at 9:15 p.m.

Motion made by Roberts to exit executive session. Seconded by Bunnell and approved by voice vote. Exited executive session at 9:17 p.m.

No action taken.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Roberts to adjourn. Seconded by Bunnell and approved by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

A true copy.

Attest: _____
Town Clerk