

MINUTES - SELECTMEN'S MEETING
TOWN OF BARNET, VT
MONDAY, DECEMBER 27, 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 Jeremy Roberts presiding as Chair for this meeting.

Others present: Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt, Road Foreman Timothy Gibbs, Fire & Rescue Chief Ronald Morse, John Cook, Sally Cook (Caledonian Record), and Shirley Warden.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Motion made by Faris to approve as presented the minutes of the regular meeting held December 13, 2010. Seconded by Bunnell and approved by voice vote.

CORRESPONDENCE FROM LAKE HARVEY ASSOCIATION WITH REQUEST FOR 2011 APPROPRIATION

Read letter describing boat monitoring activities during 2010 and requesting the same appropriation as granted in 2010 for 2011: \$10,000.

After brief discussion, Board agreed to include Lake Harvey Association's request on the 2011 Town Meeting warning without requiring them to submit a petition.

CORRESPONDENCE FROM PASSUMPSIC SAVINGS BANK REGARDING 2011 TAX ANTICIPATION NOTE

Completed and signed required forms to initiate 2011 tax anticipation loan and reinvestment account with Passumpsic Savings Bank.

CORRESPONDENCE FROM TOWN AGENT JAY ABRAMSON REGARDING COURT ORDER IN MATTER OF GIBSON WOOD FAMILY TRUST

Read cover letter and reviewed court order specifying terms of settlement agreement reached between Town of Barnet and the Gibson Wood Family Trust.

APPEARANCE BY FIRE & RESCUE CHIEF RONALD MORSE REGARDING TANKER REFURBISHMENT AND INSURANCE QUOTATIONS

- Roberts read proposal from Dingee Machine Company for refurbishment of 1989 GMC tanker. Total cost of proposed extensive project is \$57,326.00.
 - o Morse explained the details of the proposal and Fire & Rescue's reasons for requesting it. Morse detailed the tanker's current poor condition, discussed his previous unsuccessful efforts to obtain grant funds for repair or replacement thereof, and suggested that with the

- proposed work done the tanker could be remain in service for at least another fifteen years. Morse proposes to pay for this project through use of funds from the Fire Department Reserve Fund. The current balance of this fund is \$86,707.86.
- o After brief discussion, a motion was made by Faris to authorize Barnet Fire & Rescue to spend whatever reasonable amount is necessary to refurbish the tanker. Seconded by Bunnell and approved by voice vote.
 - o Morse urged the Board to consider changing the annual appropriation to the Fire Department Reserve Fund from its current amount of \$5,000 to the amount in place prior to the building of the Fire Station: \$10,000.
 - Board briefly reviewed insurance proposal from VFIS.
 - o Morse explained that he began seeking insurance proposals for Barnet Fire & Rescue when he learned that the Town was entertaining proposals for 2011 insurance coverage. Morse stated that VFIS insurance is tailored to fire and rescue departments, and therefore offers coverage that is in several aspects better than that of standard insurance.
 - o After brief discussion, Board agreed to postpone action on this matter until a better comparison can be obtained, from the Sawyer & Ritchie Insurance Agency, that will isolate fire and rescue aspects of the Town's currently quoted 2011 insurance coverage.

CORRESPONDENCE FROM STATE OF VERMONT DEPARTMENT OF TAXES WITH RESULTS OF 2010 EQUALIZATION STUDY

Read letter notifying the Town of the results of the Division of Property Valuation and Review's 2010 equalization study. Results for the Town of Barnet are as follows:

- Equalized Education Property Value: \$229,101,000
- Coefficient of Dispersion: 15.08%
- Education Grand List (from 411): \$2,428,658
- Equalized Education Grand List: \$2,291,010
- Common Level of Appraisal: 106.01%

CORRESPONDENCE FROM CALEDONIA COUNTY REGARDING ANNUAL BUDGET MEETING

Read cover letter and reviewed notice of budget meeting to be held January 8, 2011 at 10:00 a.m. at the Caledonia County Courthouse.

DISCUSSION REGARDING REVISION OF PERSONNEL POLICY

Read list of proposed changes to Personnel Policy, as prepared by Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt. These proposed changes are as follows:

Additions to policy:

1. Regarding Highway Department employee time cards:
 - a. Employees are required to punch in and out, on the time clock, at the beginning and end of each shift and at the beginning and end of each lunch break.
 - b. Employees are required to take a paid fifteen minute break and an unpaid thirty minute break during each shift.

2. Regarding holiday pay:
 - a. If a regular paid holiday falls on Saturday, the preceding Friday is treated as a paid holiday. If a regular paid holiday falls on a Sunday, the following Monday is treated as a paid holiday.
3. Regarding other fringe benefits:
 - a. Town shall pay full expense of uniforms to be used by Highway Department employees.
 - b. Town shall reimburse up to \$100 annually to each Highway Department employee for purchase of safety-toe work boots.

Deletions from policy:

1. Remove portion of section IV relating to regularly-employed mechanic at Town Garage.

After brief discussion, a motion was made by Faris to approve these changes to the personnel policy. Seconded by Bunnell and approved by voice vote.

OTHER BUSINESS

- Faris discussed several matters:
 - o Suggested that the Board expend a sum of money for payment to George Pierce in appreciation for his willingness and expertise in assistance to the Town as a temporary Lister.
 - After brief discussion, a motion was made by Faris to pay George Pierce a sum of \$500 in appreciation for his services as temporary Lister. Seconded by Bunnell and approved by voice vote.
 - o Requested that Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt obtain a copy of the as-built plans for Harvey's Lake Dam, for delivery to Roger Damon.
 - o Suggested that the Board begin the process of selling the former Town Garage.
 - After brief discussion, Board agreed to instruct Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt to draft and forward a letter to owners of property abutting the former Town Garage, offering the former Town Garage property at a price of \$50,000. Board also agreed that, should they confirm that none of the owners of abutting property are interested in purchasing the property, the Town will accept bids from the general public, with the minimum bid being \$50,000.
- Road Foreman Timothy Gibbs discussed several matters:
 - o Presented email correspondence from a frequent visitor of Karne Choling, requesting the Town's permission and guidance in hanging a traffic mirror on a post on the south side of West Barnet Road across from its intersection with Patneau Lane. Gibbs stated he believes the placement of such a mirror to be in conflict with state or federal regulations.
 - After brief discussion, Board agreed to postpone any action regarding this matter pending the results of Gibbs's investigation regarding its legality.
 - o Inquired regarding the practice of granting a ten cent (\$.10) raise to Highway Department employees for each non-mandatory training seminar or class attended.
 - Board agreed to discontinue the current practice effective January 1, 2011 and replace it beginning the same date with the following practice: Road Foreman to select five ordinarily non-mandatory seminars or classes to be mandatory for all Highway Department employees to attend during the calendar year, with a ten cent (\$.10) raise granted for each of these classes attended.

OUTSTANDING CHECK WARRANTS

Reviewed and signed all outstanding check warrants.

2011 BUDGET DISCUSSION

Continued discussion and editing of 2011 budget, as begun at previous Board meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION REGARDING PERSONNEL MATTERS

Motion made by Faris to enter executive session. Seconded by Bunnell and approved by voice vote. Entered executive session at 8:15 p.m.

Motion made by Faris to exit executive session. Seconded by Bunnell and approved by voice vote. Exited executive session 8:45 p.m.

Motion made by Faris to decline a request made by an employee for reimbursement of an unauthorized purchase. Seconded by Bunnell and approved by voice vote.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Faris to adjourn. Seconded by Bunnell and approved by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 8:48 p.m.

A true copy.

Attest: _____
Town Clerk