

MINUTES - SELECTMEN'S MEETING
TOWN OF BARNET, VT
MONDAY, JANUARY 10, 2011

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, Kevin Daniels, Roy Northcutt, Susannah Roy, Jay Sprout, and Shirley Warden.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Motion made by Roberts to approve as presented the minutes of the regular meeting held December 27, 2010. Seconded by Bunnell and approved by voice vote.

APPEARANCE BY OWNERS OF PROPERTY ABUTTING FORMER TOWN GARAGE PROPERTY

Faris read letter from abutting property owners. Letter states that none of the abutters are inclined to accept the sale offer made by the Selectboard pursuant to their decision at the meeting of December 27, 2010. The owners suggest that the asking price is too high for "a building with significant structural problems on such a small parcel of land," and that the most favorable way to achieve the goal of maintaining or improving the quality of life of the neighborhood would be to demolish the garage and put the land to some public use.

Discussion followed as summarized below:

- Faris stated that the Board is only authorized, per vote at Town Meeting, to the sell the property. To decide to take any other action with regard to the property is currently outside of the Board's jurisdiction.
- Roberts stated that the placing of restraints upon the use of the property by a potential buyer was also discussed at Town Meeting. Primary among these was the proposal of operating hour limits for any potential commercial enterprise. Also stated that the asking price for the property was arrived at by use of the Town Listers' appraisal.
- Board stated general financial concerns regarding the abutters' proposal: it would involve sacrificing revenue from the sale of the property and from future property taxes, and expending a significant sum for demolition and for constructing whatever public use is decided upon.
- Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt clarified the situation regarding groundwater monitoring at the Town Garage: When the last samples were taken, in August 2008, perchloroethylene (PCE) was detecting in concentration exceeding Vermont groundwater standards. The contamination, however, is limited to a small area around the test well in which it was found. The State, therefore, allows for the site to be designated as closed for monitoring. All that remains for closure completion is the Town to notice the existence of the contamination in the Town Land Records.

Motion made by Roberts to postpone any action with regard to the sale of the Town Garage until the Board meeting of February 14, 2011. Seconded by Bunnell and approved by voice vote.

CORRESPONDENCE FROM STATE OF VERMONT AGENCY OF TRANSPORTATION REGARDING CERTIFICATE OF HIGHWAY MILEAGE

Briefly reviewed cover letter with instructions for the Board to document changes in highway mileage for 2010 and to sign the certificate. The mileage of town highways in the Town of Barnet is as follows:

- Class 1: 0.00
- Class 2: 23.51
- Class 3: 58.46
- State Highway: 21.19
- Class 4: 10.95
- Total: 103.16

There were no changes in highway mileage in 2010. Board signed certificate.

CORRESPONDENCE REGARDING ACT 250 PERMIT APPLICATION OF CALVIN AND CHERRYLL BUNNELL

Briefly reviewed and discussed email and attachments regarding Final Motion to Amend Application and Assurance of Discontinuance.

CORRESPONDENCE FROM UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT REGARDING ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING STUDENT PROJECTS

Read email from Professor Emeritus Dr. Richard N. Downer requesting that the Board suggest projects to benefit the Town, to which environmental engineering students will be assigned during the spring 2011 semester.

After brief discussion, Board decided to suggest the bridge on Somerhill Road over the Peacham Brook as a potential project.

CORRESPONDENCE FROM BOARD OF CIVIL AUTHORITY (BCA) CHAIRMAN WILLIAM GRAVES REGARDING APPEALS FROM THE TAX APPEAL DECISIONS OF THE BCA

Read letter reviewing the actions of the BCA with regard to 2010 tax appeals, and appeals taken from these decision by two appellants. Graves requests that the Board obtain legal counsel to represent the Town before the State Appraiser and before the Superior Court.

After brief discussion, Board agreed to obtain the services of Town Agent Jay Abramson to represent the Town in these appeals.

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 7:32 p.m.

Motion made by Faris to exit executive session. Seconded by Roberts and approved by voice vote. Exited executive session 7:40 p.m.

Motion made by Roberts to rescind the decision, as made at the previous Board meeting, to decline a request made by an employee for reimbursement of an unauthorized purchase, and to grant Road Foreman Timothy Gibbs authority to either approve or disapprove this reimbursement. Seconded by Bunnell and approved by voice vote.

OUTSTANDING CHECK WARRANTS

Reviewed and signed all outstanding check warrants.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Roberts to adjourn. Seconded by Bunnell and approved by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 7:51 p.m.

A true copy.

Attest: _____
Town Clerk