

**MINUTES - SELECTMEN'S MEETING
TOWN OF BARNET, VERMONT
MONDAY, OCTOBER 24, 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: Road Foreman Timothy Gibbs, Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt, Zoning Administrative Officer Shirley Warden, Sarah Barraco (Lyndon State College News 7), Frances Flanagan, Thomas Flanagan, and Jennifer Morin (Lyndon State College News 7).

Note: Numbered headings correspond to agenda printed in advance of meeting. Items appear in minutes in order discussed at meeting. Order of discussion is occasionally out of sequence with agenda numbers.

1. Approve minutes of regular meeting held October 10, 2011

Motion made by Roberts to approve as presented the minutes of the regular meeting held October 10, 2011. Seconded by Bunnell and approved by voice vote.

2. Appearance by resident Frances Flanagan regarding speed limit on Schoolhouse Road

Ms. Flanagan appeared with her husband, Thomas Flanagan, to discuss a safety concern regarding the speed of travel on Schoolhouse Road near their residence. The Flanagans have observed an increase in the speed of travel along this road in the course of the past few years. Vehicles frequently travel at speeds well in excess of 50 miles per hour. There is no posted speed limit on this road; state law dictates a standard 50 mile per hour limit. A knoll near the Flanagan residence obstructs view of the road in front of their house. Mr. Flanagan measured a distance of 370 feet as required for a complete stop when traveling at 50 miles per hour on this road. The distance between the point on the knoll where the road in front of their house is visible (from three feet, seven inches above the ground) to the mailbox in front of their house is much less than 370 feet. The Flanagans requested that the Board take action to post a 35 mile per hour speed limit on Schoolhouse Road.

- Road Foreman Gibbs spoke regarding State requirements for posting speed limit signs. Among these is an engineering study regarding the site.
- Bunnell suggested that the information Mr. Flanagan presented is adequate to satisfy the engineering study requirement.
- The Board requested that Mr. Flanagan submit a written report of his study, along with a map of the site, for the Board's review. The Board will review this report at its next regular meeting and will address the Flanagans' concern on the basis of this review.

3. Appearance(s) by other member(s) of the public

No other members of the public were present.

4. Vermont Roads Scholar Level 1 certification for Highway Department employee Glenn Fearon

Faris read from framed certification announcing Mr. Fearon's attainment to Vermont Roads Scholar Level 1 and detailing accumulated hours of training completed. Faris requested that Road Foreman Gibbs deliver this certification to Mr. Fearon with the Board's congratulations.

5. Correspondence from Vermont Agency of Transportation regarding Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) funding for storm events of May 26 to May 27, 2011

Faris read cover letter describing the contents of a large packet of materials relating to FEMA reimbursement. Among these items are a copy of the fully executed standard subgrant agreement with the State of Vermont (see minutes of meeting 26 September 2011), approved Project Worksheets, and Certificate of Completion forms. The Project Worksheets and Certificate of Completion forms relate to four projects on four different town highways: Pearlmont Road, Patneau Lane, McLaren Hill Road, and Barnet Center Road. Of these, thus far payment has been processed for Pearlmont Road in the amount of \$23,372.10.

6. Discussion regarding 2012 health insurance plans

Board reviewed packet from Vermont League of Cities & Towns (VLCT) containing options for 2012 health insurance plans. Treasurer Heisholt explained that the plan the Town currently has will not be available in 2012, but VLCT is now offering choice between several carriers. The plan most similar to the Town's current plan is the AIVIS VHP POS \$10/\$20 plan. The total premium for this plan is \$126,697, which represents a decrease of \$7,031 from the Town's current plan. Discussion followed concerning nuances of several different options, pricing, traditional small-group plans (comparable to current plan) versus high-deductible plans, and in-network versus out-of-network coverage.

- Motion made by Roberts to purchase for 2012 the AIVIS VHP POS \$10/\$20 plan. Seconded by Bunnell and approved by voice vote.

7. Discussion regarding fuel oil and propane purchasing

Board reviewed a comparison of heating fuel quotes prepared by Treasurer Heisholt. Comparison includes quotations obtained from Dead River Company, Fred's Propane & Heating Oil (current vendor), and Walter E. Jock Oil Company for pricing on three different bases: fixed price through 31 May 2012, fluctuating price based on rack price (current pricing basis), and cap price (including per gallon insurance fee).

- After brief discussion, motion made by Roberts to continue to purchase #2 heating fuel and propane at the fluctuating daily price based on the rack price from Fred's Propane & Heating Oil. Seconded by Bunnell and approved by voice vote.

8. Discussion regarding tax overpayment of Milarepa Center

Treasurer Heisholt explained that Milarepa Center intentionally overpaid their 2011 property taxes as a donation to the Town, as they also did in 2010. The amount of the 2011 overpayment was \$412.49.

- After brief discussion, motion made by Roberts to deposit the 2011 overpayment into the Municipal Buildings Fund reserve account. Seconded by Bunnell and approved by voice vote.

9. Highway Access Permit application

Reviewed application of Alan and Lorna Fogg for access on Barnet Center Road. Road Foreman Gibbs spoke regarding his review of the site and the conditions for approval based thereon. This access has, since the time of the application, been installed prior to approval and not according to the conditions.

- After brief discussion, Board agreed to disapprove this application on the basis of failure to postpone installation until approval and failure to install according to required conditions.

10. Other business

- **Appearance by Road Foreman Gibbs regarding Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) requirement for street signs.** Gibbs discussed changes in future requirements for street signs. Until recently street signs were required to be six inches in height. A legislative change then required a municipal plan to replace all street signs with retro-reflective nine-inch signs by the year 2013. A very recent legislative change now requires a municipal plan to replace all street signs with

retro-reflective *twelve-inch* signs by the year 2018. In addition, the new law specifies that lettering on signs be a six inches in height, and in upper case-lower case format.

- **Discussion regarding road complaints.** Faris discussed two separate complaints regarding town highways:
 - o From resident Keith Phelps regarding Keyser Hill Road.
 - Road Foreman Gibbs stated that this concern is already being addressed with grading.
 - o From resident Dale Kendall regarding ditching and run-offs of Old Silo Road.
 - Bunnell (Road Commissioner) agreed to view this site and discuss this matter with Mr. Kendall.
- **Appearance by Zoning Administrative Officer Shirley Warden regarding appointment to Zoning Board.** Warden stated that the recommended candidate to fill the current vacancy has not been responsive to inquiries regarding her interest. Warden requested that the Selectboard consider recommending another candidate.
- **Water tank on Joe's Brook Road.** Town Clerk Heisholt spoke regarding recent communications with resident Sarah Walls regarding a public water tank that is fed through Ms. Walls' former residence on Joe's Brook Road. Ms. Walls would like to turn off the water for the winter at her former residence, and inquired whether having the tank unavailable during the winter months would present a hardship.
 - o Bunnell agreed to contact Ms. Walls to discuss this matter.

11. Outstanding check warrants

Reviewed and signed all outstanding check warrants.

12. Adjournment

Motion made by Roberts to adjourn. Seconded by Bunnell and approved by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

A true copy.

Attest: _____
Town Clerk