

**MINUTES - SELECTMEN'S MEETING  
TOWN OF BARNET, VERMONT  
MONDAY, DECEMBER 12, 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 Jeremy Roberts presiding as Chair for this meeting.

**Others present:** Road Foreman Timothy Gibbs, Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt, Zoning Administrative Officer Shirley Warden, Sheriff Michael Bergeron, Hon. William P. Kennedy, Chief Deputy Dean Shatney, and Hon. Roy C. Vance.

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 November 28, 2011**

Motion made by Faris to approve as presented the minutes of the regular meeting held November 28, 2011. Seconded by Bunnell and approved by voice vote.

**2. Appearance by Hon. Roy C. Vance and Sheriff Michael Bergeron regarding proposed 2012/2013 Caledonia County budget**

Judge Vance and Sheriff Bergeron appeared along with Judge Hon. William P. Kennedy and Chief Deputy Dean Shatney.

- Judge Vance reviewed the County budget (except Sheriff's Department portion) line-by-line. Proposed budget (including Sheriff's Department) has total expenditures of \$302,660, which is a \$21,455 increase from the 2011/2012 budget.
- Sheriff Bergeron reviewed the Sheriff's Department's portion of the County budget. The Sheriff's Department's budgeted expenditures are \$151,460, which is an increase of \$16,555 from the 2011/2012 budget.
- Sheriff Bergeron, who is retiring on December 31, 2011, introduced to the Board Chief Deputy Shatney, who will be replacing Bergeron as Sheriff in 2012.
- Judge Kennedy discussed a project to put on public display many of the artifacts and antiques currently housed in storage at the courthouse.

**3. Appearances by other members of the public**

No other members of the public were present.

**4. Correspondence from Barnet Fire & Rescue regarding annual nomination of Fire & Rescue chief**

Roberts read letter stating that at its business meeting held on Tuesday, December 6, 2011, Barnet Fire & Rescue nominated Ronald Morse for the position of Chief.

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

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

Board reviewed documents detailing reimbursements received. Package received December 1, 2011 indicates that payment in the amount of \$56,600.57 has been processed for projects on Patneau Lane and McLaren Hill Road. Package received December 12, 2011 indicates that payment in the amount of \$108,835.31 has been processed for projects on Cloud Brook Road, Strobridge Hill, and Willie Hunter Lane.

## **6. Discussion regarding 2011 year-end bonuses**

Treasurer Heisholt indicated that since 2008 the amounts granted for year-end bonuses have been \$200 to full-time employees and \$100 to part-time employees. Brief discussion followed.

- A motion was made by Faris to pay a 2011 year-end bonus of \$200 to full-time employees and \$100 to part-time employees. Seconded by Bunnell and approved by voice vote.

## **7. Correspondence from Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation regarding Petroleum Cleanup Fund Request for Reimbursement Form**

Briefly reviewed reports and request for reimbursement for services and expenses related to monitoring of the site of the former Passumpsic Village Store. Total reimbursement requested is \$187.50. Brief discussion ensued.

- With Board's approval, Roberts signed the form.

## **8. Decision regarding bids for 2012 tax anticipation loan**

Reviewed bids for tax anticipation borrowing for calendar year 2012. Bids received from Community National Bank, Merchants Bank, Passumpsic Savings Bank, and Union Bank. Brief discussion ensued.

- A motion was made by Faris to accept the bid of Passumpsic Savings Bank, borrowing \$607,150 at a rate of 1.23%, and reinvesting any surplus funds at a rate of 1.29%. Seconded by Bunnell and approved by voice vote.

## **9. Discussion regarding change in General Fund operating account**

Treasurer Heisholt discussed his investigation into the possibility of moving the Town's operating checking account, which is presently on deposit with TD Bank, to a local financial institution. Heisholt mailed a request for proposals to local banks and received responses from Community National Bank, Passumpsic Savings Bank, and Union Bank. Services and rates are similar among proposals. Some discussion was had regarding subjective criteria for decision-making. Heisholt will prepare a spreadsheet analysis of the proposals for the Board's consideration at the next regular meeting.

## **10. Discussion regarding plowing of West Barnet Fire Station**

Road Foreman Timothy Gibbs discussed the difficulty the Highway Department is experiencing in plowing the West Barnet Fire Station. The owner of the property adjacent to the Station requests that snow not be piled on her property; there is no other possible place to which the snow may be plowed. Discussion ensued regarding the possibility of removing active firefighting equipment out of the Station during the winter months, to allow for cessation of plowing.

- Board instructed Town Clerk Heisholt to request that Fire & Rescue Chief Ronald Morse attend the next regular Board meeting to discuss this matter.

## **11. Discussion regarding requesting bids for Highway Department trailer**

Road Foreman Gibbs suggested that the Board request bids for a Town-owned General trailer that is no longer in service. Brief discussion ensued.

- A motion was made by Faris to advertise a request for bids on this trailer, with the minimum bid being \$300. Seconded by Bunnell and approved by voice vote.

## **12. Discussion regarding status of Veterans Day as floating holiday**

Road Foreman Gibbs discussed the use of Veterans Day as a floating holiday by the Highway Department. Veterans Day was originally changed to a floating holiday with the intention that the entire Highway Department would take a holiday on the day following Thanksgiving. In practice, however, only some employees take a holiday on this day, while the rest retain the floating holiday for a different date. Gibbs asked if the Board would like to continue the current arrangement or make some change in the status of this holiday. Brief discussion ensued.

- Board agreed to retain the current floating holiday status of Veterans Day, allowing employees to take this holiday on the day following Thanksgiving or on some other day of their choice.

### 13. Other business

- **Transfer Station fire.** Roberts discussed a small, contained electrical fire that occurred at the Transfer Station on December 3, 2011. Fast response by resident William Marshall ensured that no major damage was had. Roberts has replaced the affected electrical components and provided safeguards against the recurrence of the problem that caused the fire.
- **Posting of town pit.** Roberts discussed hunting violations in the town pit and town forest during youth hunting season this year.
  - o Board agreed that the town pit should be posted next season and that hunting in the town forest should be with Selectboard authorization only.
- **Road signs.** Road Foreman Gibbs discussed road sign installations. A 35 mile per hour speed limit has been posted on Schoolhouse Road; a street name sign has been installed for Stetson Lane; and “Trucks Entering” signs have been received for installation near the Choate farm on West Barnet Road (see minutes of meeting held November 28, 2011).
- **Mailbox of Stanley Tatro.** Road Foreman Gibbs discussed his recent communications with Mr. Tatro regarding damage to his mailbox caused by the Highway Department, as per the discussion had at the Board meeting of November 28, 2011. Mr. Tatro has agreed to take down his mailbox during the winter months, as he does not reside in Barnet during this season.
- **Zoning Board vacancy.** Faris discussed recent communications with resident Gary Briggs. Mr. Briggs has indicated his willingness to serve on the Planning Commission/Zoning Board. Brief discussion ensued.
  - o A motion was made by Faris to appoint Gary Briggs to fill the current vacancy on the Planning Commission/Zoning Board for a term commencing immediately and ending July 1, 2015. Seconded by Bunnell and approved by voice vote.
- **Library building boiler.** Roberts discussed his recent communications with resident Kevin Morrison, an employee of ARC Mechanical Contractors. Mr. Morrison quoted the Town a price of \$1,500 for a Peerless boiler. The installation would require approximately \$500 for additional parts. Roberts estimates that total cost, including labor, for this installation would be approximately \$4,500. The wood pellet option proposed by the Library Trustees does not include a boiler; therefore installing the ARC-proposed boiler would not be prohibitive of the pellet option.

### 14. Outstanding check warrants

Reviewed and signed all outstanding check warrants.

### 15. 2012 budget discussion

Treasurer Heisholt requested input from the Board in crafting the 2012 budget. There is likely to be little change from the 2011 budget, with the exception of a few known inflationary increases. Highway Department projects will require a budget similar to that of 2011, as projects were postponed due to flooding repair. Brief discussion ensued.

### 16. Adjournment

Motion made by Faris to adjourn. Seconded by Bunnell and approved by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

*A true copy.*

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Town Clerk*