

**MINUTES - SELECTMEN'S MEETING
TOWN OF BARNET, VERMONT
MONDAY, DECEMBER 26, 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, Fire & Rescue Chief Ronald Morse, Zoning Administrative Officer Shirley Warden, and George Coppenrath.

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 December 12, 2011

Motion made by Faris to approve as presented the minutes of the regular meeting held December 12, 2011. Seconded by Bunnell and approved by voice vote.

2. Appearances by members of the public

No members of the public, who were not appearing to address matters listed on the agenda, were present.

3. Discussion regarding plowing of West Barnet Fire Station

- Fire Chief Ronald Morse appeared to address this matter, as discussed at the Board meeting of December 12, 2011. It is Morse's opinion that the fire truck housed at the West Barnet Station should not be moved to the Bimson Drive Station during winter months. The proximity of this equipment to the village has proved invaluable several times in the history of the West Barnet Fire Station.
- Road Foreman Timothy Gibbs spoke, stating that the Highway Department *is* willing to plow the West Barnet Station drive, but does not have a feasible method of removing all of the snow. The "back-dragging" method of plowing will result in leaving a pile of snow and ice that may create a barrier in front of the garage door.
- Faris spoke, suggesting that paving the drive to the West Barnet Station may resolve this problem. This paving could be completed at the same time as the West Main Street paving project in the summer of 2012.
- West Barnet resident George Coppenrath spoke, indicating his willingness to use his snow-blower to remove any snow left behind from "back-dragging," as referenced above.
- Roberts discussed email correspondence received from resident Sally Cook, who suggests moving the West Barnet Fire Station to a different location in West Barnet as an alternative preferable to the removable of the fire truck during the winter.
- Board agreed to address this problem this winter by instructing the Highway Department to remove the majority of the snow from the drive by "back-dragging," leaving Mr. Coppenrath to remove the small amount left behind with his snow-blower. Board also agreed to pave this drive next summer during the West Main Street paving project.

4. Decision regarding bids for Highway Department trailer

Roberts read advertisement requesting bids for the 1973 General four-ton trailer, as printed in the Caledonian-Record. Roberts opened the one bid submitted. William Nunn of East Ryegate bid \$600.

- Motion made by Faris to accept the bid of William Nunn. Seconded by Bunnell and approved by voice vote.

- Board also agreed to deposit the proceeds of this sale into the Equipment Account in the Reserve Fund.

5. Application for reimbursement of wildland fire expenses

Board reviewed and signed application for wildland fire cost reimbursement as submitted by Fire Warden Joseph Barrett.

6. Correspondence from Passumpsic Savings Bank regarding 2012 tax anticipation note

Board completed and signed required forms to initiate 2012 tax anticipation loan and reinvestment account with Passumpsic Savings Bank.

7. Correspondence from Vermont Agency of Transportation regarding Federal Emergency

Management Agency (FEMA) payments for storm events of August 27 to September 2, 2011.

Board reviewed documents detailing reimbursements received. Package received December 16, 2011 indicates that payment in the amount of \$3,360.07 has been processed for a project on Farrow Farm Road and Ferguson Road. Package received December 20, 2011 indicates that payment in the amount of \$42,820.60 has been processed for projects on Roy Mountain Road and Whitehill Road.

8. Correspondence from Vermont Department of Taxes with results of 2011 equalization study

- Read letter notifying the Town of the results of the Division of Property Valuation and Review's 2011 equalization study. Results for the Town of Barnet are as follows:
 - o Equalized Education Property Value: \$231,960,000
 - o Coefficient of Dispersion: 19.56%
 - o Education Grand List (from 411): \$2,441,269
 - o Equalized Education Grand List: \$2,319,600
 - o Common Level of Appraisal: 105.25%
- Brief discussion ensued regarding Barnet property values and the inflation of appraised values caused by the timing of the most recent town-wide reappraisal. Board instructed Town Clerk Heisholt to contact the Town's appraiser to discuss the Town's options with regard to the timing of the next town-wide reappraisal.

9. Correspondence from Caledonia County regarding revised budget report and annual meeting

Roberts read cover letter, distributed revised budget, and reviewed notice of budget meeting to be held January 7, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. at the Caledonia County Courthouse.

10. Discussion regarding change in General Fund operating account

Board reviewed proposals submitted by Community National Bank, Passumpsic Savings Bank, and Union Bank, as discussed at meeting held December 12, 2011. Treasurer Benjamin Heisholt discussed spreadsheet analysis of institutional information, account structure options, collateralization of funds in excess of FDIC insurance, rates, fees, check writing and deposit limitations, and ancillary products.

- After lengthy discussion, Board and Heisholt agreed to move the Town's general fund operating account from TD Bank to Passumpsic Savings Bank.

11. Other business

No other business was discussed.

12. Outstanding check warrants

Reviewed and signed all outstanding check warrants.

13. 2012 budget discussion

Board reviewed preliminary budget as prepared by Treasurer Heisholt and began budget discussion and editing process. Board agreed to continue budget discussions at the next regular Board meeting.

14. Adjournment

Motion made by Faris to adjourn. Seconded by Bunnell and approved by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

A true copy.

Attest: _____
Town Clerk