

**MINUTES - SELECTMEN'S MEETING
TOWN OF BARNET, VERMONT
MONDAY, JANUARY 23, 2012**

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, Ashley Raulet (Lyndon State College News 7), and Jessica Walsh (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 January 9, 2012

Motion made by Roberts to approve as presented the minutes of the regular meeting held January 9, 2012. Seconded by Bunnell and approved by voice vote.

2. Appearances by members of the public

There were no appearances by members of the public.

3. Discussion regarding opinion of Vermont Secretary of State concerning budget committee

- Faris read email from Town Agent Jay Abramson and reviewed excerpt from attached January 2012 edition of "Opinions" – a monthly publication of the Office of the Vermont Secretary of State. The excerpt states that it is the opinion of the Office of the Secretary of State that "a town cannot elect a budget committee at town meeting unless the town has a governance Charter that provides for the town to elect a budget committee." The opinion also states that the Selectboard, whose responsibility it is to prepare a budget, may appoint a budget committee to serve at the Selectboard's pleasure.
- Town Clerk Heisholt discussed his conversation with Town Agent Abramson. It is the opinion of Abramson that, due to this opinion of the Secretary of State, the budget committee as elected at town meeting is not legitimate. The Selectboard may appoint a budget committee of the same composition as board elected at town meeting, but the election of a budget committee should not be warned as an article for future town meetings.
- After brief discussion, motion made by Faris to establish a budget committee of the same composition as elected at previous town meetings, and to eliminate the election of a budget committee at future town meetings. Seconded by Bunnell and approved by voice vote.

4. Correspondence to Vermont Agency of Transportation regarding extension of Grant Term for Groton-Peacham Road project

Faris read letter and attached amendment to Standard Grant Agreement. Both items request an extension of the Grant Term from an expiration of May 19, 2012 to an expiration of November 1, 2012. Extension is required because 2011 paving was postponed due to Town resources being deployed for recovery from federally-declared flooding disasters. Brief discussion ensued.

- Board signed letter and amendment.

5. Correspondence from Vermont Agency of Transportation regarding Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) payments for storm events of May 26 to May 27, 2011 (FEMA payments received for this disaster to date total \$541,662.50)

Board reviewed documents detailing reimbursements received. Package received January 12, 2012 indicates that payment in the amount of \$79,123.22 has been processed for projects on Knights Lane, Old Silo Road, Denio Road, McLam Lane, Mosquitoville Road, Tower Road, Little France Road, Braeburn Lane, Morrison Hill Road, Gilkerson Lane, Tripp Lane, Brook Hill Road, and East Peacham Road. Package received January 23, 2012 indicates that payment in the amount of \$106,037.72 has been processed for a project on Joe's Brook Road.

6. Correspondence from Caledonia County Sheriff's Office regarding 2012-2013 service contract

Faris read contract for term of July 1, 2012 to July 1, 2013 for the Caledonia County Sheriff's Department to provide the Town with police services including the aggregate amount of six hours per week from June 1 to October 31 and four hours per week from November 1 to May 30. Town expense for contract includes officer time at the rate of \$30.00 per hour, and court time at the rate of \$30.00 per hour. Other terms and conditions read.

- After brief discussion Faris signed the contract.

7. Correspondence from Cartographic Associates, Inc. regarding GIS Services Maintenance Agreement

Faris read contract detailing the agreement between Cartographics Associates, Inc. and the Town of Barnet concerning the delivery of user support for listers' Query Manager GIS software. The cost to the Town for this support is \$500.00.

- After brief discussion, the Board signed the contract.

8. Correspondence from Town Agent Jay Abramson regarding Superior Court tax appeal Jackmauh v. Town of Barnet

Faris read cover letter and reviewed attached court Order reflecting the agreement between Gregory and Celia Jackmauh and the Town of Barnet regarding valuations of the Jackmauh property for tax years 2010, 2011, and 2012.

9. Other business

- **Winter weather conditions and roads.** Road Foreman Gibbs spoke regarding the unusual weather experienced thus far this winter. Gibbs thanked Barnet residents for their patience as the Highway Department responds to rain, freezing rain, etc.
 - o Faris thanked the Highway Department for their response to this weather, especially in the scheduling of the response.
- **Harvey' Lake Dam update.** Faris spoke regarding his recent communications with engineer Roger Damon regarding the design and implementation of upgrades to the dam.

10. Uniform Municipal Excess Weight Permits

Reviewed and approved Uniform Municipal Excess Weight Permits for Agri-Mark, Inc. DBA Cabot Creamery; KNM Transport, Inc.; and Rooster Cruiser, LLC.

11. Outstanding check warrants

Reviewed and signed all outstanding check warrants.

12. 2012 budget discussion

Finalized 2012 budget for presentation to the budget committee.

13. Discussion regarding personnel matters (executive session)

- Motion made by Roberts to enter executive session. Seconded by Bunnell and approved by voice vote. Entered executive session at 7:47 p.m. Attendance in executive session: Bunnell, Faris, Roberts, Road Foreman Timothy Gibbs and Town Clerk Heisholt.
- Motion made by Roberts to exit executive session. Seconded by Bunnell and approved by voice vote. Exited executive session at 7:58 p.m.
- Motion made by Roberts to allow vacation time as requested by Highway Department employee Glenn Fearon. Seconded by Bunnell and approved by voice vote.

14. Discussion regarding legal proceedings (executive session)

- Motion made by Roberts to enter executive session. Seconded by Bunnell and approved by voice vote. Entered executive session at 8:00 p.m. Attendance in executive session: Bunnell, Faris, Roberts, and Town Clerk Heisholt.
- Motion made by Roberts to exit executive session. Seconded by Bunnell and approved by voice vote. Exited executive session at 8:02 p.m.
- No action taken.

15. Adjournment

Motion made by Roberts to adjourn. Seconded by Bunnell and approved by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

A true copy.

Attest: _____
Town Clerk