

**MINUTES - SELECTMEN'S MEETING
TOWN OF BARNET, VERMONT
MONDAY, MARCH 26, 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 Jeremy Roberts presiding as Chair for this meeting.

Others present: Road Foreman Timothy Gibbs, Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt, Zoning Administrative Officer Shirley Warden, Harry Adamek, Corey Crown, Tammi Davis, Albert Despina III, Shawn Larocque, and Andrew Mosedale.

1. Approve minutes of regular meeting held March 12, 2012

Motion made by Faris to approve as presented the minutes of the regular meeting held March 12, 2012. Seconded by Bunnell and approved by voice vote.

2. Appearance by Andrew Mosedale regarding e-Vermont Community Broadband Project

Mr. Mosedale discussed the history of Barnet's involvement in this project. In 2009 the Board appointed Mr. Mosedale to investigate and report to the Board findings regarding the potential of the Town's participation. The Town submitted a letter of interest to the Vermont Council on Rural Development in 2009. There has been little activity with this project for several years. Mr. Mosedale discussed a conference organized by e-Vermont entitled *Vermont's Digital Future*; he asked if the Board would like him to attend this event and report his findings.

- Motion made by Faris that the Town pay the cost of Mr. Mosedale attending this conference. Seconded by Bunnell and approved by voice vote.

3. Annual review of Ordinance for Regulating All-Terrain Vehicles (ATVs)

- Board reviewed list of mileages associated with roads to which access is requested. A total of 14.71 miles of Town Highway is requested.
- Tammi Davis of the Barnet Trailblazers ATV Club spoke regarding off-road trails the club has secured access for, and those for which it is attempting to gain access from landowners. The road mileage for trails will decrease if the club is able to gain more off-road trail access. Roberts requested that the club keep the Board updated regarding these changes.
- Harry Adamek asked what public notice is made regarding specific roads on which access is requested prior to this annual review.
 - o Roberts responded: The Board did not have trail mileage prior to this meeting. Annual review always occurs on the first regular Selectboard meeting after Town Meeting. Announcement is made at regular Selectboard meeting prior to this meeting, and appears in the minutes to that meeting. Last year the Board addressed the matter over the course of two regular Selectboard meetings; this is the second regular meeting this year.
- Harry Adamek expressed his opposition to ATV usage on Ferguson Road, stating that the ATV access to this road creates a dangerous intersection.
 - o Discussion regarding this intersection followed.
- Board agreed to postpone decision regarding this matter until the next regular meeting; Board requested that the Town Clerk place a notice in the Caledonian-Record stating the road access requested by the club, and the time and place of the next meeting.

4. Appearances by other members of the public

There were no appearances by other members of the public.

5. Auditors' report for Barnet Fire & Rescue

Roberts read report for audit of fiscal years 2005 through 2011. This audit was conducted at the request of the Selectboard due to the retirement of former Treasurer Wayne Achilles. The auditors found no errors or obvious evidence of wrong-doing, but recommended several changes in methods and procedures.

6. Correspondence from J & B Property Maintenance (J & B) regarding 2012 mowing of town properties

Roberts read letter indicating that J & B will perform 2012 mowing services for the price of \$2,200. J & B performed this work in 2010 and 2011 for \$2,100 per year. Brief discussion followed.

- Motion made by Faris to award the 2012 mowing of town properties to J & B. Seconded by Bunnell and passed by voice vote.
- Faris discussed his recent communication with Jeremy Bean of J & B, in which Mr. Bean asked if the town wishes to hire him to sweep sand in the parking lots of the Town Clerk's Office, Library Building, and Town Hall/former Fire Station. Board requested that Town Clerk inquire with Mr. Bean regarding the rate charged for this service.

7. Appointment of Prudential Committee member for East Barnet Fire District

Town Clerk Heisholt discussed his recent communication with East Barnet Fire District Prudential Committee member Gloria Chamberlain. Mrs. Chamberlain is no longer a resident of East Barnet, making her ineligible to serve on the prudential committee, and her seat on the Committee vacant. The selectboard, pursuant to 20 V.S.A. § 2485, must make appointments to fill vacancies in prudential committees of fire districts located within the town until an election can be had at the next annual or special fire district meeting. The East Barnet Fire District holds its annual meeting on the second Wednesday of May. Brief discussion followed.

- The Board agreed to table this matter.

8. Correspondence from Mudgett Jennett & Krogh-Wisner, P.C. regarding 2011 audit

Roberts read letter detailing hourly rates and estimated number of hours required for audit. Brief discussion followed.

- With Board's approval, Roberts signed letter defining arrangements for audit services.

9. Correspondence from Vermont Agency of Transportation regarding Highway Safety Improvement Projects

Board reviewed Maintenance Agreement, as discussed at previous Board meeting.

- Board signed agreement.

10. Correspondence from Barnet Fire & Rescue regarding Public Safety Officers Benefit Act pre-certification

Roberts read letter and attached pre-certification statement. This statement confirms that Barnet Fire & Rescue is a unit of the Town of Barnet; its filing serves to expedite the delivery of benefits in the event that a volunteer is injured or killed in the line of duty.

- With Board's approval, Faris signed the statement.

11. 2012 liquor and tobacco license renewal applications of Paul's Whistle Stop

Reviewed and approved applications of Paul's Whistle Stop for liquor and tobacco licenses for period ending April 30, 2013.

12. Correspondence from Vermont Agency of Administration and Vermont Agency of Transportation regarding reduction of local share of Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) grants

Roberts read letters discussing possible legislative action that would decrease the Town's share of 2011 FEMA eligible flood repair projects. If implemented, this change could reduce the Town's share of eligible costs from 10% to 5%. To facilitate this change, revised Standard Subgrant Agreements are required. Brief discussion followed.

- With Board's approval, Roberts signed revised Standard Subgrant Agreements for the May 26 to May 27, 2011 flood event and 2011 Federal Highway Administration flood projects (Comerford Dam Road).

13. Appearance by Road Foreman Timothy Gibbs regarding Highway Department matters

- **Chloride.** Gibbs discussed his recent communications with a purveyor of magnesium chloride, a product that is an alternative to calcium chloride. Brief discussion followed regarding the advantages and disadvantages of changing products.
 - o Board agreed, on the recommendation of Gibbs, to continue use of calcium chloride; Board requested informational literature regarding magnesium chloride.
- **Early mud season.** Gibbs discussed the early mud season caused by unusually warm weather last week. During most mud seasons, due to cold temperatures at night, the roads are "hard" in the early morning. This allows the Highway Department to apply gravel and otherwise improve road conditions. This year, however, the weather has been so warm as to cause the roads to be "soft" even in the early morning; operating heavy equipment on the roads therefore causes as much damage as repair. The Highway Department continues to monitor and maintain roads as necessary.

14. Other business

- **South Peacham Brook and Harvey's Lake Beach.** Faris reported on Faris and Bunnell's site visit to South Peacham Brook and Harvey's Lake Beach. The Lake Harvey Association has expressed interest in working with the Town to address concerns.

15. Uniform Municipal Excess Weight Permits

Reviewed and approved Uniform Municipal Excess Weight Permits for Calkins Rock Products, Inc./Calkins Sand & Gravel, Inc., Camp Precast Concrete Products, Inc., Cardinal Logistics Management Corporation, Larry Flood, H.A. Manosh Corp., Mathews Excavating, and Arthur Whitcomb.

16. Outstanding check warrants

Reviewed and signed all outstanding check warrants.

17. Personnel matters (executive session)

- Motion made by Faris to enter executive session. Seconded by Bunnell and approved by voice vote. Entered executive session at 8:40 p.m. Attendance in executive session: Bunnell, Faris, Roberts, Road Foreman Timothy Gibbs, and Town Clerk Heisholt.
- Motion made by Faris to exit executive session. Seconded by Bunnell and approved by voice vote. Exited executive session at 8:47 p.m.
- No action taken.

18. 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