

**MINUTES - SELECTMEN'S MEETING
TOWN OF BARNET, VERMONT
MONDAY, OCTOBER 22, 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 presided as Chair for this meeting.

Others present: Road Foreman Keith Gadapee, Zoning Administrative Officer Shirley Warden, Elyssa Ellis (Lyndon State College News 7), Gordon Goss, and Tyler Kittleman (Lyndon State College News 7)

1. Approve minutes of regular meeting held October 8, 2012

Mr. Faris moved to approve as presented the minutes of the regular meeting held October 8, 2012. Seconded by Mr. Bunnell and approved by voice vote.

2. Appearances by members of the public

- **Gordon Goss: Bony Woods Road.** Mr. Goss appeared to request improvement of the condition of Bony Woods Road, including repair of a wash in the traveled portion of the road, and the replacement of a culvert.
 - The Board instructed Road Foreman Keith Gadapee to meet with Mr. Goss at the site to determine a course of action.

3. Appearance by Road Foreman Keith Gadapee

- **Bridge Street railroad crossing.** Mr. Gadapee discussed a railroad crossing in poor condition, as discussed at prior Board meetings. Discussion ensued.
 - Mr. Roberts indicated that he will provide Mr. Gadapee with contact information for the State of Vermont, so that Mr. Gadapee may request repair of this crossing.
- **Better Backroads grant.** Mr. Gadapee indicated that there is a grant available, which he would like to pursue, for water quality improvement through improvements of stream banks, etc. Discussion regarding potential projects ensued.
 - The Board agreed to pursue this grant.
- **Vermont Agency of Transportation Class Two Roadway Grants and Structures Grants.** Mr. Gadapee discussed these annual grant opportunities for paving of Class Two roads and for projects involving bridges and large culverts. Barnet is likely to be eligible to receive funding for these in 2013. Mr. Gadapee indicated specific projects that he would like to pursue using these grants.
 - The Board agreed to pursue these grants.
- **Winter operations.** Mr. Gadapee discussed changes in plow routes for the upcoming winter season due to there being one fewer employee in the Highway Department as compared with the past several winter seasons.
- **Discussion regarding personnel matters (executive session)**
 - Mr. Bunnell moved to enter executive session. Seconded by Mr. Faris and approved by voice vote. Entered executive session at 7:19 p.m. Attendance in executive session: Mr. Faris, Mr. Roberts, Mr. Bunnell, and Mr. Gadapee.
 - Mr. Bunnell moved to exit executive session. Seconded by Mr. Faris and approved by voice vote. Exited executive session at 7:41 p.m.
 - No action taken.

4. Discussion regarding tax appeal of TransCanada Hydro Northeast Inc.

- The Board discussed partnering with the towns of Newbury and Waterford, whose tax valuations are also under appeal by TransCanada.
- The Board reviewed a proposed agreement to hire George E. Sansoucy, P.E. LLC to provide consultation services in the appeal. Discussion ensued.
 - The Board signed the agreement.

5. Correspondence from Town Agent Jay Abramson regarding sale of Passumpsic Village Store

The Board reviewed a draft purchase and sale agreement as prepared by Mr. Abramson, who requested that the Board indicate their preference with regard to the closing date and amount of deposit to be paid with the signing of the agreement.

- The Board agreed that the closing date should be as soon as possible, but that no specific deadline is required, and that no deposit with the signing of the agreement will be required.

6. Discussion regarding fuel bids

Mr. Roberts read the request for bids made by the Town; service required is the delivery of fuel oil, propane, and diesel fuel to all Town locations for the period of November 1, 2012 through May 31, 2013. Board reviewed bids submitted, which were from Dead River Company, Fred's Propane & Heating Oil, and Patten's Gas. Discussion ensued.

- The Board agreed to accept the bid of Fred's Propane & Heating Oil, and to continue to purchase all products at the fluctuating price based on the rack price.

7. Discussion regarding 2013 health care plan

The Board reviewed notes from Treasurer Benjamin Heisholt indicating 2013 rates for the Town's current plan will be the same as the 2012 rates, and that in 2014 the Town will be required to change plans due to the new health care exchange. Discussion ensued.

- The Board agreed to keep the current plan in 2013.

8. Correspondence from Vermont Agency of Transportation regarding bridge #46 over Peacham Hollow Brook

The Board reviewed a letter indicating that findings from a recent inspection lead to recommendations for repair of the bridge rail system of this bridge on Somerhill Road. Discussion ensued.

- The Board agreed to table this matter pending its review by Road Foreman Keith Gadapee.

9. Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation Petroleum Cleanup Fund request for reimbursement form

The Board reviewed documents relating to professional services and expenses for monitoring groundwater wells at the Passumpsic Village Store. Total reimbursement requested by Lincoln Applied Geology is \$1,082.06.

- Mr. Roberts signed the request form.

10. Correspondence from Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation regarding Federal Excess Personal Property Cooperative Agreement

Mr. Roberts read a cover letter and the Board reviewed the cooperative agreement relating to the use of Federal Excess Personal Property (a 1954 Willys truck) by Barnet Fire & Rescue through the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation. Fire Chief Ronald Morse has indicated that this contract is agreeable to Barnet Fire & Rescue.

- The Board signed the agreement.

11. Correspondence from Northeast Kingdom Waste Management District (NEKWMD) regarding amendment to Solid Waste Management Plan (SWIP)

Mr. Roberts read a letter indicating that the NEKWMD will vote on November 13, 2012 on an amendment to include the Towns of Glover and Newbury in the SWIP.

12. Correspondence from Better Backroads regarding delay in application process

Mr. Roberts read a letter indicating that there will be a delay in the application process for grants due to uncertainty about whether federal funds can be used for the Better Backroads program.

13. Correspondence from Cartographic Associates regarding 2013 Tax Map Maintenance Proposal

The Board reviewed proposal and contract. Terms of proposal and contract, including annual cost (\$1,950) are the same as the 2012 proposal and contract.

- The Board signed the contract.

14. Other business

- **Transfer Station signs.** The Board discussed signs purchased for the Transfer Station by Supervisor Bruce Marston.
- **Zero-Sort Recycling.** The Board discussed a new option provided by Casella Waste Systems, Inc. that does not require sorting of recyclables.

15. Outstanding check warrants

The Board reviewed and signed all outstanding check warrants.

16. Adjournment

Mr. Faris moved to adjourn. Seconded by Mr. Bunnell and approved by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 8:19 p.m.

A true copy.

Attest: _____
Town Clerk