

**MINUTES  
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING  
TOWN OF BARNET, VERMONT  
MARCH 1, 2011**

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. at the Barnet Elementary School gymnasium by Moderator Dennis McLam. The Barnet Elementary School band played the National Anthem. Moderator Dennis McLam led the salute to the flag.

**ARTICLE 1. To elect a Moderator.**

- Moderator stated that one-year term of Dennis McLam is expiring.
- Dennis McLam nominated by Mona Marceau.
- Mona Marceau made motion that nominations cease. Seconded.
- Moderator instructed Town Clerk to cast one ballot for Dennis McLam.

**ARTICLE 2. To elect all other Town Officers as required by law and additional Town Officers as approved by the voters.**

Selectman

- Moderator stated that three-year term of Theodore Faris is expiring.
- Theodore Faris nominated by Stanley Robinson.
- Marvin Bailey made motion that nominations cease. Seconded.
- Moderator instructed Town Clerk to cast one ballot for Theodore Faris.
- Theodore Faris spoke, thanking Selectmen for their cooperation and the public for their support during his nine years as a Selectman.
- Timothy Gibbs spoke: There have been some public complaints regarding the Selectboard and Highway Department. Fiscal information and Selectboard meetings are open, but those who complain do not avail themselves of these opportunities. Also thanked the Selectmen for their service.

Lister – Full term

- Moderator stated that three-year term of Marvin Bailey is expiring.
- Ronald Morse nominated by Joseph Barrett.
- Motion made that nominations cease. Seconded by Mona Marceau.
- Moderator instructed Town Clerk to cast one ballot for Ronald Morse.

Lister – Partial term

- Moderator stated that John Cook was appointed by Selectmen due to the resignation of David Warden. Election must be provided for the two remaining years of Warden's three-year term.
- John Cook nominated by Mona Marceau.
- Mona Marceau made motion that nominations cease. Seconded.
- Moderator instructed Town Clerk to cast one ballot for John Cook.

#### Auditor – Partial term

- Moderator stated that Jonathan Smires was appointed by the Selectmen. Election must be provided for the two remaining years of this three-year term.
- Jonathan Smires nominated by David Warden.
- Hearing no further nominations, Moderator announced that nominations would cease.
- Moderator instructed Town Clerk to cast one ballot for Jonathan Smires.

#### Auditor – Full term

- Moderator stated that the three-year term of Ronald Langley is expiring.
- Ronald Langley nominated by Mona Marceau.
  - Ronald Langley declined nomination.
- Robert Roos asked regarding the qualifications required for this position.
  - Theodore Faris responded that only basic mathematical skills are required.
- Robert Roos nominated by Theodore Faris.
- Mona Marceau made motion that nominations cease. Seconded.
- Moderator instructed Town Clerk to cast one ballot for Robert Roos.

#### Collector of Delinquent Tax

- Moderator stated that one-year term of Lisa Bowden is expiring.
- Lisa Bowden nominated by Mark Gilleland.
- John Cook made motion that nominations cease. Seconded.
- Moderator instructed Town Clerk to cast one ballot for Lisa Bowden.

#### First Constable

- Moderator stated that two-year term of Timothy Gibbs is expiring.
- Timothy Gibbs nominated by David Stevenson.
- Hearing no further nominations, Moderator announced that nominations would cease.
- Moderator instructed Town Clerk to cast one ballot for Timothy Gibbs.

#### Second Constable

- Moderator stated that two-year term of David Stevenson is expiring.
- David Stevenson nominated by Leigh Larocque.
- Mona Marceau made motion that nominations cease. Seconded.
- Moderator instructed Town Clerk to cast one ballot for David Stevenson.

#### Grand Juror

- Moderator stated that one-year term of Michael Bergeron is expiring.
- Michael Bergeron nominated by Mona Marceau.
- Hearing no further nominations, Moderator announced that nominations would cease.
- Moderator instructed Town Clerk to cast one ballot for Michael Bergeron.

### Town Agent

- Moderator stated that one-year term of Jay Abramson is expiring.
- Jay Abramson nominated by Mona Marceau.
- Hearing no further nominations, Moderator announced that nominations would cease.
- Moderator instructed Town Clerk to cast one ballot for Jay Abramson.

### Trustee of Public Funds

- Moderator stated that three-year term of Merle Fitzgerald is expiring.
- Merle Fitzgerald nominated.
- Mona Marceau made motion that nominations cease. Seconded.
- Moderator instructed Town Clerk to cast one ballot for Merle Fitzgerald.

### Library Trustee

- Moderator stated that five-year term of Alan Boye is expiring.
- Alan Boye nominated by Sherry Tolle.
- Mona Marceau made motion that nominations cease. Seconded.
- Moderator instructed Town Clerk to cast one ballot for Alan Boye.

### **ARTICLE 3. To consider and act upon the report of the Town Auditors.**

- Mona Marceau made motion to accept the report of the Town Auditors as it appears on page twenty-nine of the Town Report. Seconded.
- Passed by voice vote.

### **ARTICLE 4. Shall the Town of Barnet appropriate the sum of Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$250.00) to the American Red Cross, Northern Vermont Chapter?**

- David Warden made motion to so move. Seconded by Mona Marceau.
- Passed by voice vote.

### **ARTICLE 5. Shall the Town of Barnet appropriate the sum of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) to Area Agency on Aging for Northeastern Vermont?**

- Motion made to so move. Seconded by Mona Marceau.
- Passed by voice vote.

### **ARTICLE 6. Shall the Town of Barnet appropriate the sum of Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) to the Barnet Historical Society to be used for maintaining the Goodwillie House?**

- David Warden made motion to so move. Seconded by Mona Marceau.
- Passed by voice vote.

**ARTICLE 7. Shall the Town of Barnet appropriate the sum of Two Thousand Three Hundred Dollars (\$2,300.00) to Caledonia Home Health Care?**

- Motion made to so move. Seconded by Sally Cook.
- Passed by voice vote.

**ARTICLE 8. Shall the Town of Barnet appropriate the sum of Seven Thousand One Hundred Sixty Dollars (\$7,160.00) to CALEX Ambulance Service?**

- Mona Marceau made motion to so move. Seconded.
- Passed by voice vote.

**ARTICLE 9. Shall the Town of Barnet appropriate the sum of Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) to Catamount Arts?**

- Robert Roos made motion to so move. Seconded by Mona Marceau.
- Passed by voice vote.

**ARTICLE 10. Shall the Town of Barnet appropriate the sum of One Thousand Seven Hundred Dollars (\$1,700.00) to Fairbanks Museum and Planetarium?**

- Mona Marceau made motion to so move. Seconded.
- Robert Roos asked why we give so much more to Fairbanks Museum and Planetarium than we give to Catamount Arts.
  - Mona Marceau responded: The warned appropriation amounts are specifically requested by the agencies. The Selectboard does not determine the amount of the appropriation.
- Passed by voice vote.

**ARTICLE 11. Shall the Town of Barnet appropriate the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000) to the Lake Harvey Association to be used for a boat monitoring/wash program dedicated to the prevention of milfoil and other invasive species at Harvey's Lake?**

- Merle Fitzgerald made motion to so move. Seconded by Mona Marceau.
- Catherine Hinchey asked why the salaries associated with the boat monitoring/wash program are not printed in the Town Report.
  - Jan Sherman responded: Although the program's payroll is administered by the Town of Barnet, its employees are not employees of the Town. The appropriation is paid to the Association primarily through these payroll expenditures, which usually exceed \$10,000. This excess is refunded the Town through donations to the Association.
- Mona Marceau asked what the current situation is regarding contaminated backflow into the lake that became a concern in the summer of 2010.
  - Theodore Faris responded: There was a discharge from the South Peacham Brook

that caused contamination of the backflow into the lake from the Harvey's Lake Dam. Twice-daily lake water samples were taken, and tested by Gould Well Drilling. The blast gate of the dam was opened for approximately five days to clear the contamination and resolve the situation.

- Passed by voice vote.

**ARTICLE 12. Shall the Town of Barnet appropriate the sum of One Thousand Seven Hundred Seventy-Five Dollars (\$1,775.00) to Northeast Kingdom Human Services, Inc.?**

- Motion made to so move. Seconded by Mona Marceau.
- Passed by voice vote.

**ARTICLE 13. Shall the Town of Barnet appropriate the sum of Three Hundred Dollars (\$300.00) to Northeast Kingdom Learning Services, Inc.?**

- Mona Marceau made motion to so move. Seconded by Robert Roos.
- Passed by voice vote.

**ARTICLE 14. Shall the Town of Barnet appropriate the sum of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) to Northeast Kingdom Youth Services?**

- Robert Roos made motion to so move. Seconded by Mona Marceau.
- Passed by voice vote.

**ARTICLE 15. Shall the Town of Barnet appropriate the sum of One Thousand One Hundred Dollars (\$1,100.00) to Rural Community Transportation?**

- Mona Marceau made motion to so move. Seconded.
- Gail Warnaar spoke: Rural Community Transportation (RCT) should make Barnet Village and West Barnet Village a part of their regular route.
  - Theodore Faris responded: This is agreed, but Barnet receives back the value of this appropriation in medical emergency services.
  - Shirley Warden spoke, quoting the report of RCT appearing in the Town Report. This states that RCT "provided Barnet residents with 1,617 trips accumulating 44,334 miles over the past year."
  - Sherry Tolle spoke, stating that the RCT van drives past her house almost daily.
- Passed by voice vote.

**ARTICLE 16. Shall the Town of Barnet appropriate the sum of Four Hundred Dollars (\$400.00) to Umbrella Inc.?**

- Mary Mallon made motion to so move. Seconded.
- Passed by voice vote.

**ARTICLE 17. Shall the Town of Barnet appropriate the sum of Two Hundred Eighty Dollars (\$280.00) to the Vermont Center for Independent Living?**

- Robert Roos made motion to so move. Seconded by Mary Mallon.
- Passed by voice vote.

**ARTICLE 18. Shall the Town of Barnet appropriate the sum of Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000.00) to the West Barnet Senior Meal Site?**

- Mona Marceau made motion to so move. Seconded.
- Carol Robinson made motion to amend Marceau's motion by increasing this appropriation to \$2,500.
- Mary Faris asked if the Meal Site has increased its price.
  - Karolyn Farman responded: The price has not been increased for approximately four years. The Meal Site has seen consistent attendance.
- Merle Fitzgerald spoke: It is agreed that the Meal Site is a worthwhile program, but, given current economic uncertainty, it is not appropriate to give any organization a larger appropriation than requested. Also asked if the Meal Site asks for an appropriation from any other towns, given that it draws many customers from surrounding communities.
- Richard Roosa spoke: The "price" referred to is not actually a price but a suggested donation, which is not required for service.
- Karolyn Farman spoke: It is believed that the Meal Site also requests an appropriation from the Town of Monroe, New Hampshire.
- Heidi Kohnke spoke, asking where the Meal Site gains revenue, if it does not earn enough from its customers.
  - Karolyn Farman responded: The Meal Site also receives some reimbursement from the Area Agency on Aging. Food prices are increasing, however, making it difficult to keep the program out of a deficit.
- Amendment to motion passed by voice vote.
- Amended motion passed by voice vote.

**ARTICLE 19. To see if the Town will elect two members of the Budget Committee for three years, and if so to provide for their election.**

Decision to elect

- Mona Marceau made motion to elect two members of the Budget Committee for three years. Seconded.
- Passed by voice vote.

Election

- William Hoar nominated by Jeremy Roberts.
- Sylvia Laferriere nominated by Theodore Faris.
- Mona Marceau made motion that nominations cease. Seconded.
- William Hoar and Sylvia Laferriere elected by voice vote.

**ARTICLE 20. To see what arrangements the Town and Town School District will vote for the collection of its taxes and by what lawful official for the ensuing year.**

- Lisa Bowden made motion that taxes be made payable to the Town Treasurer during business hours on or before October 15, 2011, with said taxes to be actually received in hand by said Treasurer on or before the due date without regard to postmark; and thereafter said taxes shall be payable to the Collector of Delinquent Tax with interest at the rate of 1% per month or fraction thereof for the first three months, and thereafter at the rate of 1 ½ % per month or fraction thereof, plus the collector's fee as provided by law. Seconded by Mona Marceau.
- Passed by voice vote.
- Mona Marceau asked what the procedures of a tax sale are.
  - Lisa Bowden responded: Tax sales are conducted as a last resort when the Collector has not received cooperation, good faith payments, or intent to pay from the taxpayer.
  - Mona Marceau asked what the specific mechanics of a tax sale are, in terms of ownership of the property or redemption thereof.
  - Lisa Bowden responded: The winning bidder must place the amount of his bid on deposit with the Town, with 1% per month interest to be paid by the delinquent taxpayer. The taxpayer is granted a period of one year, from the date of the tax sale, to redeem the property by paying the amount due in taxes, interest, penalties and fees on the property, in addition to the interest paid to the winning bidder. If it is not redeemed, the property becomes the possession of the winning bidder at the end of the one-year period.

**ARTICLE 21. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise to defray the expenses and liabilities of the Town for the current year.**

- Theodore Faris noted that the appropriation requests are increased, compared to the budgets as they appear in the Town report, due to the increase of the appropriation to the West Barnet Senior Meal Site made in Article 18. Therefore, Faris made motion to raise the sum of \$567,703 for the Selectmen's budget and \$512,250 for the Highway budget, for a total of \$1,079,953. Seconded by Mary Mallon.
- Mona Marceau asked what the Selectboard plans for road projects this year.
  - Theodore Faris responded: The Selectboard plans to finish the project on the Peacham-Groton Road that it started in 2010, as well as working on projects in West Barnet Village and on Denio Road.
- Peter Everts suggested that the Selectboard budget more for fuel, given the recent trend upwards in oil prices.
  - Theodore Faris responded: It is too difficult to predict fuel prices for the Board to react to short-term trends. Gallon usage is down due to the Highway Department's implementation of measures to reduce mileage in sanding and salting roads.
- Passed by voice vote.

**ARTICLE 22. To transact any other business that may legally come before the meeting.**

- Mary Mallon spoke regarding the Barnet Public Library’s second annual “Art at the Library Event” to be held July 4, 2011.
- Leigh Larocque spoke regarding his efforts on behalf of the Town of Barnet in the State Legislature, including the acquisition of a grant to pay for the recently-completed installation of an emergency generator at the Barnet School.
- Shirley Warden spoke regarding the Northeast Kingdom Waste Management District. As of July 1, 2011, there will be no charge for electronics at the Recycling Center. Also, on June 15, 2011 there will be a hazardous waste collection date at the Barnet Transfer Station.
- Sherry Tolle spoke to encourage participation in the bottle drive at the Transfer Station. Funds benefit the Barnet Good Neighbor Fund, a charity benefiting Barnet families in need.
- Shellie Samuels spoke to announce that there would be a multimedia presentation, highlighting the Winter Wellness program at the Barnet School, on display during the lunch break between Town and School District meetings.
- Catherine Hinchey asked regarding the potential relocation of the Transfer Station and Recycling Center to the site of the Town Garage.
  - Moderator Dennis McLam responded that this is a long-term plan, not to be completed in the near future.
- Merle Fitzgerald made motion to adjourn. Seconded.
- Jeremy Roberts presented gifts, vintage Etch-A-Sketch toys, to Selectman Theodore Faris from Selectmen Roberts and Gary Bunnell, in appreciation for his service to the Board.
- Veer-Tess Frost spoke concerning handouts from the Audubon Society available at the rear of the gymnasium, regarding protection of birds.
- Motion to adjourn passed by voice vote.
- Meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

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Dennis McLam, Moderator

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Theodore Faris, Selectman

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Attest: Benjamin Heisholt, Town Clerk