

**MINUTES - SELECTMEN'S MEETING
TOWN OF BARNET, VERMONT
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2013**

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, Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt, Zoning Administrative Officer Shirley Warden, Judith Salamandra Corso (Reid & Balivet), Sara Hamelin (Lyndon State College News 7), Barbara Warden, David Warden, and Celina Wright (CALEX Ambulance Service).

1. Approve minutes of regular meeting held January 28, 2013 and special meeting held February 6, 2013

Mr. Faris moved to approve as presented the minutes of the regular meeting held January 28, 2013. Seconded by Mr. Bunnell and approved by voice vote.

Mr. Faris moved to approve as presented the minutes of the special meeting held February 6, 2013. Seconded by Mr. Bunnell and approved by voice vote.

2. Appearance by Celina Wright of CALEX Ambulance Service regarding 2013 appropriation request

Ms. Wright, CALEX's town representative for Barnet, appeared to explain the reasons for CALEX's increased appropriation request for 2013 – changing from \$7,160 in 2012 to \$17,050. Ms. Wright explained CALEX's income structure, and why CALEX requests appropriations generally. She then explained that CALEX has not increased appropriation requests in the past decade, and has experienced "significant losses" in the past two years. These factors have contributed, according to Ms. Wright, to make it impossible for CALEX to continue providing the same services without increasing revenue.

3. Appearance by Barbara Warden regarding use of Town Hall for 250th anniversary event

Ms. Warden appeared to request the use of the Town Hall for a box social and old-fashioned line dance/square dance on August 15, 2013, as a part of the Town's 250th anniversary celebration. Discussion ensued.

- Mr. Faris moved to allow use of the Town Hall for this event. Seconded by Mr. Bunnell and approved by voice vote.

Ms. Warden also discussed organizing a 250th anniversary parade along Granger Street, Bimson Drive, and West Barnet Road from the Town Garage to the Barnet Elementary School.

- Mr. Faris moved to allow use of town highways, and to promote this event. Seconded by Mr. Bunnell and approved by voice vote.

4. Appearance by Judith Salamandra Corso of Reid & Balivet regarding lease land

Ms. Salamandra Corso appeared to discuss a real estate transaction in which Reid & Balivet represents the seller. It involves land presently owned by Edward A. Donovan III, in which the Town holds a reversionary interest as a town school lease lot. The purchasers have requested that the Town release its interest, pursuant to 24 V.S.A. Sec. 2406. Ms. Salamandra Corso presented a proposed quitclaim deed and Vermont Property Transfer Tax Return. Discussion ensued.

- The Board requested that Ms. Salamandra Corso forward the release documents to Town Agent Jay Abramson for his review.

5. Appearances by other members of the public

There were no appearances by others members of the public.

6. Appearance by Road Foreman Keith Gadapee regarding Highway Department matters

- a) **Calcium chloride spreader.** Mr. Gadapee discussed an offer he has received from the Town's calcium chloride vendor to lease a spreader for the cost of one dollar per year with a contract to purchase calcium chloride from this vendor for three years. This spreader would offer advantages over the Town's current spreader, allowing for mist application and possible use for salt brine application for winter maintenance. Mr. Gadapee indicated that he will inquire with three different calcium chloride vendors to determine if other vendors make this offer, and who offers the best price.
- b) **Roadside mower.** Mr. Gadapee and the Board continued their discussion regarding the potential purchase of a tractor with roadside mower attachment. Staff time logistics, operator and repair costs, and lease possibilities were discussed.
- c) **Town Garage lights.** Mr. Roberts discussed repair of light fixtures at the Town Garage, coordinating with Mr. Gadapee for staging and removal of trucks from the shop floor.
- d) **Driveway culvert maintenance.** Mr. Gadapee discussed a paragraph appearing on the Town's application for highway access permits, which indicates that the applicant must maintain the driveway culvert. This, Mr. Gadapee indicated, is in conflict with his understanding that the Town must maintain driveway culverts. Discussion ensued.
 - The Board instructed Mr. Gadapee to continue to maintain driveway culverts, unless the access does not have a permit, or for some other reason Town maintenance is in doubt. In such cases, the Board instructed Mr. Gadapee to consult the Road Commissioner.

7. Application for Highway Access Permit of Conant Family Trust

The Board reviewed an application for a highway access permit at 545 Keyser Hill Road. Road Foreman Keith Gadapee indicated that a culvert is not required for this permit, and recommended approval. Discussion ensued.

- The Board agreed to approve the permit; Mr. Roberts signed the permit.

8. Discussion regarding sale of Passumpsic Village Store

Treasurer Benjamin Heisholt asked how the Selectmen would like to apply the proceeds from the sale of the Passumpsic Village Store, which was sold to Cooley Brothers, LLC on February 6, 2013 for \$18,000, of which the net proceeds were \$17,250. Discussion ensued regarding Town obligations in connection with the Vermont Petroleum Cleanup Fund's reimbursement of the site's groundwater monitoring.

- The Board instructed Mr. Heisholt to determine whether there is any liability remaining to be paid the Vermont Petroleum Cleanup Fund prior to applying the proceeds to any particular fund.

9. Correspondence from Law Offices of Salmon & Nostrand regarding TransCanada tax appeal

Mr. Roberts read copies of two letters. The first, addressed to Robert E. Woolmington, Esq., attorney for TransCanada, indicates that the Town intends to use George E. Sansoucy of George E. Sansoucy, PE, LLC as its expert in the appeal. The second, addressed to Vermont Superior Court, indicates that Mr. Coutant of Salmon & Nostrand will be on vacation from April 12, 2013 through April 29, 2013.

10. Correspondence from ESRI regarding maintenance quote

The Board reviewed the maintenance quote for Lister ArcGIS mapping software. Annual cost for service is \$400.

- Mr. Faris moved to approve the maintenance contract. Seconded by Mr. Bunnell and approved by voice vote.

11. Caledonia County revised proposed 2013/2014 budget

The Board reviewed the revised proposed budget as of January 31, 2013. Total proposed expenditures are \$442,926.

12. Solid Waste Transfer Station Report from Vermont Solid Waste Management Program

Mr. Roberts reviewed the highlights of the report detailing fourth quarter 2012 waste disposed (total of 69.58 tons) and waste recycled (total of 27.6 tons) at the Barnet Transfer Station and Recycling Center.

13. Correspondence from Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation regarding Draft General Permit

Mr. Roberts read a cover letter, and the Board reviewed the attached notice of the issuance of a draft permit for new discharges of regulated storm water runoff to all Class A and B waters in the State, and its public comment period.

14. Uniform Municipal Excess Weight Permit application

The Board reviewed and approved the fleet permit application of Agri-Mark, Inc., DBA Cabot Creamery.

15. Other business

- a) **Access to Town Forest.** Mr. Roberts discussed recent communications with the Passumpsic Valley Land Trust and the forester from St. Johnsbury Academy regarding the Selectboard granting access to the Town Forest. The Board discussed creating a trail for entering the Town Forest safely without access to the Town pit.
- b) **Transfer Station compactor.** Shirley Warden discussed repairs made to the compactor recently. Mr. Roberts, who performed the repairs, discussed the condition of the compactor.

16. Outstanding check warrants

The Board reviewed and approved all outstanding check warrants.

17. Discussion regarding legal proceedings (executive session)

- Mr. Faris moved to enter executive session. Seconded by Mr. Bunnell and approved by voice vote. Entered executive session at 8:15 p.m. Attendance in executive session: Mr. Faris, Mr. Roberts, Mr. Bunnell, and Mr. Heisholt.
- Mr. Faris moved to exit executive session. Seconded by Mr. Bunnell and approved by voice vote. Exited executive session at 8:22 p.m.
- No action taken

18. Adjournment

Mr. Faris moved to adjourn. Seconded by Mr. Bunnell and approved by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

A true copy.

Attest: _____
Town Clerk