

**MINUTES - SELECTMEN'S MEETING
TOWN OF BARNET, VERMONT
MONDAY, JULY 22, 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, Tanya Chambers (Vermont League of Cities & Towns), and Ronald Morse.

1. Approve minutes of regular meeting held July 8, 2013

Mr. Faris moved to approve as presented the minutes of the regular meeting held July 8, 2013.

Seconded by Mr. Bunnell and approved by voice vote.

2. Appearances by members of the public

There were no appearances by members of the public.

3. Appearance by Tanya Chambers of Vermont League of Cities & Towns regarding health system reform

Ms. Chambers appeared at the request of the Board to discuss changes in the Town's health insurance benefit, as mandated by changes in federal and state law effective January 1, 2014. Ms. Chambers reviewed a checklist of actions the Town must take prior to January 1, 2014 if it wishes to continue to offer a health insurance benefit to employees, and discussed various options the Town has under the new laws. Discussion ensued.

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

a. Carter Street retaining wall. Mr. Gadapee reported that Mr. Ruggles, per the Board's direction, made test borings, and is currently at work on structural design prints.

b. Gravel crushing. Mr. Gadapee indicated that gravel crushing is underway, and is progressing well.

c. Structures and Class 2 Roadway grants. Mr. Gadapee informed the Board that he has received the expected confirmation from the Vermont Agency of Transportation that the grant applications for the Anderson Street box culvert project and the West Main Street road construction project have been approved.

d. Better Backroads grant application. The application for a drainage project on Somerhill Road has been submitted. A response from the Agency of Transportation is expected in August.

e. Part-time flaggers. Mr. Gadapee asked whether the Board prefers to hire certified professionals or local non-certified workers to perform flagging for this year's paving and construction projects. Discussion ensued.

- The Board agreed to hire local non-certified workers at the rate of \$13.25 per hour.

f. Road conditions. Mr. Roberts asked Mr. Gadapee for a report on the condition of roads after recent heavy rainstorms. Mr. Gadapee reported that there have been several minor wash-outs. The road crew has addressed these as well as possible given their busy schedule during gravel crushing. The grader has remained in operation throughout the crushing project. Discussion ensued.

g. Local truckers. Mr. Bunnell instructed Mr. Gadapee to give priority to Barnet residents and taxpayers in hiring trucks to haul gravel.

5. Certification of tax rates for 2013

The Board reviewed the certification of tax rates for 2013, as prepared by Treasurer Benjamin Heisholt. Total tax rate (including all municipal and education taxes) for homestead is to be 1.9394; and for non-residential 1.8745.

- The Board signed the certification.

6. Discussion regarding responses to letters to the Selectboard

Mr. Roberts suggested that the Board develop a form letter to use in response to residents who send correspondence to the Board. The letter would acknowledge that the correspondence was received, indicate when it was read by the Board, and invite the correspondent(s) to attend a Board meeting to discuss the matter with the Board. Discussion ensued.

- The Board requested that Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt write a draft of a proposed letter for the Board to discuss at their next meeting.

7. Other business

- a. Correspondence from Fairbanks Mill.** Mr. Faris acknowledged his receipt of a letter soliciting the Town's business in bridge or culvert repairs.

8. Outstanding check warrants

The Board reviewed and approved all outstanding check warrants.

9. 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 7:55 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 8:10 p.m.
- No action taken.

10. Adjournment

Mr. Faris moved to adjourn. Seconded by Mr. Bunnell and approved by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

A true copy.

Attest: _____
Town Clerk