

**MINUTES – SELECTMEN’S MEETING
TOWN OF BARNET, VERMONT
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 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 Theodore Faris presided as Chair for this meeting.

Others present: Road Foreman Keith Gadapee, Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt, and Zoning Administrative Officer Shirley Warden

1. Approve minutes of regular meeting held November 11, 2013

Mr. Roberts moved to approve as presented the minutes of the regular meeting held November 11, 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. Discussion regarding vacancy in the office of Lister

Mr. Faris read a letter of interest from Sarah Cook. Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt reported that he received no other letters of interest or applications. The Board of Listers suggested one other name as a possible candidate, but this individual has not yet expressed interest. Discussion ensued.

- Mr. Roberts moved to appoint Sarah Cook to fill the current vacancy in the Board of Listers until an election can be had. Seconded by Mr. Bunnell and approved by voice vote.

4. Correspondence from Barnet Fire & Rescue regarding annual nomination of Chief

Mr. Roberts read a letter indicating that Barnet Fire & Rescue has nominated Ronald Morse to be re-appointed as Chief in 2014.

- The Board agreed to re-appoint Ronald Morse as Chief of Barnet Fire & Rescue.

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

a. Salt budget. Mr. Gadapee discussed the over-expenditure of the salt budget; to date expenses of \$29,200 have been incurred on a \$23,800 budget. Mr. Gadapee asked the Board for direction on whether to reduce salt application in some areas of town, or to continue the same practices as currently in place. Discussion ensued.

- The Board instructed Mr. Gadapee to in general continue salt application as presently, but to try reduction in a few areas.

b. Rake Factory Road bridge. Mr. Gadapee reported on a complaint regarding a hole in the deck of a bridge.

c. Correspondence from Vermont Agency of Transportation regarding reporting of special weight limits for highways and bridges. Mr. Gadapee discussed a letter indicating an annual statutory requirement that the Town report its special weight limits. Mr. Gadapee referenced his discussion with the Board regarding this matter in the spring of this year. The Town presently has weight restrictions on two bridges. Discussion ensued.

d. Road Foremen’s meeting. Mr. Gadapee reported on his recent meeting with other local Road Foremen. Topics of discussion included reading and interpreting biennial State reports on structures. The State will now require Towns to inventory structures having a span of 3 to 20 feet.

6. Correspondence from Precision Valley Communications of Vermont LLC regarding proposed underground cable on Old Silo Road

Mr. Roberts read a facsimile letter and the Board reviewed an attached sketch detailing the location of an underground cable that Vermont Telephone would like to place under the high-tension lines on Old Silo Road. Discussion ensued.

- The Board agreed to allow the installation of this underground cable.

7. Discussion regarding uniform contract

Mr. Gadapee reported that he had spoken to the Highway Department of the Town of Groton, who currently are under contract with G & K Services; Groton indicated that they are very pleased with the service provided by G & K Services. The Board reviewed the quotes, which were as follows for one delivery of uniforms, mats, and shop towels: G & K Services: \$66.95 (three year agreement), UniFirst Corporation: \$66.60 (five year agreement) Discussion ensued.

- Mr. Roberts moved to sign a three year agreement with G & K Services per their above-referenced quote.

8. Discussion regarding 2014 property and liability insurance coverage

Mr. Heisholt gave an update regarding this matter, as discussed at the previous meeting. Sawyer & Ritchie Insurance Agency, and Vermont League of Cities & Towns are preparing quotes for all of the policies the Town currently holds, and the Berwick Agency is preparing a quote for fire and rescue only. Mr. Heisholt hopes to have these quotes to present to the Board at their next meeting.

9. 2014 Tax Map Maintenance Proposal and Contract from CAI Technologies, Inc.

The Board reviewed proposal and contract. Terms of proposal and contract, including annual cost (\$1,950) are the same as the 2013 proposal and contract.

- The Board signed the contract.

10. Correspondence from William & Sharon Biddle regarding high speed internet

Mr. Faris read a letter urging the Board to “do all in its power to speed up broad-band access to every residence in Town.” Discussion ensued.

11. Other business

a. Discussion regarding personnel (executive session)

- Mr. Roberts moved to enter executive session. Seconded by Mr. Bunnell and approved by voice vote. Entered executive session at 7:40 p.m. Attendance in executive session: Mr. Faris, Mr. Roberts, Mr. Bunnell, Mr. Gadapee, and Mr. Heisholt.
- Mr. Roberts moved to exit executive session. Seconded by Mr. Bunnell and approved by voice vote. Exited executive session at 7:47 p.m.
- No action taken.

12. Outstanding check warrants

The Board reviewed and approved all outstanding check warrants.

13. 2014 budget discussion

Mr. Heisholt presented a draft preliminary budget, and discussed formatting changes from last year's budget. Mr. Gadapee discussed preliminary proposals for maintenance and upgrade of equipment and facilities. Among these was the recommendation that the Town purchase a new ten-wheel dump truck in 2014. Mr. Gadapee estimates that the total cost for this truck will be \$175,000. The Board instructed Mr. Gadapee to proceed with obtaining proposals for a new truck.

14. Discussion regarding 2014 health insurance benefit (executive session)

- Mr. Roberts moved to enter executive session. Seconded by Mr. Bunnell and approved by voice vote. Entered executive session at 8:08 p.m. Attendance in executive session: Mr. Faris, Mr. Roberts, Mr. Bunnell, Mr. Gadapee, and Mr. Heisholt.
- Mr. Roberts moved to exit executive session. Seconded by Mr. Bunnell and approved by voice vote. Exited executive session at 8:20 p.m.
- The Board instructed Mr. Heisholt to proceed with enrolling full-time employees in Health Reimbursement Arrangement (HRA) “Plan C” through HealthEquity (partnered with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Vermont) with a January 1, 2014 contribution of \$2,500 each, and no rollover of unused funds.

15. Adjournment

Mr. Roberts moved to adjourn. Seconded by Mr. Bunnell and approved by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

A true copy.

Attest: _____
Town Clerk