

**MINUTES – SELECTMEN’S MEETING
TOWN OF BARNET, VERMONT
MONDAY, DECEMBER 23, 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, Zoning Administrative Officer Shirley Warden, Grace Gershuny, Susan Persson, and Sarah Walls.

1. Approve minutes of regular meeting held December 9, 2013

Mr. Roberts moved to approve as presented the minutes of the regular meeting held December 9, 2013. Seconded by Mr. Bunnell and approved by voice vote.

2. Appearance by Susan Persson regarding Harvey’s Lake Public Beach swimming lessons

Mr. Faris read a letter from Ms. Persson, which requests a 2014 appropriation for swimming lesson expenses in the amount of \$400 to \$480. The letter argues that there is a need and demand for this service for children in Barnet, and gives suggested logistical solutions. Ms. Persson then spoke in support of her letter, also indicating that a fundraiser has been performed to potentially defray some of the tax burden. Discussion ensued.

- The Board agreed to appropriate \$400 in the 2014 budget to be used for swimming lessons at the Harvey’s Lake Public Beach. The Board and Ms. Persson agreed to submit the funds raised in the fundraiser to Treasurer Benjamin Heisholt to be placed on reserve for future beach projects.

3. Appearance by Grace Gershuny regarding Town Meeting warning article for Public Bank of Vermont

Mr. Faris read an email from Ms. Gershuny, and the Board reviewed attached informational literature regarding the following proposed Town Meeting warning article:

Whereas the establishment of a Public Bank in Vermont will help towns reduce the local tax burden by offering low cost bonds for public works and a depository for their accounts with competitive interest,

Whereas a Public Bank that makes loans and investments in Vermont’s people and our economy will help create jobs, income, and economic security for all Vermonters,

We call on the State Legislature to create a Public Bank for Vermont that enhances the work of the Vermont Economic Development Authority, the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation, the Vermont Housing Finance Agency, the Municipal Bond Bank, and Vermont chartered community banks and credit unions by accepting deposits from the state and municipal governments and making loan programs available for students, homeowners, municipalities and enterprises to make Vermont economically stable, self-reliant, and successful.

Discussion ensued regarding details about the proposed public bank, and whether the Board would require a petition to add this article to the warning.

- The Board agreed to require a petition for addition of this article to the 2014 Town Meeting warning.

4. Appearances by members of the public

There were no appearances by members of the public.

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

- a. Backhoe maintenance.** Mr. Gadapee indicated that he plans to perform repair work on the rear bucket as approved by the Board at their meeting held February 25, 2013. He now also hopes to perform additional work, some of which is cosmetic, at an estimated cost of \$1,000.
- The Board instructed Mr. Gadapee to perform the planned additional work.
- b. Expense communications.** Mr. Gadapee inquired regarding the Board's preferences for communications regarding expenses, specifically as to when expenses require the Board's approval before obligating payment from the Town. Discussion ensued.
- The Board instructed Mr. Gadapee to obtain Board approval prior to obligating funds above budgeted amounts.
- c. Dump truck purchase.** Mr. Gadapee discussed information he has gathered regarding truck purchasing, specifications he is including in his request for proposals, the names of dealerships from whom he is soliciting proposals, and plans for disposition of the truck that will be replaced by the new truck.
- d. Mower contract.** Mr. Gadapee indicated that he has reserved the lease of a tractor from Tenco for the month of July 2014. The tractor was not available during the last week of June. Mr. Gadapee submitted a contract for the Board's review. Discussion ensued.
- The Board agreed to allow Mr. Gadapee to sign the contract upon confirmation of insurance requirements.
- e. Magnesium chloride winter application.** Mr. Gadapee informed the Board that the Highway Department received a free system from the Town's magnesium chloride vendor for applying magnesium chloride to winter roads. This is intended to reduce the use of salt and to allow for melting ice at lower temperatures.
- f. Waste oil burner.** Mr. Gadapee discussed proposals submitted by Mr. Bunnell, as received from Arrow Equipment for installation of a used oil furnace. This furnace would be fueled by waste oil used by the Highway Department. The function would be to dry the air in the Town Garage to help cure a moisture problem. A new furnace is quoted at \$10,420, and a reconditioned furnace at \$7,820. Discussion ensued.
- Mr. Roberts moved to install a new waste oil furnace. Seconded by Mr. Bunnell and approved by voice vote.
- g. Recordkeeping.** Mr. Gadapee reviewed with the Board the various administrative work he performs, which in 2013 consumed approximately ten to fifteen hours per week. He asked the Board if they would like him to alter the number of hours dedicated to this work, or the type of records kept.
- The Board instructed Mr. Gadapee to continue performing administrative work as he is currently.

6. Discussion regarding re-adoption of Town Plan and Municipal Planning Grant

The Board discussed with Zoning Administrative Officer Shirley Warden details regarding the re-adoption of the Town Plan, which has been revised with the assistance of Northeastern Vermont Development Association (NVDA). A public hearing regarding the revised Town Plan will be held on January 7, 2014. Ms. Warden also informed the Board that the Municipal Planning Grant, which will be used to update the Zoning Ordinance, has been approved.

7. Correspondence from Vermont Department of Taxes regarding Certified Equalized Education Property Value

The Board reviewed the results of the equalization study. The equalized education property value was \$238,283,000, the coefficient of dispersion 12.78%, and common level of appraisal 102.96%.

8. Correspondence from Vermont Coverts regarding meeting concerning the emerald ash borer

Mr. Faris read a letter inviting the Board to attend a meeting regarding the threat posed by the encroachment of the ash borer.

9. Other business

- **Discussion regarding personnel matters (executive session)**

- Mr. Roberts moved to enter executive session. Seconded by Mr. Bunnell and approved by voice vote. Entered executive session at 9:00 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 9:05 p.m.
- The Board agreed to approve Highway Department pay rate increase.

10. Outstanding check warrants

The Board reviewed and approved all outstanding check warrants.

11. 2014 budget discussion

The Board agreed to table discussion of the budget until the January 13, 2014 meeting.

12. Adjournment

Mr. Faris moved to adjourn. Seconded by Mr. Bunnell and approved by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

A true copy.

Attest: _____
Town Clerk