



Town of Barnard, Vermont

Chartered July 17, 1761

P.O. Box 274
Barnard, Vermont 05031
(802) 234-9211

SELECTBOARD MINUTES - DRAFT

JANUARY 6, 2021

Present: Rock Webster, Tim Johnson, Bob Edmunds

Also Present: Rob Ramrath, Rob Tracy. Teleconference: Jeff Tracy, Wes Hennig.

1. **Call to order** – The meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM.
2. **Review Agenda:**
 - a. **Rob Tracy** – On behalf of Barnard Mtn. Viewers, Rob requested permission to groom and run the VAST snowmobile trail along the west side of North Rd. from the Town Hall south towards the dam. The snowmobiles would cross North Road across the island by the dam. The Selectboard stipulated that proper signage be installed and abutters be notified. Rock Webster & Bob Edmunds voted in favor and Tim Johnson opposed.
 - b. **Annual Mileage Certificate** – Review & Sign; The annual VT Agency of Transportation Certification of Highway Mileage was reviewed and signed.
3. **Public comments** – There were no public comments.
4. **Old Business** – None.
5. **Transfer Station Volume Increase – W. Hennig** – Consider options;
Due to escalating prices for disposal of waste and recycle material, Wes Hennig and the Selectboard discussed the need to increase certain fees to cover these costs. Also discussed was the need to enforce the use of the Transfer Station to Barnard residents and taxpayers only. Our facility has been experiencing increased visits from out-of-towners due to increasing costs at the Bethel/Royalton facility. The changes will take effect on February 1, 2021 and will be published on the Barnard listserv, at the Town Hall and on www.barnardvt.us. Notable changes:
 - \$3.00/tall kitchen bag, \$6.00 any larger bag.
 - The only payment accepted will be via check for punch cards. No payment of any kind for dumping bags for one-off events.
 - Only Barnard residents and taxpayers may use the facility.
 - \$40./cubic yard for loose trash (no construction waste allowed).
 - \$3.00/visit will be charged for recycling.
6. **Review/Approve Minutes** of 12/16/2020; The minutes were approved.
7. **Bury primary powerline under Eastman Road – J. Tracy** – Consider;
Highway Foreman Jeff Tracy reviewed a request to bury powerlines on Eastman Road to run power to a property. The requestor did not attend the meeting as anticipated so the topic was tabled for the future.
8. **Intermunicipal Regional Energy Coordinator Monthly Report** – Review;
The report was reviewed. Additionally, the Selectboard agreed to place the renewal of the IREC as an appropriation line-item in the FY2022 budget. The Selectboard agreed the IREC, Geoff Martin is doing a good job and is providing value to Barnard in the form of energy savings recommendations.
9. **Dispositioned ANR Notice of Alleged Violation** – FYI;

The VT Agency of Natural Resources issued a Notice of Alleged Violation for a delinquent quarterly report for the Barnard Recycling and Transfer Station. The situation was resolved with the report submitted by Tom Morse prior to the Selectboard meeting.

10. 2020 VT Barnard Equalization Study Results – Review;

The State of VT Department of Taxes 2020 Equalization Study Results were reviewed. This is a routine annual process regarding the equalized education property value and the coefficient of dispersion for each Vermont town.

11. PACIF Risk Assessment - Town Garage & Library – Review;

PACIF, the town's insurance carrier did a risk assessment of the Library and Town Garage. They offered several recommendations, minor in nature, to improve the safety of both buildings. The Selectboard Assistant Rob Ramrath will work with Road Foremen Jeff Tracy and Library Trustee Edythe Wright on forming an improvement punch-list for follow-up action.

12. 2021 Town Meeting – Consider pending legislation;

The VT legislature is purportedly working on a bill to allow municipal governing bodies to delay annual town meetings. Based on the likelihood of passage of this legislation, the Selectboard will operate under the premise that Barnard will delay its Town Meeting to a to-be-announced date. The Selectboard sees a delay as highly preferable to an Australian Ballot approach. The meeting would be held outdoors in the warmer springtime with safe COVID-19 practices. Assuming permission from the Legislature, the Pre-Town Meeting would be held via teleconference. These decisions will be finalized upon clarity from the VT Legislature. In the meantime, the Selectboard is directing that all activities and deadlines associated with the Warning and the Annual Report move ahead as normal, with no delay.

13. Highway Operations – Review;

A spring on the Peterbilt truck was replaced. Otherwise, no notable operations topics.

14. Review/Approve Town & Highway Orders for 12/21/20, 12/28/20, 1/5/21;

The Highway Orders were approved.

15. FY2022 Budget – Continue process to establish budget;

The Selectboard completed their deliberations and inputs into the annual budget.

16. Adjourn – The meeting was adjourned at 9:12 PM.

Minutes prepared by Rob Ramrath, Assistant to the Selectboard. All votes unanimous unless otherwise indicated. Next regular meeting January 20, 2021 at 7:00 PM.

Selectboard:

Rock Webster, Chair

Timothy Johnson

Robert Edmunds