



Town of Barnard, Vermont

Chartered July 17, 1761

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

SELECTBOARD MINUTES - DRAFT FEBRUARY 3, 2021

NEW BARNARD EMAIL SERVICE:

Please click [HERE](#) to subscribe to the new, official Barnard Municipal email service.

Present: Rock Webster, Tim Johnson, Bob Edmunds

Also Present: Rob Ramrath. Teleconference: Elizabeth Ferry, Jerry Fredrickson, Geoff Martin, Jeff Tracy, Sonja Doppelhofer-Withington, Dennis Godshall.

1. Call to order –

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM.

2. Review Agenda:

A. State guidance on live town meetings -

Guidance was reviewed with response plans made to satisfy all mandates for our May 15th Town Meeting.

B. Eastman Road Power to 03-0205 Dennis Godshall of PA -

Dennis presented his questions regarding getting power to the subject property as a matter of due diligence in his consideration to acquire the property. The Selectboard indicated a preference for poles but would support underground if that was the only feasible approach.

C. Liquor license renewal BGS -

The Liquor License renewal was approved.

D. Liquor license renewal Barnard Inn -

The Liquor License renewal was approved.

3. Public comments -

There were no public comments.

4. Review/Approve Minutes of 1/20/2021 -

Minutes were approved.

5. Old Business –

A. Follow up on future prospects for Intermunicipal Regional Energy Coordinator position & Monthly IREC Report – Geoff Martin (IREC) and Elizabeth Ferry presented the long-range possibilities and value for the IREC position. The Selectboard stressed the need for tangible, economic value to the municipality and the community. Additionally, the need for unique services from the IREC position versus services available from other free sources was discussed.

B. Follow up on open school union board position – There are presently no candidates under consideration. The Selectboard directed Assistant Rob Ramrath to contact the School Union for a job description and requirements and post the position on the listserv and www.barnardvt.us

C. Recovery of funds from state for Equalized Student error – The money associated with the error has been recovered; \$48,081.57 has been deposited into Barnard's bank account. The Selectboard thanks Carin Park and Pam Fraser for their work in recovering these funds.

6. Consider candidate for open DRB seat –

Sonja Doppelhofer-Withington offered to fill the seat and was on the phone to discuss. The Selectboard appointed Sonja to the seat and thanks her for her willingness to contribute.

- 7. Sequence & timing for publication of Warning and Town Report –**
Rob Ramrath reviewed the statutes associated with Town Meeting Warnings. The Warning must be published at least 30 but not more than 40 days prior to the meeting. Our Town Report contains the Warning and therefore is subject to the same statutory requirements. Therefore, our Town Report and the Warning will be made available to the public on April 5, 2021.
- 8. Annual Tax Map maintenance renewal – Review & sign -**
The renewal was reviewed and approved.
- 9. Warning to Selectboard regarding Board of Civil Authority meeting –**
Individual warnings were given to each Selectboard member.
- 10. Alternative to municipal use of Barnard Listserv for communications with residents and taxpayers – Discuss proposal -**
The Barnard listserv has been experiencing a significant volume of political and negative posts. Some have chosen to leave the listserv as a result. As an alternative communication approach, Rob Ramrath created a proof of concept of a ‘push’ email service to be used by the municipality for official communications. The Selectboard reviewed the service and approved moving ahead. Notifications for the ‘opt-in’ service will be made via www.barnardvt.us, the listserv, notifications on minutes/agendas and other methods.
- 11. Credit card and e-payment for municipal fees – Discuss possibilities.**
The Selectboard discussed the possibility of using credit card or other ‘e-payment’ services for municipal fees such as dog licenses and Transfer Station cards. Our Town Clerk, Diane Rainey has indicated openness to considering solutions. The Selectboard approved looking into solutions further.
- 12. Highway Operations – Review.**
Highway operations were discussed including replacement of the Peterbilt truck and snowplow-damaged mailboxes on Mt. Hunger Rd.
- 13. Review/Approve Town & Highway Orders for 1/26/21, 2/2/21.**
The orders were approved.
- 14. Executive Session – Review employment candidate.**
An employment candidate was discussed by the Selectboard.
- 15. Adjourn –**
The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM

Minutes prepared by Rob Ramrath, Assistant to the Selectboard. All votes unanimous unless otherwise indicated. Next regular meeting February 17, 2021 at 7:00 PM.

Selectboard:

Rock Webster, Chair

Timothy Johnson

Robert Edmunds