



Town of Barnard, Vermont

Chartered July 17, 1761

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

SELECTBOARD MINUTES JULY 7, 2021 - DRAFT

BARNARD EMAIL SERVICE:

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Present: Rock Webster, Bob Edmunds, Tim Johnson

Also Present: Rob Ramrath, Ellen Miles, Margaret Edwards, Pat Mattson, Dean Edmunds.

1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM.

2. Review Agenda

A. Bruce Dunning letter re. Masterson Rd. Gate – Review.

In advance of the meeting, Bruce Dunning sent in a letter disagreeing with the agreement made between the Selectboard and his brother Glenn Dunning at the 6/16/21 meeting. In his letter, Bruce objected to the agreed-upon sign stating “Class IV Town Highway.” In his letter, Bruce offered various points to support his position including that the road is impassible and unrecognizable. The Selectboard deliberated the situation, noting that Masterson Rd is a Class IV town road on the state highway map and does in fact exist. The Selectboard directed Assistant Rob Ramrath to send a demand letter to the Dunnings to have the gate removed within 30 days, otherwise the town will remove the gate. Additionally, the Selectboard directed that a sign be placed at the Class IV transition indicating an unmaintained Barnard Class IV Road.

B. PACIF HIGH risk recommendation for Transfer Station – Review.

During a recent PACIF (the town’s insurance carrier) inspection, there was a HIGH safety finding recommending the placement of a safety fence at the Transfer Station by the metal recycling dumpster to reduce risks of falling. Bob and Rock will meet at the Transfer Station to plan an approach and activities to resolve.

C. Town Clerk ‘Various Items’ document

The Selectboard voted to set the mileage reimbursement rate at the standard IRS rate of \$.56/mile. The Selectboard voted to reinstate the HS-122 (VT Homestead Declaration) late filing penalty that was waived last fiscal year due to COVID-19. In her letter, the Town Clerk presented recommended FY22 tax rates of Residential: 2.2177; Non-Residential: 2.2136. The tax rate is mathematically formulated based on the Grand List Valuation, the mandated State Educational Tax Rate and the Town Meeting approved FY22 budget. The Selectboard voted to approve the presented tax rates.

D. Dean Edmunds request to use Barnard Academy Tennis Court for Ice Rink –

Dean mentioned that the Academy Principal and Physical Education instructor were in favor. The Selectboard voted to approve.

3. Public comments

There were no public comments.

4. Review/Approve Minutes of 6/16/2021.

The minutes were approved.

5. Old Business –

A. ARPA update.

Rob shared that estimated Revenue Loss approach calculations allowed by the U.S. Treasury rules will more than cover the provided funds. The Loss approach allows provided ARPA funds to be expended on any service provided by the town without federal restriction.

B. Radar sign update – Permit Approval FYI and installation discussion with Highway Foreman.

The permit has been approved by VTrans. The radar signs have been received. Rob shared steps to progress to installation, which include a planning meeting with VTrans. Rob will work with Highway Foreman Jeff Tracy to move through the steps. Additionally, PACIF offers annual grants to towns; in Barnard’s case up to \$3,000. for safety related investments. Highway signs are included on the list of allowable investments. As a prerequisite to application, all HIGH findings must be resolved per the 2B discussion above. Rob will apply for the grant pending resolution of the safety fence.

C. Structures Grants – Discussion on RFP approach.

This topic was tabled until final grant approval is received.

6. Request for No-Cost Town Mowing for Library, Ellen Miles – Consider.

Ellen Miles and Margaret Edwards presented their request to have the town mow and plow around the library. The Selectboard voted to grant their request and asked Dean Edmunds to add it to his mowing work and asked Rob to contact Jeff Tracy to add it to the plowing duties of the Road Crew.

7. Intermunicipal Regional Energy Coordinator – Update and year-end review.

The summary provided by Geoff Martin, IREC, was reviewed.

8. GMP Pole Installation Request for 405 Eastman Rd Parcel 03-0205 - Consider for signature.

The Selectboard voted to approve the request.

9. Highway Operations – Review.

Rob shared that on warm weekends, the ‘no parking’ signs placed on the north side of Stage Rd between the Post Office and the beach parking area were having little effect. The Selectboard voted to place two additional ‘no parking’ between the existing signs to increase awareness. Diesel fuel bids were reviewed and considered. The Selectboard voted to continue with the existing supplier and re-open the bidding and evaluation process in preparation for FY23 budget planning.

10. Review/Approve Town & Highway Orders for 6/22/2021, 6/29/2021, 7/6/2021.

The Town & Highway Orders were approved.

11. Adjourn –

The meeting was adjourned at 8:21 PM.

Minutes prepared by Rob Ramrath, Assistant to the Selectboard. All votes unanimous unless otherwise indicated. Next regular meeting July 21, 2021 at 7:00 PM.

Selectboard:

Rock Webster, Chair

Timothy Johnson

Robert Edmunds