



Town of Barnard, Vermont

Chartered July 17, 1761

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SELECTBOARD MINUTES - DRAFT DECEMBER 15, 2021

BARNARD EMAIL SERVICE:

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Present: Rock Webster, Bob Edmunds

Also Present: Rob Ramrath (Town Administrator), Jeff Tracy (Highway Foreman), Wes Hennig, Kate Reeves.

1. Call to order –

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM.

2. Review Agenda –

There were no additions to the agenda.

3. Public comments –

Wes offered his opinions on the prospect of Casella taking over Transfer Station operations. He offered concerns on the long-term commitment of Casella to the operation if they were not profitable. Rob offered that he was working on references and had already received a very positive reference from Barre. Rock informed Wes that deeper conversation needed to be deferred to the 1/5/2022 meeting, where we hoped to have a proposal from Casella in hand.

Additionally, Wes suggested the Transfer Station be open 8 AM – 4 PM Sunday, December 26. The Selectboard agreed and directed Rob to post on the Listserv, website and email list.

4. Review/Approve Minutes of 12/1/2021 –

The minutes were approved.

5. Old Business

A. Village Speeding – Kate Reeves – Discuss -

Kate Reeves was present to offer the opinions of an informal community group that has been formed on the issue of excessive speed through the village on VT RTE 12. Kate said the group was working on, “Entering Barnard Village” signage that would be proposed to the Selectboard as one way of promoting slower speeds. The Selectboard discussed various options including additional speed traps at key times by Windsor County Sheriff deputies. Rob noted that we are expecting Sheriff Chamberlain at the 1/5/22 meeting where we can discuss the issue further. In addition to the permanent radar speed signs, the Selectboard committed to placing our portable radar sign, facing northbound traffic in front of the old fire station. Rob showed charts indicating the signs were struggling to maintain a battery charge with snow and the low winter sun. The most troubling sign is the VT RTE 12 sign near West Rd. Jeff committed to prune branches that might be shading the sign and to optimize pointing of the solar panels for the low winter sun. Additionally, the Selectboard directed Rob to contact Vtrans District 4 to discuss any other possibilities for speed mitigation.

6. Planning Commission Appointment, Kate Reeves – Consider -

Kate came with the strong endorsement of the Planning Commission Chair, Steve Cota. The Selectboard conducted a short interview and appointed Kate to the Planning Commission, filling Randall Szott's seat for a 2024 renewal. The Selectboard thanks Kate for her willingness to serve.

7. Better Roads and Structures Grants Planning – Discuss –

The town has been awarded a Structures Grant for bank stabilization near the Broad Brook Rd. culvert. Jeff engaged Vtrans in planning discussions. Vtrans recommended increasing the grant so the bank slide stabilization and culvert replacement can be handled in a single project. The Selectboard approved continuing to investigate this approach. Rob presented a Better Roads grant application for bank slide stabilization on E. Barnard Rd; the Selectboard approved submitting the application.

8. Highway Operations – Review.

Jeff shared that using Grant-In-Aid monies, many stumps will be ground down on the stream side of E. Barnard Rd.

9. Regional Emergency Management Committee 2nd Member Appointment – Consider –

Two Rivers Ottauquechee Regional Commission notified that Barnard needed to appoint a second committee member. The Selectboard directed Rob to contact Mike Manning for his nomination.

10. Grand List Change Requests – Consider –

Via a November 16, 2021 letter, Barnard Assessor Ryan Silvestri presented two changes in taxable value:

1. A change in taxable value occurred on parcel 01-0368 owned by Mellissa and Robert Hatch, this value changed due to combining two contiguous parcels.
2. A change in taxable value occurred on parcel 04-0136.1 owned by Hay Farm LLC, this value changed due to combining two contiguous parcels.

The Selectboard voted to accept the changes.

11. FY23 Budget Preparation – Continue process –

Rob presented a timeline with critical deadlines to be satisfied to meet all statutory requirements for Town Meeting preparation. The Selectboard continued budget planning.

12. Review/Approve Town & Highway Orders for 12/7/21, 12/14/21 –

The Town & Highway Orders were approved.

13. Adjourn –

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Minutes prepared by Rob Ramrath, Town Administrator. All votes unanimous unless otherwise indicated. Next regular meeting January 5, 2022 at 7:00 PM.

Selectboard:

Rock Webster, Chair

Timothy Johnson

Robert Edmunds