



Town of Barnard, Vermont

Chartered July 17, 1761

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

SELECTBOARD MINUTES JANUARY 3, 2024

BARNARD EMAIL SERVICE:

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Present: Rock Webster (Chair), Richard Lancaster (Vice Chair), Bob Edmunds
Also Present: Rob Ramrath (Town Administrator), Delmar Balch (Highway Foreman), Linda Treash, Terry Davis.

Regular Meeting Agenda

1. Call to Order

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

2. Review Agenda

A. BarnArts Storage at Old FD – Discuss

Linda Treash, on behalf of BarnArts, requested permission to store staging and seating risers at the old fire station. The Selectboard gave permission if there is adequate space available. Linda also commented that the town could use the equipment for town meeting and other town functions if helpful. The Selectboard thanks Linda for this accommodation.

B. Doug Blain Candidate for DRB Alternate Exp. 2024 – Consider

Doug's qualifications were reviewed and the Selectboard voted to appoint Doug Blain to the vacant DRB alternate seat expiring 2024. The Selectboard thanks Doug for his willingness to volunteer and contribute to the community.

C. School Board Town Hall Rental Waiver 1/24/24 – Consider

Via a previous email, Carin Park asked to use the Town Hall for an information session for the proposed new Woodstock high school. Carin requested a waiver for all fees. The Selectboard granted the waiver.

D. Vermont DEC Wastewater Permit Applications for Old Fire Station – Consider

The Selectboard reviewed and signed the permit application.

3. Public Comments

Terry Davis requested the status of repairs on Lime Pond Rd. Additionally she was interested in discussing the culvert that washed out last summer. The status was discussed with the Selectboard. There were no decisions made.

4. Review/Approve Minutes December 20, 2023

The minutes were approved.

5. Old Business –

A. DR4720 Reimbursement – Discuss

Rob reported on the ongoing activities for FEMA reimbursement for pending and future work associated with the flood of July 2023. He stated that communicating with FEMA and providing information required precision and experience that he does not have. Rob shared conversations he has had with other municipal leaders in similar situations. They shared that without substantial experience in FEMA work, reimbursements will be significantly

lower with reimbursement time stretching to years. Rob proposed using a consulting firm to assist with the effort. He reported that he had obtained proposals from two firms, and he presented the preferred firm, Berquist Recovery Consulting, LLC. The Selectboard reviewed the contract and voted to give Rob the authority to sign the contract with Berquist Recovery Consulting, LLC, pending reference checks.

6. 2024 Town Meeting Topics

A. DRAFT Warning – Review

The draft warning was reviewed.

B. DRAFT Selectboard Letter for Town Report – Review

The draft Selectboard letter was reviewed.

C. Postpone 1/17/2024 Selectboard Meeting to 1/24/024 – Vote

The Selectboard voted to postpone the normally scheduled January 17, 2024 meeting to January 24, 2024. This was done to accommodate approval schedules associated with town Meeting.

7. Town & Highway Operations – Review

Delmar discussed road conditions with the Selectboard. Rob reported that summer storm repairs on the uphill portion of Masterson Road past the replaced culvert had been completed by Barnard Excavation. Rock reported that the culvert on Smith Hill Rd. by the cemetery had experienced erosion from the recent rains. He said we must get this repaired before snows as the road was impassable. Delmar said he would engage a contractor for the work so the road crew could continue road repairs throughout town. Rob reported that the town hall generator had been diagnosed and the stator had disintegrated, destroying the entire generator unit. Rob will be obtaining quotes for repairs as well as a replacement generator.

8. Review/Approve Town & Highway Orders for 12/26/23, 01/02/24

The Town & Highway orders were reviewed and approved.

9. FY '25 Budget Review Session #6 – Discuss

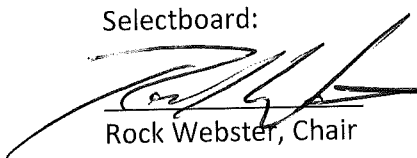
Fiscal 2025 budget work continued.

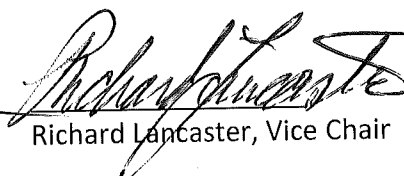
10. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Minutes prepared by Rob Ramrath, Town Administrator. All votes unanimous unless otherwise indicated. The next regular meeting is January 24, 2024, at 7:00 PM at the Town Hall Offices.

Selectboard:


Rock Webster, Chair


Richard Lancaster, Vice Chair


Robert Edmunds