



BARRE TOWN MUNICIPAL NEWSLETTER

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TOWN ENGINEER RETIRING

When Harry Hinrichsen retires at the end of 2019, he will have served as Barre Town's staff engineer for over 26 years. Among the most important responsibilities of this key position are to ensure that public infrastructure is constructed and maintained to appropriate standards, and that some private infrastructure, such as utilities and driveways, are installed to town standards. The Town Engineer is also the steward of town maps, plans, construction drawings, and as-built records. Harry has been the staff liaison to the Traffic Safety Advisory Committee, which makes recommendations to the Selectboard on town highway safety matters. Harry has been assisted by an engineering intern each summer, consequently has helped the career of many a young engineer entering the profession.

Harry's service to the community extends into his off time. He has been active with the Boy Scouts, Barre Lions Club, Barre Town Green Up Day, Barre Elks Club, and Canadian Club. He's spent many hours with his wife Linda Mercy supporting the Travis Mercy Memorial Skatepark. He has also served on state-level associations, the Vermont Rural Water Association and the Vermont Municipal Highway Association. In 2013 the Barre Joint Service Clubs recognized Harry for his community service.

Harry has enjoyed getting to know and help town residents and business owners. It's evident that the community feels the same way about him. His colleagues will miss his good nature, and his institutional knowledge will be impossible to replace. If you see him out and about, please wish him a happy retirement.



By Elaine Wang, Assistant Town Manager



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PROPERTY VALUE REAPPRAISAL

Before the next Town newsletter is mailed about mid-November some Barre Town taxpayers will be visited by data collectors gathering information for a property value reappraisal. Before the end of 2020 every property will be visited by these data collectors.

The last reappraisal was completed and placed in effect as of April 1, 2004. Two statistics calculated by the state (Division of Property Valuation and Review) measure the grade of the town's Grand List (list of assessed value of every property). Thresholds of these statistics mandate a reappraisal. The common level of appraisal (CLA) compares the selling price to assessed value of arms length real estate transactions. The state uses the CLA to manage fairness across all towns. Recently the state legislature adopted a law raising the CLA threshold to 85%. When a town's CLA falls below 85% PVR will order the town to begin a reappraisal. Barre Town's CLA as of December, 2018 (last calculation by the state) is 85.32%. The coefficient of dispersion (COD) averages the difference between the CLA and the assessed value to sale price ratio for individual properties. It is a measure of fairness amongst taxpayers in a town. The state's threshold for the COD is 20%. A COD greater than 20% requires a reappraisal. Barre Town's COD as of last December was 15.47%. When PVR issues the next Equalization Study Results in December, Barre Town's CLA likely will drop below 85%. The COD probably still will be less than 20%.

The Selectboard is preparing to have a complete (all land and buildings) town wide reappraisal begin this fall. Town assessor Russ Beaudoin would lead the reappraisal. Agreement details are still being hammered out. Several data collectors will be hired to help with visiting properties and recording relevant information. The Town will be

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**ALL TOWN OFFICES
WILL BE CLOSED ON:**
Monday — September 2

DATES & EVENTS:

August 26th — First Day of School at BTMES
September 21st — Fall Bulk Trash
September 28th — Fall Festival (Recreation Area)
September 28th — Fallfire (Town Forest)
October 31st — Cemeteries Close
November 1st — Last day for Town Right-of-Way work
November 1st — Winter Parking Ban Begins
November 15th — Property Taxes Due

(Cont'd - Property Value Reappraisal)

divided into areas. Notices will be mailed to owners in an area before work in that area commences. The collectors will focus their efforts in that area before moving onto the next area.

Before the reappraisal begins a public information meeting will be held to provide more information and answer questions. Look for that meeting in September.

The reappraisal will be paid from the Reappraisal Fund. No expenditures from the town General Fund (town tax dollars) is expected because the Reappraisal Fund should have enough money to pay for the reappraisal. The assessor and Selectboard hope to have the reappraisal completed for lodging the Grand List in 2021.

By Carl Rogers, Town Manager

EMPLOYEE CHANGES

Jocelyn Pinardi joined us as the new Administrative Assistant for the Assessor's Office in May. Her long-serving predecessor, **Joyce Beaudin**, has kindly stayed on to train her before she herself retires from full-time work for the town. This office manages a multitude of tasks related to the annual assessing cycle.

Miriam Larkin joined the Police Department full-time July 1 as the Dispatcher/Clerk. She brings a year and a half experience as a dispatcher in Montpelier. In her short time with the town, Miriam has developed new procedures for record retention, organization, purging of old records, and generally making the police department office run more efficiently.

Paramedic Peter Munsell retired at the end of July after 9 years with Barre Town EMS. His colleagues know him as a good partner and someone who went above and beyond for his patients. The town was fortunate to be able to hire stalwart part-timer **Jason Gray** to fill that vacancy. Jason worked a regular, part-time schedule for the town 9 years, and has been temporary full-time for over a year. He is working on his paramedic certification.

Michael Huston started on August 5 to fill a vacancy on the DPW crew. He comes to us with extensive, related experience, from road work to operating heavy equipment.

Please welcome your new town staff and wish our retiring staff well. *By Elaine Wang, Assistant Town Manager*

SCHOOL BUS SAFETY

With local schools, including our own middle & elementary school starting on August 26th, we want to remind everyone of the increased pedestrian/bicycle traffic. Be aware of children walking or riding their bikes to school, and drive appropriately. Be particularly cautious around the bus stops and school. Vermont



law requires all vehicles to stop, and remain stationary while a school bus is displaying its red signal lights. A violation of this law can cost you \$249.00 and 5 points on your operators license. For children, follow these rules while at the bus stop, and boarding the bus:

- If you must walk in the street to your bus stop, walk single file, face traffic and stay off the road or as close to the edge of the road as you can.
- Stop and look left, right and then left again if you must cross the street. Do the same thing at all driveways.
- Don't play running games or push and shove at the bus stop.
- Make sure you stand at least 5 giant steps from the road while waiting for the bus.
- Do not cross a street until the bus has come to a COMPLETE stop, the RED stop lights are on and the driver signals it is safe to cross.
- ALWAYS cross in front of the bus, NEVER behind.

Handheld Devices Reminder: We also want to remind drivers that use of handheld devices while operating a vehicle on a public highway is illegal under Vermont law. Remember, a public highway is anything open to the general flow of traffic. Examples include parking lots such as Hannaford's, and Thunder Road during events. Fines increase for repeated violations, and are higher while operating in a school or work zone.

By Bill Dodge, Chief of Police

CUT-OFF DATE FOR WORK IN ROAD R.O.W.

All work in a town road right-of-way (r.o.w.) requires a permit from the town engineer. The r.o.w. usually is 3 rods or about 49 1/2 feet wide. Per town ordinance the last day to do work in a town road r.o.w. is November 1. For more information about permits to work in the road r.o.w. contact the town engineer at 479-2595



By Carl Rogers, Town Manager

\$ HELP TO NEUTER A PET

The Vermont Department of Children and Families offers financial help with spaying and neutering pets. There are eligibility guidelines, including income: at or below 185% of federal poverty guidelines. To learn more call 1-844-448-7647 or visit www.dcf.vermont.gov/benefits/vsnip.

BULK TRASH COLLECTION

The fall bulk trash collection will be held Saturday, September 21 from 8am to 2pm at the Department of Public Works Yard, 129 Websterville Road. A fee per load (see below) is charged. The service is only for Barre Town residents and only for clean up around their home. To proof residency, bring a property tax bill, a utility bill, or this newsletter with mailing label on page 8.

Residents may bring large items such as these to the collection:

Building demolition materials; Large plastic toys; Home siding, Roofing shingles; Old fencing; Concrete, large stones, asphalt, blocks, bricks; Mattresses and box springs; House windows, doors; Porcelain fixtures, Carpets, Furniture, Decks; Pool covers.

Plan the load for efficient off-loading to speed up the service for everyone. Lumber and siding must be cut to easily handled lengths and tied up. Roofing shingles must be in containers (boxes, bags, buckets, totes). Loads with loose shingles will be parked to the side for unloading when no one is waiting for service. Small pieces of lumber, siding, drywall, plaster, tile and all other small items also must be in containers.

Keep safety in mind. Tie down or cover the load to prevent anything from blowing or falling off.

The fees per trip are:

Car.....	\$10	Pickup truck.....	\$15
Unloaded car or truck with loaded trailer.....	\$15		
Loaded car & trailer.....	\$20	Loaded pickup & trailer.....	\$25
Truck larger then pickup (1-ton max).....	\$20		
Loaded large truck and trailer.....	\$25		
Van, box truck (10' max)	\$20		

***Loads of roofing shingles are charged double. Cash payments only; the Town cannot accept credit or debit card payments at this event**

The following items are not accepted:

<u>Not Accepted</u>	<u>Take To</u>
Large metal items, gas grills, appliances, lawn mowers, bikes	Wilson Depot
Electronics, e.g. tv's, computers	CVSWMD ARCC
Tires	Wilson Depot
	CVSWMD ARCC
Hazardous Waste	CVSWMD HHW collection
Lawn wastes	Holden Road site
Household trash, recyclables	Licensed collectors, Wilson Depot

Salvaging is permitted. Items that volunteers think may be of use are placed outside the DPW gate during the day. Stop by (without interfering with traffic) during or after the collection to look for something useful; the price can't be beat!

Volunteers always are welcomed and can work part of the day, if not all day. Call the Town Manager's Office at 479-9331 to learn more about volunteering.
By Carl Rogers, Town Manager

LEAVES - WHERE CAN LEAVES GO?

This fall leaves can be hauled to and dropped off at the Holden Road lawn waste site. During the peak leaf raking season the site is open for additional hours on three weekends to help residents dispose of leaves.

For those residents unaware, the lawn waste site is on Holden Road maybe 150 yards below the intersection with Graniteville Road. Holden Road intersects with Graniteville Road approximately across from Rock of Ages' driveway. Residents may drop off all sorts of vegetative lawn and garden waste, tree branches, grass clippings, vegetable and flower plants, apples and leaves.

During the 2019 season the usual hours of service are Monday, 3-6pm, Wednesdays 4-6pm, Thursdays, 9am-noon, and Saturdays 8am-noon. In October the site will be open: **Saturdays, Oct. 12, 19, 26 from 8am to 4pm and Sundays, Oct. 13, 20, 27 from noon to 4pm.**

These hours are in addition to the usual weekday hours. All proper uses are permitted during the expanded hours; service is not limited to leaf disposal these Saturdays and Sundays.

Please do not leave bags, boxes, plastic sheeting or totes at

the site. To haul more leaves per trip, chop up leaves with a mower. To reduce unloading time place a plastic sheet or tarp on the bed of a pick up truck. Cover loose leaves in the back of a truck.

The site will be open until November 2, and maybe beyond depending on the weather. The service is free. For more information call the Town Manager's Office at 479-9331
By Carl Rogers, Town Manager

LAWN WASTE - VOLUNTEER NEEDED

The Monday 3-6pm volunteer is unable to continue monitoring the site this year. The Town is looking for a volunteer who can monitor the site on Monday afternoons until at least October 28, possibly a week or two later. Arrangements can be made if the volunteer has to miss a Monday afternoon. Lawn waste site monitors unlock the cables at the designated time. They monitor the site by directing users to drop their material on the appropriate pile, asking users not to litter or dump unaccepted materials, and locking the cables at closing time. For more information or to volunteer contact the Town Manager's Office at 479-9331

By Carl Rogers, Town Manager

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION

Do you have pesticides, mercury thermometers/thermostats, or household cleaners labeled “hazardous?”



The Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District is holding their last household hazardous waste collection of 2019 on Saturday, September 28th at the Vermont Department of Labor in Montpelier.

\$20 per car for in-district (including Barre Town) residents. Businesses must call 229-9383 x 105 to pre-register and for business pricing. For more information, visit the CVSWMD website at www.cvsmd.org.

By Elaine Wang, Assistant Town Manager

EMS SHIFT SUPERVISORS

Barre Town EMS is excited to announce the creation of the Shift Supervisor and Training Coordinator positions. Three current staff members have been promoted to Shift Supervisors: Leanne Hatch, Devin Krevetski, and David Danforth. Mickey Witham has been promoted to Training Coordinator.

These positions will be in addition to their current responsibilities as EMS providers. The tasks the Shift Supervisors and Training Coordinator take on allow the Director of EMS to focus on projects such as EMS system needs, financial concerns, and prevention programs. This will help continue Barre Town EMS’s mission for excellence.

If you would like to know more about these positions or anything about Barre Town EMS please contact Chris LaMonda at 802-476-3147 or clamonda@barretown.org.

By Chris LaMonda, EMS Director

FIRE DEPARTMENT PROMOTIONS

Recently we’ve had a couple of important personnel matters in the fire department that deserve recognition. First, I’d like to acknowledge the great accomplishment of four members. Zack King, Zack Bullock, Anderson Brown, and Ryan John all completed certification at firefighter 2 level after completing 276 hours of training from August 2018 through June of 2019. The training covered both level 1 & 2 of the nationally recognized training. During the training they covered basic fire service qualifications in level 1. Level 2 was more involved with training in specialized areas and in command.



More specifically the level 1 & 2 training covered topics such as the history of the fire service, firefighter safety, self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA), building construction, wildland firefighting, ladders, vehicle rescue, hazmat, incident command, search and rescue, traffic incident management, CPR, and first aid. In end they had to pass a written test, practical exam and live fire exercises. Congratulation to the two Zacks, Anderson, and Ryan, job well done!!

Also, recently Craig Hull, a member of the department for

almost 7 years was promoted from firefighter to 2nd Lieutenant. Craig was promoted to fill the vacant position after Brandon Tessier was promoted to 1st Lieutenant. Craig is firefighter 1 certified, has been an active member over his two stints with the department. Criag joined at a young age, then went to college. After college he began his work career and started a family but the yearning to be part of our team never left, so he returned. Craig is a natural leader thus he will make a great addition to our command team. Congratulations, Craig.

By Chris Violette, Fire Chief

HALLOWEEN

TRICK OR TREAT ITEMS AVAILABLE

On September 26th, the Barre Town Middle & Elementary School will hold their annual open house & harvest dinner at the school.



As we have for several years now, the police department, fire department and EMS department will have members on hand to answer questions about our departments and hand out Halloween trick or treat bags and glow sticks as we have in the past. The safety of our children is most important, and we hope that they will attach the glow sticks to their costumes while trick or treating. Please stop by our table in the cafeteria.

If you are unable to make the open house, we will have the bags and glow sticks available at the Fire Chief’s office (Planning & Zoning Office), the Town Clerk’s Office and police department in the municipal building, when delivered. Barre Town residents only please.

By Bill Dodge, Chief of Police

Town Committee Members Sought

The Selectboard still seeks to fill a total of four committee vacancies.

Two are on the Traffic Safety Advisory Committee. This committee makes recommendations to the Selectboard about safety related to town highways. Common matters heard by TSAC are changes in speed limits, establishing stop or yield intersections, and placing traffic advisory signs. This committee meets once a month.

The two other vacancies are on the Housing Advisory Committee. The committee deals with housing rehabilitation programs operated by the town. Their responsibilities include adopting a written policy, reviewing applications, approving or disapproving projects, suggesting housing related amendments to the zoning and subdivision bylaws, and advising the Selectboard on issues related to housing. The committee meets as needed.

If you have questions about either committee, or wish to express your interest in serving, contact the Town Manager’s Office at 802-479-9331 or offices@barretown.org.

By Elaine Wang, Assistant Town Manager

Look for the next issue of the Town newsletter..... in November, 2019

RECREATION NEWS

Lower Graniteville Playground needs your help installing its new playground equipment September 7 & 8! The Town Rec Department is looking for 20-25 volunteers for this Community Build, which will be supervised by a certified playground equipment installer. Lunch and snacks provided to volunteers.

If you can use a shovel or turn a wrench, you can help! Work includes digging holes, mixing and pouring concrete, climbing ladders, and spreading wood chips. Volunteers are not required to supply tools, although those who can bring any from the list (especially shovels and wheelbarrows) would be appreciated. Whether for a few hours on one day, or throughout both days, more hands will make light work! Work won't be constant through the two days; with enough people there will be opportunities to take breaks. Please RSVP to Elaine Wang at 802-479-9331 or ewang@barretown.org.

Contact us too if you are a parent who needs daycare to volunteer, or have children under 18 who would like to pitch in.

Tennis/Pickleball Courts: The freshly rehabbed tennis courts (2) and new pickleball courts (six) at the main Rec Area at 46 Websterville Rd (by the school) are ready for play! First come, first served, unless there is a reservation (see barretown.org/recreation_calendars). The town has put away funds over three years to pay for this \$68,665 project, originally just for tennis, then modified to accommodate the fast-growing sport of pickleball.



(Photo credit: Jeff Zangla, VT Tennis Court Surfacing)

PICKLEBALL PLAYERS - new or expert: If you'd like to play with others, you can find the open play organized by local enthusiasts at the Barre Town courts at barrepickleball.playerlineup.com. The Rec Board intends to schedule introductory sessions in the near future, but new players will be welcomed during open play.

TENNIS PLAYERS - Note that even though the surface on one side has been painted with pickleball courts, the tennis nets are still in place. So the pickleball side still can be used for tennis practices if the tennis side is full and enough of the pickleball courts aren't already in use.

Fall Festival: The Rec Board's annual celebration of fall fun is Saturday, September 28 from 10am-1pm at the Rec Area. Stay tuned to barretown.org or the Barre Town Rec Facebook page for more details, but rest assured your favorites will be back. Better reserve your spot in line for the face painting now!



Fundraiser 5K: Central Vermont Medical Center has canceled its annual breast cancer fundraiser 5K race on the Millstone West Bike Path on Saturday, September 21st.

By Elaine Wang, Assistant Town Manager

PROJECT UPDATES

Ash Tree Inventory: Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) was detected in Barre Town in early 2018. The chance of a particular ash tree not getting infected, or surviving once infected, is close to 0%. Ash trees that have the potential to damage public infrastructure therefore need to be removed and disposed of properly. For the town, this mostly means those growing along roadsides. This year, the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission (CVRPC) inventoried ash trees in town road right-of-ways, noting their condition, size, and location. They found 3,630 ash, of which the vast majority were in fair to good condition, small, or both. Less than 250 trees were large, and just 32 of these were in poor condition or dead, the most difficult to take down.

The first priority will be to remove the large trees (more than 2 feet in diameter at breast height), starting with ones that are dead or in poor condition. The next priority for removal are those that are in less than fair condition. Eventually, all roadside ash in Barre Town will be removed. A tree service will be hired for the large trees, which require specialized equipment and skills. The town Department of Public Works will remove small trees as part of their usual road work. This plan will take several years to complete, but the inventory indicates that should be sufficient to protect town roads.

Town Forest Invasive Plant Management: Vermont Land Trust (VLT) and a UVM class mapped invasive plants in the Town Forest last year. They determined that the interior of the forest does have some small patches, with more invasives at the forest boundaries. The good news is they are few enough that several hours of volunteer time per year should be sufficient to keep the town forest healthy and invasives-free. Accordingly, VLT developed an invasives management plan that the town is now implementing. Volunteers already pitched in at one "pull party" in June. The **next Invasives Pull Party is Saturday September 28, 9am-1pm**. Lunch will be provided! Or if you'd like to learn what you can do to help keep invasives at bay where you live, come to the **invasive plant workshop Thursday September 26, 6pm** - light dinner provided. For details visit barretown.org or contact ewang@barretown.org.



Volunteers (left to right) Denise Bergeron, Rebecca Roman (VLT), and Dottie Ricks with their trophies of invasive honeysuckle and buckthorn at the June Pull Party.

Rt. 110 -Mill St. Intersection: The VT Agency of Transportation (VTrans) awarded the intersection improvement project to J.P. Sicard, Inc. VTrans held a pre-construction meeting on July 26. The VTrans and Sicard survey crews have staked out the job and marked work zone sign locations. Sicard is establishing

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(CONT'D - PROJECT UPDATES)

staging and job office trailer sites. A public information meeting was held during the Selectboard meeting on August 13.

To avoid digging in new pavement to be laid as part of this project, the Town is installing an 8" water pipe (inside a 24" steel sleeve) under Rt. 110 from Old Route 302 to Bianchi Street. That work is taking place in early to mid August.

During the public information meeting Sicard's project manager said Sicard expects to start work about August 26. The project completion deadline is November 15, 2019. The project will re-align the bottom of Mill Street. The new location will cut across the fire station lawn slightly and create more of a "T" intersection at Rt. 110. The realignment will improve the line-of-sight for drivers stopped on Mill Street and looking right up Rt. 110. The right angle alignment also will force drivers to slow down when turning off 110 onto Mill Street. Other improvements resulting from the project are: new sidewalk from Old Route 302 to Summer Street, and around the corner of Bianchi Street and 110, narrowing the top of Old Route 302, creating more green space, and drainage improvements.

For most of the work period there will be one-way traffic up Mill Street to the fire station overhead doors. Drivers who want to reach 302 or East Cobble Hill will be detoured out Websterville Road and onto Route 110. At the public information meeting Sicard's project manager said there would be two main phases of work. During Phase 1 traffic going up Mill Street will use the existing right lane. The present down hill (north bound) lane would be closed. In Phase 1, the contractors will excavate for the new road base, and do drainage and utility work. In Phase 2 sidewalks will be constructed, the existing Mill Street pavement will be removed, road base will be constructed, and more drainage work will be done. Paving and painting pavement markings will follow to cap off the project.

The project is funded 100% by federal highway safety money. However, the Town is responsible for its water pipe installation and any water or sewer adjustments that may be necessary.

VTrans' public outreach specialist for this project is Natalie Boyle. To stay informed of project progress and plans request to receive her weekly project update via email. Email Natalie at nboyle@eivtech.com. On the subject line enter "Mill Street Add."

By Carl Rogers, Town Manager

I-89, Exit 6 Work: The blasting phase of VTrans project to remove rock ledge along the I-89 north bound Exit 6 ramp is completed. The north bound Exit 6 ramp has been re-opened to traffic, although work around the ramp continues. A detour route no longer is needed.

By Carl Rogers, Town Manager

VT Food Bank: As previously reported, the Town of Barre applied for, on behalf of the Vermont Food Bank, a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) through the Vermont Community Development Program (VCDP). CDBG grants are extremely competitive and not easy to obtain. The first

application submission in April was not funded but we were encouraged to try again in June, which we did. This time, the Agency of Commerce and Community Development awarded the Town of Barre a \$150,000 grant to be sub-granted to the Vermont Foodbank. While not the \$500,000 that we were seeking, it still goes a long way toward helping the Foodbank with their expansion plans. The Town of Barre and the Vermont Foodbank sincerely thank the Agency for their support.

The Vermont Foodbank is in the middle of a 5,700 square foot addition that will allow for much greater cooler and freezing capacity along with the ability to hire up to 10 additional employees at its Wilson Industrial Park facility. In addition, office space will be reworked, volunteer sorting improved, along with better loading and unloading facilities. Overall the workflow will improve greatly and with the expanded cooler and freezer, the Foodbank's capacity to distribute food to food insecure Vermonters will increase substantially.

By Chris Violette, Planning and Zoning Director

VOTER REGISTRATION

Have you been planning to register to vote or change your voter registration from one town to another? Just never seem to have enough time to do it. No worry – you can register anytime using one of the options below.



Option 1: Contact the Clerk's Office (802) 479-9391 and request a voter application be mailed to you or stop by the office and complete the voter application on site.

Option 2: After hours you can register/change your registration online through the Secretary of State's Office (<https://olvr.sec.state.vt.us>). Follow the prompts.

Option 3: Or, on election day go to your polling place, complete the voter registration application, and vote immediately.

Make sure you keep informed on local election happenings and visit the Barre Town website (www.barretown.org).

By Donna Kelty, Town Clerk-Treasurer

2018 CHARTER AMENDMENTS NOW LAW!

The Town elects 3 Town Auditors for a 3-year term, with 1 elected each year. For many years all the fiscal duties of the Town have been done in-house and an outside CPA firm has done the annual audit. The Elected Auditors are no longer required to perform any fiscal/bookkeeping functions. Their duty primarily deals with the Annual Town Report (proofing, preparing the delinquent taxpayer report, and dedication).

In recent years it has been difficult to recruit individuals to run for this elected position. As a result, the Selectboard decided to ask the voters to amend the Charter.

On April 19, 2019 the Governor signed House Bill 58 which incorporated the May 2018 voter approved amendments into our Town Charter. What were those amendments? Read on.

- *Section 10 – Elected Officers (f)* – adding language that the office of *elected auditor* may be abolished with certain provisions (the Town must have an outside audit annually), the Town voters must vote to approve the abolishment of the office, and upon elimination of said office the expiration date for

the office, and upon elimination of said office the expiration date for anyone currently holding this office.

- *Section 12 Auditors* – Amends the language to state if the position of Auditor is not abolished as in Section 10 then the duties will be as outlined in the remainder of the section.

By Donna Kelty, Town Clerk-Treasurer

2019-2020 TAX AND UTILITY RATES

On June 11, following the Budget Committee’s approved Water and Sewer Fund budgets, the Selectboard set the fiscal year (F.Y.) 2019-2020 utility rates. When the state education tax rates were made available (July 1) the Selectboard set the F.Y. 19-20 property tax rates on July 2. The Town Clerk-Treasurer’s Office mailed the annual tax and sewer bills on July 12.

The total property tax rates (state education taxes plus municipal taxes) for homestead properties increased 3.74%. The total rate for non-homestead properties increased 3.65%.

If a tax bill (especially for a single-family home) appears to have increased much more than these percentages contact the Town offices right away. Sometimes homeowners forget or overlook filing the Homestead Declaration form with the state. If that form is not received, the state Department of Taxes labels the property non-homestead, which is charged a higher tax rate. Time is running out to correct the rate. Contact the Town offices (479-2595) right away.

The total property tax rate has four (4) parts: **1**) the appropriate state education rate; **2**) municipal General Fund (G.F.); **3**) municipal Highway Fund (H.F.); and **4**) municipal Local Agreement. As stated above the state sets the education tax rates and the Town is obligated to use those rates. Below is a comparison of F.Y. 17-18 to F.Y. 19-20 education tax rates:

<u>Classification</u>	<u>F.Y. 17 - 18</u>	<u>F.Y. 18 - 19</u>	<u>F.Y. 19 - 20</u>
Homestead	\$1.3824	\$1.4396	\$1.4926
Non-residential	\$1.7304	\$1.8041	\$1.8683

The selectboard sets the three municipal tax rates. The General Fund (G.F.) tax rate includes G.F. budget, voter approved donations (totaling \$59,450), and allowance for anticipated delinquent taxes (based on the average delinquent percentage for the last three (3) years). The Highway Fund (H.F.) tax rate is based solely on the voter approved H.F. budget. The Local Agreement rate compensates for state education revenue waived by the voters (currently only the disabled veterans’ exemptions). The three (3) municipal tax rates for F.Y. 17-18 to F.Y. 19-20 are shown below:

<u>Purpose</u>	<u>F.Y. 17 - 18</u>	<u>F.Y. 18 - 19</u>	<u>F.Y. 19 - 20</u>
General Fund	\$.5021	\$.4926	\$.5082
Highway Fund	\$.4278	\$.4164	\$.4356
Local Agreement	\$.0033	\$.0033	\$.0036

Setting the municipal tax rates starts with the budgets recommended by the Budget Committee and approved by the voters. The non-tax revenue in each budget is subtracted from the approved budget amounts to calculate gross amount of property taxes needed. Use of fund balance is subtracted to determine the final amount of tax revenue needed. That amount is divided by

the estimated amount of revenue per 1¢ of tax rate to figure the tax rate. The amount of revenue per 1¢ of tax rate is derived from a form provided by the Assessor’s Office. The form lists the value of the Town’s Grand List. The lower the final amount of tax revenue needed and the greater the Grand List, the lower the municipal tax rates will be.

For F.Y. 19-20 the estimated amount of revenue per 1¢ increased from \$64,200 in 2018 to \$65,200. The Selectboard subtracted \$56,745, on account of four (4) one-time expenses, from the gross amount of taxes needed for the H.F. That amount saved almost 1¢ on the H.F. tax rate. The 2019 amount is \$7,460 less than in 2018. The board used \$215,200 of cash balance for the G.F. That amount is \$65,200 more than in 2018. They also used \$97,450 for sixteen (16) one-time expenses. In 2018 the amount was \$93,825.

The residential tax rate increase of 8.81¢ means the owner (who filed the Homestead Declaration) of a home assessed at \$200,000 will pay \$176.20 more in property taxes.

Utility Rates - The Budget Committee sets the Water Fund and Sewer Fund budgets and recommends rates for these utility services. The Committee approved a \$43,330 or 10.12% increase in the Water Fund budget and recommended the quarterly base charge increase from \$56 to \$60 and the water consumption charge increase from \$6.70 to \$6.90 per 100 cubic fee (748 gallons). The Committee approved a Sewer Fund budget with a \$6,125 or .65% decrease. It was recommended the sewer use fee remain the same at \$316 per year per typical household.

On June 11 the Selectboard voted to set the F.Y. 19 - 20 water and sewer fees as recommended by the Budget Committee.

By Carl Rogers, Town Manager

SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER ROAD WORK

Road paving should begin just about the time this newsletter arrives. Road paving is divided in two phases. Roads (or sections of roads) in Phase 1 are: Miller Rd., E. Cobble Hill Rd., Hill St., Windywood Rd., Cherrywood Dr., Barre View St., Old Quarry Hill Rd., Peloquin Rd., Orchard Terr., Highland Crofts and McLeod Rd. *The order in which the roads will be paved has not been determined yet.* Phase 2 Roads are: Camp St., Websterville Rd., Kelley Rd., Church Hill Rd., Richardson Rd., Ledge Dr., Daniels Dr., Rudd Farm Dr. The paving contractor, Pike Industries, has provided a tentative plan stating paving will be done by September 13. The public works department (DPW) will continue working on the roads after paving.

In September and October DPW will also be doing some of the planned gravel road maintenance work. Roads on the 18-19 list to be done yet are: Gun Club Rd., Sunset Rd. (lower end), Snowbridge Rd. (started) and Mitchell Nursery. Gravel road projects for 19-20 are: Breer Rd., Swift Rd. (lower end), Sunset Rd., (upper end), Partridge Rd. and Mitchell Rd.

Board, Commission Reports

Development Review Board – *By Carl Rogers; Members: M. Nicholson, M. Reaves, C. Sanborn, C. Thygesen, C. Neddo, J. Valsangiacomo, and A. Valentinetti. J. Fecteau, and B. Wolfe, alternates.*

AUD=Allowed Use Determination; CUP=Conditional Use Permit; SD=Subdivision; BLA=Boundary Line Adjustment

April 2019: First hearing VT Creamery Phase 2 site plan (building addition and site work). Approved

May 2019: Second hearing VT Creamery site plan for Phase 2. Approved.

June 2019: No meeting.

July 2019: 2-lot SD on Phelps Road, preliminary and final review approved with conditions; 2-lot SD on Cutler Corner Road, preliminary and final review approved with conditions; 2-lot SD on Cutler Corner Road, preliminary review continued; CUP for converting commercial space on Rt. 302 to two apartments approved.

August 2019: 2-lot SD on Cutler Corner Road preliminary review approved; BLA on LePage Road approved.

Planning Commission – *By Carl Rogers; Members: C. Sanborn, C. Thygesen, C. Violette, D. Pierce, B. Atwood, G. Clain, C. Duke/M. Gilbar.*

AUD=Allowed Use Determination; CUP=Conditional Use Permit

April 2019: 4/3/19 Voted to submit Enhanced Energy Plan draft to CVRPC; 4/17/19 Discussed Enhanced Energy Plan with CVRPC.

May 2019: Discussed updating Town Plan; voted to send letter about Enhanced Energy Plan approval process to CVRPC.

June 2019: Approved second driveway for 49 W. Cobble Hill Road (driveway onto Philbrook Street).

July 2019: No meeting.

Traffic Safety Advisory Committee - *By Carl Rogers; Members: C. Liese, S. Corbett, J. Blow, W. Kirby, and Val Vallerand.*

April 2019: Decided not to install 25 mph speed limit signs on Rudd Farm Rd. and Daniels Dr.; discussed truck traffic on Middle Rd. and requested CVRPC do traffic counts; planned site visit to Casanova St.; discussed request for crosswalk on Pitman Rd.

May 2019: Recommended crosswalk with pedestrian activated flashing beacon on Pitman Rd.; recommended repeal of No Parking zone on Pitman Rd.; recommended No Parking zone for specific location on Casanova St.

June 2019: Site visits to Hill St. and Websterville Rd./Quarry Hill Rd.; recommended pedestrian activity signs on Quarry Hill and Graniteville Roads near Websterville Rd.; referred request for speed monitoring on Farwell St. to police department; recommended pedestrian activity signs on Hill St. above and below playground.

July and August 2019: No meetings.