

BARRE TOWN SELECTBOARD MEETING AGENDA

November 28, 2017 (revised)

1. Call to order 6:30 p.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Consider approving agenda.
4. Consider approving minutes from meeting of November 21, 2017.
5. Announcements
6. Receive guest (for non-agenda items).
7. Consider approving Thunder Chickens Snowmobile Club's request to cross town property.
8. Discuss Central Vermont Internet Authority.
9. Consider awarding contract for purchase of tire chains.
10. Consider selecting water consulting engineer.
11. Consider approving weekly accounts payable warrant for November 21, 2017.
12. Miscellaneous: including licenses and permits, if any.
13. Round the table.
14. Executive session (not anticipated).
15. Adjourn.

BARRE TOWN SELECTBOARD MINUTES November 28, 2017

The duly warned meeting of November 28, 2017 was held at the Barre Town Municipal Building, Selectboard Room, Lower Websterville at 6:30 p.m.

The following members were in attendance: Paul White, W. John "Jack" Mitchell, Rolland Tessier, and Bob Nelson.

Attendance for the regular meeting included: Town Clerk-Treasurer Donna Kelty, Assistant Town Manager Elaine Wang, Doug Farnham, Dave Rouleau, Jeremy Hansen, and Times Argus Reporter Eric Blaisdell.

CALL TO ORDER - The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - Those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVE THE AGENDA

On a motion by Nelson, seconded by Tessier, the Selectboard voted to accept the revised posted meeting agenda which added item 8 - Discuss Central VT Internet Authority; deleted item 11 of adopting a Social Security Number Private Policy.

During the motion discussion Mitchell stated that at one of the Selectboard December meetings he would like to have an Executive Session with Selectboard members only to discuss personnel.

MINUTES

On a motion by Paul White, seconded by Mitchell, the Selectboard voted to table action on the Selectboard meeting minutes of November 21, 2017 and place them on the next agenda.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- When cleaning snow from your property remember that no snow is to be pushed across or into a town road, highway, or public sidewalk. Doing so could result in fines of \$60 to \$210 per offense.

Selectboard Minutes of November 28, 2017 continued:

- The Barre Town Community Dog Park organizers are selling calendars featuring Barre Town pups to raise funds for the new dog park. They are \$15.00 each and 100% of the proceeds will go to the dog park. Calendars may be purchased at the Barre Town Clerk's Office, Last Time Around Antiques, or Maria's Bagels.
- The Town Health Officer has resigned so we are seeking a new Health Officer to begin January 1, 2018. This individual will handle cases involving Vermont's rental housing code, dog bites, and disposal or storage of trash. Typically, there are not many calls, about 10 per year. Training is available. Contact the Town Manager's office for more information or if you are interested in the position.
- There is a vacancy for the Development Review Board Alternate position for a term through May 31, 2018. To apply, send a letter of interest to the Town Manager's office by December 8. Sample questions to address in your letter of interest can be found on the town website (www.barretown.org). Look for the Development Review Board item under announcements on the homepage.
- The Selectboard is seeking registered voters to serve on the Barre Town Budget Committee between the last Tuesday of January through the last Tuesday of March. The Budget Committee reviews the entire budget for Barre Town. Serving on this Committee gives you a say in all fiscal year 2018-2019 budgets and is a great way to learn about town operations and budgets. If interested please send your letter or email of interest by 4:00 p.m., Friday, December 29th, to the Town Manager's office. More information about the responsibilities of the budget Committee is in the November Barre Town newsletter. If you have questions, contact the Town Manager at 479-9331 or one of your Selectboard members.

GUESTS

Recreation Board members Doug Farnham and Dave Rouleau were present to discuss the proposed dog park. A quick update: the fence poles are up and fund raising is continuing. The next phase is to install the fence and there no reason to believe the remaining monies cannot be raised. However, Lafayette Highway Specialties, the company which loaned the equipment for installing the fence posts is coming to the end of their work season and would like to keep their crew working until late December if possible. Lafayette has agreed to enter into a contract with the Recreation Board to install the fencing by mid-December with the understanding that payment would not be made until next calendar year (once the remaining \$7700 fundraising is complete). The Recreation Board members are inquiring if the Selectboard would allow this to take place.

The primary discussion topic was repayment to Lafayette. Should the fundraising fall short the Town would be obligated to make payment. Installation of the fence this December would facilitate an early open of the park. As word spreads more volunteers are coming out to assist with all aspects of the park.

By consensus the Selectboard agreed to allow the Recreation Board to enter into a contract with Lafayette to finish the dog park fencing with the understanding that payment will be made next calendar year.

THUNDER CHICKENS SNOWMOBILE REQUEST TO CROSS TOWN PROPERTY

Background: Annually the Thunder Chickens Snowmobile Club requests permission to cross town property and ride along two (2) town roads. The Board was provided with a list prior to the meeting. Club President Dave Rouleau was present to answer any questions.

On a motion by Tessier, seconded by Paul White, the Selectboard granted permission for the Thunder Chickens Snowmobile Club to cross the following town

Selectboard Minutes of November 28, 2017 continued:

properties and ride along the roads noted for their riding season which runs from December 16, 2017 through April 15, 2018:

- *Trail to former Hilltop Restaurant. This is a section of land from the Wilson Industrial Park (Pitman Road) that parallels the railroad tracks toward the former restaurant - dead end feed, but still used as trailer parking and access to VAST trails.*
- *Pitman Road. This is property within the Wilson Industrial park where the trail parallels the tracks and Northern Power near the former Maine Drilling and Blasting building. Includes the Industrial Park property.*
- *Land below the Pike crushing operation (off Websterville Road).*
- *Violette Street in Websterville near the Fire District building off Church Hill Road. This is a feeder tail access to Lawson's Store that uses a right-of-way for about 200 feet parallel to Violette Street.*
- *Graniteville Picnic Area - will be a "Dead End" there - hoping to still groom into the picnic area and turn around.*
- *Former East Barre Fire District land off Lowery Road - club will sign with "No Refueling" in this area.*
- *Land near Wilson Cemetery - new in 2009 to create a safer access to the Quarry Hill Quick Stop.*
- *Existing corridors within the Barre Town Forest.*
- *Parcel of land on Waterman Street - the club to use orange fence or rope to identify well cover hazard just off the trail.*
- *Land across from Route 14 (Williamstown Pit).*
- *Approximately a 50 yard stretch of Cheney Road to circumvent the Berini driveway and provide a clear line of sight.*

All road crossings on the network are perpendicular with the road and "Snowmobile Crossing" signs will be erected/removed at each.

CENTRAL VT INTERNET AUTHORITY

Background: Jeremy Hansen (Berlin Selectboard member and Professor at Norwich) is interested in forming a communication union district to provide internet access in Central Vermont. The Selectboard was given a paper copy of a power point speaking to the proposed Authority. Mr. Hansen is present to give the Board more information.

Noteworthy speaking points included:

- State statute 30 VSA Section 202C states that 50% of Vermont should have "high speed" internet by 2020. It does not appear this goal will be met.
- A separate utility district would provide an internet connection/speed for those that do not have access or those who want to increase their internet download/upload capability.
- If the voters of the Town agree to join this district no Town tax dollars are needed to support this new district. User fees, grants, etc. will be used to pay the debt of the new Internet Authority District.
- The new Authority can borrow from the Bond Bank at a lower interest rate and they can borrow in anticipation of revenue.
- There are still questions to be answered - what happens to the District customers if the town withdraws from said District and who has the authority to bond for district financing.
- How do you "get the word out" to those that do not have/use technology to obtain information about this proposed Authority?

The Board thanked Mr. Hansen for taking the time to come this evening.

AWARD CONTRACTS

Background: Bids were opened for the tire chains. Shop Foreman Martel has had an opportunity to examine all the chains and is comfortable recommending the low bidder. A listing of the bid prices was presented to the Board for review prior to the meeting.

On a motion by Mitchell, seconded by Paul White, the Selectboard voted to award the tire chain contract to BB Chains (Milford, New Hampshire) based on their per unit bid price, said bids opened November 20, 2017. The motion passed with Tom White and Nelson voting no.

Discussion during the motion focused on local vendor versus out of state vendor and the bid price difference.

WATER CONSULTING ENGINEER

Background: The Selectboard have completed their interviews for the two water consultant engineering firms (Aldrich & Elliott and Otter Creek Engineering) and are being asked if they are ready to make a selection.

Discussion included:

- Both firms are qualified to do the job.
- Otter Creek Engineering (OCE) had out of the box solutions for financing clients.
- This consultant would be for water engineering only.
- Otter Creek is more local.

On a motion by Mitchell seconded by Tessier, the Selectboard voted to appoint Otter Creek Engineering as the water consultant firm for Barre Town.

WEEKLY ACCOUNTS PAYABLE WARRANT

On a motion by Tessier, seconded by Paul White, the Selectboard voted to approve the weekly accounts payable warrant for November 28, 2017.

MISCELLANEOUS - None

'ROUND THE TABLE

Nelson stated he appreciated the invitation to the Town Employee Christmas Party.

ADJOURN

On a motion by Mitchell, seconded by Nelson, the Selectboard voted to adjourn at 8:13 p.m.

Donna Kelty, Town Clerk-Treasurer

Selectboard Chair

Barre Town Selectboard