

BARRE TOWN SELECTBOARD MEETING AGENDA

January 16, 2018

1. Call to order 6:30 p.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Consider approving agenda.
4. Consider approving minutes from meeting of January 9, 2018.
5. Announcements
6. Receive guest (for non-agenda items).
7. Quarterly report from Barre Area Development.
8. Report from Town's representatives to state legislature.
9. Discuss asking voters if Barre town will join Central Vermont Internet.
10. Consider appointing an elected auditor (to fill a position until May 2018 election).
11. Consider approving 2018 Sewage Allocation Policy update.
12. Discuss plans for 2018 Budget Tour.
13. Consider approving contract for building a new feature (ramp) in the Travis Mercy Memorial Skatepark.
14. Consider approving weekly accounts payable warrant for January 16, 2018.
15. Miscellaneous: including Graniteville General Store's liquor license and possibly other licenses and permits.
16. Round the table.
17. Executive session: contracts and personnel.
18. Adjourn.

BARRE TOWN SELECTBOARD MINUTES

January 16, 2018

The duly warned meeting of January 16, 2018 was held at the Barre Town Municipal Building, Selectboard Room, Lower Websterville at 6:30 p.m.

The following members were in attendance: W. John "Jack" Mitchell, Bob Nelson, Paul White and Rolland Tessier. Tom White was not present.

Attendance for the regular meeting included: Town Manager Carl Rogers, Town Clerk-Treasurer Donna Kelty, Assistant Town Manager Elaine Wang, Joel Schwartz, House Representative Francis "Topper" McFaun, House Representative Robert LaClair, and Times Argus Reporter Eric Blaisdell.

CALL TO ORDER - Vice Chair Mitchell called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

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

APPROVE THE AGENDA

On a motion by Paul White, seconded by Nelson, the Selectboard voted to accept the meeting agenda. Tom White was not present for the vote.

MINUTES

On a motion by Nelson, seconded by Tessier, the Selectboard voted to approve the Selectboard meeting minutes of January 9, 2018 with the minor spelling and grammatical changes. Tom White was not present for the vote.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- If you have cabin fever, try indoor pickleball with the Barre Town Recreation Board. Open play is every Sunday until March 18th, 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., in the Barre Town

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School gym. Bring a water bottle. Three courts, paddles, and balls available. Pros to beginners are welcome.

- The Barre Town Thunder Chickens Snowmobile Club will be holding their annual Travis Mercy Skatepark fundraiser on February 17th. This fundraiser will have something fun for everyone: snowmobile poker ride, silent auction, quilt raffle, and a pulled pork and chicken dinner. For more information, contact Linda Mercy (479-3405).
- Barre Town's Budget Committee will meet every Tuesday from January 30th to March 27th. The meetings are 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the Municipal Building and are open to the public. If you would like insight into how your tax dollars are proposed to be spent, these meetings are for you.
- Last Tuesday night the Selectboard called for an executive session. After the session the Board voted to authorize an Access Agreement with Pike Industries. Our Town Attorney had been working on the agreement with a lawyer representing Pike. The agreement is about access to Pike's Quarry Hill Road sand bank, from which the Town takes sand, per the land swap transaction between Barre Town and Pike about 10 years ago.

GUESTS - None

BARRE AREA DEVELOPMENT - REPORT

Background: Joel Schwartz, Executive Director for Barre Area Development is to present his quarterly report.

The following are the highlights of Mr. Schwartz's report:

- Granite City Countertop is closed and the building is for sale.
- Has been meeting with the marketing consultants.
- He plans to do an employee count for the Wilson Industrial Park - it has been awhile.
- Spoke to the Wilson Industrial Park covenants (old and new sections) and will review the documents to recommend areas which may need rewriting or possible conflicts.
- Wilson Industrial Park growth to include entrance and exits; and possible need to rezone 41 acres.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES REPORT

Background: Last fall the Selectboard met with our State of Vermont House Representatives Topper McFaun and Rob LaClair to talk about delinquent tax sales and fireworks permits. It was agreed during this discussion that our representatives would meet with the Board monthly during the legislative session.

McFaun spoke to the following topics: Meals on Wheels (keeping it in the State budget when federal funding disappears), Daycare education requirements, Foster parent rights in the courtroom, Bill H608 to form an older Vermonters working group to study ways to increase their participation and how/where to get assistance. The majority of his report provided the Board with a brief summary of the Opiate Report which was released today.

The Board noted issues of landlord tenant laws, reiterating the tax burden on Vermonters is heavy and funding for addressing opioid issues will be a major hurdle, and possible plans to renovate a correctional facility to house all types of inmates.

LaClair spoke to the following topics: Charter changes passed out of committee and are headed to floor for vote - no issues, H300 regarding tax sales (statue of limitations going away) had second hearing today, merger with Websterville Fire District #3 is in the works for charter change, a new group of current/former Selectboard members caucus

Selectboard Minutes of January 16, 2018 continued:

are meeting to discuss local issues, he is opposed to an occupancy fee to address homeless issues, and with this being bi-annual year the Legislature is looking to get all the Charter changes taken care of.

Board discussion focused on limiting growth of state programs to the economy, review of state programs to ensure we are getting our monies worth, education taxes could see a 9-cent increase; and looking at how our special education services are delivered.

The Board thanked the members for taking time to spend time with them and are looking forward to the next report.

CENTRAL VERMONT INTERNET

Background: In November 2017 the Selectboard received a presentation from Jeremy Hansen (Berlin) regarding a proposed Central Vermont Internet Authority (CVIA). Currently there are a number (seven to nine) of Towns who are placing a ballot question on their March Town Meeting ballot.

The Selectboard will discuss if they want to give the voters an opportunity to decide; an if so call a Special Town Meeting in March 2018 (this would mean the Town picks up the cost of the school election) or wait until May 2018. The deadline to call a special meeting for March would be Tuesday, April 3, 2018.

The organizational meeting of the CVIA is the same night as our May annual election, so our town representative would not participate in that meeting. A benefit of waiting until May is that it would allow the Selectboard to see what towns voted to join and if any new information comes to light.

On a motion by Nelson, second by Tessier, the Selectboard voted to put the Central Vermont Internet Authority question on the May 2018 Annual Meeting ballot. Tom White was not present for the vote.

FILL VACANT AUDITOR POSITION

Background: Melissa Brown resigned from her elected auditor position when she moved away. The Town Charter states the Selectboard will fill vacant elected offices until the next Annual Election. Management advertised the auditor position with a January 5, 2018 closing date. There was one applicant. The Board will discuss how to proceed.

On a motion by Nelson, seconded by Tessier, the Selectboard voter to appoint Peter Duquette as elected Auditor until the May 8, 2018 annual meeting to fill the seat vacated by Melissa Brown. Tom White was not present for the vote.

2018 SEWAGE ALLOCATION POLICY

Background: Annually the Sewage Allocation Policy is renewed. Prior to the Barre City Wastewater treatment plant renovations, there used to be a reserve/waiting list. Currently this is no longer an issue, but there is a finite number of connections available.

The changes this year are made only to numbers and dates. Our current allocation stands at 602,681 gallons per day, of which 21,000 gallons are reserved for approved subdivisions. The uncommitted allocation is equivalent to 1939 homes.

On a motion by Tessier, seconded by Paul White, the Selectboard voted to approve and sign the 2018 Sewage Allocation Policy renewal to be effective January 1, 2018. Tom White was not present for the vote.

There was brief discussion on the Williamstown I&I corrections which still exist.

2018 BUDGET TOUR PREPARATIONS

Background: Consistently, for those attending the annual budget tour we hear it is very informative for Budget Committee and citizens. The Manager prepares the tour and it requires a lot of work at the facilities, planning the route and writing the booklet. With low turnout last year, the Town asked for feedback and the following was received:

Department Heads suggested:

- Change name to Town Department Tour
- Starting time too early and runs too long
- Plan for 9:00 a.m. start, lunch, and finish around 1:30 p.m.
- Conduct a Front Porch Forum survey

Budget Committee suggested:

- Offering the booklet before the tour.
- Limit the route to reaching the stops.
- Include the Barre Town School on the tour.

Other items to note for discussion are: by past practice the tour would be the 4th Saturday in February; the Town no longer owns the school buses- should we rent a van?

The Board, by consensus of those present, decided to try a weeknight early evening (perhaps before a Selectboard/Budget meeting), to let the Budget Committee determine night and time, reduce the content, and to advertise on the existing social media sites (Facebook pages of fire and police) as soon as possible. Tom White was not present.

Mitchell expressed concerns for walking conditions in the dark and the possible need of having to hold additional Budget Committee meetings to complete their work.

TRAVIS MERCY SKATEPARK - NEW FEATURE

Background: The Thunder Chickens Snowmobile Club and Mercy family have been donating money for maintenance and improvement of the Travis Mercy Memorial Skatepark. There is a good sum of money available now. The current Fiscal Year 2017-2018 Recreation Budget includes \$3,000 for adding a new feature (ramp) which the Board heard about a couple of times in the past.

On September 12, 2018 the Selectboard voted to authorize a \$26,000 contract with Parker Construction to build the ramp. After that, the price changed to \$27,950. The Recreation Board asked the company to revise the contract payment plan so that the Town would not have to give a \$6,000 deposit. The Recreation Board at their last meeting voted to recommend approving the contract with Parker Construction.

On a motion by Tessier, seconded by Nelson, the Selectboard voted to approve the \$27,950 contract with Parker Construction for construction of a new concrete ramp at the Travis Mercy Memorial Skatepark. Tom White was not present for the vote.

Motion discussion included maintenance requirements for the concrete structure (Manager to inquire) and the workload for the Department of Works.

WEEKLY ACCOUNTS PAYABLE WARRANT

On a motion by Tessier, seconded by Paul White, the Selectboard voted to approve the weekly accounts payable warrant for January 16, 2018. Tom White was not present for the vote and Nelson abstained.

MISCELLANEOUS

On a motion by Paul White, seconded by Tessier, the Selectboard voted to approve a 2018 Second Class Liquor License for Graniteville General Store. Tom White was not present for the vote.

'ROUND THE TABLE

The Town Clerk reminded the Board there is a Board of Abatement Meeting next Wednesday, January 24, 2018, 6:30 p.m.

Paul White and all wished Bob Nelson a Happy Birthday.....29 again!

Mitchell brought a 1997 folded map of Barre Town. It was put together by a company and includes information on the various functions of the Town. He would like to see this updated. Rogers stated this was never updated due to the "technology" advancements (which include having the town map available through our website). Research will be done to see if the company is still providing the service (map was free to Town and printer made their money through advertising fees).

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion by Paul White, seconded by Tessier, the Selectboard found that premature general knowledge would put the Town at a substantial disadvantage with regards to the discussion of contracts and personnel matters. Tom White was not present for the vote.

On a motion by Paul White, seconded by Nelson, the Selectboard voted to go into executive session at 9:05 p.m. for contracts and personnel matters. Tom White was not present for the vote.

On a motion by Mitchell, seconded by Nelson, the Selectboard voted to come out of executive session at 10:07 p.m. Tom White was not present for the vote.

PERSONNEL ACTION

On a motion by Paul White, seconded by Tessier, the Selectboard voted to approve the non-union staff pay increases as presented by the Town Manager to be retroactive to July 1, 2017. Tom White was not present for the vote.

ADJOURN

On a motion by Tessier, seconded by Nelson, the Selectboard voted to adjourn at 10:08 p.m. Tom White was not present for the vote.

Donna Kelty, Town Clerk-Treasurer

Selectboard Chair

Barre Town Selectboard