

# BARRE TOWN SELECTBOARD MEETING AGENDA

February 6, 2018

1. Call to order 8:00 p.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Consider approving agenda.
4. Consider approving minutes from meeting of January 30, 2018.
5. Announcements
6. Receive guest (for non-agenda items).
7. Barre Town Middle and Elementary School and Spaulding High School budget presentations.
8. Executive session - labor relations.....8:30 pm.
9. Discussion about adding assistant EMS Director.
10. Consider closing the April 1, 2017 Grand List.
11. Consider confirming sale of a 2010 Freightliner dump truck.
12. Considering approving weekly accounts payable warrant for February 6.
13. Miscellaneous - including VFW's first class liquor license and outside consumption license and other license and permit applications, if any.
14. 'Round the table.
15. Executive session: real estate, contract.
16. Adjourn.

## BARRE TOWN SELECTBOARD MINUTES

February 6, 2018

The duly warned meeting of February 6, 2018 was held at the Barre Town Municipal Building, Selectboard Room, Lower Websterville at 8:00 p.m.

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

Attendance for the regular meeting included: Town Manager Carl Rogers, Assistant Town Manager Elaine Wang, Assistant Town Clerk Wendy Moore, David Danforth, Pete Munsell, Paul Malone, John Pandolfo and John Paterson.

**CALL TO ORDER** - The meeting was called to order at 8:02 p.m.

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

### APPROVE THE AGENDA

*On a motion by Paul White, seconded by Bob Nelson, the Selectboard voted to amend and accept the meeting agenda as follows: #15 add personnel to the executive session. Rolland Tessier was not present for the vote.*

### MINUTES

*On a motion by Paul White, seconded by Nelson, the Selectboard voted to approve the Selectboard meeting minutes of January 30, 2018 with the following changes: add Charlie Woodhams to the regular meeting attendance, page 3 under Attorney Monte noted the following: last sentence change would schedule to could schedule and under 'Round the Table Paul White will not be attending the Websterville Fire District Annual Meeting, he will just not be here for the February 13<sup>th</sup> meeting. Tessier was not present for the vote.*

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Quarterly taxes and semi-annual sewer fees are due Thursday, February 15<sup>th</sup>. Visit [www.barretown.org](http://www.barretown.org) to see your options for payment methods.

Selectboard Minutes of February 6, 2018 continued:

- Don't forget, the pulled pork and chicken dinner, silent auction, and snowmobile poker run fundraiser for the Travis Mercy Skatepark is on Saturday, February 17<sup>th</sup>. See the town website for more details. The dinner and silent auction will be held at the Bare Town School Gym. Food will be served at 12:30 pm.
- If you don't have a house number prominently showing at your driveway, and if you were to need emergency services at your house, emergency personnel might not find you as quickly as they would with a house number on your mailbox post. The Town makes it easy by selling house number signs for \$10. To order yours, contact Tina at 479-9331, or visit [barretown.org](http://barretown.org) and search for "order house number."
- Town Budget Committee meetings began last week. The public is welcome to attend them and learn about Town operations. Meetings take place Tuesdays from 6:00pm to 8pm through March. This year the committee tour of town departments will be on Tuesday, March 13<sup>th</sup>, starting at 5:30 pm. The public is invited. The Committee is giving the public the option to join the tour at 5:30, or to meet up with the Committee at any one of the tour stops. Details will be posted on the website and announced here.
- Tickets for the Friends of the Library Annual Winter Banquet and Auction held on Saturday March 3<sup>rd</sup> at 5:30 pm at the Barre Elks Club are now on sale for \$30.00. If you buy your tickets by February 16<sup>th</sup> you will be entered into a drawing for a \$25.00 gift certificate to the Quarry Kitchen & Spirits. It's a wonderful evening and a major fundraiser for the friends who support the library's programs. Tickets available at the Aldrich Library.

**GUESTS - None**

**SCHOOL BUDGETS**

Background: The BTMES and SHS Boards will be presenting their respective budget proposals. John Paterson, Paul Malone and school superintendent John Pandolfo attended to discuss and answer any questions.

Mr. Malone discussed the 5 contributing factors which affect the tax rate.

1. Expenses are the only thing that can be controlled.
2. Revenues
3. Equalized students are students in secondary schools from economically deprived backgrounds and whose first language is not English. Vermont uses equalized pupils in calculations rather than the actual head count in each school. The principle behind this is that it costs more to educate these students.
4. Yield/Base Tax Rate: this accounts for about \$.06 of the property tax increase for both Barre City and Barre Town schools. The yield is a collection of all school budgets combined that were passed which goes to the state and gets redistributed and as a result of this system the average yield is about 16,000 and we are well under that, so you might say that we are subsidizing the rest of the school systems.
5. Common Level of Appraisal: this affects us in a negative way also. If that number goes down, that means that our tax rate will go up as a result.

Mr. Nelson asked how does the cost per equalized pupil compare to the national and regional average? Mr. Pandolfo stated that Vermont as a whole is significantly above the national average. Because the elementary, middle and high schools are at a low end of Vermont spending we are more comparable to the National Average. We are much closer to it than many of the other districts in the state.

**Selectboard Minutes of February 6, 2018 continued:**

Discussion was also had on the Comparative Tax Rate Calculations and the Barre Town and Spaulding School district FY 19 Budget Highlights.

Mitchell thanked the school board members for the presentation and on the work preparing the school budgets.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

*On a motion by Mitchell, seconded by Nelson, the Selectboard found that premature general knowledge would put the Town at a substantial disadvantage with regards to the discussion of labor relations. Tessier was not present for the vote.*

*On a motion by Mitchell, seconded by White, the Selectboard voted to go into executive session at 8:40 for labor relations. The Town's Labor Attorney, EMS Director and two EMT's also attended. Tessier was not present for the vote.*

*On a motion by Mitchell, seconded by Nelson, the Selectboard voted to come out of executive session at 9:46 pm. Tessier was not present for the vote.*

**ASSISTANT EMS DIRECTOR**

Background: Chris LaMonda will be presenting his reasons, justifications for an assistant EMS Director along with a job description for both the Director and Assistant Director. Also present were David Danforth and Pete Munsell.

Chris LaMonda stated that BTEMS is the 7<sup>th</sup> busiest service in Vermont. Services near our size have 3-6 administrative staff members. BTEMS is one of only 7 Paramedic services in Vermont with Critical Care credentials out of 80 transporting agencies. BTEMS goes on approximately 3800 calls per year. On average 10.4 calls per day. The average call length is approximately 45 minutes for emergency calls and the 91 calls just over 2 hours. The staff of 35 is up from 18 we had two years ago. Time cards take twice as long and personnel matters with doubling the staff take 4 to 5 times longer. Turnovers and hiring take a huge amount of time. As for financially, we are running positive numbers revenue wise. BTSME has added Brookfield to its service area which will add approximately \$20,000 a year added revenue with little to no major changes in expenses. Chris also reviewed the coverage; costs of the added position and what duties would be assigned to the Assistant Director. Chris also pointed out that his time could be spent on other duties which have had been relegated to the background such as personnel evaluations, recruitment, staff training, public safety and no representation currently with pier organizations on a state or local level.

Mitchell thought this has been needed for awhile and he will support this position.

**GRAND LIST**

Background: State law has required that the Grand List be closed. The List is closed as of February 1<sup>st</sup> if there are no known suits or appeals pending. Assessor Joe Levesque prepared Certificate of No Suit Pending. The Selectboard is being asked to approve the Certificate.

*On a motion by Nelson, seconded by Paul White, the Selectboard voted to approve closing the April 1, 2017 Grand List. Tessier was not present for the vote.*

**SALE OF 10-WHEEL DUMP TRUCK**

Background: The bidding closed at 8:00 p.m. on Friday, February 12<sup>th</sup> on the 2010 Freightliner dump truck. Carl stated that we did not get the reserved price that the Selectboard instructed us to use. The high bid was \$31,000 which is \$4000 lower than the reserved price. The questions presented by Carl was will the Selectboard authorize us to contact the high bidder to see if they still want the truck at the bid price?

Selectboard Minutes of February 6, 2018 continued:

*On a motion by Mitchell, seconded by Paul White, the Selectboard voted to approve contacting the high bidder to see if they are still interested in purchasing the vehicle at the bid price. Tessier was not present for the vote.*

**WEEKLY ACCOUNTS PAYABLE WARRANT**

*On a motion by Paul White, seconded by Mitchell, the Selectboard voted to approve the weekly accounts payable warrant for February 6th. Tessier was not present for the vote.*

**MISCELLANEOUS**

*On a motion by Nelson, seconded by Paul White, the Selectboard voted to approve and sign the renewal applications for the 2018 First Class Liquor License and Outside Consumption Permit for the Veterans of Foreign Wars MacKenzie-Webster Post. Tessier was not present for the vote.*

**'ROUND THE TABLE - None**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

*On a motion by Mitchell, seconded by Paul White, the Selectboard found that premature general knowledge would put the Town at a substantial disadvantage with regards to the discussion of real estate, contract, and personnel issues.*

*On a motion by Mitchell, seconded by Nelson, the Selectboard voted to go into executive session at 10:25 p.m. for real estate, contract and personnel issues. Tessier was not present for the vote.*

*On a motion by Paul White, seconded by Nelson, the Selectboard voted to come out of executive session at 11:22 p.m. Mitchell and Tessier were not present for the vote.*

**ADJOURN**

*On a motion by Paul White, seconded by Nelson, the Selectboard voted to adjourn at 11:22 p.m. Mitchell and Tessier were not present for the vote.*

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Wendy Moore, Assistant Town Clerk

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Selectboard Chair

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**Barre Town Selectboard**