

BARRE TOWN SELECTBOARD MEETING AGENDA

July 2, 2019

1. Call to order 6:00 p.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Consider approving agenda.
4. Consider approving June 25, 2019 meeting minutes.
5. Announcements
6. Receive guests for non-agenda items.
7. Consider authorizing contract for radio system consultant services.
8. Consider approving participation commitment letter for Municipal Road Grants-in-Bid (stormwater) program.
9. Consider setting 2019-2020 tax rates.
10. Consider adopting 2019 Road and Bridge Standards.
11. Consider third reading (final action) of a proposed ordinance designating a no parking zone on Casanova Street.
12. Consider approving weekly accounts payable warrants for June 18 and 25, 2019.
13. Miscellaneous: including licenses and permits, if any.
14. Round the table.
15. Executive Session: (real estate, contracts, labor contracts (action possible)).
16. Adjourn.

BARRE TOWN SELECTBOARD MINUTES

July 2, 2019

The duly warned meeting of July 2, 2019 was held at the Barre Town Municipal Building, Selectboard Room, in Lower Websterville at 6:00 p.m.

The following members were in attendance: Paul White, Norma Malone, and W. John "Jack" Mitchell, Bob Nelson and Tom White.

Attendance for the regular meeting: Town Manager Carl Rogers, Assistant Manager Elaine Wang, Town Clerk-Treasurer Donna J. Kelty, Francis "Topper" McFaun, MaryAnn McFaun, Gerard Otis Jr., Frank Malnati, James Aja, Sherry Aja, Morgan Mast, Natalie Mattson, Grant Otis, Miles Aja, Mason Otis, John Malnati, and Jamison Mast.

CALL TO ORDER – The regular meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

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

APPROVE THE AGENDA

On a motion by Jack Mitchell, seconded by Bob Nelson, the Selectboard voted to approve the amended meeting agenda, noting Item #10 is tabled until the next meeting.

MINUTES

On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Bob Nelson, the Selectboard voted to approve the Selectboard meeting minutes of June 25, 2019 with minor corrections to spelling and grammar. Tom White abstained as he did attend the meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ✓ The first two Recreation Board Summer Ice Cream Socials in the playgrounds will be Tuesday, July 9th at the Trow Hill Playground and Tuesday, July 16th, at the Lower Graniteville Playground. All socials are 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
- ✓ If you are remodeling, clearing property, or otherwise have a lot of clean wood or large logs to get rid of, you can bring that to the Central Vermont Transfer Station on US Route 2 in East Montpelier. Clean wood means pallets, dimensional lumber and brush, and branches over 1 inch in diameter. Wood must be untreated and unpainted. Staples and nails are okay, but straps are not. There is a fee, currently \$75.00 per ton,

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with a minimum charge of \$25.00. For the latest information call 802-223-7045. Note that lawn waste wood up to 5 inches in diameter from the property of your Barre Town home may be brought to the Lawn Waste Site located on Holden Road.

- ✓ If you are looking to learn tennis or improve your tennis skills, Barre Town Recreation is holding tennis lessons for two weeks starting July 23, 2019. Beginner and intermediate players ages 7 and up are welcome. Visit www.barretown.org for the schedule and registration form.

GUESTS

Several Barre Town residents and Spaulding High School students were present to discuss the Barre City BOR ice rink repairs.

Topper McFaun, former School Board member, Selectboard member, and Spaulding Hockey coach stated he would like the Town to consider reaching out to the Barre City Council to participate in a “Fact Finding” committee for the purpose of researching and making recommendations for the repairs and upkeep of the BOR (Bureau of Outdoor Recreation – so named due to monies received to build the facility). He noted the building at one time was used for year-round recreation and would like to see this happen once again. Many Barre Town residents use this facility as well as the school. Repair expenses alone can be extreme (such as the current repair) and Mr. McFaun would like to see the creation of some type of endowment fund created for the purpose of maintaining the facility.

Gerry Otis, former Selectboard member and Town taxpayer, was accompanied by some of the Spaulding boys/girls hockey team members. Mr. Otis feels the BOR is comparable to the Aldrich Library in that it is integral to the community. He, too, is encouraging the Selectboard to reach out to the City Council and provide input to a long-term building plan.

Conversation worth noting includes: many local businesses/residents have contributed to the maintenance/upgrade of the BOR, the Town has contributed monies in the past for maintenance, this is used for school functions (the School has not been approached about a donation), the facility is located in another Town, and concern over why there has not been something in place for the long-term maintenance and building repair.

The Selectboard thanked those present for their input.

CONTRACT FOR RADIO SYSTEM CONSULTANT SERVICES

Background: The current Equipment Fund budget includes \$6,900 for Phase 1 of the Barre Town radio system study. Communications Design Consulting Group (CDCG) has provided a work plan. CDCG came highly recommended through a responsible party for the VT Department of Public Safety’s radio program. Their goal will be to evaluate and analyze the entire radio system (all departments and equipment). The Manager wants to get an early start on the study and resulting report with recommendations so the Town would know what should be budgeted for next fiscal year (2020-2021).

In the work plan it was noted that Norman Boucher would be the consultant and the price last quoted is still valid. The letter of intent was changed slightly over an indemnity clause which has been removed.

On a motion by Paul White, seconded by Norma Malone, the Selectboard voted unanimously to authorize the Town Manager to sign a consultant services agreement with Communications Design Consulting Group for a radio system study.

COMMITMENT LETTER FOR MUNICIPAL ROADS STORMWATER PROGRAM

Background: The State, through the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), is making grant funds available to help Towns comply with the Municipal Roads General Permit. A maximum grant for each Town was determined based on the number of hydrologically connected road segments. Barre Town could receive up to \$19,800 in grant

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funds. The money could be used for specific projects or general road maintenance expenses that implement one or more of the road erosion best management practices.

The Town currently does many of the best practices when we prepare for road paving. Some of the items the Town could receive 80% reimbursement for include stone, large concrete blocks, erosion fabric, culverts, labor and equipment. There are requirements such as having the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission transportation planner inspect the site with us, taking before photos, and documenting expenses. The Manager stated there would be no issue with the record keeping.

On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Bob Nelson, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve and sign the “Letter of Intent to Participate in the Municipal Roads Grants-In-Aid Program.”

SETTING THE 2019-2020 TAX RATES

The Manager provided his “tax worksheet” documents to the Board. There are five (5) tax rates: Education homestead and Education Non-resident (both set by the State), General Fund, Highway Fund, and the Local Agreement.

The Local Agreement rate raises revenue to replace the education tax revenue that municipalities forgive through tax stabilization contracts, disabled veteran’s exemptions, or voter-approved non-profit organization exemptions. Barre Town voters, years ago, increased the disabled veteran’s exemption from \$10,000 to \$40,000 (maximum allowed by law). The Town has no tax stabilization contracts that affect the state education taxes.

Board discussion was primarily on the use of undesignated fund balance, the importance of it’s use on future tax rates, the majority of the General Fund rate increase is related to the Ambulance Fund, ensuring there is adequate carry-over, prior discussion for eliminating some of the Equipment Fund/Ambulance Fund deficits, and there is no exact number as to what the undesignated fund balance is at this point in time.

On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Bob Nelson, the Selectboard voted unanimously to set the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 tax rates as follows:

- 1. Education homestead rate at \$1.4926
- 2. Education non-residential rate at \$1.8683
- 3. Highway Fund rate at \$.4356
- 4. General Fund rate at \$.5082
- 5. Local Agreement rate at \$.0036.

It is noted that the General Fund rate was decreased by 1¢ from the Manager’s proposed worksheet using undesignated fund balance. A penny on the tax rate is equivalent to \$65,200.

2019 ROAD AND BRIDGE STANDARDS – The items was passed over.

FINAL READING

AMEND TO PROHBIT PARKING ON SECTION OF CASANOVA STREET

Background: This hearing will be to take final action on the proposed amendment to the Barre Town Ordinance which will prohibit parking on a section of Casanova Street located in Websterville.

On a motion by Paul White, seconded by Norma Malone , the Selectboard voted unanimously to read by title only “An Ordinance of the Town of Barre, Vermont Amending Chapter 7, Section 7-22, Parking Prohibited of the Barre Town Code of Ordinances.

On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Bob Nelson, the Selectboard voted unanimously to adopt “An Ordinance of the Town of Barre, Vermont Amending Chapter 7, Section 7-22, Parking Prohibited of the Barre Town Code of Ordinances.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE WARRANT

On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Paul White, the Selectboard voted to approve the accounts payable warrants dated June 18, 2019 and July 2, 2019. Bob Nelson abstained due to an employer conflict.

MISCELLANEOUS

Assistant Manager Wang informed Board members, staff/management will meet with Norma Malone and Paul White, to discuss their concerns with the proposed Personnel Policy. A date is to be determined.

‘ROUND TABLE

Bob Nelson wished his Dad a very happy 87th birthday!

Paul White inquired if the Barre City BOR would be put on a future agenda item. Bob Nelson stated he would be willing to serve on this committee. Consensus is the situation is very complex – such as property ownership and the emotional issues of those using the facility. More information is needed.

Jack Mitchell noted a state survey regarding zoning issues which are preventing building. He feels the Board should follow this story. He also provided information on a newspaper article regarding the use of a trac phone versus smart phones.

Mitchell also asked that the School Road/LePage Road intersection (near the Winters property) be cleared of the brush which is restricting motorist vision.

Tom White inquired on the Camp Street/Camire Road repair plans. Rogers stated the repair will be done this summer. Pavement will be removed, a catch basin/piping will be put into place. All this will require some portion of the road to be closed allowing for the deep excavation and rebuilding of the base.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion by Jack Mitchell, seconded by Norma Malone, the Selectboard voted unanimously to find the need to go into executive session citing premature general knowledge would put the Selectboard at a substantial disadvantage.

On a motion by Jack Mitchell, seconded by Paul White, the Selectboard voted unanimously to go into executive session at 7:50 p.m. to discuss real estate, labor contracts, and contracts with action possible.

On a motion by Jack Mitchell, seconded by Norma Malone, the Selectboard voted unanimously to come out of executive session at 9:00 p.m.

CONTRACT APPROVAL

On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Paul White, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve and sign the contract between the Town of Barre and Local #1369, Council 93, Department of Public Works Chapter Affiliated with the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees AFL-CIO for the period July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2022.

ADJOURN

On a motion by Jack Mitchell, seconded by Norma Malone, the Selectboard voted unanimously to adjourn at 9:01 p.m.

Donna J. Kelty, Town Clerk-Treasurer

Selectboard Chair

Barre Town Selectboard