

BARRE TOWN SELECTBOARD MEETING AGENDA

September 10, 2019

1. Call to order 6:00 p.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Consider approving agenda.
4. Consider approving September 3, 2019 meeting minutes.
5. Announcements
6. Receive guests for non-agenda items.
7. Consider approving special event permit and road closing (Littlejohn Road) for FallFire.
8. Consider selecting bank for re-financing former Websterville Fire District's loans.
9. Consider approving Barre City residents' use of the Lawn Waste Site.
10. Consider approving weekly accounts payable warrants for September 10, 2019.
11. Miscellaneous: including licenses and permits, if any.
12. 'Round the table.
13. Executive session: personnel and contracts.
14. Adjourn.

BARRE TOWN SELECTBOARD MINUTES

September 10, 2019

The duly warned meeting of September 10, 2019 was held at 6:00 p.m. in the Barre Town Municipal Building, Selectboard Room, in Lower Websterville.

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

Attendance for the regular meeting: Town Manager Carl Rogers, Assistant Manager Elaine Wang, Town Clerk-Treasurer Donna J. Kelty, and Pierre Couture.

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 agenda as amended:

1. *Item 13, add with action expected.*

Tom White was not present for the vote.

MINUTES

On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Bob Nelson, the Selectboard voted to approve the Selectboard meeting minutes of September 3, 2019 with minor corrections to spelling and grammar as provided by the Town Clerk-Treasurer. Tom White was not present for the vote.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ✓ The Fall Bulk Trash Collection is on Saturday, September 21, 2019 from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., at the Public Works Yard (129 Websterville Road). Fees are charged and residents are welcome to make multiple trips. Please bring a tax or utility bill so we can verify you are a Barre Town resident. Note that plenty of reusable goods are placed outside the gate throughout the event, free for the taking, so come on by for that.

Jack Mitchell noted the items that would not be accepted and reminded residents to pack their loads accordingly or they may have an additional wait time.

- ✓ The Town's Emergency Services will be at the Barre Town Middle & Elementary School's annual Open House and Harvest Dinner at the school to answer questions

Selectboard Minutes of September 10, 2019 Continued:

about the Police, Fire, and EMS departments, and to hand out Halloween trick-or-treat bags and glow sticks for safer trick-or-treating. The bags and glow sticks are also available now at the Municipal Building offices (Town Clerk, Zoning & Planning, and Police Department).

- ✓ The town-wide reappraisal will be underway soon. Town staff will be visiting neighborhoods and properties to collect and verify real estate property information. They will have Town of Barre ID cards. A few weeks before a neighborhood will be visited, property owners should receive a postcard with more details. If you own but do not reside at your Barre Town property, please notify the tenants or occupants of the visit. For more information about why the Town is conducting a reappraisal, see your August Barre Town Newsletter, or attend next week's Selectboard meeting. There will be a public information presentation about the reappraisal.

GUESTS – None

SPECIAL EVENT PERMIT AND ROAD CLOSING

Background: Once again Pierre Couture is hosting the FallFire event on Saturday, September 28, 2019. This event is to fund raise for the Green Mountain Boy Scout Council. It will be based at Millstone Lodge. Participants will walk the same course as last year (staying close to Littlejohn Road passing through Couture land and the Town Forest, crossing Littlejohn Road twice). There will be fireworks which do not require a permit and no sky lanterns.

Mr. Couture was present and is asking that Littlejohn Road be closed at Sabetto Street and Donahue Road from 6:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. FallFire is obtaining Norwich University cadets to help close Littlejohn at Sabetto. They have asked that a Barre Town Police Officer work at the Donahue Road end. Mr. Couture will take care of notifying the Clark family the road will be close.

On a motion by Jack Mitchell, seconded by Norma Malone, the Selectboard voted to authorize the Town Clerk to issue a Special Event Permit to Rock Fire for the event called Fall Fire to be held on September 28, 2019 from approximately 6:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m., conditioned upon: a) receipt of a certificate of insurance, b) all fire remnants in the Town Forest be scattered or removed within 48 hours, c) that the Clark family be notified of the road being closed, and d) the \$50 permit fee be waived. Tom White was not present for the vote.

On a motion by Jack Mitchell, seconded by Norma Malone, the Selectboard voted to close Littlejohn Road at Sabetto Street and Donahue Road from no earlier than 6:00 p.m. to no later than 11:00 p.m. on Saturday, September 28, 2019 for the Fall Fire event. Tom White was not present for the vote.

REFINANCE WATER LOANS

Background: The former Websterville Fire District #3 (WFD) has two USDA Rural Development loans which the Town is trying to refinance instead of going through what sound like an arduous process to transfer the loans to the Town of Barre. The WFD loans have a 4.5% interest rate, annual loan payments of \$12,562, with a remaining 18 year term. The payoff as of September 30, 2019 would be \$150,934.09.

The Town Treasurer sent RFPS to four (4) banks and two (2) submitted proposals. The RFP requested loan information for 10 and 15 year terms.

Community Bank (formerly Merchants) submitted a proposal for a 10-year term at a rate of 2.82% , payment of \$17,423 per year and a 15 year term at a fixed rate of 2.90% for 10 years then a variable rate for the remaining term, and payment of \$12,474.28 per year.

Community National Bank offers a 15 year fixed rate (2.87%) note, annual payment of \$12,451. This would save about \$100 per year and subtracts 3 years from the term.

Selectboard Minutes of September 10, 2019 Continued:

On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Bob Nelson, the Selectboard voted to select Community National Bank, based on their bid of borrowing \$150,000 at 2.87%, for a term of 15 years to refinance the two USDA Rural Development loans of the former Websterville Fire District #3 with a closing date of September 27, 2019. Tom White was not present for the vote.

BARRE CITY RESIDENT USE OF THE LAWN WASTE SITE

Background: Following practice of the past several years, Barre City requests permission for its' residents to use the Holden Road lawn waste site for three weeks in the Spring and again in the Fall. Barre City pays one-half the cost for our DPW labor and for the equipment (loader). The weeks of use in October coincide with the weekends we offer additional hours of service. City residents use of this site has not been a problem.

On a motion by Jack Mitchell, seconded by Bob Nelson, the Selectboard authorized Barre City residents to use the lawn waste site October 12, 2019 through October 27, 2019 during the hours the site is open and to charge Barre City one-half the labor and equipment expense for that period. Tom White was not present for the vote.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE WARRANT

On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Bob Nelson, the Selectboard voted to approve the accounts payable warrants dated September 5, 2019 and September 10, 2019. Tom White was not present for the vote.

MISCELLANEOUS - None

'ROUND TABLE

Asst. Town Manager Elaine Wang thanked the SUHS football team, parents, and neighbors who participated in the Graniteville Playground community build. She noted the project was completed in one day. The renovated playground is expected to open this Friday.

Manager Carl Rogers updated the Board on the road paving progress and the road pavement markings (some of which have already been completed).

Norma Malone inquired if the Town Attorney has reviewed the proposed Personnel Policy. No he has not. This led to the discussion of also having to remove other policies from the Town Charter. The Board could make Charter amendments by special election in March 2020 or as part of the municipal election in May 2020.

Ms. Malone inquired on the status of the Websterville Fire District audit. Rogers stated he needs to place a value on the assets. There was discussion on the possibility of hiring someone to do the work and to contact Sullivan and Powers to see if they could provide some type of methodology for valuation.

Jack Mitchell read the email from Donna Provost thanking the Town for the many things they do for residents (providing winter sand, dog park, etc.). It is rare to receive this type of acknowledgement and he thanked her for taking the time to send it along.

He will be attending the EMS dinner on September 17th. Concluding a brief discussion the Board agreed to start the September 17, 2019 Selectboard meeting at 6:30 p.m. to allow members to attend the dinner.

Mr. Mitchell noted the hydroseed seems to be working very well this year, would like to get a quote to fix the EMS building water issue, and informed the Board of what he learned at the Emergency Management Conference last Friday.

Paul White inquired on the progress of the radio study. Rogers stated there has been some movement. Chris Violette will give the Board an update during his quarterly visit.

Mr. White asked if the work to Sierra Lavin Road would be completed prior to the paving. Rogers stated it will be done upon completion of the paving.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion by Jack Mitchell, seconded by Norma Malone, the Selectboard voted to find the need to go into executive session citing premature general knowledge would clearly place the Selectboard at a substantial disadvantage. Tom White was not present for the vote.

On a motion by Jack Mitchell, seconded by Norma Malone, the Selectboard voted to go into executive session at 6:53 p.m. to discuss contracts and personnel. Tom White was not present for the vote.

On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Jack Mitchell, the Selectboard voted to come out of executive session at 7:24 p.m. Tom White was not present for the vote.

SELECTBOARD ACTION

On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Bob Nelson, the Selectboard voted to approve the 3-year contract dated September 10, 2019, retroactive to July 1, 2019, with Batchelder Associates and to authorize the Town Manager to sign said document. Tom White was not present for the vote.

ADJOURN

On a motion by Jack Mitchell, seconded by Norma Malone, the Selectboard voted to adjourn at 7:25 p.m. Tom White was not present for the vote.

Donna J. Kelty, Town Clerk-Treasurer

Selectboard Chair

Barre Town Selectboard