

BARRE TOWN SELECTBOARD MEETING AGENDA

November 17, 2020

- P.I.L.O.T.. Primer on drug and alcohol testing 6:00 p.m.
1. Call to order 6:30 p.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Consider approving agenda
4. Consider approving November 10, 2020 meeting minutes.
5. Announcements
6. Receive guests (by phone) for non-agenda items.
7. Presentation of Road Erosion Inventory Report
8. Consider awarding contract for Town Forest logging.
9. Consider approving cooperative agreement with Town of Orange for winter road maintenance.
10. Consider recommending re-appointment of Town Health Officer.
11. COVID-19 report.
12. Consider approving weekly Accounts Payable Warrant for November 17, 2020.
13. Miscellaneous: including licenses or permits if any.
14. 'Round the table.
15. Executive session: contract.
16. Adjourn.

BARRE TOWN SELECTBOARD MINUTES

November 17, 2020

The duly warned meeting of November 17, 2020 was held at the Barre Town Municipal Building, Selectboard Room, in Lower Websterville at 6:30 p.m.

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

Attendance for the regular meeting: Town Manager Carl Rogers, Assistant Manager Elaine Wang, Town Clerk-Treasurer Donna J. Kelty (via Zoom), Town Engineer Josh Martineau (via Zoom), CVRPC representative Ashley Andrews (via Zoom) and Times Argus Reporter Eric Blaisdell (left after Item 7).

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

APPROVE THE AGENDA

On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted to approve the amended meeting agenda:

- A) *Add real estate and personnel to Item #15 Executive Session; and*
- B) *Add authorizing the EMS Director to sign Grant Agreement with the State of Vermont Agency of Human Services.*

Bob Nelson was not present for the vote.

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

MINUTES

On a motion by Justin Bolduc, seconded by Norma Malone, the Selectboard voted to approve the Selectboard meeting minutes of November 10, 2020 with minor spelling and grammatical corrections. Bob Nelson was not present for the vote.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ✓ The Lawn Waste Site on Holden Road is open Saturdays as long as weather permits in November. Hours are 8:00 am – Noon. The last date will be posted on the Town website (www.barretown.org).
- ✓ Barre Town's Town Clerk is retiring at the end of her current term in May 2021. Please consider running for Town Clerk! Information about the position is in the November Barre Town Newsletter that you should have received in the mail.
- ✓ The East Barre Congregational Church has canceled their Thanksgiving Day 5K Gobble Wobble Run. The hope is to conduct the race in late February if conditions allow or in early spring.
- ✓ Manager Rogers informed the viewing audience that the State of Vermont has expanded its VCAAP Program to include water and wastewater (sewer) disposal charges. If your bill(s) is at least 60 days past due and it is for, or is partially for, the period beginning March 1, 2020 you may be eligible for

Selectboard Minutes of November 17, 2020 Continued:

assistance. There is no income threshold. To apply you will need access to the internet. No internet? Contact Capstone Community Action (802-479-1053) and they will assist you. You will need copies of your bills and they need to have your name on them. You can begin the application process now and the deadline to file is December 15, 2020. For those of you who receive your water from the Graniteville Fire District or Barre City you are eligible as well.

If you are familiar with the program because you used it for electric or gas assistance, you must reapply for the water/sewer arrearages. To obtain more information on the VCAAP program visit their website: Vermont Public Assistance, then look for link below the sunflower picture (Vermont COVID-19 Arrearage Assistance Program) (<https://publicservice.vermont.gov/content/vermont-covid-19-arrearage-assistance-program-0>).

GUESTS - None

ROAD EROSION INVENTORY REPORT

Background: One of the new stormwater requirements is to have an inventory of the hydrologically connected road segments. The Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission was contracted in Fiscal Year 2019-2020 to perform the inventory and prepare the report. An additional requirement is to have the report presented to the “governing body.” Prior to the meeting the Board was provided a copy of the report. A copy of the Plan can be obtained by contacting the Town Engineer by phone at 802-479-2595 or by email jmartineau@barretown.org).

CVRPC Representative Ashley Andrews was present. The goal of this Report is to facilitate reducing the erosion runoff from roads, etc. The following are the highlights of the presentation:

- ✓ Barre Town is in pretty good shape. There are only 11 segments which are considered high priority – meaning they need immediate attention.
- ✓ The Selectboard must sign off that they have received this report by December 31, 2020.
- ✓ There were some imposed deadlines for fixes which could mean major expenses for the Town. Talks are ongoing with regards to deadlines to allow for a full construction season to finish necessary high priority projects. Town staff, when doing their walk arounds for paved and gravel roads will continue preparing the Road Plans as we have but also addressing items pointed out in this Report.
- ✓ There was discussion on definitions for hydrologically connected segments and what is an outlet.
- ✓ Ash trees that have been cut and left for property owners that remain in the ditches along the roadside.

Jack Mitchell and the Board thanked the CVRPC for doing this project.

TOWN FOREST LOGGING CONTRACT

Background: The bidding notice for the Town Forest logging was mailed to many loggers/companies. The bid notice was also advertised in five newspapers and six companies attended the site visit. Three bids were submitted. Our Town Forester, Jeff Smith, reported at the Recreation Board meeting the high bidder intends to complete the work during the upcoming winter, if the weather and ground conditions allow. The high bidder will use a whole tree chipper resulting in less slash (tree tops) on the ground and potentially less trail clearing for MTA. Selectboard members received a map copy indicating landings (or log loading spots).

The high bidder is Limlaw Chipping of Route 25, West Topsham, VT. It is an established company and their bid price was \$37,462. Mr. Smith recommends awarding to Limlaw.

On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted to award the Winter 2020-2021 Town Forest logging contract to Limlaw Inc. based on their bid prices. Bob Nelson was not present for the vote.

TOWN OF ORANGE – WINTER ROAD MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT

Background: When Barre Town paved Cutler Corner Road, a sand truck had to drive out Cutler Corner to spread sand on Ladd Road. It was suggested and agreed that the Town of Orange would plow and sand Ladd Road. In return, Barre Town would plow and sand Partridge Road from the Town line to Reservoir Road. Everyone involved in the winter maintenance work thinks the arrangement is working. The Orange Town Treasurer confirmed this with their Road Foreman and believes the Orange Selectboard will agree at their meeting on November 23, 2020. The Selectboard is being asked to approve the cooperative agreement with Orange subject to their Board approval.

Selectboard Minutes of November 17, 2020 Continued:

On a motion by Justin Bolduc, seconded by Norma Malone, the Selectboard voted to approve the Winter Road Maintenance cooperative Agreement with the Town of Orange, Vermont, subject to the approval by the Orange Selectboard. Bob Nelson was not present for the vote.

HEALTH OFFICER - APPOINTMENT

Background: The Vermont Department of Health is once again seeking the Selectboard recommendation for a Health Officer. Bill Kirby is currently serving and is willing to be reappointed. His term is set to expire on December 31, 2020.

On a motion by Norma Malone and duly seconded, the Selectboard voted to recommend to the Vermont Department of Health that Bill Kirby be reappointed Health Officer for another 3-year term to expire December 31, 2023. Bob Nelson was not present for the vote.

COVID-19 REPORT

Background: The Manager is to present an update on Municipal operations given the recent uptick in COVID-19 cases in Washington County.

Manager Rogers provided the following information:

- Yesterday, municipal officials met with Health & Human Services Secretary Smith and Dr. Levine via a phone conference. The message is to advise residents to take more precautions and limit their travel and gatherings. Make sure to wear your mask and maintain the 6' social distancing. The Town is getting the word out to residents using these meetings, the website and social media (Facebook and Front Porch Forum) to emphasize the need of face masking and social distancing.
- Department Heads have been discussing the winter needs and planning accordingly.
- As for business within the Municipal Building: Staff are resuming their work from home schedules. The Town Clerk's Office will continue to take appointments for title searches limiting the number and duration per day.
- The "doorbell" system at the Municipal Building is working well. The plan is to install the bell at the lower lobby annex to accommodate those that may need to enter the foyer of the building. The exact configurations are being planned.
- EMS Cares funding and assisting with COVID testing sites has been a positive for revenue.
- It is too early to tell how property tax collections fared this quarter. The past two have seen a decrease in the delinquencies. The hope is this trend will continue.
- Board and Commission meetings will be limiting the number of in person attendees and use the Zoom. Other software/equipment is being investigated and/or purchased. This includes a new "conference calling polycom" that can accommodate our digital phone system.

Chair White lead the discussion on how to proceed with Selectboard meetings. Consensus is the majority of Board members will Zoom into the meetings. The "daisy chain" will be used to sign weekly warrants. Paul White stated he will attend in person as it is difficult to Chair a meeting when you have both in-person and Zoom attendees. Mitchell will also attend in person. Other discussion focused on technology such as air purifiers and ultra violet light for cleaning meeting rooms.

The Selectboard discussed a meeting schedule. It was agreed to skip the December 1st meeting. The Manager will check the agenda schedule to determine if the December 15th meeting could be canceled.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE WARRANT

On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted to approve the accounts payable warrant dated November 17, 2020. Bob Nelson was not present for the vote.

MISCELLANEOUS

Earlier in the year the Vermont Legislature recognized the reduction to EMS revenue due to COVID-19 and appropriated relief funding to help. The Legislature, through the Agency of Human Services, specifically directed this funding to be awarded to those agencies whose call volume and billing revenue decreased between March and September 2020. Working with Vermont EMS, the software SIREN data was used to identify patterns of reduction and facilitate agency awards. Now the work is done the funds are ready to distribute relief funding. The Town of Barre has been identified as eligible to receive funding and the Selectboard is being asked to approve applying for said funding.

On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted to apply for the COVID-19 EMS grant funding through the State of Vermont, Agency of Human Services in the amount of \$136, 090. Bob Nelson was not present for the vote.

Selectboard Minutes of November 17, 2020 Continued:

While the weather was not the greatest, the Assistant Manager Wang reported the softball field light project was completed this past weekend. A special thank you goes out to Essex Equipment and all those that donated their time. The Board also sends their thanks to all.

‘ROUND TABLE

Norma Malone:

- The EMS was awarded the POD status – what type of vaccinations can they give. Manager Rogers noted they definitely would be able to do flu vaccinations. However, it is unclear about COVID-19 at this time.
- She has received positive comments on the cleanup work at 6 Maple Street. Manager Rogers noted Mr. Pratt has done a superb job. There were even a few surprises, a jeep, plow, and two pontoon boats were found.

Jack Mitchell sends a belated thank you to all those that help to make the November election run smoothly. Having so many individuals step forward and agree to work given the rising cases of COVID in our area is commendable. These individuals were and are essential in his eyes even if they are not recognized as such by State Officials. Manager Rogers noted the staff has gone above and beyond in conducting this election – livestreaming the opening of early ballots, working with varying rule changes, keeping the public informed and the conduct of the polling place on election day. The teamwork was quite evident in making this appear to run so smoothly.

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 public knowledge would clearly place the Selectboard at a substantial disadvantage. Bob Nelson was not present for the vote.

On a motion by Jack Mitchell, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted to go into executive session at 8:12 p.m. for contracts, personnel, and real estate. Bob Nelson was not present for the vote.

Town Clerk-Treasurer Donna Kelty and Assistant Manager Elaine Wang were excused from the meeting at 9:12 p.m.

On a motion by Jack Mitchell, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted to come out of executive session at 9:33 p.m. Bob Nelson was not present for the vote.

ADJOURN

On a motion by Jack Mitchell, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted to adjourn at 9:33 p.m. Bob Nelson was present for the vote.

Donna J. Kelty, Town Clerk-Treasurer

Selectboard Chair

Barre Town Selectboard

