

BARRE TOWN SELECTBOARD MEETING AGENDA

January 7, 2020

1. Call to order 6:00 p.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Consider approving agenda.
4. Consider approving minutes of December 30, 2019.
5. Announcements
6. Receive guests for non-agenda items.
7. Consider Barre Area Development's funding request for the Barre Rock Solid marketing program.
8. Department head visits: a) EMS; and b) Public Works.
9. Reconsider vote regarding effective dates of new paramedic intercept rates.
10. Consider approving 5-Year Equipment Purchase Plan.
11. Consider 2020 Budget Committee appointments.
12. Consider TSAC's recommendation for a School Bus Stop Ahead sign on East Cobble Hill Road.
13. Consider adopting a policy requiring approval of journal (accounting) entries.
14. Consider approving weekly accounts payable warrants for January 7, 2020.
15. Miscellaneous, including licenses or permits, if any.
16. 'Round the table.
17. Executive session: real estate, labor contract, personnel (action possible).
18. Adjourn

BARRE TOWN SELECTBOARD MINUTES

January 7, 2020

The duly warned meeting of January 7, 2020 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, Paul White, 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. Kely, EMS Director Chris Lamonda, Shop Foreman Mike Martel, BAD Director Joel Schwartz, BAD President Sarah Field, BAD Board members: Rob Hutchins and Bob Lord, and Imagination Co. representatives Kristen Smith and Jim Gilberti.

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 Bob Nelson, seconded by Norma Malone, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the amended agenda: remove Item 13, journal entry policy discussion.

MINUTE APPROVAL

On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Paul White, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the minutes of December 30, 2019 with minor spelling and grammatical changes.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ✓ Barre Town Department of Public Works is still collecting Christmas Trees to recycle into mulch. They are concentrating on roadsides south of Route 302 between January 13th and 17th. If you miss this window or live north of Route 302, call DPW at 476-3522 and let them know your address. Weather permitting, they will come by for your tree. For more details visit the website (www.barretown.org).
- ✓ The Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans) has reviewed the Route 110 bridge over the Jail Branch River in East Barre. The recommendation is to fully replace the bridge and have an off-site detour for 60 days. VTrans will hold a Regional Concerns Meeting during the Selectboard meeting on Tuesday, January 14th to discuss the existing conditions of the bridge, site constraints, the options considered, and the recommendation. All are welcome, whether Barre Town residents or not. More information can be found at www.barretown.org.
- ✓ If your house number is not clearly visible from the road, it may take emergency services longer to find your home. You have the option to purchase a reflective house number sign from the Town. They cost \$10.00 each. To order yours, contact Tina at 802-479-9331, or visit the Announcement Page at www.barretown.org for the link to the house number sign order form.

Selectboard Minutes of January 7, 2020 Continued:

- ✓ Chair Tom White informed the viewing audience that after Executive Session during the meeting of December 30, 2019 the Selectboard took action to approve an EMS personnel salary agreement as discussed.

GUESTS – None

BARRE AREA DEVELOPMENT REQUEST FOR FUNDING

Background: Next fiscal year Barre Area Development (BADC) would like to receive \$40,000 each from the City and Town for its Barre Rock Solid marketing campaign. According to the Town Attorney the appropriation can be included in the proposed Fiscal Year 2020-2021 General Fund budget. Another option is for the Selectboard to let the voters decide by placing a funding question on the Town’s Annual voting in May or have BADC submit a petition for the additional funding. The petition would require 10% of registered voters to sign to get on the May ballot.

BADC President Sarah Field, Director Joel Schwartz, members Bob Lord and Rob Hutchins, and Imagination Company representatives (Kristen and Jim) were present.

BADC focused on their implementation of the “Barre Rock Solid” progress to date, the vision for the future, and presented a 5-year tentative budget for Barre Rock Solid. They also spoke of BADC history (started in 1968) and identified various economic endeavors which have enhanced the Barre area.

In addition to their annual allotment in the municipal budget BADC is asking for an additional \$40,000 to continue the progress made with the Barre Rock Solid marketing of the Barre Area. There was discussion of the proposed marketing budget, the effort to collect signatures on a petition versus the additional request being placed in a budget, the need to gauge voter support of the project, and concern for low voter turnout at the Municipal election in May.

On a motion by Bob Nelson, seconded by Paul White, the Selectboard voted unanimously to place a question on the ballot on behalf of Barre Area Development Corporation to ask the voters for an additional \$40,000 for the Barre Rock Solid marketing program.

DEPARTMENT HEAD VISITS

Mike Martel, Shop Foreman, provided the Selectboard with a list of the various projects completed and on-going this quarter (sewer flushing, winterizing trucks, chipping at Lawn Waste Site, gravel crushing, tree removal, roadside ash tree cutting, and doing the first plow of this winter season on November 8, 2019).

Fill-in work included checking manholes for next year and removing items/filling the work pits at the garage as the mobile lifts have arrived and are being used. The truck ordered a year ago should be ready in a week or so. Salt usage budget expended is around \$108,000 of the \$200,000. There is still around 300 tons in the shed.

The Board thanked Mr. Martel for stepping up to fill-in during the Superintendents absence.

EMS Director Chris Lamonda began his quarterly report with staffing stats elaborating on the new Shift Supervisors progress and noting the FY 19-20 wages expended was at 50.1%. At halfway through the year and all the staff shortages this is good!

The Board was informed Barre Town EMS was not drawn to submit/be part of the Medicare fiscal reporting for 2020. Minor discussion on Mutual Aid and paramedic services, Act 59 (drawing blood for other departments), and our billing/collection options.

RECONSIDER EFFECTIVE DATES OF NEW PARAMEDIC INTERCEPT RATES

Background: On December 17th the Selectboard voted to increase the paramedic intercept fee from \$200 to \$250 effective with the start of an agency’s new fiscal year. Waterbury Ambulance Service’s fiscal year started January 1, 2020. Upon notification Waterbury Ambulance objected because it had set its 2020 budget and were being given a two (2) week notice. All other services have fiscal years beginning July 1st. The Selectboard is being asked to reconsider the December 17th vote and make a new motion for a July 1, 2020 effective date for the rate change.

On a motion by Jack Mitchell, seconded by Paul White, the Selectboard voted unanimously to reconsider the December 17, 2019 action to approve the 2020 EMS Town Fee Schedule to be effective January 1, 2020 and to set the Paramedic Intercept charge at \$250 effective with the start of an agency’s new fiscal year.

On a motion by Paul White, seconded by Norma Malone, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the 2020 EMS Town Fee Schedule to be effective January 1, 2020 and to set the Paramedic Intercept charge at \$250.00 effective July 1, 2020.

Selectboard Minutes of January 7, 2020 Continued:

5-YEAR EQUIPMENT PURCHASE PLAN

Background: Annually the Town prepares several 5-Year Plans to assist with the preparation of budgeting and ensure we maintain/replace what we have, when we need to. The Plan presented tonight for Selectboard review/approval is the Equipment Plan which includes data processing.

Changes to the Plan this year include updating costs (grader, police care, ambulances, dump trucks, mowers, and one-ton trucks). The new Year 5 is based on the replacement schedules in the Plan plus a power screen (used at the pit) was added. The power screen has been on the “need on the horizon list.” Year 1 has the purchase of a used bus to replace our existing one.

Selectboard discussion centered on retention for the Excavator, road grader replacement and rotation, and the possibility of refurbishing some larger pieces of equipment for a longer life expectancy.

On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Bob Nelson, the Selectboard voted unanimously to adopt the Barre Town 5-Year Equipment Plan for the period Fiscal Year 2021 – 2025.

2020 BUDGET COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Background: The Town received nine (9) applications to serve on the 2020 Budget Committee. The Committee membership is 5 Selectboard members and 5 registered Town voters (2 appointed by the Selectboard, 1 appointed by the Town Clerk-Treasurer, and the remaining 2 selected by the 3 appointees).

By paper ballot, Cedric Sanborn and Justin Bolduc are the Selectboard appointees and Mike Gilbar is the Town Clerk-Treasurer appointee.

TSAC RECOMMENDATION FOR EAST COBBLE HILL ROAD

Background: School buses are stopping at the driveway of 410 East Cobble Hill Road, which is just up the hill from Hillside Avenue (first side street above the roundabout). Children from Hillside Avenue walk to and from their street to the driveway of 410. A resident had asked for a “School Bus Stop Ahead” sign for traffic moving from West Cobble Hill Road toward Route 302 citing visibility. TSAC has discussed this request several times. The School does not want the bus stop at the Hillside Avenue citing the grade of the road and issues during bad weather.

Paul White noted there was a School Bus Stop Ahead sign which may need to be moved. After a brief discussion the consensus of the Board is have TSAC review existing sign placement and clarify where exactly the sign(s) would be placed.

POLICY APPROVAL FOR JOURNAL ENTRIES – The item was passed over.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE WARRANT

On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Paul White, the Selectboard voted to approve the accounts payable warrant dated December 31, 2019. Bob Nelson abstained from voting due to an employer conflict.

On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Bob Nelson, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the accounts payable warrant dated January 7, 2020.

MISCELLANEOUS -None

‘ROUND TABLE

Manager Rogers inquired if the Selectboard would like to invite our Legislators in for an update. The consensus is yes.

Norma Malone inquired on the Websterville Fire District audit status. Rogers stated the capital asset piece is still being worked on.

Norma Malone inquired on the status of the radio system report. The Board was informed a draft report has been presented to Chris Violette. Department Heads will review, meet with author, make any revisions necessary and then present to the Board. Rogers noted it is unlikely anything would be ready for the 2020-2021 budget. There is much discussion to be had.

Jack Mitchell served on the Selectboard with Greg Donahue. He would like the Town to send a card to him on the loss of his wife.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

On a motion by Jack Mitchell, seconded by Norma Malone, the Selectboard voted unanimously to go into executive session at 8:13 p.m. to discuss personnel, contracts, labor contracts, and real estate.

Selectboard Minutes of January 7, 2020 Continued:

On a motion by Jack Mitchell, seconded by Norma Malone, the Selectboard voted unanimously to come out of executive session at 9:17 p.m.

ADJOURN

On a motion by Jack Mitchell, seconded by Norma Malone, the Selectboard voted unanimously to adjourn at 9:17 p.m.

Donna J. Kelty, Town Clerk-Treasurer

Selectboard Chair

Barre Town Selectboard