

BARRE TOWN SELECTBOARD MEETING AGENDA

January 21, 2020

1. Call to order 6:00 p.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Consider approving agenda.
4. Consider approving minutes of January 7 and 14, 2020.
5. Announcements
6. Receive guests for non-agenda items.
7. Consider adopting Resolution # 1-20 approving a VCDP grant agreement on behalf of the VT Foodbank.
8. Consider designating Planning & Zoning Director to issue driveway permits during Engineer vacancy.
9. Consider approving TSAC's recommended relocation of School Bus Stop sign on East Cobble Hill Road.
10. Consider authorizing sale of used police car.
11. Consider approving permitted truck routes for use on 2020 Overweight Truck Permit form.
12. Consider approving weekly accounts payable warrants for January 21, 2020.
13. Miscellaneous, including licenses or permits, if any.
14. 'Round the table.
15. Executive session: personnel.
16. Adjourn.

BARRE TOWN SELECTBOARD MINUTES

January 21, 2020

The duly warned meeting of January 21, 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 Town Manager Elaine Wang, Town Clerk-Treasurer Donna J. Kelty, Eric Davis, Dwayne Tucker, Catlin Janus, Naomi Herring, Allan R. Machell, Barbara Machell, Wendy Alger, and Ken Alger, and Dawn Marie Tomasi.

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 Paul White, seconded by Norma Malone, the Selectboard voted unanimously to accept the amended agenda as follows: #4 Minutes – table action, and #13 add AccuFund discussion.

MINUTE APPROVAL – Item was tabled.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ✓ It is time to register your softball team for the Annual Freezing Fun for Families Winter Co-Ed Softball Charity Tournament which will be held March 6th through 8th. There is a limit of 64 teams so do not delay! For more information visit www.freezingfunforfamilies.com. This year's beneficiaries are 7-year old Logan Morrill from Morrisville and the Vose family from Brattleboro. They were recently announced on the Freezing fun for Families Facebook page and more about them can be found there.
- ✓ Mark your calendars for the Barre Town Thunder Chicken's annual fundraiser extravaganza for the Travis Mercy Memorial Skatepark on Saturday, February 22, 2020. Fun for fans of snowmobiling, eating, silent auctions, quilts, or skateboarding. Visit their website for more details at www.barretownthunderchickens.com – events.
- ✓ The next quarterly property tax and semi-annual sewer use fee payments are due Tuesday, February 18, 2020.

GUESTS

Dwayne Tucker, Eric Davis (Gun Owners of Vermont) and supporters were present. The Selectboard was presented with a draft symbolic resolution supporting the 2nd Amendment – right to bear arms.

Mr. Davis stated his organization is a non-profit, non-partisan, pro-gun organization started in 1997. Their mission is to supply facts to members about pro-gun and anti-gun legislation, legislators' voting

Selectboard Minutes of January 21, 2020 Continued:

records, statements, and to lobby on the state level. The group is asking the Selectboard to support their resolution which is a way to gain the attention of the Vermont Legislature.

Other municipalities being asked to adopt the Resolution thus far include Northfield, Warren, Cavendish and many in the Northeast Kingdom area. Some Town are placing a non-binding question on their Town Meeting ballot.

Topics of discussion included the recent shooting incident in Virginia, citizen rights to include personal protection, and this Resolution would have no legal standing.

The Selectboard by consensus decided they needed more information and this item will be placed on the agenda in a couple of weeks for further discussion.

RESOLUTION #1-20 APPROVING VCDP GRANT AGREEMENT FOR VT FOODBANK

Background: The Town was awarded a \$150,000 Community Development Block Grant on behalf of the Vermont Foodbank. Work has been done on the award conditions. Now the Agency is offering a Grant Agreement and requires a signed Resolution and Grand Agreement be submitted into the State's Grant Management System by the close of business on January 28, 2020. Town Attorney, Mike Monte, has reviewed the 29 page agreement and writes "he does not see any issues with the Grant Agreement." As the sub-grantee, the VT Foodbank must meet numerous requirements, and have signed a letter confirming they will abide by the conditions. Once these documents have been submitted to the State, the Town and VT Foodbank will prepare and sign a sub-grant agreement.

Discussion focused on federal regulations governing Town involvement in this process and the grant is very similar to the one awarded to the Montessori School last year.

On a motion by Bob Nelson, seconded by Norma Malone, the Selectboard voted unanimously to adopt "Resolution #1-20, A Grant Agreement Resolution" and to have the Selectboard sign said document in association with the Vermont Foodbank's \$150,000 Community Development Block Grant.

INTERIM APPROVAL FOR DRIVEWAY PERMITS

Background: State law mandates the Legislative Body, or designee of a municipality will issue permits for access to and work in the road rights-of-way. Barre Town has designated the Town Engineer to issue driveway permits. With the position of Town Engineer vacant and having received a road access permit for a logging operation, action is needed. The Zoning & Planning Director has been taking in driveway permit applications for years and sometimes evaluated them with the Engineer. The Town Manager is recommending the Zoning & Planning Director Chris Violette be designated to authorize these permits until the new Town Engineer begins work.

On a motion by Bob Nelson, seconded by Norma Malone, the Selectboard voted unanimously to designate Zoning & Planning Director Chris Violette as the Town staff person authorized to issue driveway permits until such time the new Town Engineer begins work.

TSAC – EAST COBBLE HILL – SCHOOL BUS STOP SIGN

Background: The Selectboard directed the Traffic Safety Advisory Committee (TSAC) to reconsider its recommendation for a School Bus Stop Ahead sign to serve 410 East Cobble Hill Road. An existing sign is across from Partridge Road and is not known for what bus stop that sign was installed. However, there is a bus stop at 392 East Cobble Hill Road now. TSAC noted the current sign is at a location drivers may not notice because they are watching the road as they go around a curve and the 392 house is a long way from the sign. The TSAC voted to recommend relocating the present sign to a location around the curve.

On a motion by Bob Nelson, seconded by Paul White, the Selectboard voted unanimously to relocate an existing School Bus Stop Ahead sign from a point across from Partridge Road to a point around the curve as recommended by the Barre Town Traffic Safety Advisory Committee.

SALE OF USED POLICE CAR

Background: The 2013 Ford SUV (police car) was placed on Govdeals.com. Bidding was to close at 8:00 p.m. on Monday, January 20, 2020.

The Manager informed the Selectboard the Govdeals.com bid for the SUV was \$5,401.00 and is asking the Selectboard to approve the sale.

On a motion by Bob Nelson, seconded by Norma Malone, the Selectboard voted unanimously to sell the 2013 Ford Police SUV to Francis Klos, Hamden, CT for the price of \$5,401.00.

2020 OVERWEIGHT TRUCK PERMIT

Background: Annually the Gross Load permit, also called overweight truck permit, expires March 31st. Soon the Town will be receiving requests for the 2020 permit. The permit contains a list of roads for

Selectboard Minutes of January 21, 2020 Continued:

truck traveling which do not exceed the State highway weight limits and specify which main roads in Town DO NOT allow trucks. The Town does sometimes add a road for a specific day or period due to special circumstances.

On a motion by Paul White, seconded by Norma Malone, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the 2020 Town of Barre Excess Weight Permit with the same road listing as in 2019.

On a side note the Manager informed the Board some emails were located on how to notify the appropriate parties to update GIS road map systems such as Google Maps, Garmin, etc. The Assistant Town Manager will be following up with the issues we have had on Middle Road and Sterling Hill Road.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE WARRANTS

On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Bob Nelson, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the accounts payable warrant dated January 21, 2020.

MISCELLANEOUS – AccuFund Discussion

Discussion focused on the Payroll portal and the accounting side. Department Heads are currently testing the Payroll portal. There have been issues as not all required “pay codes” are in the system. It appears the holdup is on the programmer side of things. However, Jaime Babin has been meeting with Department Heads individually to ensure each of our unique needs are met.

On the accounting side things are a bit more complicated. Department Heads have completed the detailed review of the chart of accounts. These numbers which are slightly different than what Batchelder is using now will be instituted with the new fiscal year budget (FY 2020-2021). The AP portion of this module seems to be running much more smoothly.

The staff is still awaiting training on the Budget module. It is hopeful the reports will look similar to BMSI reports. However, there will not be much “prior years” data. Discussion noted some of the historical data could be retrieved using last year’s Budget Book. Paul White stated he was under the impression during the presentation there would be some historical data migration into the new AccuFund. Further discussion noted the historical data was not to be migrated to AccuFund until the complete system was “up and running.”

The Town Clerk-Treasurer is behind on the daily cash receipt reconciliation. No AccuFund module has been built to accommodate the needs for posting. Data must be assembled from various programs (BMSI – 2 versions, bank programs, spreadsheets, credit card programs, etc.) and sent to Batchelder for manual recording. The Board was informed things have evolved as to needs and things are beginning to progress a little more quickly.

‘ROUND THE TABLE

Norma Malone noted at the last Selectboard meeting, after executive session, action was taken to approve the United Steelworkers AFL-CIO-CLC, USW Local #4 Unit 103 Clerical Workers contract for the period July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2024.

She thanked the Manager for a copy of the email addressing the Route 110 project concerns. For public information she noted that Route 110 will be milled in the Spring and repaved and striped.

An inquiry was made on the FY 2018-2019 audit. The Manager stated he is working on a list of budgeted items that had quite a bit of variance. The list is about four times as long as normal. Many of the issues had to do with General Ledger postings.

Paul White read the email from EMS Director Chris Lamonda regarding the Medicare/Medicaid rates and billing. Thank you.

He would like the Budget Committee to receive a tutorial of sorts on the billing from Green Mountain Power and the true-up with NOVUS Solar.

In the accounts payable invoice he noticed a stormwater permit fee for Maple Ridge Common and inquired where this was. Rogers stated this is the Valley View Circle area.

Jack Mitchell inquired if residents would once again be required to file the State of Vermont H-122 Homestead Declaration. The Town Clerk stated yes and if forms are needed here office can download and print them from the State website (<https://tax.vermont.gov/tax-forms-and-publications/individuals>). Weekly Selectboard announcements will begin in February.

He wondered if anyone else was having issues navigating the new Mill Street (East Barre) bulb out. Consensus is once the road paving is done properly and it is striped this will help with the issue.

Tom White thanked the Manager for the new Selectboard chairs. He asked if perhaps new skirts for the tables could be put into the next fiscal year budget.

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 7:20 p.m. to discuss personnel. Elaine Wang was excused from the session

Town Clerk-Treasurer was excused from the session at 7:40 p.m.

On a motion by Bob Nelson, seconded by Jack Mitchell, the Selectboard voted unanimously to come out of executive session at 8:20 p.m.

PERSONNEL ACTION

On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Bob Nelson, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve a tuition assistance plan for a non-union employee.

ADJOURN

On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Bob Nelson, the Selectboard voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:22 p.m.

Donna J. Kelty, Town Clerk-Treasurer

Selectboard Chair

Barre Town Selectboard