

BARRE TOWN SELECTBOARD MEETING AGENDA
March 31, 2020

1. Call to order 6:00 p.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Consider approving agenda.
4. Consider approving minutes of March 24, 2020.
5. Announcements
6. Receive guests for non-agenda items.
7. Consider approving Warnings for the Annual Open Town Meeting and the Annual Election of Officers and Voting by Australian Ballot.
8. Consider T.S.A.C. recommendations: a) approve removal of certain School Bus stop ahead signs; b) approve additional school bus stop ahead sign on East Cobble Hill Road.
9. Consider delegating to T.S.A.C. authority to approve removal of school bus stop ahead signs.
10. Consider approving C.V. solid Waste Management District's use of the DPW Yard, for a household hazardous waste collection.
11. Consider contributing \$1,000 to CVTV for equipment, pending grant approval.
12. Consider approving Consent to Allowance of Will.
13. Report on Coronavirus-19 plans, impacts, actions.
14. Consider approving weekly accounts payable warrants for March 31, 2020.
15. Miscellaneous: including licenses or permits, if any.
16. 'Round the table.
17. Executive Session, if needed.
18. Adjourn.

BARRE TOWN SELECTBOARD MINUTES
March 31, 2020

The duly warned meeting of March 31, 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: W. John "Jack" Mitchell in person and others by Zoom/telephone are: Bob Nelson , Norma Malone, Paul White, and Tom White.

Attendance in person for the regular meeting: Town Manager Carl Rogers, Assistant Town Manager Elaine Wang, Town Clerk-Treasurer Donna J. Kelty, and by Zoom/telephone are CVTV Tony Campos and Times Argus Reporter Eric Blaisdell.

CALL TO ORDER – The meeting was called to order at 6:07 p.m.

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

APPROVE THE AGENDA

On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Bob Nelson, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the meeting agenda as amended:

- 1) *Add Item 5 A – Announcements and*
- 2) *Add Item 15 - Purchase of Police Dog.*

MINUTE APPROVAL

On a motion by Bob Nelson, seconded by Norma Malone, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the March 24, 2020 meeting minutes with the minor grammatical and spelling corrections presented.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Access to the Barre Town Offices has changed as of Thursday, March 26th due to Governor Scott's Executive Order relating to COVID-19. All Municipal Buildings are now closed to the public. However, all Barre Town Departments continue to work regular hours. Town residents and general public that need services from the Town may send emails or call as usual. If you do not have the contact information, email offices@barretown.org or call 802-479-9331. The drop box at the front of the Municipal Building can be used to drop off a payment or application. When needed, staff will meet citizens at the door and provide service in the entryway. Everyone's patience and good judgement to limit in-person transactions is very appreciated.
- The Barre Town Bulk Trash Collection originally scheduled for Saturday May 9, 2020 has been canceled. We hope to reschedule this event for a later date.
- For the latest information on changes to Barre Town operations, services, and events due to COVID-19, visit www.barretown.org and click on the first Announcement link.

Selectboard Minutes of March 31, 2020 Continued:

- The Town Clerk's Office has extended the deadline to license your dog without penalty to May 2, 2020. See www.barretown.org or call 802-479-9391 for more information.

GUESTS - None

ELECTION WARNINGS

Background: The Town Clerk has been working with the Secretary of State's office (SOS) regarding the preparation of our Open Town Meeting (May 6, 2020) and Annual Election of Officers and Voting by Australian Ballot (May 12, 2020) Warning and how to conduct the elections given the Governor's Executive Order regarding the COVID-19 Pandemic. The emergency legislation to amend conducting the elections has not passed. However, on the advice of the Secretary of State, we have been advised to prepare the Warnings for both elections as normal. If legislation is passed the arrangements for Town Meeting and Ballot Voting can be re-advertised.

As of March 27th, the Town Clerk has not received a petition for a new organization to be added to the ballot nor a petition from a group asking for an increase in the donation it receives. The deadline was Monday, March 30th, 5:00 p.m. A draft of the two meeting Warnings was provided for the Selectboard to review.

The Town Clerk asked for discussion and provided information to the Board which was received late this afternoon regarding the State of Vermont emergency legislation, House Bill 681, regarding elections. Points of discussion include the Governor/Secretary of States office are strongly encouraging municipalities holding elections in April and May to postpone (allowed under the emergency legislation), concern for just postponing and not setting a date certain for elections, depending on the status of COVID in late April (deadline for a warning) the Town could possibly be holding an election by mail for the Australian ballot voting.

On a motion by Jack Mitchell, seconded by Norma Malone, the Selectboard stated that in accordance with Barre Town Charter, Chapter 1, Section 2 (a) the following elections are scheduled: Open Town Meeting is Wednesday, May 6, 2020 and the Election of Officers and Voting by Australian Ballot is Tuesday, May 12, 2020; and therefore, we the Barre Town Selectboard, by declaration of the State of Vermont House Bill 681, postpone the aforementioned elections and reschedule them to May 27, 2020 and June 2, 2020 respectively.

TSAC RECOMMENDATIONS

Background: The Department of Public Works inventoried all the Bus Stop Ahead signs. The Town Engineer spoke with the School Transportation Coordinator about what signs no longer serve a bus stop. A list was provided of those to be removed.

The Town Engineer also looked into an earlier decision to move the existing East Cobble Hill Road "Bus Stop Ahead" sign to #410. He reported to the Traffic Safety Advisory Committee (TSAC) if it was moved forward (around the curve) it would be placed too close to the stop it is serving. TSAC voted to move that sign back where it could be noticed and to add a new sign on the East Cobble Hill Road to serve the stop at #410.

On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Bob Nelson, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the removal of the six (6) Bus Stop Ahead signs on the March 6, 2020 email from the School Transportation Coordinator; to approve the relocation of the existing East Cobble Hill "Bus Stop Ahead" sign to a point between Partridge and Taplin Roads; and to add a sign for east bound traffic near #392 East Cobble Hill Road.

GIVING TSAC AUTHORITY TO REMOVE SCHOOL BUS STOP AHEAD SIGNS

Background: Years ago the Selectboard authorized TSAC to approve installation of Dead End Road or No Outlet signs on roads that are a dead end. The removal of Bus Stop Ahead signs seems be similar. The Selectboard is being asked to approve delegating TSAC the authority to approve and/or remove Bus Stop Ahead signs, if requested or approved by the School Transportation Coordinator.

On a motion by Jack Mitchell, seconded by Paul White, the Selectboard voted unanimously to delegate to the Barre Town Traffic Safety Advisory Committee the authority to approve and/or remove Bus Stop Ahead signs, if requested or approved by the School Transportation Coordinator and to further assign the task to the Barre Town Traffic Safety Advisory Committee to review the various sign packages which should also be included in this action such as Equestrian and Blind Person.

Norma Malone stated the Town currently has four (4) different Sign Policies which should be combined and the new Sign Policy should incorporate actions such as the one listed above. She and Paul White agreed to spearhead a working group to take on the task.

Selectboard Minutes of March 31, 2020 Continued:

CVSWMD REQUEST TO USE DPW YARD FOR HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION

Background: The Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District (CVSWMD) has postponed their May 2020 Household Hazardous Waste Collection which was being held at our DPW Garage. The District is now requesting permission to hold this event on Saturday, August 1, 2020 at the Barre Town Garage.

On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Bob Nelson, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the request of the Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District to hold their Household Hazardous Waste Collection on Saturday, August 1, 2020, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., at the Barre Town Garage located off Websterville Road.

CONTRIBUTION REQUEST FOR CVTV

Background: Tony Campos, CVTV, contacted the Manager and inquired if the Selectboard would agree to contribute \$1,000 to CVTV if their USDA grant request is funded. The grant is supporting upgrades relating to technologies such as live streaming, switching from live virtual broadcasts to another (Zoom video to Facebook live), and will provide teleprompter service.

Discussion focused on setting a precedent, the invaluable service of CVTV to the community during these trying technological times, the funds are unbudgeted and would most likely be booked to the General Fund, Selectboard Department, and the City will be asked for a match at their next meeting. Tom White stated since there is a quorum in favor of the request, he will be voting no as he feels all municipal users should be asked to contribute something, not just the City and Town.

On a motion by Paul White, seconded by Norma Malone, the Selectboard voted to authorize the Town Manager to sign the letter committing the Town to contribute a \$1,000 cash match to the 2020 USDA Rural Business Development Grant if awarded to Central Vermont Community Television (CVTV). Tom White voted no.

APPROVING “CONSENT TO ALLOWANCE OF WILL”

Background: By virtue of a will, a resident would like to deed two vacant parcels of land to the Town under the condition that they be developed and maintained as a “neighborhood park.” Attorney Mike Monte has been working with the Attorneys administering the will. The Selectboard is being asked to approve the “Consent to Allowance of Will” which does not commit the Town to accepting the land and making a playground. This procedure is being used because the Courts are shut down. At a later date, the Selectboard will have to decide if the Town wants to accept the bequest.

On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Bob Nelson, the Selectboard voted unanimously to authorize the Town Manager to sign the consent to Allowance of Will for the Donald Allen Estate.

CORNAVIRUS SITUATION REPORT

Rogers informed the Board of the following:

- Workforce at 100% with no virus absences.
- The Municipal Office “work from home” plan has begun.
- Supplies: All Departments report stocked for at least 2 weeks.
- All Board & Committee meetings are being conducted using Zoom and Teleconferencing.
- Cancellation notices include: Green Up Day (rescheduled to May 30, 2020); Bulk Trash Collection (rescheduled to June 13, 2020).
- Thunder Road races are scheduled to begin in May. However, they have not contacted or received their Town Special Event Permit and this is the year they need a State permit as well.
- Reappraisal. – The Assessor is planning to continue inspections on the outside only. His current focus will be new homes and 2020 permit inspections for the new Grand List. Notices will be sent to neighborhoods where inspections are being conducted.

The Board thanked the staff for all their hard work, flexibility, and efforts to keep the Town operational. Tom White asked if the COVID-19 information on the website be expanded to include links for the most up-to-date information. Assistant Manager Wang will work on this.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE WARRANTS

On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Bob Nelson, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the accounts payable warrant dated March 31, 2020.

Conversation included checking into electronic signatures for the weekly warrants and other documents. The Clerk is checking with the Secretary of State on this and will do further research on an electronic signature programs.

MISCELLANEOUS

Police Dog Donations: The Police Chief has received notice that a dog breeder (known for Police dogs) is donating two pups. Barre Town was selected to receive one. If the Town were to purchase the dog it would cost \$2,000 to \$3,000.

The original plan was to purchase a new police dog (with donations) after July 1, 2020. If the Town were to agree to accept a donated pet at this time, there will be expenses prior to the end of the current fiscal year (June 30th) of approximately (\$500) for vet and food expenses. The Manager is asking the Board to accept the donated dog and to use some of the donation funds to cover expenses until the end of the year.

Board consensus is to accept the donated dog and to use some of the donation funds to cover expenses until the end of the year. There was brief discussion on what/how to choose a name for the dog.

‘ROUND THE TABLE

The Board consensus is to extend gratitude to everyone (staff, volunteers, residents) for being patient during these difficult and lifestyle changing times. Stay home, safe, healthy, and strong.

Paul White thanked Assistant Manager Wang for all the improvements made with the technology allowing this meeting to be much better than last week. Ms. Wang noted this is how meetings will be conducted until further notice. All ads will contain “meeting code” information so all can join using their preferred method (Zoom or Teleconferencing).

Jack Mitchell inquired about budget presentation which is usually recorded at CVTV. Everyone agreed it should continue. Use of existing technology and how to cut/paste into a program were noted. Staff with check with CVTV to inform how to make this happen.

EXECUTIVE SESSION - None

ADJOURN

On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Jack Mitchell, the Selectboard voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:07 p.m.

Donna J. Kelty, Town Clerk-Treasurer

Selectboard Chair

Barre Town Selectboard