

BARRE TOWN SELECTBOARD MEETING AGENDA

June 23, 2020

1. Call to order 6:00 p.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Consider approving agenda.
4. Consider approving June 16, 2020 meeting minutes.
5. Announcements
6. Receive guests for non-agenda items.
7. Consider Fiscal Year 2020-2021 water and sewer billing rates.
8. Consider approving Town Plan.
9. Discuss creating a Road Salt Use Working Group and designating members of a working group.
10. Discuss plan for considering Donald Allen's bequest of land for a neighborhood park.
11. Discuss role and authority of Recreation Board and Recreation Board Chair.
12. Consider approving revised Memorandum of Understanding for Business Revolving Loan Fund.
13. Consider approving weekly Accounts Payable Warrants for June 23, 2020.
14. Miscellaneous for: a) Phillip Barber, 11 Sunset Road on July 3rd, b) Michael McGinley, 16 Rock Garden Lane on July 4; c) Cedric Sanborn, 106 Lyman Road, July 4th; d) John & Pam Benoit, 211 Airport Road on July 4th; e) Thunder Road, 80 Fisher Road on July 2nd; f) Derek Archambault, 31 Tamarack lane on July 10th; and g) Andrew Woodhams, 14 Breer Road on July 4th.
15. 'Round the table.
16. Executive session – if needed.
17. Adjourn.

BARRE TOWN SELECTBOARD MINUTES

June 23, 2020

The duly warned meeting of June 23, 2020 was held at the Barre Town Municipal Building, Selectboard Room, in Lower Websterville at 6:00 p.m.

The following members were in attendance: Norma Malone, W. John "Jack" Mitchell, Bob Nelson, Justin Bolduc, and Paul White.

Attendance for the regular meeting: Town Manager Carl Rogers, Assistant Manager Elaine Wang, Town Clerk-Treasurer Donna J. Kely. Also present was Recreation Board Chair Doug Farnham and by teleconference was Recreation Board Vice Chair David Rouleau.

CALL TO ORDER –Chair Paul White called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm.

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 amended meeting agenda: Add item 14A – Discussion on the generator project at Barre Town Middle & Elementary School.

MINUTES

On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Bob Nelson, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the Selectboard meeting minutes of June 16, 2020 with minor spelling and grammatical corrections as presented.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ✓ If you have an interest in transportation issues in Central Vermont, development of land in Barre Town, or regionally owned broadband internet, please consider serving on the Regional Transportation Advisory Committee, as an alternate to the Development Review Board, or as Barre Town's alternate to the CV Fiber Board. For more information visit www.barretown.org.
- ✓ State law bans food scraps from the trash starting this July 1st. Residents are either using local food waste drop-offs, like transfer stations or the ARCC in the old Times Argus building (Barre City) or composting in their backyards. For tips visit Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District's

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website (www.cvswmd.org). Businesses with questions are encouraged to contact ANR at 802-828-1138.

- ✓ 65.5% of Barre Town residents have responded to the 2020 U.S. Census as of June 23, 2020. If you have not yet responded please do so at my2020census.gov.
- ✓ After executive session last week the Selectboard took action to approve the Fiscal Year 2020 -2021 pay raises for the Management and Non-Union, and Hourly, Non-Union Staff, and Part-time Seasonal employees as presented by the Manager on his memo dated June 12, 2020.

GUESTS – None

FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021 WATER AND SEWER RATES

Background: The Budget Committee voted to approve the FY 2020-2021 Sewer Fund budget sewer charge at \$316.00 per equivalent unit. The Water Fund Budget would keep the base charge the same at \$60.00 and the cost of water at \$6.90 per/100 cubic feet. However, the Budget Committee did recommend the Selectboard consider raising the water consumption rate.

On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted unanimously to set the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 at \$316.00 per equivalent unit and the B.O.D. at \$.38/lb.

During discussion, the Manager noted that Village Cannery (has been charged for B.O.D.) will no longer be located in Barre Town as of July 31, 2020. It was decided not to bill this charge for FY 2020-2021.

Board discussion focused on the Water Fund continual deficit, future capital improvements, increase in costs for treatment and distribution, decreased consumption by homeowners (conservation measures which is good), the average bill is around \$100 per quarter, the former Websterville Fire District special assessment versus Fire District charges, and any increase should not warrant “sticker shock.”

On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Jack Mitchell, the Selectboard voted unanimously to set the Fiscal Year 2020 – 2021 water fess at \$62.00 per quarterly base charge and \$7.10 per 100 cubic feet of water consumed.

The current dry conditions fueled the Board discussion on the current dry conditions, the water well owned off Route 14 in South Barre, the expansion of the East Barre well system involving a private land owner, and the interconnection needed between the Town water system and the former Websterville Fire District system.

CONSIDER APPROVING TOWN PLAN

Background: During the last meeting it was noted there may be a possible error regarding the Business Revolving Loan Fund. It was confirmed there is an error on Page 79 as Tenco Industries did not receive a Business Revolving Loan. There was also an omission on page 41, Historical Area which should include St. Sylvester Church.

The Selectboard recognizes this Plan, even though it is valid for 8 years, has requirements to be reviewed on a regular basis during that term and if needed can be amended/revised/etc. Board consensus is this error/omission does not substantively change the Plan.

On a motion by Bob Nelson, seconded by Jack Mitchell, the Selectboard voted unanimously to adopt the 2020 Town Plan as approved by the Barre Town Planning Commission on March 25, 2020; the Selectboard further recognizes there are minor errors/omissions which do not substantively change the Plan and further directs the Planning Commission to take the necessary steps to correct the errors/omissions at their earliest opportunity.

CREATE ROAD SALT USE WORKING GROUP

Background: During the Budget Committee meetings this past winter a motion was made not to change the proposed budget for the purchase of road salt, but included recommending the Selectboard form a working group to look into a policy for the amount of salt to be spread on Town roads. The Manager recommended the Working Group consist of himself, Town Engineer, DPW Superintendent, Jay Hrubovcak, two (2) Selectboard members.

Justin Bolduc spearheaded the conversation and is interested in participating in this group. However, he envisioned having more of a Winter Maintenance Policy which would include the use of road salt. Ideally it would be nice if it were in place before the snow flies but this might be expecting a bit much with the summer work scheduled.

Manager Rogers stated it is not unrealistic to have a “best practice for spreading salt” in place before the snow flies. However, to be realistic, implementation this year may not happen for things which may include new technology or trying of new products. These items could be placed in future budgets.

Consensus is to get this moving soon. Schedules permitting it was agreed to possibly hold the initial meeting the 3rd week in July. This does allow time to gather information, develop an agenda, and ensure everyone can attend.

On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted unanimously to establish a Winter Road Maintenance Working Group who is charged with writing a Winter Maintenance Best Practices Policy for Barre Town Roads (with an emphasis on the use of road salt); and said group members will include the Town Manager, Town Engineer, DPW Superintendent, Jay Hrubovcak, Selectboard members Justin Bolduc and Bob Nelson, and to invite the two interested Budget Committee members (Debra Pierce and Mike Gilbar) to participate if they so choose.

CONSIDER BEQUEST OF LAND FOR NEIGHBORHOOD PARK

Background: Donald Allen lived on Camp Street. In his Will, Barre Town is offered two lots (105 + 106) totaling 5.13 acres. The land has access to Camp Street and possibly Lague Lane. The Estate Attorney is asking the Selectboard to decide if they are interested in the possibility of accepting the gift. Should the Town not be interested in the property then the Estate will need to sell them.

Manager Rogers stated he looked at the topo map but was not able to determine slopes/grades/etc. The closest Playground is located in the Trow Hill Area. During discussion Recreation Board Chair Doug Farnham said, looking briefly at the map that is could be used as a walking park, for creating gardens, or even an exercise site for the elderly – something self-sustaining. He recommends the Board ask the Recreation Board to look at options. Other Board members suggested a survey of the neighborhood to determine what they would like to see for a park.

By consensus, the Selectboard instructed the Manager to inform the Estate Attorney the Town is interested in the lot; and to task the Recreation Board to look into lot access from Lague Lane, determine possible use(s) for the parcels, and to survey the neighborhood on what they envision for the site.

DISCUSS ROLE/AUTHORITY OF RECREATION BOARD AND CHAIR

Background: Chair Paul White asked for this item to be on the agenda. Topic stems from question or thought if too much of the Manager’s time is spent on recreation matters and could the Recreation Board handle these matters. The Code of Ordinances (Section 2) addresses the role/duties of the Recreation Board. There does appear to be some conflicting language with regards to Recreation Board versus Recreation Commission and what is the authority of the Recreation Board Chair.

Recreation Board Chair Doug Farnham (in-person) and Vice Chair Dave Rouleau (by phone) were present for the discussion.

Topics of interest:

- Vermont Statute refers to Recreation as a Board.
- Boards/Commissions/Committees are advisory and set Policy with staff executing.
- Our Recreation Director also serves as Cemetery Sexton and reports to the Town Manager. This can create some lag time when trying to get tasks completed timely.
- In the past 5 years the Recreation operations/programs/etc. have come a long way.
- The Recreation Board would like to see a more efficient/effective method to getting tasks completed. They do understand Recreation needs are not always a priority, but there does need to improve the lines of communication.
- Weekend coverage by Farnham versus staff

REVISED MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING FOR BUSINESS REVOLVING LOAN FUND

Background: The Town Manager provided the Board with a clean draft of the revised Amendment to the Memorandum of Understanding for the Implementation of the Barre Revolving Loan Fund – Barre Revolving Loan Fund COVID-19 Loans, hereinafter referred to as MOU.

During Board review one typo was found under Funding Availability, first sentence delete the word mount and insert “amount.”

On a motion by Bob Nelson, seconded by Norma Malone, the Selectboard voted unanimously to accept the Barre Revolving Loan Fund Covid-19 Loans amendment with the correction as noted above.

Selectboard Minutes of June 23, 2020 Continued:

The next step will be to send to the ACCD for State approval.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE WARRANT

On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Jack Mitchell, the Selectboard voted to approve the accounts payable warrants dated June 23, 2020. Bob Nelson abstained due to an employer conflict.

MISCELLANEOUS

On a motion by Jack Mitchell, seconded by Bob Nelson, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve a fireworks display permit with the standard conditions for Phillip Barber, 11 Sunset Road on July 3, 2020 with a rain date of July 4, 2020.

On a motion by Bob Nelson, seconded by Norma Malone, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve a fireworks display permit with the standard conditions for Michael McGinley, 16 Rock Garden Lane on July 4, 2020 with a rain date of July 11, 2020.

On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve a fireworks display permit with the standard conditions for Cedric Sanborn, 106 Lyman Road on July 4, 2020 with a rain date of July 5, 2020.

On a motion by Justin Bolduc, seconded by Bob Nelson, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve a fireworks display permit with the standard conditions for John & Pam Benoit, 211 Airport Road on July 4, 2020 with a rain date of July 5, 2020.

On a motion by Bob Nelson, seconded by Norma Malone, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve a fireworks display permit with the standard conditions for Thunder Road Enterprises, 80 Fisher Road on July 2, 2020 with a rain date of July 9, 2020 and to further add that said display will cease by 11:00 p.m. even if the races have not ended.

On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Bob Nelson, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve a fireworks display permit with the standard conditions for Derek Archambault, 31 Tamarack Lane on July 10, 2020 with a rain date of July 11, 2020.

On a motion by Bob Nelson, seconded by Norma Malone, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve a fireworks display permit with the standard conditions for Andrew Woodhams, 14 Breer Road on July 4, 2020.

SCHOOL GENERATOR PROJECT

During the Budget Committee meeting in March, Jack Mitchell informed the Committee the School had upgraded all the wiring inside the school building for the new generator. The transfer switch for the generator has to be wired into the school electrical panel. The cost was more than expected at \$60,000. The plan was to include some funding in the FY 20-21 budget for installation of the generator pad and a crane for off-loading the generator from the truck onto the pad.

Due to COVID-19 obtaining additional bids for the wiring was put on hold. School Facilities Manager Jamie Evans and Jack Mitchell have been working on this project. Jack noted some of the various entities involved in the project, there is only one CAT distributor for our area (located in New Hampshire), and this installation is based on a 2012 study. Once the generator is installed the School will become a certified Red Cross shelter. The plan is to finance the generator purchase and wiring.

Board consensus is to keep the project moving forward and to sole source with CAT.

‘ROUND TABLE

Jack Mitchell noted that Doug Newton may be willing to serve on the Regional Transportation Advisory Committee as a Barre Town representative.

Justin Bolduc stated he has his Town Ordinance book but not the BCA SOP. He also stated it would be nice to have some type of orientation for new members. Asst. Manager Wang stated she is working on the project.

Norma Malone inquired on progress with the GMP request for guardrail at the new Websterville Road substation. Rogers stated GMP had contacted Charter and Consolidated Communications asking them to move their lines. Charter did respond but he is unaware if Consolidated did. No other information was available.

Selectboard Minutes of June 23, 2020 Continued:

ADJOURN

On a motion by Jack Mitchell, seconded by Norma Malone, the Selectboard voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:45 p.m.

Donna J. Kelty, Town Clerk -Treasurer

Selectboard Chair

Barre Town Selectboard
