

## BARRE TOWN SELECTBOARD MEETING AGENDA

July 14, 2020

1. Call to order 6:00 p.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Consider approving agenda.
4. Consider approving June 30, 2020 meeting minutes.
5. Announcements
6. Receive guests (by phone) for non-agenda items.
7. Consider adopting Resolution No. 3-20 presenting the 2020 Wendell F. Pelkey citizenship and Public Service Award to Norman “Joe” Coates.
8. Consider WEG’s proposed battery energy storage project’s compliance with Wilson Industrial Park Covenants.
9. Quarterly Department Head visits: a) EMS; b) Police.
10. Consider selecting lease-finance proposal for new fire truck.
11. Consider authorizing road crack sealing contract.
12. Consider authorizing signing letter accepting the Route 110 Mill Street project.
13. Consider approving sale of 2015 Police Car.
14. Consider approving weekly Accounts Payable Warrants for July 7 and 14, 2020.
15. Miscellaneous including licenses or permits if any.
16. ‘Round the table.
17. Executive session – personnel (action possible); and real estate.
18. Adjourn.

### BARRE TOWN SELECTBOARD MINUTES

July 14, 2020

The duly warned meeting of July 14, 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, Bob Nelson (via Zoom) Justin Bolduc, and Paul White. W. John “Jack” Mitchell was absent

Attendance for the regular meeting: Town Manager Carl Rogers, Assistant Manager Elaine Wang, Town Clerk-Treasurer Donna J. Kely, EMS Director Chris Lamonda (via Zoom), and Police Chief William Dodge. Also present by Zoom/phone were Joe Coates, Louise Coates, Coates family, Alan Garceau, Kyle Ellis and Jeremy Manchester.

**CALL TO ORDER** –Chair Paul White called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm.

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

#### APPROVE THE AGENDA

*On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted to approve the meeting agenda as presented. W. John “Jack” Mitchell was not present for the vote.*

#### MINUTES

*On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted to approve the Selectboard meeting minutes of June 30, 2020 with minor spelling and grammatical corrections as presented. W. John “Jack” Mitchell was not present for the vote.*

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ✓ The Town’s Public Works Department is doing extensive road work the next month on Bridge Street, Sierra Lavin Road, and the Fenwick Hill section of Cassie Street. Please plan on alternate routes or delays and heed traffic controllers. Also, road milling is scheduled to begin July 30<sup>th</sup>. For a list of affected streets visit [www.barretown.org](http://www.barretown.org) or follow the Barre Town DPW Facebook page.
- ✓ The Household Hazardous Waste Collection in Barre Town will be held on Saturday, August 1<sup>st</sup>, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., at the Barre Town Public Works Yard, 129 Websterville Road. This collection is for materials like paint thinners, paint without identifiable labels intact on the cans, cleaners that contain bleach, pesticides and more. More examples can be found at [www.cvsmd.org](http://www.cvsmd.org). Please plan ahead so you may follow their COVID rules: pay in exact change or check, which is \$20 per vehicle load. All hazardous waste must be in your car trunk or truck bed.

Selectboard Minutes of July 14, 2020 Continued:

No garbage bags. You will need to remain in your vehicle with a mask on. No pets. Note that no containers will be returned.

- ✓ Those of you on Town sewer service, your Fiscal Year 2020-2021 bill has been mailed. The property tax bills will be mailed separately in mid-August. For those of you who forward your property tax bill to your mortgage company, make sure you do not forward the sewer bill to them! The first installment of sewer use charge is due Monday, August 17, 2020. Please visit [www.barretown.org](http://www.barretown.org) for your many COVID-19 safe methods to pay (direct deposit, drop box, mail, or credit card via the phone or through the website).
- ✓ In place of its popular ice cream socials at the playgrounds, this year the Recreation Board will be offering a COVID-safe ice cream drive-thru on Tuesday, July 21, 2020, from 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. For details, call 802-479-931, visit [barretown.org](http://barretown.org), or follow Barre Town Recreation on Facebook.
- ✓ 67.1% of Barre Town residents have responded to the 2020 U.S. Census as of July 14, 2020. If you have not responded please do so online ([my2020census.gov](http://my2020census.gov)) and avoid a Census taker or two coming to your home.
- ✓ Chair White noted the Barre Business Revolving Loan Fund has been approved. Barre Town/City businesses which have experienced a loss during COVID-19 can obtain a loan (\$5,000 - \$15,000) at 1% interest. If interested, or want more information, contact Barre Area Development Direct Joel Schwartz by phone at 802-476-0660.

**GUESTS – None**

### **WENDELL F. PELKEY CITIZENSHIP AWARD**

Background: The Wendell F. Pelkey Citizenship and Public Service Award is given annually to an individual who demonstrates an on-going commitment to the Town of Barre. Traditionally this award is presented during the Open Town Meeting (Beginning of May). However, due to COVID-19, (no traditional Open Meeting with all voting by Australian ballot being held in June), the award and presentation is being completed tonight via Zoom/telephone.

*On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Bob Nelson, the Selectboard voted to adopt “Resolution #3-20 A Resolution Of The Town Of Barre, Vermont Presenting The 2020 Wendell F. Pelkey Citizenship And Public Service Award To Norman “Joe” Coates.” W. John “Jack” Mitchell was not present for the vote.*

Chair White read the Resolution. Mr. Coates thanked the residents for supporting the Town Cemeteries over the years, noting the Commission “never had a complaint from the tenants.” He is honored to receive the award and appreciates all the wonderful comments. It has been a joy to volunteer!

Other’s present by phone and Zoom confirmed what a great asset Mr. Coates was to the Cemetery Commission and a truly phenomenal Lawn Waste Site volunteer who is so deserving of this award. Those speaking included Alan Garceau, Manager Carl Rogers, and various family members.

The Selectboard stated the plaque and Resolution will be delivered to Mr. Coates. They once again thanked Mr. Coates for his commitment to community!

### **WEG BATTERY STORAGE COMPLIANCE WITH WIP COVENANTS**

Background: WEG purchased the battery energy storage division of Northern Power which at one time owned the building at 29 Pitman Road. The building now belongs to Pat Malone and rents space to WEG. The property is located within the Wilson Industrial Park (WIP) and is subject to Park Covenants.

In 2018 Northern Power (which started the battery energy storage division), sought and received a Certificate of Public Good from the Vermont Public Utility Commission. During the process, the Barre Town Planning Commission received a project presentation and at its’ third meeting decided it was comfortable with the plan moving forward. Since then, WEG bought the division. An investor was found, who now owns it and WEG operates and maintains the operation at the WIP.

WEG is now asking the Selectboard, as the property Grantor, to approve the project plans and give their blessing that it is in compliance with the WIP Covenants. The Manager provided the Selectboard copies of the correspondence where additional information was requested.

The project is proposing to have several storage units (outdoors) constructed of concrete with metal doors. Each unit will be placed on a concrete pad. The storage unit area will be surrounded with a chain link security fence. The housing for the battery storage will be locked as well. This project will be located behind a building and a fair distance off the road. Basically, the project will be storing power for GMP to use during peak times or when needed.

Selectboard Minutes of July 14, 2020 Continued:

Kyle Ellis and Jeremy Manchester were present, via Zoom, to answer questions for the Board. In reviewing the WIP Covenants, warehousing/storage is allowed. Project Plans must be in harmony with other buildings. It was noted these storage units are less intrusive than a power plant and smaller than a warehouse. The fenced area will not be out of character with the back of the building, or the other side where another tenant resides. There will also be less traffic.

During Selectboard discussion the following items were noted:

- The sound study noted the impact to be 55 decibels. The maximum decibels in the WIP is 60 -75 decibels.
- The life cycle is about 20 years and a fund for decommissioning is/will be established.
- It was confirmed there will be no issue if the Town needs to access water lines.
- There is 3-phase power and GMP will be installing a second pole. The utilities will be underground from the pole to the site.

*On a motion by Bob Nelson, seconded by Norma Malone, the Selectboard voted to confirm the WEGS Battery Storage Project conforms to the Wilson Industrial Park Covenants. W. John "Jack" Mitchell was not present for the vote.*

### **DEPARTMENT HEAD VISITS**

EMS Director Chris Lamonda provided the following in his report.

- Shift Supervisors focusing on the day to day COVID activities, working on protocol changes, and keeping crews updated with changes/staffing needs. Protocols tended to be expensive last year but noted there should not be any "big" ones at this time.
- Training on the new Zoll Monitors is almost complete. These are being administered using ACCD guidelines.
- Staffing is challenging with 3 staff out for varying medical issues and changes due to departures.
- New ambulances – the bids for the 2 new trucks (replacing A-1 and A-2) are almost complete.
- Selectboard members were provided graphs showing how COVID has impacted call volume and transports.
- Additional revenue from Cares Act and COVID-19 Pop Up site testing services have helped to offset our shortages from the decreased call volume and transports.
- Mutual Aid was briefly noted.

*Bob Nelson temporarily left the meeting at 7:07 p.m.*

Police Chief William Dodge provided the following information.

- The past quarter things have been uneventful – no serious items to report.
- With COVID, face-to-face calls are being answered on an as needed basis. There have been complaints on three businesses but nothing significant.
- During the down time, the Department has been focusing on training as we have many in-house instructors. Most Officers are well above the required continuing ed certified hours.
- In light of recent activities all Policies are being reviewed and updated on an ongoing basis.
- The new K-9 (Lakota) is doing well. Almost all expenses to date have been paid for through donations.
- Thunder Road in-person spectators for races the last couple of weeks have gone well with zero complaints at the track.
- The Department has grant funding, but due to COVID-19 a request has been made to transfer monies from one grant to another to facilitate the purchase of new radar equipment. He is confident the request will be approved.
- The School Resource Officer contract is still in flux. School Officials will be discussing this later as other priority items are being completed.
- Chief Dodge noted how pleased he and his Officers are with the show of support from the staff and citizens for the Police Department. This is why he continues to stay in Barre Town.
- Finally Chief Dodge wanted to extend a congratulatory wish to Berlin Police Chief William Wolfe. After 34 years in the Police profession he plans to retire on September 6, 2020. Chief Dodge first met Chief Wolfe when he was a Patrol Officer in Barre Town.

### **LEASE-FINANCE PROPOSAL FOR NEW FIRE TRUCK**

Background: The Fire Department tanker truck was ordered from VTec. Per the 5-Year Equipment Purchase Plan it will be financed over five years with the first payment in advance (meaning first payment made at the time of closing). The amount to be financed is \$214,258. An RFP was sent to five companies and proposals were received from three (3) companies. Two of these are the usual bidders and had identical interest rates and payments (2.37% and a payment of \$44,938.77).

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Municipal Lease Consultant (MLC) is a Vermont Company and Tax Exempt Leasing Corp is from the Chicago area. The Town has done business with both. Manager Rogers stated our last financing project was with MLC.

*On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted to approve financing the Fire Department tanker truck through Municipal Lease Consultant at an interest rate of 2.37% in the amount of \$214,258.00. W. John "Jack" Mitchell and Bob Nelson were not present for the vote.*

### **CRACK SEALING CONTRACT**

Background: The Fiscal year 2019-2020 crack sealing is yet to be done. There is \$21,000 in that budget for the work. NICOM offered to do the work at last years' rate, \$12.00 per gallon. The other bid at the same time last year was \$18.47 per gallon. NICOM stated they are beginning to get busy and recommended issuing a purchase order sooner rather than later. The Manager has a list of roads that are ready and is asking the Selectboard to approve selecting NICOM to do the work.

*On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted to approve a purchase order to NICOM for the Fiscal Year 2019 – 2020 road crack sealing at the price of \$12.00 per gallon of sealer and capped at \$21,000.00. W. John "Jack" Mitchell and Bob Nelson were not present for the vote.*

### **ACCEPTANCE OF THE ROUTE 110 MILL STREET PROJECT**

Background: The Agency of Transportation believes the project is complete. Involved parties were invited to a virtual final inspection by submitting comments. Town Engineer Josh Martineau verified the property owner with sewer damage has been reimbursed. There was one other concern regarding paving the Fire Station apron which was resolved.

*On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted to authorize the Town Manager to respond to the July 1, 2020 letter stating the Route 110 – Mill Street project, also known as Barre Town STP HES 0169 (8) is accepted. W. John "Jack" Mitchell and Bob Nelson were not present for the vote.*

### **SALE OF 2015 POLICE CAR**

Background: The Manager is looking for a motion to approve the sale of a 2015 Police Car.

*On a motion by Justin Bolduc, seconded by Norma Malone, the Selectboard voted to approve the sale of the 2015 Ford Explorer Police Car for \$3,000 to Peter Wheatley. W. John "Jack" Mitchell and Bob Nelson were not present for the vote.*

### **ACCOUNTS PAYABLE WARRANT**

*On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted to approve the accounts payable warrants dated July 7 and 14, 2020. W, John "Jack" Mitchell and Bob Nelson were not present for the vote.*

### **MISCELLANEOUS - None**

### **'ROUND TABLE**

Norma Malone inquired on the timeline for the Route 302 bridge replacement project and the Bridge Street/Route 14 intersection project. Rogers stated the Route 302 looks like a 2023 construction season, while the Bridge Street project is scheduled for 2022/2023. There was brief discussion on varying components of each project.

Norma Malone noted the Assessor has not placed the property values on the Town website yet. This action was approved at the June 30, 2020 meeting. The goal was to provide data which, due to software issues, is no longer available on the Town's GIS mapping system. The data is to be limited to what would be printed in the Reappraisal Booklet and could be utilized by property owner name or street address. Rogers is not sure when it will go online.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

*On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Justin Bolduc, 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. W, John "Jack" Mitchell and Bob Nelson were not present for the vote.*

*On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted to go into executive session at 8:13 p.m. for personnel. W, John "Jack" Mitchell and Bob Nelson were not present for the vote.*

Selectboard Minutes of July 14, 2020 Continued:

*Bob Nelson returned to the meeting at 8:21 p.m.*

*On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted to come out of executive session at 8:50 p.m. W. John "Jack" Mitchell was not present for the vote.*

**PERSONNEL ACTION**

*On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Justin Bolduc the Selectboard voted to buy out 1 week of vacation for an employee as discussed in Executive Session. W. John "Jack" Mitchell was not present for the vote.*

**ADJOURN**

*On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Bob Nelson, the Selectboard voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:52 p.m. W. John "Jack" Mitchell was not present for the vote.*

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Donna J. Kelty, Town Clerk -Treasurer

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Selectboard Chair

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Barre Town Selectboard

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