

BARRE TOWN SELECTBOARD MEETING AGENDA

October 6, 2020

PILOT: Department Head visits with Police Department, Fire/Planning & Zoning 6:00 p.m.

1. Call to order 6:30 p.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Consider approving agenda.
4. Consider approving September 29, 2020 meeting minutes.
5. Announcements
6. Receive guests (by phone) for non-agenda items.
7. Consider adopting Resolution #6-20 recognizing Police Sergeant Paul Thayer on his 25th employment anniversary.
8. Discuss reappraisal: a) update on progress; and b) manner of perming interior inspections.
9. Consider Green Mountain Power request for new poles along Baptist Street and hearing for GMP's request to trim trees along new electric lines.
10. Consider awarding contract for wiring and connecting emergency power generator to BTMES electric panel.
11. Consider plans for November 3, 2020 meeting.
12. Consider approving, authorizing, signing of Windy Wood Road Culvert Grant.
13. Consider approving weekly Accounts Payable Warrant for October 6, 2020.
14. Miscellaneous, including licenses or permits if any.
15. 'Round the table.
16. Executive session: contracts.
17. Adjourn.

BARRE TOWN SELECTBOARD MINUTES

October 6, 2020

The duly warned meeting of October 6, 2020 was held at the Barre Town Municipal Building, Selectboard Room, in Lower Websterville at 6:30 p.m.

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

Attendance for the regular meeting: Town Manager Carl Rogers, Assistant Manager Elaine Wang, Town Clerk-Treasurer Donna J. Kely (by Zoom), Police Chief William Dodge, Police Sergeant Paul Thayer, Fire Chief/Zoning Administrator Christopher Violette, Assessor Russ Beaudoin, Sergeant Thayer's Betty Thayer, Reese Thayer, Stacy Ledbetter, and Times Argus reporter Eric Blaisdell.

CALL TO ORDER – The meeting was called to order at 6:39 pm.

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 meeting agenda.

MINUTES

On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Bob Nelson, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the Selectboard meeting minutes of September 29, 2020 with minor spelling and grammatical corrections.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ✓ The Secretary of State is mailing out November General Election ballots to all active, registered voters. If you have not received your ballot by October 8th, call the Town Clerk's Office at 802-479-9391. Your completed ballot must be returned to the Clerk's Office by November 3 or it will not be counted. To be sure it is received in time, use the drop box at the Town Offices at 149 Websterville Road, especially if you have not mailed it by the last week of October.
- ✓ The Lawn Waste Site on Holden Road has only been open Saturdays from 8:00 a.m. to Noon this year due to COVID-19. With leaf raking season coming, you will be happy to hear the site will be

Selectboard Minutes of October 6, 2020 Continued:

open additional hours during October – every Saturday 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.; every Sunday Noon to 4:00 p.m., and every Wednesday 3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

- ✓ If you bring your trash and recycling to the Wilson Depot Solid Waste Transfer Station in the Wilson Industrial Park, please note the current operator will be leaving the site after October 31, 2020. The Town is seeking another operator for the Transfer Station. However, in case a replacement is not ready immediately after October 31st, please be prepared to use another Transfer Station. The Town will provide updates on the Wilson Depot at the regular Selectboard meetings, the Town website (www.barretown.org), and Front Porch Forum. You can also call the Town Manager’s Office at 802-479-9331.
- ✓ The Barre Town EMS Director and the Vermont Department of Health advise everyone to get their flu shot this year. To get one, call your health provider or local pharmacy, or visit the State website www.healthvermont.gov/flu and click on Find a Flu Shot. If you do not have health insurance, call the local health office toll free at 888-253-8786.

GUESTS - None

RESOLUTION #6-20 – RECOGNIZING PAUL THAYER ON HIS 25TH ANNIVERSARY

Background: Police Sergeant Paul Thayer began work as a full-time Officer on October 1, 1995. The Selectboard is presenting a Resolution to honor his 25 years of service to Barre Town.

On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Bob Nelson, the Selectboard voted unanimously to adopt “Resolution #6-20, A Resolution Of The Town Of Barre, Vermont In Appreciation Of 25 Years of Service By Police Sergeant Paul Thayer To The Town of Barre.”

Paul White read the Resolution for Sergeant Thayer while he was surrounded by his Mother Betty Thayer, son Reese Thayer, and girlfriend Stacy Ledbetter. Many stories were shared. Mr. Thayer said the years have passed quickly and noted he cares deeply about Barre Town, has no regrets on his decision to stay with the Barre Town Police Department, and looks forward to doing his job a few more years!

REAPPRAISAL UPDATE – DISCUSSION ON INTERIOR INSPECTIONS

Background: During the last town-wide reappraisal update from the Assessor it was reported 1,835 exterior property inspections had been done as of September 1st. With work continuing approximately 71% of the exterior inspections have been completed on all properties, bringing the total inspected to 2,273. Work has now begun on the 5 tax map inserts (highly populated areas).

The question arose during that meeting on how to perform interior inspections. Traditionally, the inspector would go in the house/buildings. Given COVID-19 there is a concern for owner/occupant and inspector(s) safety. Basically the inspectors would be looking mainly at the basement, kitchen and bathroom(s). Our Assessor, Russ Beaudoin, is offering a self-reporting model as an alternative to an in-person visit. An overview of the process was provided in the Board’s meeting packet. The Assessor further noted there is no insurance for COVID claims. The Manager will be reviewing our policies.

Mr. Beaudoin and the Board during discussion noted the information needed from an interior inspection, how the majority of inspections are conducted in the northeast, and there has been no real assistance/direction from the State. By consensus, the Selectboard agreed the interior inspection should be completed using the mailer letter. Revisions will be made and a draft will be prepared and provided to the Board.

GMP REQUESTS FOR NEW POLES AND TREE TRIMMING

Background: Pierre Ducharme owns property that fronts on Baptist Street (in Barre Town). He is building a large sugar house which has required extensive logging to improve the sugar woods and wants to have electricity at this location.

Green Mountain Power’s (GMP) electric lines end at the last house along Baptist Street. There are telephone and phone cable poles beyond that point but are inadequate for power lines. The plan is to remove 4 phone/cable poles and erect 3 power poles. The process for doing this was outlined in notes to the Selectboard along with a map identifying the poles to be eliminated and placement of the new ones. The new poles will be on the same line as the existing phone/cable poles. However, the poles are not, and the new poles would not be, at the outside edge of the road right-of-way, as the Town would prefer. Sometimes due to line constraints and topography poles cannot be placed at the edge of the right-of-way.

On a second note, GMP is also requesting authorization to trim trees, within the road right-of-way, adjacent to 46 Baptist Street. Title 30, Section 2506 authorizes the Selectboard to decide if that trimming is necessary. The Manager noted there maybe three trees which need to be trimmed. Most of the trimming

Selectboard Minutes of October 6, 2020 Continued:

would be on a large ash tree. The trimming is necessary as the electric lines are much higher than phone/cable poles.

During discussion it was noted the residents of 46 Baptist Street were notified. They are also good with the ash tree being cut down completely (going to be anyway due to ash borer) but would like the wood left for their personal use. Other topics included installation time and the phone/cable companies moving their lines from the old poles to the new electric poles. Work is expected to begin very soon.

On a motion by Justin Bolduc, seconded by Bob Nelson, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve Green Mountain Power's request to replace 4 (four) telephone/cable poles with 3 (three) new electric poles on Baptist Street per said request.

On a motion by Justin Bolduc, seconded by Bob Nelson, the Selectboard voted that in accordance with Title 30, Section 2506, Green Mountain Power be authorized to trim the trees on Baptist Street as noted and to cut down the ash tree and leave it for the property owner.

CONTRACT FOR CONNECTING EMERGENCY POWER GENERATOR AT BTMES

Background: The emergency generator, to be located at the Barre Town School, has been ordered. The next step in the project is to make a pad for the generator and hiring an electrician to connect the generator and automatic transfer switch to the School's electric panel. As mentioned at the last meeting there was an unexpected issue with the generator placement – the pad was going to be over underground power lines.

Jack Mitchell has been working with school staff and the Town Engineer to resolve the issues. The pad location has changed meaning additional work and materials to get electricity to from the generator to the School. Basically the cost increased due to the additional work of laying 120' of conduit to run electrical lines. Bid proposals were reviewed and Benoit Electric is being recommended.

Board discussion focused on timing to ensure things were in place with the arrival of the generator in the spring, the role of the Department of Public of Works, and the increased expense was very unfortunate, but this project needs to happen.

On a motion by Bob Nelson, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted unanimously to award the electrical contract for the School generator installation and wiring to Benoit Electric for their bid price of \$65,016.99.

NOVEMBER 3, 2020 (GENERAL ELECTION) – MEETING PLANS

Background: Since November 3, 2020 is election night the Manager is inquiring if the Board would like to hold a meeting, reschedule, or cancel.

Board consensus is to cancel the meeting.

WINDY WOOD ROAD CULVER GRANT

The item was passed over as the information needed was not received.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE WARRANT

On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Bob Nelson, the Selectboard voted to approve the accounts payable warrant dated October 6, 2020.

MISCELLANEOUS

Paul White was unable to attend the recent training for use of the password manager software. There was a brief discussion on computer protocol and security of the Town network computer system.

'ROUND TABLE

Jack Mitchell noted the following:

- He will not be attending the meeting on October 13th due to his birthday and he has other plans.
- He read the email from a resident inquiring when the Municipal Offices would be open to the public and would like this on a future agenda for discussion.

Paul White stated he contacted Sullivan & Powers regarding the FY 18-19, Websterville Fire District, and FY 19-20 audits. He was informed an email had recently been sent to the Manager regarding the FY 18-19 audit and that unfortunately the Fire District audit created a "wrinkle." The Board should have the results soon. As for FY 19-20 audit it will begin on November 16th.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

On a motion by Jack Mitchell, and duly seconded, the Selectboard voted unanimously to go into executive session at 8:20 p.m. for contracts.

On a motion by Jack Mitchell, seconded by Norma Malone, the Selectboard voted unanimously to come out of executive session at 9:12 p.m.

ADJOURN

On a motion by Jack Mitchell, seconded by Bob Nelson, the Selectboard voted unanimously to adjourn at 9:12 p.m.

Donna J. Kelty, Town Clerk-Treasurer

Selectboard Chair

Barre Town Selectboard