

BARRE TOWN SELECTBOARD MEETING AGENDA
October 20, 2020

1. Call to order 6:00 p.m.
2. Consider approving agenda
3. Executive Session: real estate
4. Pledge of Allegiance
5. Consider approving October 13, 2020 meeting minutes.
6. Announcements
7. Receive guests (by phone) for non-agenda items.
8. Consider approving purchase of certain plow truck equipment suggested by Salt Use Work Group.
9. Public Reading (third hearing) – final action of proposed amendment establishing stop streets and speed limits on Mathieu Drive and Blake Drive.
10. Consider approving Sullivan Powers engagement letter for Fiscal Year 2019-2020.
11. Discuss Municipal Building access.
12. Consider approving weekly Accounts Payable Warrant for October 20, 2020.
13. Miscellaneous, including licenses or permits if any.
14. ‘Round the table.
15. Executive session if needed.
16. Adjourn.

BARRE TOWN SELECTBOARD MINUTES
October 20, 2020

The duly warned meeting of October 20, 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, Justin Bolduc, Paul White and W. John “Jack” Mitchell.

Attendance for the regular meeting: Town Manager Carl Rogers, Assistant Manager Elaine Wang, Town Clerk-Treasurer Donna J. Kely, Town Attorney Mike Monte, and Town Engineer Josh Martineau.

CALL TO ORDER – The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm.

APPROVE THE AGENDA

On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Bob Nelson, the Selectboard voted to approve the meeting agenda as presented.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion by Jack Mitchell, seconded by Justin Bolduc, 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, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted unanimously to go into executive session at 6:01 p.m. for real estate and to invite Town Attorney Michael Monte.

On a motion by Jack Mitchell, seconded by Norma Malone, the Selectboard voted unanimously to come out of executive session at 6:58 p.m.

MINUTES

On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Bob Nelson, the Selectboard voted to approve the Selectboard meeting minutes of October 13, 2020 with minor spelling and grammatical corrections.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ✓ Whether or not you requested an absentee ballot, if you have not yet received your General Election ballot by now, call the Town Clerk’s Office at 802-479-9391. Your completed ballot must be returned to the Clerk’s Office by November 3, the close of polls (7:00 p.m.) 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.

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- ✓ The Lawn Waste Site on Holden Road is open Wednesday, and weekends from now until October 28th. Hours are Wednesdays 3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m., Saturdays 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., and Sundays 12:00 Noon to 4:00 p.m.
- ✓ Attention walkers, runners and cyclists who use roadsides: with shorter days, you are harder to see! Please wear light colored or reflective clothing or carry a flashlight. And as always, walk on the left side of the road, against traffic, so you can see cars coming. Drivers, please be alert and watch for the pedestrians and cyclists while driving in the dark.
- ✓ If you are interested in high speed internet for our neighbors, please apply to serve as Barre Town’s alternate to the CVFiber Board. For more information call the Town at 802-479-9331.
- ✓ Help emergency services get to you by having a house number at your driveway or mailbox post. The Town makes it easy by selling house number signs for just \$10. To order yours, contact Tina at 802-479-9331.

GUESTS - None

PURCHASE OF PLOW TRUCK EQUIPMENT

Background: As a result of Budget Committee talks, the Town established a Road Salt Work Group to investigate ways to maximize the Town’s road salt usage. This group has met three times. They have been learning how road salt works and the fact that road temperature, not air temperature, determines how well salt melts ice and snow. The Group is requesting and recommending the Town purchase some equipment (a snow plow live-edge blade system, a controller with GPS tracking, and pavement thermometer. The controller can help be more precise in the rate the salt is being spread. The GPS feature can help answer the public’s questions and claims that their road has not been plowed. The live-edge plow blade (instead of one 11’ plow blade) is short section with a rubber coated cutting edge. The short section can float up and down helping get a cutting edge on more of a rough, irregular road surface. Plowing off more snow reduces the amount of salt needed.

Town Engineer Josh Martineau provided an additional handout on the “science of salt” and spoke to how the Work Group arrived at their recommendation. Purchasing this equipment (paid for through paving and road salt purchase savings) will provide the Town with a baseline on the amount of road salt to be used on roads during various weather events which will lead to using the road salt more effectively and efficiently. The Work Group agreed at this time there will be no Road Salt Policy but guidelines will be developed. The majority of DPW staff are in favor of purchasing the equipment. The Work Group was thanked for all their work.

On a motion by Bob Nelson, seconded by Norma Malone, the Selectboard voted unanimously to purchase the following equipment associated with the distribution and monitoring of road salt usage:

- 1) 3 MS Foster Bullet road pavement thermometers (\$1461.00) with 2 magnet mounts (\$82.70), 1 mirror bracket (\$39.00), 3 mounted gauge cups (\$27.00), and 3 cigarette lighter adapters (\$48.00) for a total purchase price of \$1731.70;
- 2) The Viaesys System which includes GPS & Salt Tracking, Road Patrol Application, Training, and Setup (for one truck) for a total purchase price of \$3760.00; and
- 3) N-Nordik Move 1100 snowblades for the equivalent of an 11’ setup in the amount of \$2,732.85.

Total equipment package cost is \$8,224.55.

PUBLIC HEARING – THIRD READING STOP STREETS & SPEED LIMITS FOR MATHIEU AND BLAKE DRIVES

Background: This is the final reading for the proposed ordinance amendment which sets the speed limit on the new streets of Mathieu and Blake Drives.

On a motion by Jack Mitchell, seconded by Justin Bolduc, Selectboard voted unanimously to read by title only the ordinance amendment; said title was read as follows by the Chair: “An Ordinance of the Town of Barre, Vermont, Amending Chapter 7, Section 7-44 (b) (Stop Signs) and Section 7-61 (c) (Speed Limits) of Barre Town Code of Ordinances.”

On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Bob Nelson, the Selectboard voted unanimously to adopt “An Ordinance of the Town of Barre, Vermont, Amending Chapter 7, Section 7-44 (b) (Stop Signs) and Section 7-61 (c) (Speed Limits) of Barre Town Code of Ordinances.”

FY 19-20 FINACIAL AUDIT ENGAGEMENT LETTER

Background: The Town Manager informed the Selectboard that for Fiscal Year 2020 – 2021 the *estimated* audit expense would be \$30,160. In Fiscal Year 2019-2020 the Town’s audit expense was \$29,800. During that fiscal year, our auditing firm Sullivan & Powers wrote off \$1,471 in expenses. In

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Fiscal Year 2018-2019 the audit expense was \$29,361 and Sullivan & Powers wrote off \$8,065 in expenses. Sullivan & Powers in their engagement letter is quoted a cap of \$35,000 to perform the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 audit. The Manager is seeking Selectboard authorization to approve the engagement letter to perform the 2019-2020 audit.

On a motion by Bob Nelson, seconded by Norma Malone, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the Sullivan, Powers & Co., P.C. engagement letter to perform the Barre Town, Vermont financial audit for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2020.

MUNICIPAL BUILDING ACCESS

Background: Selectboard member Jack Mitchell asked to have a discussion regarding opening the Municipal Building to the public.

Discussion focused on the following:

- There have been very few complaints with the Municipal Building not being open.
- The Town Clerk's Office has received a few but are continuing to provide services. Those who are allowed access include realtors, attorneys, and title searchers (for the land records). Items such as marriage licenses, vital record copies, election processing, payment of taxes/etc. are being conducted at the door and through the mail and email.
- With the recent uptick in COVID cases in Washington County, Department Head consensus is to continue conducting business as we have until the Governor's State of Emergency Order expires.

Protecting the public and employees, as well as ensuring the Town operations continue without interruption were major factors in the Selectboard decision to keep the Municipal Building closed to the public. However, Management will continue to monitor the situation.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE WARRANT

On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Bob Nelson, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the accounts payable warrant dated October 20, 2020.

MISCELLANEOUS - None

'ROUND TABLE

Justin Bolduc noted in the September Barre Area Development meeting minutes there was a reference made that Barre Town is reviewing a tax stabilization agreement for WEG. He has not heard anything about this. Manager Rogers noted he is reviewing the application which was submitted prior to COVID. After reviewing the documents he had questions which have not been answered by WEG. When everything is in place it will be presented to the Selectboard.

Norma Malone noted a couple of road issues: The grading of gravel roads – with recent rains some areas are really bad. Rogers stated he will speak with the DPW on their plans. The other road issue was crack sealing – she inquired if it is getting late in the season to do this. Rogers stated the Town is behind and is working on the FY 19-20 crack sealing work. He will inquire to see if perhaps the bid specs could be revised to have the work done earlier for Fiscal Year 2020-2021.

Norma Malone stated there is a property located at the top of Quarry Hill which started as a yard sale and appears to have become a flea market. Is this an allowable use? Manager Rogers will speak with the Zoning Administrator.

Jack Mitchell, speaking of roads, noted the intersection of Gregoire, Littlejohn, and Websterville Roads. The saw cut areas of the pavement are really, really rough. He believes it should be paved before the snow flies or plow trucks could have some issue. The Manager spoke to the project work in the area. He noted the plant producing asphalt closes November 6 and the goal is to try to have it done by then, weather permitting of course.

Paul White read the Recreation Board minutes regarding the discussion of the Allen bequest. He hoped there would be more in the report to the Selectboard than in the minutes. Asst. Manager Wang stated the Board's thought is to come to the Board first, then go to the citizens for a survey, so as not to get their hopes up.

Paul White inquired of the Clerk approximately how many mailed ballots had been returned as undeliverable and also noted that many residents are receiving early ballots for their children, or a duplicate ballot for the upcoming General Election (November 3, 2020). The Town Clerk stated there are approximately 150 ballots still being held as undeliverable. She further noted there is no "linked" database between states. It is up to the individual to notify the State/Town if they change residency. As for the duplicate ballots, this has to do with the DMV license renewal process. In the majority of instances a person

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will be on the checklist twice due to a difference in name information: example: John M. Doe on the driver license, but on the checklist as John Doe. The Statewide Checklist program recognizes these as two different individuals. Many residents have been on the checklist for a very long time and their voter record does not include date of birth or driver license number. That is because it was not required when they registered to vote many, many years ago. In either instance, or should a voter have any question, do not hesitate to contact the Town Clerk's Office at 802-479-9391 or email dkelty@barretown.org

EXECUTIVE SESSION - None

ADJOURN

On a motion by Jack Mitchell, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:34 p.m.

Donna J. Kelty, Town Clerk-Treasurer

Selectboard Chair

Barre Town Selectboard