

BARRE TOWN SELECTBOARD MEETING AGENDA

November 10, 2020

1. Call to order 6:00 p.m.
2. Consider approving agenda
3. Executive Session (#1): contracts
4. Pledge of Allegiance
5. Consider approving October 27, 2020 meeting minutes.
6. Announcements
7. Receive guests (by phone) for non-agenda items.
8. Scott Kindestin – stormwater (ground water) and sewer concerns.
9. Recreation Board information about fencing and gates.
10. Consider authorizing electrical work on softball field light project.
11. Consider approving weekly Accounts Payable Warrants for November 3 and 10, 2020.
12. Miscellaneous: including licenses or permits if any.
13. ‘Round the table.
14. Executive session (#2): contract.
15. Adjourn.

BARRE TOWN SELECTBOARD MINUTES

November 10, 2020

The duly warned meeting of November 10, 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, Justin Bolduc, Paul White, W. John “Jack” Mitchell and Bob Nelson (via Zoom arrived at 7:05 p.m.).

Attendance for the regular meeting: Town Manager Carl Rogers, Assistant Manager Elaine Wang, Town Clerk-Treasurer Donna J. Kely (via Zoom), Bonnie Batchelder (via Zoom and phone), Scott Kindestin (via phone), and Recreation Board Chair Doug Farnham.

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

APPROVE THE AGENDA

On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted to approve the meeting agenda as presented. Bob Nelson was not present for the vote.

EXECUTIVE SESSION (#1)

On a motion by Jack Mitchell, 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. Bob Nelson was not present for the vote.

On a motion by Jack Mitchell, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted to go into executive session at 6:01 p.m. for contracts and to invite Bonnie Batchelder. Bob Nelson was not present for the vote.

On a motion by Jack Mitchell, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted to come out of executive session at 6:32 p.m. Bob Nelson was not present for the vote.

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

MINUTES

On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted to approve the Selectboard meeting minutes of October 20, 2020 with minor spelling and grammatical corrections. Bob Nelson was not present for the vote.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ✓ The Lawn Waste Site on Holden Road is open Saturdays as long as weather permits in November. Hours are 8:00 am – Noon. The last date will be posted on the Town website (www.barretown.org).
- ✓ The second installment of property tax is due on Monday, November 16, 2020. The Municipal Building remains closed to the public. Payments can be made using the drop box located at the front of the Municipal Building, online through the Town website portal, or by mail (PO Box 124, Websterville, VT 05678). For payment information contact the Town Clerk’s Office at 802-479-9391 or you can email dkelty@barretown.org.

Selectboard Minutes of November 10, 2020 Continued:

- ✓ The Barre Town Newsletter should be in the mail. Read about the position of Town Clerk that will be open after the May election, an update on the town-wide reappraisal project, town forest logging planned for this winter, and lots more.
- ✓ The Manager noted the State of Vermont has expanded its VCAAP Program to include water and wastewater (sewer) disposal charges. If your bill(s) is at least 60 days past due and it is for, or is partially for, the period beginning March 1, 2020 you may be eligible for assistance. There is no income threshold. To apply you will need to have access to the internet. No internet? Contact Capstone Community Action and they will assist you. You will need copies of your bill(s) and they need to have your name on them. You can begin the application process on November 12, 2020 and the deadline to file is December 15, 2020. If you are familiar with the program because you used it for electric or gas assistance, you must reapply for the water/sewer arrearages. To obtain more information on the VCAAP program visit their website: Vermont Public Assistance, then look for link below the sunflower picture (Vermont COVID-19 Arrearage Assistance Program) (<https://publicservice.vermont.gov/content/vermont-covid-19-arrearage-assistance-program-0>).

Chair Announcements: Two weeks ago, after Executive Session, the Selectboard voted and approved the following three items:

- To accept a service agreement with Steve Pratt, and to authorize the Assistant Town Manager to sign the service agreement;
- To approve the Clerical Union's request to take paid time off on December 24 and December 31, 2020; and
- To approve the sale of a one-ton truck to Sydney Derry for \$13,500.

GUESTS - None

STORMWATER AND SEWER CONCERNS – W. COBBLE HILL RD/TAMARACK LANE

Background: Scott Kindestin lives at the southwest corner of West Cobble Hill Road and Tamarack Lane. His home faces West Cobble Hill and the driveway is off Tamarack Lane. He is having a problem with water in his basement and would like the Town to lower a catch basin by his driveway so he can obtain gravity flow to it from a perimeter drain he is considering installing.

Mr. Kindestin stated he is unhappy with the lack of Town staff response to the issue. The latest one has been ongoing since February 2020. He noted he has been trying to get information associated with that issue and the wait has been unacceptable. The retention pond needs to be lowered and the catch basin sits above his basement. He really needs this perimeter drain but cannot install due to the grade.

Chair White thanked Mr. Kindestin for sharing his frustration and knows there is an ongoing investigation. As soon as there is an update from the Town Manager and Engineer, Mr. Kindestin will receive something in writing.

The Manager noted there was some deterioration of a concrete catch basin. Last spring, due to it being a hazard, some of the concrete was removed and signage placed in the area. It is normal for catch basins to have standing water in them. In the meantime, the Town Engineer has been doing additional work. A catch basin cannot "just be lowered." The plan is for the Engineer to shoot some grades (there are several in this area), determine possible solutions, and then the plan will be brought before the Selectboard to decide.

Other items noted during discussion were other complaints over the years in the area, Mitchell would like to have an ortho photo of the area in question, and other drainage improvements in the general area.

Bob Nelson arrived at 7:05 p.m.

RECREATION – EARLY BUDGET – FENCING NEEDS

Background: Recreation Chair Doug Farnham will be presenting information and his observations on the fencing, gates and backstops at the ten (10) recreation facilities.

Mr. Farnham was present and reminded the Board the report provided prior to the meeting does not include the Dog Park, Skate Park, or Bike Path fencing. He noted there is 1700' of fencing at different heights and ten gates which do not work well. Everything in the report listed with a grade of "5" needs to be replaced now. His estimate for entire replacement would be around \$300,000. He spoke to the varying stages of fencing to include some in which trees have grown through/around the fence. Some fencing is in need of minor repairs such as clips which our crew can take care of.

The majority of fencing is so old that it has concrete holding the posts. Other field fencing (old Little League field), use of various fields, and possibly having a professional come and "give an opinion" on the fence condition and needs would be most beneficial.

Selectboard Minutes of November 10, 2020 Continued:

The Recreation Board is working on a Master Plan to incorporate all the “pieces” of this Department to layout out a repair/replacement/maintenance plan. There will be some funds in the Recreation Department request for fencing.

ELECTRICAL WORK ON SOFTBALL FIELD LIGHT PROJECT

Background: The Town is now in the final stages of installing the softball field lights at the Recreation Facility. The last hurdle is the availability of a master electrician. The one who had been willing since last year to donate his services is booked up due to having to fit a whole season’s worth of work into a post-COVID lockdown timeframe. The Town is still waiting to hear back from another possibility, and there is a third consideration (requiring payment). As of last Friday, the costliest, but most reliable scenario is Benoit Electric, who quoted \$4,400 to do the work this weekend. The Town has the donated Lift ready for Friday.

However, as what seems to have become customary, there is, as of today, another glitch. It appears the tails of the lights are too short and will require some extra wiring to get to the junction box. Benoit had to revise their quote which is now \$8,653.00.

The initial thought was to lower the field lights on the poles. However, it was recognized the lighting plan is based on height and lamp direction so this is not the best option. With the Lift coming this weekend the preference would be to have the Selectboard consider paying up front. The Softball Leagues (who agreed to pay this portion) could be assessed fees to cover the cost.

Asst. Manager Wang noted there are two options:

1. Wait until next Fall to allow the Leagues to raise the money. This would mean lighting would need to be stored and not available next Spring; or
2. Have the Selectboard agree to pay up to \$8,653 to get the project completed with the understanding the Leagues would be required to pay this bill over two years.

Discussion focused on the project cost to date paid by the Town (around \$95,000), money already donated by the Leagues for this project, and it seems senseless to hold up the project for this small amount. Paying upfront would ensure this project is done.

On a motion by Bob Nelson, seconded by Jack Mitchell, the Selectboard voted unanimously to authorize the expenditure of up to \$8,653.00 to install the new lights on the softball field poles with the expectation the Leagues will pay off this cost over the next two years.

Motion discussion included the Recreation Board will be responsible for the collection of funds and ensuring that all Leagues are notified in writing as to the expectations for repayment for this portion of the project.

On a side note Recreation Chair informed Selectboard member Mitchell the Recreation Fund budget is not the 5th largest, but the sixth!!

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE WARRANT

On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted to approve the accounts payable warrants dated November 3 and 10, 2020. Bob Nelson abstained as he did not review the warrant.

MISCELLANEOUS - None

‘ROUND TABLE

Bob Nelson stated he could not find the information on our website to Zoom into the meeting tonight. Asst. Manager Wang stated that due to “Zoom bombing” it was not publicized. However, the phone in information is published and on each agenda.

Bob Nelson stated he will not be attending the meeting next week.

Norma Malone inquired on the installation progress for the generator located at the school. Mitchell stated the conduit was laid and concrete pad poured. The generator is scheduled to be installed/connected next Spring.

Norma Malone expressed her deep sympathy to the family of Richard “Dick” Jensen. He was one of the longest serving Selectboard members, as well as serving on the Zoning Board of Adjustment and being an elected Justice of the Peace. Jack Mitchell noted how things have changed over the years. The Town will send a donation as noted in his obituary.

Justin Bolduc inquired if the Board would be reviewing the EMS billing proposal. This will be on an agenda soon.

Selectboard Minutes of November 10, 2020 Continued:

Paul White had several items:

- When will the Town be reviewing the logging bids? Rogers stated next week.
- Are Department Policies approved by the Selectboard? Rogers stated only if they pertain to numerous departments. Department Polices are kept as part of the SOP.
- He noted that ZOOM has become part of the new normal for meetings. Technology is a primary concern. Has the Town looked at other options that are more reliable? Asst. Manager Wang stated Competitive Computers has been contacted and she is awaiting options and quotes. Manager Rogers stated Department Heads have also had this discussion recently. Board members noted whatever system is used it would be nice to ensure there is “good” audio equipment so you can hear/understand the conversations.

EXECUTIVE SESSION (#2)

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, seconded by Norma Malone, the Selectboard voted unanimously to go into executive session at 8:12 p.m. for contracts.

On a motion by Jack Mitchell, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted unanimously to come out of executive session at 9:25 p.m.

ADJOURN

On a motion by Jack Mitchell, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted unanimously to adjourn at 9:25 p.m.

Donna J. Kelty, Town Clerk-Treasurer

Selectboard Chair

Barre Town Selectboard