

BARRE TOWN SELECTBOARD MEETING AGENDA
June 29, 2021

- P.I.L.O.T – Good Samaritan Haven’s presentation for a homeless shelter at 580 South Barre Road. 6:00 p.m.
1. Call to order. 6:30 p.m.
 2. Pledge of Allegiance.
 3. Consider approving agenda.
 4. Consider approving June 22, 2021 meeting minutes.
 5. Announcements.
 6. Receive guests for non-agenda items.
 7. Consider accepting Town Treasurer’s Financial Management Questionnaire.
 8. Discuss plans for a Town Forest logging public hearing.
 9. Consider terminating purchase-sale agreement with Crosland Barnes Group.
 10. Consider approving weekly accounts payable warrants for June 29, 2021.
 11. Miscellaneous: **a)** Fireworks permit for Janeen Morrison on July 4; **b)** other licenses and permits, if any.
 12. Round table.
 13. Executive session: personnel and contracts (action expected).
 14. Adjourn.

BARRE TOWN SELECTBOARD MINUTES
June 29, 2021

The duly warned meeting of June 29, 2021 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, W. John “Jack” Mitchell, Bob Nelson, Paul White and Justin Bolduc.

Attendance for the regular meeting: Town Manager Carl Rogers, Assistant Manager Elaine Wang, Town Clerk Tina Lunt, Times Argus Reporter Eric Blaisdell. Those attending by phone: Timothy Belcher and Lori Bernier

CALL TO ORDER - The meeting was called to order at 6:39 p.m.

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 as follows:

Selectboard Minutes of June 29, 2021 Continued:

1. *Add to item #11. b): Fireworks Permit for Zachariah LaPerle*

MINUTES

On a motion by Bob Nelson, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the Selectboard meeting minutes of June 22, 2021 with minor spelling and grammatical corrections.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ✓ Please spread the word: Vermonters who rent their homes and need help paying past due utility bills because of COVID-19 may be eligible for help from the Department of Public Service. The renter does not need to be late on their rent to apply for help with utility bills. More information is online at publicservice.vermont.gov. Click on the words “utility help for renters.”
- ✓ The Chair announced that after the Selectboard’s June 22 executive session, the Selectboard approved a non-union employee’s request to donate up to 40 hours of paid time off to another employee.

GUESTS – None

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT QUESTIONNAIRE

Background: Annually the Selectboard takes annual action on the Financial Management Questionnaire from the Vermont Auditor’s Office. This year Town Treasurer Jennifer Allard answered the questionnaire.

On a motion by Bob Nelson, seconded by Norma Malone, the Selectboard voted unanimously to accept the 2021 Financial Management Questionnaire with the amendment of answering yes to the question of “Have there been any changes in authorized signatures during the fiscal year?” and authorize the Chair to sign it.

TOWN FOREST LOGGING PUBLIC HEARING

Background: Opinions have been expressed that logging should be discontinued or should not be performed as it was done last winter. The Board shared willingness to hold a

Selectboard Minutes of June 29, 2021 Continued:

public input meeting for an opportunity to hear about Town Forest logging. A plan will be discussed which will include a date for the meeting and possible presentation.

Town Manager Carl Rogers has suggested the public input meeting to be held on Tuesday, August 3rd. Board members discussed the Policy for Public Input that will need to be shared with those who attend these types of meetings. Elaine added that this policy can be found on the Barre Town website. Board members agreed that it would be best suited to have Jeff Smith, Caitlin Cusack and Robert Nelson in attendance.

Chair Paul White voiced that it would be helpful to have the actual revenue that the Town brought in from the most recent logging. The Board would also like to see a copy of the conservation easement.

Mrs. Malone asked if this was the last stand of the original management plan. Town Manager Carl Rogers confirmed that this concludes the first round of logging.

PURCHASE-SALE AGREEMENT WITH CROSLAND BARNES GROUP

Background: On June 8, 2021 the Board authorized signing the purchase-sale agreement for a 2.5-acre Wilson Industrial Park lot for Crosland Barnes Group (CBG). CBG was preparing the site for one of its clients. Prior to CBG signing the Purchase-Sale Agreement they notified the Town Manager that due to internal issues their client is not moving forward with the project at this time.

On a motion by Norma Malone, second by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted unanimously to cancel the Purchase-Sale Agreement with Crosland Barnes Group authorized by the Selectboard on June 8, 2021.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE WARRANT

On a motion by Justin Bolduc, seconded by Jack Mitchell, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the accounts payable warrants dated June 29, 2021.

MISCELLANEOUS

On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Bob Nelson, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve a fireworks display permit for Janeen Morrison, 52 Snowbridge Road on July 4, 2021 with a July 5, 2021 rain date.

Selectboard Minutes of June 29, 2021 Continued:

On a motion by Jack Mitchell, seconded by Norma Malone, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve a fireworks display permit for Zachariah LaPerle, 39 Miller Road on July 10, 2021.

‘ROUND TABLE

Norma Malone noted that she has received inquiries about overnight camping at the Rec area. She asked if this is something that the Town allows. Carl Rogers stated that the Town has allowed this in the past but was not aware of the recent event. Assistant Town Manager Elaine Wang added that the request did not mention that the individuals would be camping overnight however, in past years this group has done this. She noted that the group (Hand Radio Group) are the only ones that have ever requested overnight camping and they have a self-contained camper therefore there are no issues. In the past, this has been noted on the application and the police have been notified. In the future, the Town will ask this group if they plan on camping overnight if they fail to note this on the application.

Mrs. Malone inquired about the debris and trash that was left behind after the Rockfire event. She was contacted about glass on the trails and asked if someone could follow-up with them. There were suggestions that future requests should be a requirement in the approved permit conditions. It was noted that Rockfire had until July 3 to pick up after the event however, this timeframe is too long.

Mrs. Malone noted that an email from VLCT stated that the Town’s public body needs to have a discussion regarding ARPA funding by July 15th. Carl Rogers added that he is aware and the Selectboard will be voting on an authorized representative at next week’s meeting.

Justin Bolduc commented that he had a non-resident contact him regarding the overnight camping at the Rec area. He wondered if we should come up with guidelines around this that it must be a self-contained camper. His concerns were around more individuals eventually camping out in the Town Forest. Elaine Wang noted that she does not believe we will have an issue as the Hand Radio group is the only group requesting overnight camping.

Jack Mitchell would like to discuss the Rec Board. He asked the Town Manager to add this to a future agenda for discussion. The Board needs to be proactive around the decision if the Rec Board is a Department, Commission or Board adding that it is important to get this resolved.

Paul White inquired about the upcoming retreat on July 20. He asked if Board members have a list or items up for discussion. Mrs. Malone added that the Board has a “work list” that can be used for retreat discussions. Mr. Mitchell suggested prioritizing the list so the Board can accomplish what is most important. Mr. Nelson noted that the Board needs to see what staff members they would like present at the retreat. Board members will share ideas with the Chair.

Mr. White inquired about the EMS Station attic bid and asked if this will be going back out to bid. Mrs. Wang shared that she has put this back out on the list for bid but that will not take place until the fall. She also confirmed that it was on the State bid registry.

Mr. White questioned the Cemetery Agency Funds. He asked what the Town should do with them. Discussions were had on who's role it is to arrange the work around the site's and how often this is being done. Mr. Nelson asked if the funds could all go into one account. The Chair added that the Town could dispose of some of the funds with low amounts by purchasing flowers and monument cleaning. Mr. Nelson also suggested challenging Barre Partnership to match the funds and hold a Heritage Event. Mrs. Malone stated that the funds are not the Town's money, and the Town only has care of the funds. She advised looking for guidelines from the Town Auditors on how the Agency Funds could be utilized and how are we restricted.

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 knowledge would clearly place the Selectboard at a substantial disadvantage.

On a motion by Jack Mitchell, seconded by Bob Nelson, the Selectboard voted unanimously to go into executive session at 7:49 p.m. for personnel and contracts.

On a motion by Jack Mitchell, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted unanimously to come out of executive session at 9:19 p.m.

On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted 4-1 to authorize the Town Manager to sign the Batchelder Associates' contract modification dated July 1, 2021, terminating on June 30, 2022.

On a motion by Bob Nelson, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the non-union staff pay increases, effective July 1, 2021, as presented.

On a motion by Justin Bolduc, seconded by Jack Mitchell, the Selectboard voted 4-1 to approve selling the old sewer bus to Shawn Codling for three-hundred dollars (\$300) provided he removes it within fourteen (14) days.

ADJOURN

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

Selectboard Minutes of June 29, 2021 Continued:

Tina Lunt, Town Clerk

Selectboard Chair

Barre Town Selectboard