

BARRE TOWN SELECTBOARD MEETING AGENDA

December 7, 2021

1. Call to order.....6:00 p.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Consider approving agenda.
4. Consider approving November 23 meeting minutes.
5. Announcements.
6. Receive guests for non-agenda items.
7. Receive public input on, and discuss, ways to use Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Funds.
8. Consider adopting Resolution No. 12-21 in appreciation of Thomas Bailey’s twenty-five years of service to the Town.
9. Consider Sno-Bees Snowmobile Club’s request to use town property (3 road rights-of-way).
10. Consider approving weekly accounts payable warrant for November 30 and December 7, 2021.
11. Miscellaneous, including licenses and permits, if any.
12. ‘Round table.
13. Executive session, if needed.
14. Adjourn.

BARRE TOWN SELECTBOARD MINUTES

December 7, 2021

The duly warned meeting of December 7, 2021 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. Attendance by phone: Bob Nelson

Attendance for the regular meeting: Town Manager Carl Rogers, Assistant Town Manager Elaine Wang, Town Clerk Tina Lunt, Mike Martel, Josh Martineau, Richard Tetreault, Alice Bartlett, Times Argus Reporter Eric Blaisdell, Andre Rouleau, William Crowther, Marjorie Bailey, Sandie Bailey, Josh Bailey, Tina Thurston, and Thomas Bailey.

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

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 unanimously to approve the amended agenda as follows:

1. *Add to: #13 executive session, personnel and legal*

MINUTES

On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the November 23, 2021 meeting minutes with minor spelling and grammatical corrections.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Selectboard Minutes of December 7, 2021 Continued:

- ✓ Stay tuned for the upcoming Vermont Homeowners Assistance Program from the Vermont Housing Finance Agency. The program will provide grants to help with overdue property taxes, mortgage payments, homeowners and condo association fees, and utility bills. More information can be found at vermonthap.vhfa.org, or by emailing homeownerassistance@vhfa.org.
- ✓ COVID vaccinations are available. People ages 12 and older can walk-in to any clinic, including the one at the Berlin Mall Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., and weekends 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. If you want to go somewhere with fewer people, there's also a clinic twice a week at the Barre Town EMS Station at 9 McLaughlin Road. That clinic is on Mondays and Thursdays between 3:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. Vaccines for children ages 5 to 11 are available by appointment only. To make an appointment, go to healthvermont.gov and click on COVID-19 vaccine.
- ✓ The Selectboard seeks members for the FY2022-2023 Budget Committee that serves from the end of January through the end of March. The Budget Committee reviews the Town Manager's proposed budgets for all nine funds, including the highway fund, ambulance fund, and general fund. The general fund includes police, fire, recreation departments and more. If you have an interest in learning about Town operations and would like a say in how tax dollars are spent, apply to serve on the Budget Committee! Applications in the form of a letter or email stating your interest and background will be accepted until noon on Thursday, December 30. Contact information can be found in the "Apply for Budget Committee" article in your November newsletter on page 3.
- ✓ Did you know there's a statewide alert system? It's called VT-Alert. This state-run service will notify you of winter storms, road closures, scam alerts and more time-sensitive news relevant to you by text, phone and/or email, as you prefer. For instruction on how to sign up for VT-Alert, Google VT-Alert.
- ✓ If you're planning a fireworks display, a reminder that a Town permit is needed first. The application must be submitted 15 days prior to the display. The permit application form is available at barrtown.org or by calling the Town Clerk's Office at 479-9391.
- ✓ Chair Announcement: After the November 23 executive session, the Selectboard voted to approve the Easement and Consent to Encroachment for Lucas John and to authorize the Town Manger to sign the Easement, subject to the Vermont Land Trust's execution of the Easement.

GUESTS

Andre Rouleau and Alice Bartlett were present. Mr. Rouleau and Ms. Bartlett are both Barre Town residents and officers of the Graniteville Fire District #4. The Graniteville Fire District has an interservice agreement with the Town of Barre and water is purchased and sold between both entities, as needed.

Mr. Rouleau presented and discussed the following topics with the Board:

- A request for funding for the planning and development for an additional water source.
- An upcoming study to evaluate merging the Graniteville Fire District with Barre Town.
- The multiple vacant properties in upper and lower Graniteville and possible funding to improve these properties.
- Th possible use of CLFRF funds for an alternate source of water.

Selectboard Minutes of December 7, 2021 Continued:

Chair White noted that the proposal of an additional water source would also be beneficial to Barre Town.

Mrs. Malone inquired about the number of customers within the Graniteville Fire District. Mr. Rouleau confirmed that there are a total of 250 customers. He stated that 210 of these customers are located in Barre Town and the other 40 are located in Williamstown.

Mr. Rouleau thanked the Board for hearing his requests. Chair White stated that the timing of Mr. Rouleau's ideas was appropriate, as the Selectboard is seeking public input on how to best use the CLFRF funds. In closing, Chair White thanked Mr. Rouleau for the information he provided, adding the Town will consider how they can help the Graniteville Fire District.

CORONAVIRUS LOCAL FISCAL RECOVERY FUNDS (CLFRF)

Background: The Barre Town Selectboard and Town Office Staff have started the framework of the expenditures for the federal funds the Town will be receiving from the Coronavirus Fiscal Recovery Funds (CLFRF). There are specific categories and limits on how the Town is allowed to spend the money. The Selectboard has invited public input on how to best spend these funds.

It is noted for the record that no guests were in attendance for additional public input.

Town Manager Carl Rogers opened the discussion by sharing two emails he had received. Mr. Rogers stated he was contacted by Downstreet Housing who are working on a Barre City project called Recovery Residece. Due to the increase in construction cost, Downstreet is short on money and is requesting the Selectboard consider allocating money to support the project. Mr. Rogers received a second email from a Town resident who was involved with the Town Forest nature walks. The resident suggested the Town dedicates some of the funds to create more accessible trails to key locations within the Town Forest.

Chair White shared an email that he received from a resident. The Barre Town resident would like to see the funds used to buy the tax rate down for all Barre Town taxpayers. Chair White noted he did respond to the resident to let him know that this is not an authorized use of the funds.

Mrs. Malone shared the following ideas from the Selectboards retreat priority list:

- EMS station facility needs
- Police Department garage

The Board discussed these items qualifying under category 1.7 "Capital Investment or Physical Plant Changes to Public Facilities that respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency."

Discussion continued on a list of the priority projects that the Town Manager will focus on. The next steps are to begin to look at costs and timelines for the proposed projects.

RESOLUTION NO. 12-21

Background: Thomas Bailey has worked for the Town of Barre in the Public Works Department since November 25, 1996. Thomas is currently the most senior member of the DPW crew, and third-most

Selectboard Minutes of December 7, 2021 Continued:

senior in the department overall. He is valued for his hard work, dedication, intelligence, and heavy equipment skills. Thomas has plowed and worked on almost every road in the Town an untold number of times and worked on most of the sewer and water lines in the Town.

On a motion by Jack Mitchell, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted unanimously to adopt Resolution 12-21, "A Resolution of the Town of Barre, Vermont in Appreciation of 25 Years of Service by Thomas Bailey to the Town of Barre."

Jack Mitchell read the resolution for those present.

Mr. Bailey was joined by family, friends, and co-workers to celebrate his twenty-five years with the Town. They shared stories that reflected on his quick-wit, intelligence, heavy equipment operator skills, and dedication to his family.

Mr. Mitchell shared Mr. Bailey has been a huge asset to him over the years with bulk trash day and expressed his appreciation.

Mr. Bailey expressed that the Town has come a long way since he started, and he appreciates the support.

Chair White thanked Mr. Bailey for everything he does for the Town.

SNO-BEES SNOWMOBLIE CLUB REQUEST TO USE TOWN ROAD

Background: The Sno-Bee's snowmobile trails do not cross any Town-owned land. The trails do travel along Belding Road, Phelps Road, and Curtis Road. The request for this year is the same as last year, only the distance is slightly different.

On a motion by Jack Mitchell, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the Barre Sno-Bees 2021-2022 permission form approving trails to ride along 500 feet of Belding Road, 100 feet of Phelps Road, and 100 feet of Curtis Road.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted to approve the accounts payable warrants for the week of November 30, 2021. Bob Nelson abstained.

On a motion by Justin Bolduc, seconded by Norma Malone, the Selectboard voted to approve the accounts payable warrants for the week of December 7, 2021. Bob Nelson abstained.

Mrs. Malone inquired about the P&P Septic Services invoice. She asked if the invoice failed to be received in a timely fashion. Town Manager Carl Rogers explained that he was not sure, but he mentioned there has been a billing delay in the past.

MISCELLANEOUS

Selectboard Minutes of December 7, 2021 Continued:

Assistant Town Manager Elaine Wang shared that Fuzzbuzz Technologies, Inc. will be at Town Office on Wednesday, December 8 to take measurements for the AV equipment.

‘ROUND TABLE

Jack Mitchell stated that he was disappointed to see the date of November 22 has passed and there was hardly anything mentioned about JFK’s assassination.

Jack Mitchell reflected on December 7. He stated he was happy to see that the Time Argus had an article in remembrance of this day in history.

Bob Nelson echoed Mr. Mitchell’s comments in remembering December 7. Mr. Nelson apologized for missing the last two Board meetings.

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 Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted unanimously to go into executive session at 7:27 p.m. for personnel and legal.

On a motion by Jack Mitchell, seconded by Bob Nelson, the Selectboard voted unanimously to come out of executive session at 8:50 p.m.

ACTION

On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Bob Nelson, The Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the Police Department full-time employee retention bonuses as discussed.

ADJOURN

On a motion by Jack Mitchell, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:51 p.m.

Tina Lunt, Town Clerk

Selectboard Chair

Barre Town Selectboard