

BARRE TOWN SELECTBOARD MEETING AGENDA

January 5, 2021

PILOT: Quarterly Department Head visits: a) police; b) EMS 6:00 p.m.

1. Call to order 6:30 p.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Consider approving agenda.
4. Consider approving December 22, 2020 meeting minutes.
5. Announcements
6. Receive guests (by phone) for non-agenda items.
7. C. V. Solid Waste Management District presentation about a household hazardous waste facility.
8. Consider approving 5-Year Plans: a) Equipment; b) Gravel Road; and c) Building.
9. Consider Budget Committee appointments.
10. Consider approving sale of used dump truck.
11. COVID-19 Report
12. Consider approving weekly Accounts Payable Warrants for December 29, 2020 and January 5, 2021.
13. Miscellaneous: including licenses or permits if any.
14. 'Round the table.
15. Executive session: personnel and contract.
16. Adjourn.

BARRE TOWN SELECTBOARD MINUTES

January 5, 2021

The duly warned meeting of January 5, 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 (via Teams), Justin Bolduc (via Teams), Paul White, W. John "Jack" Mitchell, and Bob Nelson (via Teams).

Attendance for the regular meeting: Town Manager Carl Rogers, Assistant Manager Elaine Wang, Town Clerk-Treasurer Donna J. Kelty (via Teams), Town Engineer Josh Martineau (via Teams), DPW Superintendent Richard Tetreault (via Teams), CVSMD representatives Fred Thumm, Cathleen Gent and Brenna Toman (all via Teams), and Times Argus Reporter Eric Blaisdell (via Teams).

CALL TO ORDER – The meeting was called to order at 6:52 p.m.

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

APPROVE THE AGENDA

On a motion by Jack Mitchell, seconded by Bob Nelson, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the meeting agenda as presented.

MINUTES

On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the Selectboard meeting minutes of December 22, 2020 with minor spelling and grammatical corrections.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ✓ Barre Town's elected Town clerk is retiring at the end of her current term in May 2021. Consider running for Town Clerk! More information about the position is in the November Barre Town Newsletter, or you may call the current Town Clerk, Donna Kelty, at 802-479-9391.
- ✓ Barre Town's Department of Public Works collects Christmas trees after the holidays to be chipped into mulch at the Town's Lawn Waste Site. To make use of this free service, first remove all decorations from the tree so they do not end up in someone else's vegetable garden, then place it by the road. Winter road maintenance permitting, public works will pick up trees from roadsides north of Route 302 this week and south of Route 302 January 11th – 15th. You are not required to use this service, but please do not burn the tree, send it to a landfill, or put it in a waterway or drainage way.
- ✓ Logging of the Barre Town Forest is underway, consistent with the Town Forest Management Plan. Logging will be done throughout the winter while conditions allow. For everyone's safety, some

Selectboard Minutes of January 5, 2021 Continued:

trails may be closed this winter. Please pay attention to trail closed signs and listen for logging equipment and chainsaws.

GUESTS - None

CVSWMD PRESENTATION – HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE FACILITY

Background: The Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District (CVSWMD) has received a State grant to construct a household hazardous waste facility. The District plans to commence construction in 2021 and is considering sites in Barre Town. The District will provide the Board with information on the site selection process, what the facility would look like and what they will do, among other things.

Fred Thumm (CVSWMD Chair and Town representative), Cathleen Gent (Director), and Planning Analyst Brenna Toman were present via Teams. The following points were noted:

- The new site is estimated to cost \$1.5 million. The State grant is for \$500,000, the District is providing \$657,190 and the remaining cost will be raised without bonding.
- An ad-hoc committee, in conjunction with varying consultants, are considering the design build. Consultants were used to address safety concerns for content storage.
- A site has not been selected. However, a lot in the Wilson Industrial Park is a high contender.
- The facility will operate year-round and serve central Vermont. Thus, eliminating the rotating one-day collections held each spring, summer, and fall throughout the district.
- The new facility is to be a temporary storage facility. All materials will be stored inside the building.
- The Town will be contacted soon to discuss the 2021 Household Hazardous Waste collections. The CVSWMD uses the Town Highway Garage for one of their collections in our area.

5-YEAR PLANS FOR UPCOMING BUDGET CYCLE

Background: Annually the Town prepares several 5-Year Plans to assist with the preparation of budgeting and to ensure we maintain/replace what we have, when we need to. The Equipment, Gravel Road, and Building Plans were presented to the Board at the last meeting. More information was needed and the Plans are being presented for approval.

Town Engineer Josh Martineau and DPW Superintendent Richard Tetreault were present via Teams to answer questions on the Equipment and Gravel Road Plans. Assistant Manager Wang oversees the Building Plan.

A. Equipment Plan discussion overview:

- Expected life cycle for the big Excavator given the amount of use. DPW Super recommends 15 years.
- Leasing versus purchase: such as copiers, trucks, etc. Perhaps an analysis needs to be done at some point. Pros and cons were briefly discussed.
- IT items noted were server, phone system, and the age of the Manager’s car (has very low mileage at this time).

On a motion by Jack Mitchell, seconded by Bob Nelson, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the Town of Barre, 5 Year Equipment Purchase Plan, FY 2022 – FY 2026 as presented.

B. Gravel Road Plan discussion overview:

- When to pave gravel roads: mud issues, connector between two paved pieces which assists with plow routes.
- Possible roads to consider paving: Littlejohn Road to Waterman, McLaughlin and Benoit Roads.
- Why are some roads not considered such as Snowbridge. Part of the road is in a different Town and there is no plan to plow, plus the expense to pave.
- Top dressing – why the varying depths? Need to rebuild base (too many fines in the road bed), to ensure good drainage and reduce dust from crumbling stone.
- This year the Mother Nature did not co-operate and some top dressing was done too late in the season. The Department was trying to catch up on some of the work.

On a motion by Bob Nelson, seconded by Jack Mitchell, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the Town of Barre 5-Year Gravel Road Plan, FY 2022 – FY 2026 as presented.

C. Building Plan. After last weeks discussion and concern for capital projects not being completed when needed led Board member Bolduc to present a new plan. His proposal is to increase the annual budget 3% above what was presented each year. By doing so, this provided enough funding to include some projects that had been removed (but necessary) and covered doing more projects sooner. The Police Department dilapidated storage shed and Selectboard meeting room carpets were examples of necessary but unbudgeted items that should and must be taken care of.

Selectboard Minutes of January 5, 2021 Continued:

The Town has a Policy governing this budget, but Malone feels it is not being adhered to. She is not comfortable with the Plan but supports the proposal of an annual increase in funding.

Other items noted:

- The Telemetry System – should it be in the Building Fund or is this an IT thing which means it should be in the Equipment Fund.
- The 5-Year Plan is prepared based on occupied buildings and critical items having priority. The energy efficiency items are fill ins to keep the annual appropriation consistent (without large spikes).
- Concerns were cited for building a new Police Department storage shed may interfere with the future planning of a new DPW facility (currently at the Garage location).

The Selectboard recognized the Manager needs at least the first year of the Building Plan approved for budgeting purposes. Consensus is Board Member Bolduc will work with the Assistant Manager to provide a clean copy for discussion next week.

BUDGET COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Background: The Barre Town Budget Committee is comprised of the 5 Selectboard members plus 5 citizens at large. The Selectboard appoints two members, the Town Clerk-Treasurer appoints one. The three appoint the remaining 2 citizens at large. The Town advertised for interested individuals. The Selectboard has received seven letter/emails of interest for serving on Barre Town’s Budget Committee. Budget Committee meeting usually begin the last Tuesday night in January.

With a few new applicants, the Selectboard asked the Manager to invite the new applicants to next week’s meeting. The plan is to appoint next week. Members participating via Teams can text their vote to the Chair.

It was noted the meetings are customarily held in the EOC meeting room downstairs. However, with COVID that is not possible. The Selectboard meeting room is not large enough to accommodate all (10) Budget Committee members, 3 staff, Department Heads, and others. More thought will be put into how to conduct the meetings.

SALE OF DUMP TRUCK

Background: The Town had a 2012 Freightliner dump truck which has been sold to the Town of East Montpelier for \$38,000 which was the Board’s original asking price. Clark’s Truck Center has stepped back from selling it for us and is not charging the \$2,500 commission. East Montpelier’s only salt spreading truck is broke down and they needed the vehicle right away. The action tonight is to record the approved sale.

On a motion by Justin Bolduc, seconded by Bob Nelson, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the sale of a 2012 Freightliner 6-wheel dump truck to the Town of East Montpelier, Vermont for the price of \$38,000.00.

COVID-19 REPORT

The Town Manager provided the Selectboard with the following updates:

- Staffing is good – no changes. Administrative offices continue the telework and skeleton staffing of the Municipal Building.
- School has resumed and the traffic pattern being used to drop off students is the same as in the Fall. The Police Department reports no issues.
- Events Update: There will be a physical polling place for the March election. The School Board will be discussing how they want to proceed. The Fire Department is tentatively scheduling a rabies clinic for the 3rd Saturday in March. However, it will look much different (perhaps a drive-thru being held at the DPW Garage) due to COVID and licensing of dogs most likely will not be available. Freezing Fun For Families is looking to hold their March “softball” event. It too, will look much different. Stay tuned to the Barre Town website (www.barretown.org), these meetings, and the newsletter for more information.
- Fiscally, the Town is doing well. Nine (9) residents were awarded funding through the State VCAAP (financial assistance for paying past due utility bills).
- The new Federal Stimulus Package has been approved but does not contain funding for Towns.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE WARRANT

On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Bob Nelson, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the accounts payable warrants dated December 29, 2020 and January 5, 2021.

MISCELLANEOUS

Assistant Manager Wang noted the Policies have been updated. It was also noted that this Sunday, around Noon, Board member Bolduc and Recreation Board Chair, will be meeting the fencing company at the Recreation Field to do more investigative work.

‘ROUND TABLE

Justin Bolduc:

- Questioned the bill regarding propane for Competitive Energy Solutions. Rogers noted this is an annual bill.
- There is a streetlight on Central/Prospect Streets which shines on the back of a row of overgrown hedges. The hedges need to be trimmed and have almost engulfed the fencing. This light use to shine on the basketball court. There was brief discussion on when the Town has a right to “trim” trees and hedges that encroach on the right-of-way.

Norma Malone noticed that several street/road signs are missing in the Osborne/Cutler Corner road intersections. Manager Rogers will forward the information to the DPW.

Bob Nelson informed the Board the Swift’s on Bridge Street had contacted him regarding the proposed Merry Meadows solar project. The property owners stated there is a lot of ledge in the area. They lost their well once due to construction and have concerns for the well with this project. Where should they send their concerns? Rogers noted the residents should contact him and the Zoning Administrator. They will see the Planning Commission is aware of this.

Jack Mitchell stated Police Office Paul Thayer asked Jack to thank the Board for supporting the LGER Hazard Pay Grant. He was very surprised when opening his paycheck and stated he greatly appreciated the pay.

Paul White noted the Town’s CLA had dropped to 79.47%. The State of Vermont mandates a Town to do a reappraisal when they are below 85%. The Town’s reappraisal has been ongoing and is expected to be completed for the lodging of the April 1, 2021 Grand List.

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, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted unanimously to go into executive session at 8:43 p.m. for personnel.

Assistant Manager Wang and Town Clerk-Treasurer Kelty were excused from Executive Session at 9:25 p.m.

On a motion by Jack Mitchell, seconded by Norma Malone, the Selectboard voted unanimously to come out of executive session at 9:55 p.m.

ADJOURN

On a motion by Jack Mitchell, seconded by Bob Nelson, the Selectboard voted unanimously to adjourn at 9:56 p.m.

Donna J. Kelty, Town Clerk-Treasurer

Selectboard Chair

Barre Town Selectboard