

## BARRE TOWN SELECTBOARD MEETING AGENDA

March 16, 2021

1. Call to order 8:05 p.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Consider approving agenda.
4. Consider approving March 9, 2021 meeting minutes.
5. Announcements
6. Receive guests (by phone) for non-agenda items.
7. Consider adopting Resolution No. 3-21 honoring Alice Bartlett upon her retirement.
8. Discussion regarding as-built location of Granview Solar farm.
9. Consider naming group to volunteer to spring bulk trash collection.
10. Consider approving Certification of Compliance for Town Road and Bridge Standards.
11. COVID-19 report, if needed.
12. Consider approving weekly Accounts Payable Warrants for March 16, 2021.
13. Miscellaneous, a) Second Class Liquor License for Quarry Hill Quick Stop; b) Third Class Club Spirituous Liquor License, Outside Consumption Permit, First Class Club Malt and Vinous Beverages License for Veterans of Foreign Wars MacKenzie-Webster Post.
14. 'Round the table.
15. Executive session: personnel.
16. Adjourn.

### BARRE TOWN SELECTBOARD MINUTES

March 16, 2021

The duly warned meeting of March 16, 2021 was held at the Barre Town Municipal Building, Selectboard Room, in Lower Websterville, Vermont at 8:05 p.m. and remotely using Teams.

The following member attended in person: W. John "Jack" Mitchell. These members attended remotely: Paul White, Norma Malone, Justin Bolduc, and Bob Nelson.

Attendance in person for the regular meeting: Town Manager Carl Rogers, Assistant Manager Elaine Wang, Town Clerk-Treasurer Donna J. Kely, Alice W. Bartlett, Assistant Town Clerks Deb Lefevbre and Wendy Moore, Tina Thurston, and Cedric Sanborn. Those attending remotely or by phone for the regular meeting were Zoning Administrator Chris Violette, George Clain, and Sue Paxman.

**CALL TO ORDER** – The meeting was called to order at 8:05 p.m.

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

#### APPROVE THE AGENDA

*On a motion by Bob Nelson, seconded by Norma Malone, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the amended meeting agenda.*

- a) *Item 16, Executive Session, add real estate, personnel, and contracts with no action expected.*

#### MINUTES

*On a motion by Bob Nelson, and duly seconded, the minutes of March 9, 2021 were approved with minor grammatical and spelling changes as presented to the Clerk.*

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ✓ You are invited to virtually attend the Barre Town Budget Committee meetings, held Tuesdays from 6:00 p.m. to 7:55 p.m. through March. The Tuesday March 23<sup>rd</sup> agenda will continue with the wrap-up of the proposed department budgets. For the video or telephone conference information, go to [www.barretown.org](http://www.barretown.org) or call 802-479-9331.
- ✓ Barre Town seeks five outdoor summer helpers. Four are needed for the Department of Public Works, and one with the Cemetery and Recreation crews. Application review will begin March 26, 2021. See the job posting at [www.barretown.org](http://www.barretown.org).
- ✓ Help emergency services get to you by having a house number at your driveway or mailbox post., somewhere it can easily be seen from the public road. The Town makes it easy by selling reflective

Selectboard Minutes of March 16, 2021 Continued:

house number signs for \$10.00 each. To order yours, contact Tina at 802-479-9331 or [offices@barretown.org](mailto:offices@barretown.org).

- ✓ The next Barre Town Municipal election and the Barre Unified Union School District revote, will be held on Tuesday May 11, 2021. For the municipal elections, if you would like to run for Town Clerk – 3 year term, Selectboard for a 2 year or 3 year term, Town Constable – 1 year term, Moderator – 1 year term, or Auditor – 3 year term, note that due to the pandemic, no petitions are required. To appear on the ballot, simply complete a Consent of Candidate Form and submit to the Town Clerk’s office no later than 5:00 p.m., Monday, March 29, 2021. A Consent Form can be downloaded from [www.barretown.org](http://www.barretown.org), or call 802-479-9391 to request a paper form.

**GUESTS - None**

**RESOLUTION NO. 3-21 HONORING ALICE W. BARTLETT**

Background: Alice W. Bartlett began working in the Town Clerk-Treasurer’s Office on February 21, 1989. Her last workday was Friday, February 26, 2021 (official retirement date was February 28, 2021). She had been the Assistant School District Treasurer in addition to being an Assistant Town Clerk. The Selectboard is recognizing her retirement with a resolution and presentation.

*On a motion by Jack Mitchell, seconded by Norma Malone, the Selectboard voted unanimously to adopt Resolution No. 3-21, “A Resolution of the Town of Barre, Vermont in Appreciation of Alice Bartlett’s 32 Years of Service.”*

Jack Mitchell read the resolution for those present. Chair Paul White read comments from Chris Perra (title searcher), co-workers Joyce Beaudin and Bill Crowther, and Attorney Brian Amones. Staff attending the meeting in person thanked Ali and reiterated many of the items stated in the Resolution. Manager Rogers relayed stories attributed to her “work ethic and sense of humor.”

Town Clerk-Treasurer Kelty presented Ms. Bartlett with a pin (commemorating the first time she signed her name in the land records) and an award certificate which entitled the holder to a columbarium niche at the Wilson Cemetery. The niche was paid for through donations (Selectboard, staff, and friends).

Ms. Bartlett stated she has loved working at the Town and was sorry she had to retire. She will miss the people. Her time the past couple of weeks has been spent shredding paper and cleaning. As for what is next – she does not know.

**GRANVIEW SOLAR FARM AS-BUILT LOCATION**

Background: The Planning Commission and Selectboard gave Washington County Mental Health’s Granview Solar Farm preferred site status based on a plan submitted with the Town application. However, it was recently discovered the constructed solar site was not built in accordance with the plan submitted to the Town.

Zoning Administrator Violette noted in discussion, the site is built in accordance with the application map (different from Town) submitted to the Public Utilities Commission (PUC). He further stated at no time was the Town informed the siting of the solar farm was being revised. If we had been informed, this would have prompted new discussion and may or may not have resulted in changing the decision to grant preferred site status. The Planning Commission is very concerned that this could happen. It almost feels like a bait and switch deal.

Violette has spoken with the developer, Norwich Technologies, and was informed the plan changed due to the wetlands. However, the developer was fully aware of the wetlands and had informed the Planning Commission it was not an issue. The site revision was not changed upon request of the Agency of Natural Resources.

As a result of this action, the Planning Commission has voted to send a letter to the PUC advising them of this issue. Our Planning Commission feels that in addition to the Town, the PUC was also misled. Violette is asking if the Selectboard would like to join as a signer on the letter or perhaps draft one of their own.

During Board discussion it was noted the Town does receive a copy of the application filed with the PUC. However, the siting map revision was not caught. This has resulted in a change in how the Town will review PUC applications.

By consensus, the Selectboard agreed they would like to also sign the letter being sent. Violette will send a draft to Chair White for review and the letter will come before the Board for final action when complete.

Selectboard Minutes of March 16, 2021 Continued:

**SPRING BULK TRASH VOLUNTEER GROUP**

Background: Spaulding High School Project Graduation is once again looking to be the volunteer group to receive donations at the Spring 2021 Bulk Trash Collection. Brendan Hogan is leading the “trash team” and has confirmed that Project Grad will have several helpers at all three (3) stations throughout the day.

*On a motion by Bob Nelson, seconded by Jack Mitchell, the Selectboard voted unanimously to designate Spaulding High School Project Graduation as the group to provide volunteer help at the Spring 2021 Bulk Trash Collection.*

**TOWN ROAD & BRIDGE STANDARDS CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE**

Background: Annually the Agency of Transportation (AOT) requires the Town to certify they are complying with the Town Road and Bridge Standards. There are no changes in the State’s minimum requirements the Town needs to adjust.

*On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Jack Mitchell, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the Certification of Compliance for Town Road and Bridge Standards and Network Inventory and if permissible to authorize the Town Manager to sign as the “authorized agent.”*

**COVID-19 REPORT**

Manager Rogers reported the following:

- Staff is well and supplies good.
- The Annual Father’s Day Chicken BBQ (held in June) has been canceled.
- EMS is still doing home testing. They are awaiting activation for the vaccination process.
- The Fire Department has resumed in person training, by Station, not as a whole group and being very mindful of the ACCD guidelines.
- Based on the Federal COVID Relief it appears as though the Town will be receiving some funding. However, details on how it can be spent are not fully available. The Manager did note he is confident the monies could be used for water and sewer infrastructure projects.

**ACCOUNTS PAYABLE WARRANT**

*On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Jack Mitchell, the Selectboard voted to approve the March 16, 2021 accounts payable warrant. Bob Nelson abstained from the vote.*

**MISCELLANEOUS**

*On a motion by Bob Nelson, seconded by Norma Malone, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve a Second Class Liquor License for Quarry Hill Quick Stop with the understanding the owner correct the date issue on the first page.*

There were some discrepancies with the VFW Post #790 application. The Town Clerk will contact the applicant to fix and it will be resubmitted next week.

**EMERGENCY GRADER REPAIR**

Town Manager Rogers informed the Board the 2006 Cat Grader broke down with engine problems. Milton Cat picked up the unit and informed the Town that “metal shavings” were found in the oil pan. They believe something failed in the engine or a bearing in the crank shaft. Two fix options were provided. The first is to do a long block replace which would cost about \$25,000 - \$30,000 (with a 6 month parts warranty). The second is to purchase a remanufactured motor (which includes all other components and has a 1 year parts warranty).

Selectboard discussion focused on the age of the machine, how and when it is used, the need for it with the almost upon us “mud season,” the cost of a new one (with financing around \$400,000), and that in 2018 it had a new transmission. Board consensus is for the remanufactured motor. However, the Board would like a more formal “quote” to outline the work. Manager Rogers stated there is a special Budget meeting on Thursday to see if the Selectboard could come to an agreement and then formal action (retroactive) would be made on Tuesday, March 23, 2021.

**‘ROUND TABLE**

Norma Malone inquired on the progress with the town-wide reappraisal data mailers. Rogers noted he is not sure what part of Town has/has not received the mailer. They are being returned and Assessor Beaudoin has stated the reappraisal work will be completed on time.

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Norma Malone noted our Charter Changes passed the House Gov Ops and is currently with the Senate Gov Ops. Representative LaClair will keep us informed.

Norma Malone stated she hoped the Fiscal Year 2020 audit will be done by the end of the month and that the Town Report will come out before the May election.

Justin Bolduc inquired about the ambulance accidents. He hoped it was not the same driver for both. Rogers stated the last one he heard of had hit a deer and will inquire further.

Justin Bolduc also noted that one of the new light poles at the softball field at the Recreation Field was leaning. Assistant Manager Wang stated the company had been called and is coming tomorrow to straighten it. It was also noted there may be a second one leaning as well. She will point this out to the contractor tomorrow.

Paul White noted the CVSWMMD grant is due April 23<sup>rd</sup> and inquired if the Town was planning on doing the mattress recycling again this year. Manager Rogers stated Assistant Manager Wang is checking into other uses for this funding.

Paul White stated his link to the “shared” Personnel Policy is not working. Ms. Wang will forward the link to all.

**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 Bob Nelson, the Selectboard voted unanimously to go into executive session at 9:54 p.m. for personnel, contracts, and real estate.*

*Jack Mitchell excused himself as he was not feeling well.*

*On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted to come out of executive session at 11:00 p.m. Jack Mitchell was not present for the vote.*

**ADJOURN**

*On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted to adjourn at 11:00 p.m. Jack Mitchell was not present for the vote.*

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Donna J. Kelty, Town Clerk-Treasurer

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Selectboard Chair

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Barre Town Selectboard