

BARRE TOWN SELECTBOARD MEETING AGENDA

March 23, 2021

1. Call to order 8:05 p.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Consider approving agenda.
4. Consider approving March 16, 2021 meeting minutes.
5. Announcements
6. Receive guests (by phone) for non-agenda items.
7. Consider authorizing repairs to road grader.
8. Consider including on Town Meeting ballot voter approved donation request for Barre Heritage Festival.
9. Discuss Town representation on Aldrich Library Board of Trustees.
10. COVID-19 report, if needed.
11. Consider approving weekly Accounts Payable Warrants for March 23, 2021.
12. Miscellaneous, a) 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 790.
13. 'Round the table.
14. Executive session: if needed.
15. Adjourn.

BARRE TOWN SELECTBOARD MINUTES

March 23, 2021

The duly warned meeting of March 23, 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. Those attending remotely or by phone: Town Clerk-Treasurer Donna J. Kelty, Nancy Pope, and Loren Polk.

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 meeting agenda as presented.

MINUTES

On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Jack Mitchell, the minutes of March 16, 2021 were approved with minor grammatical and spelling changes as presented to the Clerk.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ✓ There is still time to appear on the ballot for the Barre Town elected positions of Town Clerk, Selectboard, Constable, or Moderator. To appear on the ballot, complete a Consent of Candidate form, available on the Town website, and turn it in to the Town Clerk's Office by 5:00 p.m., Monday, March 29, 2021. The Consent of Candidate form can be downloaded from www.barretown.org.
- ✓ It is time for the Annual Barre Town and Barre City Egg Hunt. For COVID safety, the event has been modified to be two drive throughs where you may pick up a goodie bag for each child. Families are encouraged to create their own hunts at home with the contents. This event is designed for youngsters 4 – 10 years of age. The goodies are not recommended for youngsters under the age of 4. The Barre Town resident drive-thru will be held at the Barre Town Elementary School parking lot and the Barre City resident drive-thru will be held at the Barre Auditorium parking lot. The event will run from 10:00 a.m. to Noon. Everyone, please remain in your vehicles and wear a mask when you window is down. Goodie bags will be handed out for each child while supplies last. It is free and open to Barre Town and Barre City residents. For questions call 802-479-9331.

Selectboard Minutes of March 23, 2021 Continued:

- ✓ If you own and live in your Barre Town home, remember to file your Homestead Declaration Form by April 5, 2021. If you do not file, you will be assessed a higher education tax rate than you actually owe. The 2021 Homestead Declaration form is available at www.tax.vermont.gov.
- ✓ Bob Nelson thanked Norma Malone for her work as Chair of the Budget Committee. Things were very smooth this year. He appreciates the good job.

GUESTS - None

REPAIRS TO ROAD GRADER

Background: Per the Selectboard's policy major equipment repairs have to be approved by the Selectboard. DPW Shop Foreman, Mike Martel, obtained a written quote which includes labor and parts. The estimate is \$51,893. This does not include our refund for our existing motor which can be up to \$11,000, depending on its condition. The final cost would be in the range of \$40,000 to \$50,000 if no other parts have to be replaced.

A new grader could cost between \$350,000 - \$400,000. A grader is a simple machine: large motor, a transmission, a cutting blade, a wing plow and lots of hydraulics. The repair cost when compared to the grader's re-sale value (\$190,000) and a new replacement (noted above), the re-manufactured motor seems the best solution.

On a motion by Bob Nelson, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted unanimously to authorize the repair of the 2006 Caterpillar grader using a remanufactured motor at an expense not to exceed \$51,893.

BARRE HERITAGE FESTIVAL – DISCUSS PLACING ON BALLOT

Background: Last June, Article 12 on the Town Meeting Ballot asked for voter approval of the Barre Heritage Festival (\$4,000). The question did not receive voter approval. After years of winning voter approval, it may be the question was defeated because voters knew the Festival was cancelled.

The Selectboard policy for voter approved donations states when a non-profit request is defeated it must re-petition to get on the ballot.

Once again, this year the date for holding a Festival (July, perhaps late fall, or canceling) has not been set. The Selectboard is being asked to decide if they would like to place this question on the Town Meeting ballot. Town Attorney Monte has drafted language for the question to ensure the Town does not pay if the event is canceled.

By consensus, the Selectboard agreed to have the Heritage Festival question be placed on the Town Meeting ballot. Formal action will be taken when the Board approves the Election Warning on Tuesday, March 30, 2021.

ALDRICH LIBRARY – TOWN REPRESENTATION

Background: The Selectboard recognizes Tom White as the Town's liaison to the Aldrich Library Trustees, but the Trustees believe the liaison should first be chosen among current Selectboard members. There has been correspondence between the Town and Library to establish a position.

Library Chair Nancy Pope stated that Tom White as of last June was not notified of any Library meetings as they believed that a Selectboard member is to hold the seat on their Board and understood Tom's absence as evidence of his retirement from the Trustees. Current Board makeup includes residents from the Town and City already. Ms. Pope and Director Loren Polk explained how important it is to have a direct line to the Selectboard. Loren Polk stated Tom White had not been to a Library Board meeting or been in contact with the Aldrich Library Trustees or staff since March 8, 2020.

Norma Malone reiterated her concern that having a Selectboard member be a voting member on a Board to which the Town provides funding is a "conflict of interest" and cited a letter from David Otterman. Another concern is by what authority does the Library "mandate" that a Selectboard member has to be the appointee. Everyone noted this is a very unique situation.

The Selectboard appointed Tom White in June 2020, though requests for an appointee from Nancy Pope in June 2020 and Loren Polk in November 2020 show the Library was not clear on the appointment. Selectboard member Bob Nelson stated he spoke with Tom White and he stated he is willing to continue serving. However, he will reach out once again to confirm Tom White still wants to serve and is willing to attend the Library meetings. The Chair also noted a new member appointment may be prudent since Tom had not reached out to the Library during this time. He concluded that an appointment would be made in May when the Selectboard makes their other Board/Committee appointments.

Selectboard Minutes of March 23, 2021 Continued:

The Library was also asked to forward their meeting minutes to the Town Manager which will assist the Selectboard with great information: attendance and what is happening.

COVID-19 REPORT

Manager Rogers noted there is talk of the State offices reopening soon. The Town will start discussing plans. Currently there are two employees in the Municipal Building working regular remote hours, none in the Police Department. He noted the recent new COVID cases in the area surrounding Barre Town. One primary concern for opening too soon is that staff will not be vaccinated.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE WARRANT

On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Jack Mitchell, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the March 23, 2021 accounts payable warrant.

MISCELLANEOUS

On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Bob Nelson, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the 2021 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 790.

‘ROUND TABLE

Bob Nelson thanked Norma Malone for Chairing the Budget Committee again this year. He felt things moved along and went smoothly. Mitchell echoed the comments and was sorry that Vice Chair Bolduc did not have much opportunity to fill in.

Plans for discussing the furnace replacement at the East Barre Fire Station for next week as this was not a warned action item for tonight. The Board requested they would like to see if there are any warranties on the furnace. It was noted the life expectancy of the propane furnace is 5 to 10 years depending on the model. It was noted this furnace has been serviced routinely.

The Selectboard would like to begin discussing needs, planning for, purchasing and paying for an audio/video system for the Selectboard meeting room very soon.

EXECUTIVE SESSION - None

ADJOURN

On a motion by Jack Mitchell, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted to adjourn at 9:09 p.m.

Donna J. Kelty, Town Clerk-Treasurer

Selectboard Chair

Barre Town Selectboard