

BARRE TOWN SELECTBOARD MEETING AGENDA

March 30, 2021

1. Call to order 6:00 p.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Consider approving agenda.
4. Consider approving March 23, 2021 Budget and Selectboard meeting minutes.
5. Announcements
6. Receive guests (by phone) for non-agenda items.
7. Consider awarding 2021 road paving and milling contract.
8. Consider authorizing VTAOT Class 2 Road paving and Town Highway Structures grant applications.
9. Consider appointments to CV Regional Planning Commission and CV Fiber (internet) boards.
10. Consider Warning(s) for Town Meeting.
11. COVID-19 report, if needed.
12. Consider approving weekly Accounts Payable Warrants for March 30, 2021.
13. Miscellaneous, a) First Class Commercial Kitchen License to sell Malt & Vinous Beverages.
14. 'Round the table.
15. Executive session: if needed.
16. Adjourn.

BARRE TOWN SELECTBOARD MINUTES

March 30, 2021

The duly warned meeting of March 30, 2021 was held at the Barre Town Municipal Building, Selectboard Room, in Lower Websterville, Vermont at 6:00 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, Town Engineer Josh Martineau, and Sue Paxman (arrived at 7:08 p.m.).

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 Bob Nelson, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the amended meeting agenda as follows:

1. Add to Item 13A a Commercial Caterer's License for Jockey Hollow Deli & Catering Inc., and
2. Add item 15 – Executive Session for real estate.

MINUTES

On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Bob Nelson, the Budget Committee Meeting minutes of March 23, 2021 were unanimously approved with minor grammatical and spelling changes as presented to the Clerk.

On a motion by Bob Nelson, seconded by Norma Malone, the Selectboard minutes of March 23, 2021 were unanimously approved with minor grammatical and spelling changes as presented to the Clerk.

Motion discussion centered on whether an entity other than the Selectboard has the right to request edits to the meeting minutes. The Aldrich Public Library appeared before the Selectboard on March 23rd. The Town Clerk was contacted and asked to make minute edits. Changes included adding information. The Town Clerk-Treasurer informed the Board the decision was made based on the following: Aldrich Library was a participant in the conversation where edits were requested. These changes/edits were factual, nothing was controversial, nor did it alter the outcome in any way. Board consensus given the reasoning stated in this instance, the edits would be acceptable. However, it did raise the question as to what input the "public" has with regards to requesting changes to minutes.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ✓ The Barre Town and Barre City COVID-safe drive-thru Egg-stravaganza will be on Saturday, April 3, 2021 from 10:00 a.m. to Noon. The Barre Town drive-thru will be in the parking lot of the Barre Town Middle & Elementary School. Families can pick up one goodie bag per child and create egg hunts at home. Note the goodies are designed for children 4 – 10 years of age and not recommended for youngsters under the age of 4. This event is free and open to Barre Town and City residents. If you have questions call 802-479-9331.
- ✓ Green Up Day is coming right up on Saturday, May 1, 2021. Keep an eye out for areas you would like to clear of the litter exposed by the melting snow. If you know where you would like to Green Up call the Town Offices at 802-479-9331 so we can coordinate efforts. This year we are thanking Green Uppers with raffle prizes. If you sign up by April 21st you will be entered in the drawings for a back-saving trash pick up tool, Green Up water bottle, high visibility Green Up tee-shirt, or tick key.
- ✓ If you own and live in your Barre Town home, file your Homestead Declaration Form by May 17, 2021, even if you are a retiree and do not file State tax forms, in order to be assessed the lower homestead education tax rate. If you file after May 17th you will be charged a penalty of up to 8% of your education tax bill. The 2021 Homestead Declaration form is available at www.tax.vermont.gov. For more information, call the Assessor's Office at 802-479-2595.
- ✓ If you enjoy the Town Forest trails, please join the Millstone Trails Association volunteers to clean up the trails of logging debris on one or more of their four scheduled trail clean up days coming up. The first trail cleanup day is Sunday, April 11, 2021, from 8:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. No experience is necessary. Bring a mask, water, and dress for the weather. Meet at 44 Brook Street in Websterville.
- ✓ The Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District (CVSWMD) Household Hazardous Waste Collection Spring event will be held on April 24, 2021, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. at the DPW Garage, 149 Websterville Road. For more information you can contact the CVSWMD at 802-229-9383, extension 105.

The GUESTS - None

2021 ROAD PAVING AND MILLING CONTRACT

Background: Bid specifications were mailed to 14 bidders. Again this year the bid will include both milling and paving. It also includes notation that paving must be done not more than 14 days after the street is milled. Four bids were received.

The milling portion of the low bid is \$.25 per square yard under our budgeted price resulting in a savings of \$7,902. However, the paving price is \$73.90 (\$1.90 more than budgeted) causing an overrun of \$17,571. Should the contract be awarded to the low bidder the total contract would be 1.35% (\$9,669) over budget.

Board discussion with the Town Engineer focused on the type of asphalt paving being used (70-28, a stiffer mix) versus the mix the Town had been using prior to last year (58-28, a softer mix). Pros and cons for each were noted. Josh Martineau stated rutting has been an issue. The softer mix flexes more in the winter but does not hold to trucks causing rutting. Roads such as Quarry Hill, Graniteville Road and Morrison Road are suitable for the harder mix. Using two different types of paving mix creates complications with tracking, etc. Consistently, throughout the Town is best. Last year was the first year the Town used the 70-28 mix and it was noted this mix costs around \$2.00 more per ton.

Engineer Martineau stated that road cracking, such as that on the recently paved Hill Street, he believes are a result of an issue with the road base. Mr. Martineau feels that in 3 to 5 years the Town will have a better understanding of how the 70/28 mix is faring in Barre Town.

On a motion by Bob Nelson, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted unanimously to award the 2021 Road Milling and Paving Contract to Pike Industries based on the per unit price bids of \$1.25 per square yard for milling and \$73.90 per ton for asphalt paving.

Chair Paul White informed the Board that VT AOT had a Lunch and Learn session which could be beneficial. It was titled "Understanding the Life Cycle of a Paved Road." He felt this would be a good topic for a Selectboard PILOT session.

Selectboard Minutes of March 30, 2021 Continued:

**VT AOT CLASS 2 ROAD PAVING AND
TOWN HIGHWAY STRUCTURES GRANT APPLICATIONS**

Background: The Manager began his notes to the Board by stating this is an “usual request to authorize submitting grant applications for: 1) Class 2 Road Paving; and 2) Town Highway Structures (bridges and culverts).” Four (4) applications have been prepared, two (2) each for paving and for culvert work for the Board to review. Road Paving applications are for Quarry Hill Road and Morrison Road. The culvert work sites are for Snowbridge Road and Quarry Hill Roads.

The Manager stated the Town customarily applies for these grants each year. However, last year due to COVID no awards were made. So there is additional funds from last year. In the past the Town has applied for one each. Staff are recommending the Selectboard approve submitting the paving grant application for Quarry Hill Road and the culvert replacement grant for Snowbridge Road.

Discussion focused on award timeline (customarily around May), the Town has received grants for many years (one year there was a partial award due to limited funding), the grant split between State and Town, and other past drainage issues on Quarry Hill Road.

On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Bob Nelson, the Selectboard voted unanimously to authorize the submission of Vermont AOT Municipal Highway Grant Applications for Class 2 road paving of Quarry Hill Road and a Structures application for culvert replacement in Snowbridge Road.

APPOINTMENTS – CV REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION AND CV FIBER BOARD

Background: A notice of opportunity to volunteer for the appointments to the CV Regional Planning Commission (CVRPC) and CV Fiber Board were published in the Times Argus on March 16. The four incumbents for these positions are all willing to serve again. No other individuals applied.

On a motion by Justin Bolduc, seconded by Norma Malone, the Selectboard voted unanimously to re-appoint Josh Jarvis as board member and Phil Cecchini as alternate board member to the CV Fiber Board for terms to expire Town Meeting Day 2022.

On a motion by Justin Bolduc, seconded by Bob Nelson, the Selectboard voted unanimously to re-appoint Byron Atwood as commissioner and George Clain as alternate commissioner to the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission for a one-year terms (each) to expire June 30, 2022.

TOWN MEETING WARNING(S)

Background: In accordance with Town Charter, an Open Town Meeting is to be held on Wednesday, May 5, 2021 and voting by Australian Ballot on the following Tuesday, May 11, 2021. However, with COVID still in our midst the Selectboard needs to decide whether or not to hold the Open Town Meeting or include it on the Australian Ballot.

Consensus of the Selectboard, given COVID cases all around us are not decreasing as we would like, is to place the Open Town Meeting articles on the May 11, 2021 Australian Ballot.

Manager Rogers informed the Selectboard a second decision needs to be made regarding the setting of a due date for the first installment of the Sewer Use Charge and Property Tax installments. Information was provided noting the State (as well as Federal Government) has extended the deadline for filing personal income tax returns as well as Homestead Declarations to May 17, 2021. This means the probability is good the Town will not receive the tax credit information from the State on July 1st or the list will be extremely limited, resulting in hundreds (if not more) revised property tax bills.

Last year the Town collected Sewer Use Charges on the customary mid-August due date and moved the first installment of property tax to mid-September. Selectboard members raised concern for possible confusion with two separate mailings. Clerk-Treasurer Donna Kelty noted last year there were two mailings. The bill envelope clearly defined the content by printing in large red letters (above the name/address) either “Sewer Bill Enclosed” or “Property Tax Bill Enclosed.” Also included in the envelope was a 1/3 cut neon colored paper stating why each bill was being received separately. Collections did not indicate the property owners had an issue with the two separate mailings.

Manager Rogers stated the first installment collection of sewer use charge is around \$500,000. Ms. Kelty also informed the Board this is the beginning of the fiscal year. The Town has some rather large bills due to summer paving, insurances, and county taxes. The infusion of monies will help the cash flow. Board consensus is to leave the first installment of Sewer Use Charges due on August 16, 2021 and to change the first installment due date for Property Tax to September 15, 2021.

On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Bob Nelson, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve and sign the Warning for Annual Election of Officers and Voting by Australian Ballot (with the 29

Selectboard Minutes of March 30, 2021 Continued:

Articles) as amended which is to be held on May 11, 2021; said Warning, by authority of the Governor's Executive Order, includes Articles which traditionally would be voted from the floor during the Open Town Meeting.

COVID-19 REPORT

Manager Rogers informed the Selectboard the staff and supplies are good. The EMS testing/vaccination duties have decreased due to more outside parties becoming involved. However, they are still working pop-up sites as needed.

Currently the Town is looking to open outdoor services such as the Lawn Waste Site and are contacting volunteers to see if they are still available and willing to serve. The Pickleball nets at the Recreation Field are up and the tennis nets will soon follow.

As for opening the Municipal Building – The staff have not been vaccinated and just now becoming eligible. There are still admin workers doing hybrid telework and need to get back to working full-time at the building. Manager Rogers noted his greatest concern is that COVID cases are not decreasing as he would like to see. With unvaccinated staff and cases high he does not feel now is the time to “open the doors.”

Chair White also noted the Board also needs to start thinking about in-person meetings once again and how to incorporate this new tele-meeting technology into the regular meetings.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE WARRANT

On a motion by Bob Nelson, seconded by Jack Mitchell, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the March 30, 2021 accounts payable warrant.

MISCELLANEOUS

On a motion by Justin Bolduc, seconded by Norma Malone, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the 2021 First Class Club Commercial Kitchen License to Sell Malt and Vinous Beverages and a Commercial Caterer's License for Jockey Hollow Deli & Catering, Inc.

‘ROUND TABLE

Bob Nelson inquired as to when the Selectboard will be receiving an update on the EMS bill form revisions. The Manager stated he will inquire.

Bob Nelson stated he would also like to have an Executive Session next week, for Selectboard only, to do future planning.

Justin Bolduc asked what the status is with regards to the furnace replacement at the Fire Station. Rogers stated the contractor and FW Webb had been in this week to look/measure for sizing. An update should be available soon.

Norma Malone inquired if there has been an update regarding the American Rescue Plan. Rogers stated he may not see any guidance/rules before May or June. He would recommend the Town reimburse itself for any COVID related expenses not covered by the LGER grant. It is his understanding the funds must be spent by 2024. Basically, it is too early to plan.

Jack Mitchell noted a Bill had passed the Senate authorizing the VLCT to work with Towns on these guidelines and to assist with any reporting requirements.

Jack Mitchell reminded the Board a few weeks ago he had inquired if the Board was interested in waiving any penalties on late/delinquent accounts. Norma Malone noted the Town has the Board of Abatement to address financial hardship issues. Assistant Manager Wang also noted that on January 1, 2021, the Governor's Executive Order expired and the Selectboard no longer has this option. Mr. Mitchell will report back to the resident who made the inquiry.

Jack Mitchell serves on the CVSMD Hazardous Waste Facility Committee. He is inquiring if the Selectboard feels that his participating in the Executive Session for real estate is a conflict. Consensus is he should attend the session and if at any point he feels it necessary then can excuse himself.

Paul White would like the Board's input with regards to sending out a mailing regarding the possibility of building a radio tower in the northeast portion of Town to cure our Public Safety Radio needs (proposal in the radio study). Mr. White stated the letter would be asking entities if they were interested in perhaps renting space on the Tower. The rental income is to help offset costs associated with the project. A draft letter has been sent to the Manager and he will forward it to the Town Attorney for comment.

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 7:38 p.m. for real estate.

On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Bob Nelson, the Selectboard voted unanimously to come out of executive session at 8:21 p.m.

ADJOURN

On a motion by Bob Nelson, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:22 p.m.

Donna J. Kelty, Town Clerk-Treasurer

Selectboard Chair

Barre Town Selectboard