



Town of Barre VERMONT

BARRE TOWN SELECTBOARD MEETING

August 23, 2022

AGENDA

1. Call to order.....6:00 p.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Consider approving agenda
4. Consider approving August 16 Selectboard meeting minutes
5. Announcements
6. Receive guests for non-agenda items.
7. Consider award of contracts **a)** winter sidewalk maintenance, **b)** gravel crushing; **c)** parking lot and street snow plowing
8. Consider approving Green Mountain Power’s pole location (Websterville Road) request
9. Consider recommending Health Officer applicant to Vermont Department of Health
10. Consider approving weekly accounts payable warrants for August 23, 2022
11. Miscellaneous, including licenses and permits if any
12. Round the table
13. Executive session (personnel)
14. Adjourn

MINUTES

The duly warned meeting of August 23, 2022 was held at the Barre Town Municipal Building, Selectboard Room, in Lower Websterville at 6:00 p.m.

Selectboard Members Present: Paul White, Norma Malone, Justin Bolduc, Bob Nelson, and W. John “Jack” Mitchell.

Selectboard Members Absent: None.

Staff Members Present: Town Manager Carl Rogers, Town Clerk Tina Lunt, Town Engineer Josh Martineau, and Superintendent Richard Tetreault. Those present virtually: Chris Violette.

Others Present: Times Argus Reporter Eric Blaisdell.

CALL TO ORDER: Chair White called the meeting 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 Norma Malone, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the agenda as presented.

APPROVE THE MINUTES:

On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Bob Nelson, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the August 16, 2022 meeting minutes with minor spelling and grammatical corrections.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Schools will re-open soon, which means school buses will be back on the road several times per day. It also means there will be school children walking to, and waiting at, their bus stop. Remember all traffic must stop when the bus's red lights are flashing. Please slow down when you see children walking or waiting at a bus stop.
- We are accepting applications or letters of interest in serving on the Town Cemetery Commission. The Commission has five members. It meets the fourth Wednesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. Typically the Commission meets April through October. The Commission oversees the three cemeteries. It adjusts Cemetery Rules and Regulations as needed, plans cemetery improvements, approves monument designs and takes other actions as states in the Rules and Regulations. Monthly meetings typically do not run two hours. For more information contact the Town Manager's Office or read about the Commission and its agendas and minutes, available on the Town website.
- The Town is accepting employment applications for a Police Officer and Public Works Shop Mechanic. Contact the Town Manager's Office for more information or for an application.
- Town Engineer Josh Martineau announced that paving will resume next week. The contractor will start with the East Barre area and finish up in the Windywood Road area, which includes Goodhue Lane, Cardinal Circle, West Skylark Terrace, Skylark Terrace, Robin Drive, and Sparrow Drive. All paving dates are subject to change due to rain.

GUESTS: None.

CONTRACTS:

Winter Sidewalk Maintenance

Background: This contract is for sidewalks along, or in, Hill Street, East Barre, Lower Websterville, Lower Graniteville, and South Barre that total 1.99 miles of sidewalk. The contract is a bid on a flat amount per month. The Town pays the full monthly amount for November, through March and half of April. Bidding specifications were mailed to nine companies and two were received. The low bid is from Jerf's Lawn Care. This is the only business that has performed the Town's winter sidewalk maintenance and has done so well.

Town Engineer Josh Martineau and Superintendent Richard Tetreault were present.

On a motion by Jack Mitchell, seconded by Bob Nelson, the Selectboard voted unanimously to award the 2022-2023 through 2024-2025 winter sidewalk maintenance contract to Jerf's Lawn Care and Tent Rental based on their monthly bid amounts dated July 25, 2022.

Selectboard Minutes of August 23, 2022 Continued:

Town staff stated Jerf's Lawn Care and Tent Rental has done this work for many years. The Town is happy with their service.

Gravel Crushing:

Background: This is an annual contract. This year the Town sought bids for crushing both gravel plus granite and crushed asphalt. Bidding specs were sent to four companies, and one was returned from J.A. McDonald. McCullough did not bid. J.A McDonald's bid was twice the usual amount; \$8.30 per cubic yard for gravel plus granite and \$9.20 per cubic yard for asphalt millings. The Highway Fund budget lists \$32,000 for crushing.

Last year the gravel plus granite crushing price was \$4.25 per cubic yard. Two years ago, the asphalt crushing price was \$4.00 per cubic yard. Town Engineer Josh Martineau and Superintendent Richard Tetreault believe the increase in the bid pricing from J.A. McDonald's is due to the cost of diesel. They recommend foregoing crushing asphalt this fall and use the entire \$32,000 in the budget for crushing gravel. This would be 3,855 cubic yards of finished product. Combined with the crushed gravel the Town currently has there would be enough to get through the fall of 2023, unless there is a widespread washout of Town roads.

Town Engineer Josh Martineau and Superintendent Richard Tetreault were present.

On a motion by Bob Nelson, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted unanimously to award the 2022 gravel crushing contract to J.A. McDonald for 3,855 cubic yards at the price of \$8.30 per cubic yard.

Mrs. Malone inquired about the stock of finished product. She asked what the Town would do if there was a widespread washout of Town roads. Mr. Tetreault explained the Town would be able to purchase more crushed gravel if needed. Town Manager Carl Rogers noted they also would be able to crush more next spring.

Snowplowing Contract:

Background: Due to the Town hiring an additional Public Works employee, there is one plowing contract for bid this year. This contract is referred to as the Short Streets. It includes the parking lots at EMS, both fire stations, and the Municipal Building. Bidding specifications were mailed to 17 contractors and an ad was published in the paper. The Town received five bids. Cheney's price for the winter of '21-'22 was \$634 per callout. The low bid was \$625 per callout from Thomas Farm and Garden.

Thomas Farm and Garden have not plowed Town streets or roads but have plowed State offices in Montpelier and now have the Barre Unified Union School District contract. All drivers live in Barre and have cellphone apps to document their work. They take before and after photos at each location. They have 7 trucks, and they all have spreaders.

Town Engineer and Superintendent Richard Tetreault were present.

Mr. Tetreault noted it is beneficial to have the before and after photos at each location. He shared they serviced Barre Town Middle and Elementary School well last year.

Selectboard Minutes of August 23, 2022 Continued:

On a motion by Justin Bolduc, seconded by Bob Nelson, the Selectboard voted unanimously to award the 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 Short Streets snowplowing contract to Thomas Farm & Garden/Thomas Property Management, at the price of \$625 per callout.

GREEN MOUNTAIN POWER POLE REQUEST:

Background: Green Mountain Power plans to shift poles and overhead power lines from Jay Southgate's property to the edge of Websterville Road. The work involves removing eight (8) poles, replacing one (1) pole and installing nine (9) new poles. The project also includes plans to remove some of the poles, lights, and maybe signs that were part of the flashing yellow light system at the Pike/ROA crossing.

Town Engineer Josh Martineau was present. Mr. Martineau stated the poles that leave the new power station run along Websterville Road and through Jay Southgate's property. Green Mountain Power's inspection of the poles determined they need to be replaced. Green Mountain Power is working with Jay Southgate on a configuration for plans to shift the poles. Jay Southgate has indicated he would like them as far away from his property as possible.

Town Engineer Josh Martineau reviewed the plans and states the project is approvable with two conditions. Mr. Martineau notes that pole 1-7 look to be in an adequate location and should not cause any issues. Poles 8 and 9 will be close to the waterline. There is room for them to be shifted and Mr. Martineau will require Green Mountain Power to coordinate with himself or the Water Department the location of these poles in the field prior to installation. Mr. Martineau notes that for all poles the waterline must be clearly marked out by the Town prior to installation.

On a motion by Justin Bolduc, seconded by Bob Nelson, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve Green Mountain Power's pole location request, project number 182651, Websterville Road Rebuild with the conditions stated in Josh Martineau's memo dated August 18, 2022.

APPOINTMENT OF HEALTH OFFICER:

Background: Bill Kirby was the Town Health Officer but had to resign. Michael Milo is currently the Town's Deputy Health Office. Since Mr. Kirby's resignation Selectboard Chair Paul White has filled the Health Officer vacancy. Mr. Milo has agreed to accept appointment to the Health Offer position.

On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Bob Nelson, the Selectboard voted unanimously to appoint Michael Milo as Health Officer for the Town of Barre.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE:

On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the accounts payable warrants for the week of August 23, 2022 for FY '22 and '23.

MISCELLANEOUS: None.

ROUND TABLE:

Bob Nelson:

- Mr. Nelson expressed his thanks to the staff who helped a resident who reached out to the town. The resident was very pleased with the staff that was able to help with the issues.

Selectboard Minutes of August 23, 2022 Continued:

Norma Malone:

- Mrs. Malone reminded residents that a fireworks permit is required for displays. Fireworks activity took place in her neighborhood over the weekend and she wanted to send a friendly reminder that permits are required for approval and neighborhoods can be made aware of these events.
- Mrs. Malone asked that information be added to the 5-year Equipment Plan. She suggests putting the date of when a piece of equipment was placed into service.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

On a motion by Jack Mitchell, seconded by Justin Bolduc, 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 6:45 p.m. for personnel.

On a motion by Jack Mitchell, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted unanimously to come out of executive session at 9:25 p.m.

ADJOURN:

On a motion by Jack Mitchell, seconded by Justin Bolduc the Selectboard voted unanimously to adjourn at 9:25 p.m.

APPROVED MINUTES

Barre Town Selectboard

Paul White, Chair

Norma Malone, Vice Chair

Justin Bolduc

Jack Mitchell

Bob Nelson

Filed in the Barre Town Clerk's Office on this _____ day of _____, 2022.

ATTEST: _____, Barre Town Clerk.