



Town of Barre VERMONT

BARRE TOWN SELECTBOARD MEETING January 18, 2022

AGENDA

1. Call to order.....6:00 p.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Consider approving agenda.
4. Consider approving January 11 meeting minutes.
5. Announcements.
6. Receive guests for non-agenda items.
7. Quarterly department head visits: a) police chief b) fire chief c) planning & zoning director d) finance director (quarterly budget report)
8. Discussion about Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (CLFRF) uses.
9. Consider approving weekly accounts payable warrants for January 18, 2022.
10. Miscellaneous, including licenses and permits, if any.
11. ‘Round table.
12. Executive session: contracts, legal, personnel.
13. Adjourn.

MINUTES

The duly warned meeting of January 18, 2022 was held at the Barre Town Municipal Building, Selectboard Room, in Lower Websterville at 6:30 p.m.

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

Selectboard Members Absent: None

Staff Members Present: Town Manager Carl Rogers, Assistant Town Manager Elaine Wang, Town Clerk Tina Lunt, Chief William Dodge, Finance Director Katelyn Kran, and Planning and Zoning Administrator Chris Violette.

Others Present: None

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 January 11, 2021 meeting minutes with minor spelling and grammatical corrections.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- COVID vaccinations are available. Go to healthvermont.gov for locations, or drop in at Barre Town EMS on Mondays or Thursdays between 3:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. The Barre Town EMS Station is located at 4 McLaughlin Road.
- If your Christmas tree is still by your road, call 802-476-3522 with the address and Public Works will pick it up. Remember to remove all decorations first before putting the tree by the road.
- The next quarterly installment of property taxes and the second semi-annual sewer payment are due February 15.
- Barre Town Budget Committee meetings start Tuesday, January 25 at 6:00 p.m. The public is welcome to attend by phone or video. Agendas are posted each Friday at barretown.org. The phone and video conference information will also be posted there. You may also call 802-479-9331 to have that information provided to you. Because of the Budget Committee meetings, from January 25 to the end of March, Selectboard meetings will start at 8:00 p.m.
- Chair announcement: After the January 11, 2022 executive session, the Selectboard voted to authorize the Chair to sign the amended temporary COVID-19 Leave Policy to be effective retroactively to January 4, 2022.

GUESTS: None

QUARTERLY DEPARTMENT HEAD VISITS:

Background: Department heads report quarterly to the Selectboard. The Selectboard packets included reports from Police, Fire Department and Planning and Zoning for October through December. The Board will also receive a budget report from the Finance Director.

Police Department:

Chief William Dodge was present.

Chief Dodge updated the Board on the following:

- Certification and training hours for police academy
- In-house training: firearms, field training, taser training, first-aid, use of force
- Staffing
- New hire status
- School Resource Officer work
- K-9 staff
- Highway safety work
- Cruiser update: the new SUV has arrived and is expected to be in service by the end of next week
- Traffic stops/crashes
- 22-23 budget

Mr. Mitchell inquired about Thunder Road and the expectations for next year. Chief Dodge stated that staffing can be a challenge, however they were able to make it work.

Mr. Mitchell inquired about the Animal Control Officer position and if calls have increased. Chief Dodge noted there is a plan in place to possibly transition a current staff member into this role.

The Board had a discussion regarding the School Resource Officer. Conversation focused on the Rec Road and the current traffic pattern at the school. Chief Dodge stated he has asked to meet with the Barre Town School Administrators to come up with a new plan for the spring. Mrs. Malone suggested the SRO work at the school be revised.

Mr. Nelson expressed he enjoyed reading the K-9 report. He congratulated the Chief on all the training hours his staff have completed.

Chair White inquired about the Constable role. He suggested the possibility of our current Barre Town resident officers running for this position. Chief Dodge shared the Town has the authority to eliminate the responsibilities of the Constable. Chief Dodge recommends limiting the Constable power to non-law enforcement this way anyone can run for this role.

Planning and Zoning:

Planning and Zoning Administrator Chris Violette was present.

Mr. Violette updated the Board on the following:

- Permits: 42 permits processed
- Email inquiries
- Development Review Board: sub-divisions, boundary line adjustments, conceptual development
- Planning Commission: allowed use determination, new businesses, solar project
- One consultation and no enforcements
- Annual E-911 map online update
- Annual update of tax map on GIS system.
- Enhancement of GIS system: property tax cards can now be found on the GIS tax system website
- Fecteau and Windy Wood developments

Mrs. Malone expressed she appreciates the Development Review Board and Planning Commission updates on the quarterly report. She also noted the new enhancements on the GIS system are spectacular.

Fire Department:

Chief Chris Violette was present.

Mr. Violette updated the Board on the following:

- Call volume: 55 calls (3 structure fires)
- Accidents

Selectboard Minutes of January 18, 2022 Continued:

- Trainings: chimney fire and a joint training with City of Barre for firefighter rescue, self-rescue, and rope training
- Radios
- Community Animal Aid: free animal clinic for qualifying individuals
- Annual Fire Safety Education at Barre Town Middle and Elementary School
- Rabies clinic: March 19, 2022 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
- New hires
- COVID-19

Mr. Nelson expressed he was glad to see the continuation of trainings taking place. He noted he enjoys seeing that Mr. Violette still carries on the tradition of the annual fire safety education at Barre Town Middle and Elementary School.

Mrs. Malone asked Mr. Violette if there were any specific budget requests that the Board should be aware of. Mr. Violette stated typically the request for new equipment is a topic for budget discussion. The Association has been great to the Fire Department, and this has helped cut down the need for budget requests. Mr. Violette noted he is not sure how long this service will be available and shared his appreciation for the Association.

A brief discussion regarding the radios and the eligibility of CLFRF fund. Mrs. Malone highly encouraged Mr. Violette to look at the options regarding the use of these funds.

Finance Department:

Finance Director Katelyn Kran was present.

Mrs. Kran updated the Board on the following:

- Ambulance billing
- Budget worksheets in Accufund
- Accufund
- Fix assets and budget training
- Audit wrap-up
- Quarterly financials

Mr. Rogers gave a summary of the budget report that was included in the Board packet. This included the Highway Fund, Cemetery Fund, Water Fund, Sewer Fund, Equipment Fund, Ambulance Fund, and General Fund. Mr. Rogers noted the expenses and projects that have been completed for the fiscal year. He gave explanations on the specific funds that were over and under budget noting the reasoning for these.

Discussion focused on Board members asking clarifying questions pertaining to the budget report.

Mrs. Malone commended Finance Director Katelyn Kran on the reports and the ease of being able to follow along. Chair White echoed Mrs. Malone's comments.

CORONAVIRUS LOCAL FISCAL RECOVERY FUNDS:

Background: Barre Town is receiving \$2,307,709 in federal funds to help our community recover from the impact the pandemic has had and invest in the future. Finance Director Katelyn Kran will report on U.S. Treasury requirements in light of the Final Rule.

Finance Director Katelyn Kran gave a ARPA presentation.

A summary of Mrs. Kran’s presentation included:

- The Final Rule: greater flexibility, standard allowance approach (claim your entire ARPA award as revenue loss and use it for the provision of government services)
- Government services eligible use
- Reporting and compliance requirements
- Restrictions of funds
- Outstanding questions

Town Manager Carl Rogers shared a document with Board members that outlined the possible use of CLFRF funds. The document contained some estimated costs. Conversation focused on Board members sharing their thoughts and opinions on the list of ideas.

Mr. Bolduc inquired about 22 Wilson Street. A brief discussion took place regarding ideas for improvements to this building.

Mr. Nelson noted Mr. Bolduc’s idea of electric charging stations in Barre Town. Mr. Nelson shared that there was 50 million dollars in grant money allocated by the State specifically for electric charging stations. The Board discussed recommending Barre Town businesses or recreation areas to apply for this money.

Mrs. Malone suggested public safety, roads and infrastructure be a topic for discussion. She would like to see how the Town could enhance the road maintenance program. This would benefit the larger capacity of Barre Town residents.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE:

On a motion by Bob Nelson, seconded by Norma Malone, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the accounts payable warrants for the week of January 18, 2022.

MISCELLANEOUS:

Town Clerk Tina Lunt inquired about absentee ballot postcards. She noted the continued rise of COVID-19 and the Town is encouraging early voting. Mrs. Lunt asked the Board their thoughts on sending out a reminder postcard for requesting absentee ballots. Board consensus is to move forward with printing and mailing of the postcards.

‘ROUND TABLE:

Jack Mitchell:

Selectboard Minutes of January 18, 2022 Continued:

- Mr. Mitchell inquired about the homestead declaration form and deadline. Town Clerk Tina Lunt will work with the Assessor’s office to find out deadlines and report back next week.

Bob Nelson:

- Mr. Nelson commended the DPW staff and their great job on the snow removal around Town. He noted he had read comments on social media regarding how well the Barre Town roads are taken care of.

Paul White:

- Chair White inquired about Fuzzbuzz Technologies. Ms. Wang gave a brief update on the progress of the AV system. Ms. Wang noted Fuzzbuzz Technologies has been in the Town office doing work this past week. They did experience a few shipping delays. The television has arrived and will be ready to test by the end of the week.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

On a motion by Jack Mitchell, seconded by Bob Nelson, 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 Bob Nelson, the Selectboard voted unanimously to go into executive session at 9:09 p.m. for contracts, legal, and personnel.

On a motion by Jack Mitchell, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted unanimously to come out of executive session at 9:54 p.m.

ADJOURN:

On a motion by Jack Mitchell, seconded by Bob Nelson, the Selectboard voted unanimously to adjourn at 9:54 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 _____, 2021.

ATTEST: _____, Barre Town Clerk.