



Town of Barre VERMONT

BARRE TOWN SELECTBOARD MEETING January 25, 2022

AGENDA

1. Call to order.....8:05 p.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Consider approving agenda.
4. Consider approving January 18 meeting minutes.
5. Announcements.
6. Receive guests for non-agenda items.
7. Discuss dump truck naming program.
8. Discuss Town Meeting vote regarding elected auditor position.
9. Consider approving weekly accounts payable warrants for January 25, 2022.
10. Miscellaneous: a) 2nd class malt and vinous beverages license for Jiffy Mart #450 b) other permits and licenses, if any.
11. ‘Round table.
12. Executive session: legal (action expected).
13. Adjourn.

MINUTES

The duly warned meeting of January 25, 2022 was held at the Barre Town Municipal Building, Selectboard Room, in Lower Websterville at 8:05 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, and Town Clerk Tina Lunt

Others Present: Tom White, Times Argus Reporter Eric Blaisdell.

CALL TO ORDER: Chair White called the meeting to order at 8:05 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVE THE AGENDA:

On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the amended agenda as follows:

1. Add to #8: Constable
2. Add to #12 Executive Session: personnel and contracts

APPROVE THE MINUTES:

On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Bob Nelson, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the January 18, 2021 meeting minutes with minor spelling and grammatical corrections.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- The next quarterly installment of property taxes and the second semi-annual sewer payment are due February 15.
- Barre Town Budget Committee meetings started tonight and will take place every Tuesday at 6:00 p.m. Agendas are posted each Friday at barretown.org, Hannaford, Trow Hill Grocery, and Graniteville Store. The phone and video conference information is shown on the agendas. You may also call 802-479-9331 to find out how to attend. Because of the Budget Committee meetings, through the end of March, Selectboard meetings will start at 8:00 p.m.
- You may request to receive all of your 2022 ballots by mail by calling the Town Clerk's Office at 802-479-9391, or by visiting mvp.vermont.gov. These so-called standing orders for early, or absentee, ballots are only good for one calendar year, so if you haven't made your request yet this month, you will not receive any by mail this year.
- The Town seeks to fill several service positions, including a vacancy on the Cemetery Commission, a vacancy on the Housing Advisory Committee, and the Deputy Health Officer position. For more information visit barretown.org or call the Manager Office at 479-9331.
- The Vermont Housing Finance Agency (VHFA) is now accepting applications from Vermont homeowners who are behind on their housing expenses due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Funded through the Federal American Rescue Plan Act, the Vermont Homeowner Assistance Program provides grants for eligible Vermont homeowners for missed payments on their mortgage, utilities, including water/sewer, electricity, and home heating, as well as property taxes, and homeowner's or condominium association fees. The program is restricted to expenses related to a homeowner's primary home. Other eligibility criteria also apply. If applicants are approved, payments will be made directly to service providers. To learn more and apply, visit vermonthap.vhfa.org or call (833) 221-4208. If you rent your home, a separate rental assistance program is available through the Vermont State Housing Authority at erap.vsha.org.

GUESTS:

Tom White was present.

Mr. White serves as a Trustee of the Aldrich Public Library and is the Liaison to the Barre Town Selectboard. Mr. White shared the purpose of his visit was to drop off copies of the minutes, directors' reports, and other miscellaneous documents from this past year.

A packet was left for Board members to review. Mr. White would like to return to give a presentation in his Liaison role once these documents have been reviewed by Selectboard members.

TOWN DUMP TRUCK NAMING PROGRAM:

Background: At a previous Selectboard meeting, Board member Justin Bolduc suggested a town dump truck naming program. He shared it would be great to work with Barre Town Middle and Elementary School on this project. This idea is based on the Agency of Transportations program. Mr. Bolduc will lead the presentation and share his idea with Board members.

Chair White turned the floor over to Mr. Bolduc to present his idea.

Board members received a document that outlined the proposed idea. Mr. Bolduc shared the Town owns 7 dump trucks. The initial idea is grades K-6 would name a truck. Annually the Town purchases a new truck, and the new kindergarten class could name the new truck each year. The idea is to involve the community and give the school a voice in our Town.

Conversation focused on the timeline of the proposed project and the next steps. Board consensus is to send the proposed plan to the Barre Town School Administrators to see if they are interested in moving forward.

ELECTED AUDITORS:

Background: The need for three elected Town auditors has been questioned in the past. A Town Charter amendment was approved. The amendment provides for abolishing the “Office of Auditor” by the voters. The amendment also allows for the voters to bring back the Office of Auditor at a later time.

Elected Auditor:

The Town of Barre contracts with an outside entity to do their books. It was suggested that a Town Charter change takes place to remove the reference of the three elected auditor positions that are referenced in the Town Charter.

Town Manager Carl Rogers noted the Town Charter already has been amended to allow for the abolishing of the “Office of Auditor” by the voters. The Selectboard can decide if they want to move forward with this decision and, if so, this would be added to

the warning for approval by early April. The Board asked the Town Manager to seek legal guidance on how to get a footnote added into the Charter if this amendment was to take place.

Mrs. Malone inquired about the provisions referring to the Office of the Lister in the Town Charter. She noted several sections within the Charter where this role is still referenced. Mrs. Malone believes the intent was to remove any reference to the Listers.

Constable:

Town Manager Carl Rogers informed Board members he spoke with Town Attorney Mike Monte for legal advice regarding the Constable role. Language within the Town Charter prevails so the Town would require a Charter amendment. The Barre Town Charter does reference the Vermont State Statute and there is need for more clarification on this.

Chair White shared it is the Town’s understanding the current Constable is not going to run again. He noted the Boards discussion is simply to modernize the duties of the Constable. Barre Town has a full time Police

Department, and it is not necessary to have a full time Constable. There are many Constable duties that are not law enforcement related.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE:

On a motion by Justin Bolduc, seconded by Bob Nelson, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the accounts payable warrants for the week of January 25, 2022.

MISCELLANEOUS:

On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Bob Nelson, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the 2022 Second Class Liquor License for Jiffy Mart.

Town Manager Carl Rogers announced his plans for retirement, noting his plan is to retire on January 21, 2023 or later in the year. Mr. Rogers shared over the next 12 months many steps will be taken to prepare for a successful transition. He noted the farewells can come at a later time and the Town should focus on the works that needs to be completed.

For the record the Town Clerk is informing the Selectboard that on January 25, 2022 a Request for Cater Malt, Vinous and/or Spirituous Liquors was approved for Coppola Foods, LLC DBA as Morse Block Deli and Taps for an event held at 663 South Barre Road on January 29, 2022 by the Town Clerk. This report is entered into the record as a requirement of the Barre Town Request to Cater Malt, Vinous, and/or Spirituous Liquors Policy adopted by the Selectboard on June 19, 2018.

'ROUND TABLE:

Justin Bolduc:

- Mr. Bolduc inquired about the police storage building and the Absolute spill barrels. Mr. Rogers did not have a current update on either of these items at this time.
- Mr. Bolduc noted the COVID-19 categories are still listed on the website. Ms. Wang noted those were removed today.

Jack Mitchell:

- Mr. Mitchell gave a shoutout to fellow Budget Committee member Rick Sanborn. Mr. Mitchell expressed that Mr. Sanborn will be missed on the Budget Committee this year.
- Mr. Mitchell noted the timing of the Selectboard meetings, 8:00 p.m. He asked about the availability of legislators to attend a meeting. Mr. Rogers will reach out to the Barre Town Representatives.

Bob Nelson:

- Mr. Nelson asked Town Manager Carl Rogers if the Town had heard back regarding the foam sample. Mr. Rogers shared he met with Town Engineer Josh Martineau last Thursday and had not heard anything since then.

Paul White:

- Chair White inquired about the ARPA money and how that will affect the Town budget process. Questions were raised around the funds being used if they have not been approved by the Budget Committee. Finance Director Katelyn Kran continues to look into these questions for the Town.

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 8:53 p.m. for legal, personnel, and contracts.

On a motion by Jack Mitchell, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted unanimously to come out of executive session at 9:57 p.m.

ACTION:

On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Bob Nelson, the Selectboard voted unanimously to authorize the Chair to sign the letter to Property Valuation and Review as discussed.

ADJOURN:

On a motion by Jack Mitchell, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted unanimously to adjourn at 9:58 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.