



Town of Barre VERMONT

BARRE TOWN SELECTBOARD MEETING

October 18, 2022

AGENDA

1. Call to order.....6:00 p.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Consider approving agenda
4. Consider approving October 11 Selectboard meeting minutes
5. Announcements
6. Receive guests for non-agenda items.
7. Quarterly Department Head visits: Police Department
8. Consider adopting Resolution No. 9-22 recognizing Bill Dodge’s 25 years of works with the Barre Town Police Department
9. Consider approving Green Mountain Power’s pole location request (Graniteville Road)
10. Consider approving engagement letter for June 30, 2022 audit
11. Discuss baseball field light poles and lights
12. Consider approving sale of old chloride tank
13. Consider approving weekly accounts payable warrants for October 18, 2022
14. Miscellaneous, including licenses and permits if any
15. Round the table
16. Executive session (if needed)
17. Adjourn

MINUTES

The duly warned meeting of October 18, 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, and W. John “Jack” Mitchell.

Selectboard Members Absent: Bob Nelson

Staff Members Present: Town Manager Carl Rogers, Town Clerk Tina Lunt, Police Chief William Dodge, Public Works Supervisor Richard Tetreault, Town Engineer Josh Martineau, Executive Secretary Tina Thurston, Finance Director Katelyn Kran, Police Sargent Paul Thayer, Officer Nicholas Copping, Officer Leo De Prato, Miriam Larkin, Officer Thatcher Morrison, Officer Joe Tremblay, and Assistant Town Clerk Jennifer Bushway.

Others Present: Doug Farnham, Nicole Dodge, Catherine Dodge, Abigail Dodge, Chris Day, and Times Argus Reporter Eric Blaisdell, Those present virtually: Jeff Blow.

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

1. Add to Item #16 Executive Session: add personnel

APPROVE THE MINUTES:

On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the October 11, 2022 meeting minutes with minor spelling and grammatical corrections.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- The Town's lawn waste site is open Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. thanks to volunteers. The drop-off site also is open Saturdays 8:00 a.m. to noon. There is no fee to drop off tree limbs, brush, leaves, grass clippings, and garden waste. The weekends of October 15, 16, 22, 23, and 29, 30 the site will be open 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Saturdays and noon to 4:00 p.m. on Sundays. Please do not leave bags or plastic sheeting at the site.
- The Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District's last household hazardous waste collection of the year will be on Saturday, October 29. This collection will be at the Vermont Department of Labor parking lot in Montpelier. Hours are 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
- Our former Deputy Health Officer recently was appointed Town Health Officer creating a vacancy in the Deputy position. The Deputy fills in for the Health Officer when the officer is not available. Barre Town sees about a dozen Health Officer calls per year. For more information about the position contact the Town Manger's Office.
- The Town Recreation Board is holding a Cider and Dessert Social on Sunday, October 23 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. The social gathering will be held at the picnic shelter in the recreation area rain or shine. Residents are invited to bring a dessert for sharing. The Recreation Board will provide plates, plastic ware, cider, other refreshments and some desserts. Weather permitting there will be games for kids and kids at heart. The Recreation Board looks forward to seeing many residents and guests enjoying a taste of the season and enjoying each other's company.
- Chair announcement: After last week's executive session the Selectboard voted to approve a collective bargaining agreement with Local #1369, of AFSCME for the term of July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2024. AFSCME represents Barre Town's Public Works employees.

GUESTS:

Rec Board Chair Doug Farnham was present. Mr. Farnham inquired about the barricade that was going to be installed at 44 Brook Street. Last year Mr. Farnham put up hay bales for a temporary barricade and wanted to know if he needed to do this again or if the Town was planning to take care of this.

Selectboard Minutes of October 18, 2022 Continued:

Additionally, Mr. Farnham stated there was no Rec Board meeting this month due to the lack of a quorum. He noted that November's meeting has been moved for the same reason. He asked for the Selectboard's help on encouraging attendance. The Selectboard and Town Manager are currently working on addressing this concern.

RESOLUTION NO. #9-22:

Background: Chief Dodge was hired as a part-time EMT on March 11, 1993, and as a part-time police officer on May 21, 1996. Since then, he has worked twenty-five plus years as a full-time officer in the Barre Town Police Department. Chief Dodge has served as a K-9 handler for sixteen years and has been a K-9 trainer for the Vermont Criminal Justice Training Council and Barre Town Police Department. He has fostered a sense of community policing at the Barre Town Middle and Elementary School and working with the schools Safety Committee. Chief Dodge has administered more that \$100,000 in grants used to purchase equipment for the Police Department.

On a motion by Jack Mitchell, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted unanimously to adopt Resolution #9-22, A Resolution of the Town of Barre, Vermont in Appreciation of William Dodge's 25 Years of full-time service to the Town of Barre.

Chair White read the Resolution for those present. Staff attending shared stories, comments, and their appreciation for Chief Dodge. Several members of the Police Department expressed their recognition of Chief Dodge's leadership, noting they are proud to work for him.

Board members thanked Chief Dodge for his years of service. Mrs. Malone added that she wanted to personally thank the Dodge family for their sacrifices over the years given the amount of time and dedication the Chief has had to commit to his career.

Chief Dodge thanked those present and noted his appreciation for all.

DEPARTMENT HEAD VISITS:

Background: Department heads will report for the months of July, August, and September.

Police Department:

Police Chief William Dodge was present and updated the Board on the following:

- Training
 - Mandatory requirements
 - Police academy update
 - Firearm training
 - Use of force/Taser certification
- Staffing/recruitment update
 - Officer Wendell last day October 27
 - High school recruitment: Chief Dodge has met with career/guidance at U32 and has a meeting scheduled with SHS.
 - Recruitment pamphlets
 - Officer Trembley will be working with Randolph Technical Center on recruitment
- School Resource Officer

Selectboard Minutes of October 18, 2022 Continued:

- K-9: Chief Dodge shared that Officer De Prato and Lakota will be at the Rec Board Cider and Dessert Social on Sunday, October 23.
- Highway Safety Grants
- Vehicles
- Call statistics

Chief Dodge stated that recruitment continues to be the main concern for the department. He noted on top of working with U32, Spaulding and Randolph Technical Center, they have also expanded their recruiting efforts to colleges and websites. Mrs. Malone suggested contacting the Central Vermont Career Center.

The Town of Orange has contacted the Town regarding the Barre Town Police Department helping to serve them. Chief Dodge has spoken to Town of Orange officials, and they are looking for more police presence. Chief Dodge noted with their current staffing situation he is not sure what he can propose to Orange at this time, noting that he is not in favor of committing to a contract. Conversation continued as Board members discussed the multiple reasons why the Town is unable to enter an arrangement with Orange at this time. Chair White echoed that he is not in favor of the idea, however, if the department was fully staffed this may be a conversation that could be had further down the road. Board consensus is the Town simply does not have the staffing at this time.

GREEN MOUNTAIN POWER POLE LOCATION REQUEST:

Background: Landowners Brian and Lori Bibeau are subdividing their land along Graniteville Road (between the cemeteries and Rock of Ages). The electric wires need to be extended to serve the new lots. Two new telephone poles will be installed, and some poles will be removed. Town Engineer Josh Martineau recommends Selectboard approval.

On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve Green Mountain's pole location request titled Bibeau Line X Graniteville Road Extension, project number 186171.

AUDITOR ENGAGEMENT LETTER:

Background: This is an annual detail for completing the audit of financial statements. Sullivan, Powers and Co. proposes a fee of \$38,500.

On a motion by Jack Mitchell, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve Sullivan, Powers and Co. fiscal year 2022 financial statement audit engagement letter.

BASEBALL FIELD POLES AND LIGHTS:

Background: There are 8 poles around the baseball field. 5 of the 8 poles were cut off following an inspection. The lights mounted on the 5 poles were saved. The Town budgeted \$75,000 in the FY '22-'23 budget for replacing the 5 poles and remounting the lights on the poles.

Mr. Bolduc gave an overview of the research that has been completed for the baseball field light and pole project. Mr. Bolduc shared his notes that included specs, maps, and pictures with Board members. Mr. Bolduc stated that 5 out of the 8 poles were unsafe after being tested and when the lights were taken down there was no record of their orientation and of which light bracket that it was taken from. Additionally, the length of the poles is a dilemma with the cost involved in renting a lift to adjust and balance the lights. He is

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not sure what the logical answer is on how to proceed with this. Mr. Bolduc recommended the arms are one purchase the Town should make, as the arms are not in good shape. He is waiting on a quote from Needham Electric for the lighting and arm related pieces of the poles. Needham Electric will recommend a lighting layout plan and this will include pole specifications.

Conversation continued as Mr. Bolduc explained the lighting options that are under review. They believe the current bulbs are from 1987. Board members discussed the cost of the equipment, parts, and labor involved in the pole replacement and how significant this would be over budget if they were to replace the 3 remaining poles at the same time.

Rec Board Chair Doug Farnham voiced his concerns regarding the field. Mr. Farnham shared they have a field they are unable to use when it gets dark, and this is limiting the amount of evening games they can schedule. Additionally, they recently added on the multi-use availability so that more than one sport can be played on this field. Mr. Farnham explained that this will bring more activity requests. He suggested the Town look into bringing in a portable light system during the summer so the field can be used during the evening hours. A quote from Sunbelt Rentals was shared with Board members for their review.

Board consensus is to wait for the quote from Needham Electric before they decide what the next logical step in the process is.

Board members expressed their appreciation for Mr. Bolduc's work on the project.

CHLORIDE TANK:

Background: A couple years ago the Town purchased a new chloride tank because the older one was starting to crack. The old 3,000 tank still is at the outdoor storage area. A Munson Earthmoving employee saw it when delivering material for the Websterville waterline project and has offered \$100 for the tank. Public Works Supervisor Richard Tetreault and Town Engineer Josh Martineau suggest accepting the offer as they have no plans for the tank.

On a motion by Jack Mitchell, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the sale of the old chloride tank to Lewis Glodgett for \$100.00 with the condition it is removed by Mr. Glodgett.

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 October 18, 2022.

MISCELLANEOUS: NONE

ROUND TABLE:

Paul White:

- Chair White asked Town Manager Carl Rogers if there is a plan to address the hazard on Brook Street that Mr. Farnham inquired about. Mr. Rogers noted there is no plan, but the Public Works crew scooped out the issue last year and it can be taken care of.
- Chair White asked if the Manager has had a response from the Rec Board member that has not been in attendance to meetings. Mr. Rogers noted he has not received a response.

Norma Malone:

- Mrs. Malone inquired about the truck removal on 44 Brook Street. Town Manager Carl Rogers confirmed that the truck has been removed.

Jack Mitchell:

- Mr. Mitchell noted that a resident on Sterling Hill contacted him regarding the white foam returning in the manhole. Mr. Mitchell did let the resident know that they should report this to the Town next time. It is noted this event would have taken place three weeks ago.
- Mr. Mitchell expressed his thanks to the Public Works Department for fixing Websterville Road.

Justin Bolduc

- Mr. Bolduc echoed Mr. Mitchell’s comments regarding Websterville Road.

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 7:47 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 8:59 p.m.

ADJOURN:

On a motion by Jack Mitchell, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:59 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.