



Town of Barre VERMONT

BARRE TOWN SELECTBOARD MEETING

October 25, 2022

AGENDA

1. Call to order.....6:00 p.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Consider approving agenda
4. Consider approving October 18 Selectboard meeting minutes
5. Announcements
6. Receive guests for non-agenda items.
7. Quarterly Department Head visits: **a)** Finance Office; **b)** EMS
8. Consider submitting comments to developer of the Lowery Road solar farm
9. Consider approving cemetery grave lot prices
10. Discuss baseball field light poles and lights
11. Consider approving weekly accounts payable warrants for October 25, 2022
12. Miscellaneous, including licenses and permits if any
13. Round the table
14. Executive session: personnel
15. Adjourn

MINUTES

The duly warned meeting of October 25, 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, Finance Director Katelyn Kran, EMS Director Chris LaMonda, and Rec Director Johnny Crossley.

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 Norma Malone, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the agenda as presented.

APPROVE THE MINUTES:

Selectboard Minutes of October 25, 2022 Continued:

On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted to approve the October 18, 2022 meeting minutes with minor spelling and grammatical corrections. Bob Nelson abstained.

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 weekend of October 29 and 30 the site will be open 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Saturday and noon to 4:00 p.m. on Sunday. 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.
- The Vermont Homeowners Assistance Program, known as VHAP, is winding down. VHAP assists homeowners with their tax and utility bills if the homeowner suffered financial hardship because of the COVID-19 pandemic. If you or someone you know had loss of income during the pandemic and have past due utility and or property tax bills, visit this website for more information: vermonthap.vhfa.org. The program will stop taking applications in December, if you need help, act now.
- Cyclists, walkers, runners please help keep yourself safe by wearing light colored outer clothing, something that reflects light such as a vest or jacket and carry a flashlight or use light on your bike.
- The Town's prohibition on parking on the street from 11:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. starts November 1. Please plan to park vehicles off the street overnight.
- Election day is Tuesday, November 8. Voting is conducted in the Barre Town Middle and Elementary School gym. The polling place is open 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
- Town Manager Carl Rogers introduced the Town's first Rec Director Johnney Crossley. Mr. Crossley is an outdoor recreation enthusiast from Northern New York. He holds a bachelor's of science degree in Science Business Administration with concentration in Marketing and Sports Management. Mr. Crossley was previously employed by the New York Game Commission.

GUESTS: NONE

DEPARTMENT HEAD VISITS:

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

Finance Director

Finance Director Katelyn Kran was present and updated the Board on the following:

- Office improvements
- Accufund
- Credit card processing update

Selectboard Minutes of October 25, 2022 Continued:

- Municipality
- Direct-debit payments
- Payroll
- Audit 2020-2021 electronic copy and hard copy available
- 2021-2022 Audit

Mrs. Malone inquired about the additions to the Cemetery and Sewer Capital Improvement Trust investments. Mrs. Kran noted that these were funds saved up from the cemetery lot sales and sewer connections and had not yet been transferred from the savings account.

Mrs. Kran gave a brief overview of the budget vs. actuals. She shared that all departments are on track, and 25% of the budgeted revenue has been received. The Highway Fund has spent 44% of the budget, however, this is due to summer paving. Additionally, with the overall savings on wages and equipment time the department is on budget. Town Manager Carl Rogers noted that he sees no cause for concern with the overall budget at this time.

Finance Director Katelyn Kran and Town Clerk Tina Lunt updated the Board regarding office furniture. Mrs. Kran shared they recently learned that The Vermont Department of Corrections is no longer making custom office furniture. The woodshop has been transitioned into an Educational Training Program. Clerk Lunt has been in contact with Maple Corner Woodworks who recently located their business in the Wilson Industrial Park. Board members also suggested contacting State Surplus.

EMS Director

EMS Director Chris LaMonda was present and updated the Board on the following:

- Waterbury update
- Staffing
 - Pay rates
- Vehicles
 - MedEx has been purchased by another company
 - The Town will be receiving one truck and it will be a demo but will meet most specs
 - The '22 and '23 trucks are on order now
- COVID-19 vaccine & testing
 - 1-3 walk-ins on average
- Shift Supervisor quarterly reports will all be submitted before Friday
- Resignation update: Mr. LaMonda thanked the Board for his experience and stated he has enjoyed his work with the Town

Discussion continued as Mrs. Malone asked Mr. LaMonda if he is hearing anything at the state-level regarding regionalizing ambulance services. Mr. LaMonda noted to his knowledge there is no committee currently looking at mutualizing ambulance services. He shared that the State has funded multiple EMS programs over the years, however, he has not seen the data showing this has been successful. Mr. LaMonda shared his concerns on the process, noting there is no state-wide EMS testing process.

LOWERY ROAD SOLAR PROJECT:

Background: Lowery Road Solar will be filing an application for a Certificate of Public Good with the Vermont Public Utility Commission, requesting approval to install and operate a 4.999-megawatt solar

Selectboard Minutes of October 25, 2022 Continued:

electric generation facility in Barre and Orange. MHG Solar is the developer and has shared a presentation of the project with the Board. The Planning Commission met last week and decided they had no comments to submit in response to the 45-day notice from MHG Solar. The Selectboard met on October 4 and noted they had no comments except there should be good environmental review. This is the last chance to submit comments to send to the developer.

The Planning Commission chose not to submit a letter to the developer. Additionally, the Selectboard did not have comments to add. Mrs. Malone asked that the Board stay informed as the project progresses, noting it is important they have the opportunity to voice concerns as the project reaches a formal status.

CEMETERY LOT PRICES:

Background: The Cemetery Commission periodically reviews and adjusts its fees, including lot prices. Unlike the fees for service, the Selectboard approves lot prices. At the September 28 Cemetery Commission meeting the Commission voted to raise its fees for services and to recommend the Selectboard approve lot prices. The Commission has recommended and compared lot prices to other nearby cemeteries.

On a motion by Jack Mitchell, seconded by Norma Malone, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the Cemetery Commission's lot prices, effective January 1, 2023, as presented.

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. During last week's meeting, Mr. Bolduc shared an overview of the research that has been done for this project. More information is needed to make a decision on the next logical steps in the process. Mr. Bolduc has new information to share with the Board for discussion.

Mr. Bolduc shared a quote from a company from Texas called Cobb Lumber. This estimate is for eight 80' poles. The estimated price is \$34,061.60 and the lead time is 15 weeks. Additionally, Mr. Bolduc received a quote back from Needham Electric which would be using the Town's existing lighting but would include all new bulbs and ballasts. The estimated price is \$87,489.60. In addition, Needham Electric provided a layout for the new lights. Mr. Bolduc explained that it would take less LED lights than conventional lights and this would significantly reduce the number of lights and wattage.

Mr. Bolduc stated that Needham Electric is looking into Efficiency Vermont rebates for the Town. The Town previously did not qualify for rebates, due to low run hours. Town staff will work on gathering more information regarding the hours per week the lights were used over the past years to revisit this option.

Conversation continued as Board members discussed the next logical steps. Mr. Bolduc recommended the Rec Director look into the availability of grant funding for this project, sharing his concerns of waiting until the next year fiscal year for this expense. Board consensus is more information is needed before deciding on how to proceed.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE:

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

MISCELLANEOUS: NONE

ROUND TABLE:

Paul White:

- Chair White inquired about the status of the Town Forest Committee meetings. He noted now that Rec Director Johnny Crossley has started, he may be able to help get the Committee up and running. Mr. Rogers confirmed this is an item on Mr. Crossley’s agenda.

Bob Nelson:

- Mr. Nelson inquired about an email he saw from VLCT regarding a supply chain shortage with salt. He asked Town Manager Carl Rogers how the Town is doing with their current inventory. Mr. Rogers noted the Town has a good stock of salt.

Jack Mitchell:

- Mr. Mitchell commented on the nice weather and how it would be nice to see the painting contractor out painting.

Justin Bolduc

- Mr. Bolduc asked there was still an individual waiting for a price on a lot off from Quarry Hill. Mr. Rogers noted Chris Violette needs to meet with this individual.

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 8:07 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 9:00 p.m.

ADJOURN:

On a motion by Jack Mitchell, seconded by Norma Malone, the Selectboard voted unanimously to adjourn at 9:00 p.m.

APPROVED MINUTES

Barre Town Selectboard

Paul White, Chair

Norma Malone, Vice Chair

Selectboard Minutes of October 25, 2022 Continued:
Justin Bolduc

Jack Mitchell

Bob Nelson

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

ATTEST: _____, Barre Town Clerk.