



Town of Barre VERMONT

BARRE TOWN SELECTBOARD MEETING

October 4, 2022

AGENDA

1. Call to order.....6:00 p.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Consider approving agenda
4. Consider approving September 27 Selectboard meeting minutes
5. Announcements
6. Receive guests for non-agenda items.
7. Interview Cemetery Commission applicant
8. Public hearing (second reading) of a proposed ordinance amending the zoning by-law
9. Discuss input regarding the Lowery Road Solar Array project
10. Consider adopting Resolution 7-22 increasing the borrowing authority for the Wilson Industrial Park waterline project
11. Consider granting a waiver of the maximum front yard setback for a pending Wilson Industrial Park business
12. Consider approving sale of 2017 police car
13. Consider approving weekly accounts payable warrants for October 4, 2022
14. Miscellaneous, including licenses and permits if any
15. Round the table
16. Executive session: labor negotiations, personnel (action possible)
17. Adjourn

MINUTES

The duly warned meeting of October 4, 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, Planning and Zoning Administrator Chris Violette.

Others Present: Brian Littlefield, Dexter Lefavour, and 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 Justin Bolduc, 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 September 27, 2022 meeting minutes with minor spelling and grammatical corrections.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- A cycling event known as the Grindstone will be held on Sunday, October 9. The start and finish line will be at the picnic shelter in the Recreation Area. Expect activity around the picnic shelter all day on Sunday. The course is over the bike path. There will be many cyclists on the path, Graniteville Road (in Graniteville) and Drury Hill Road from 9:30 a.m. to about 9:50 a.m.
- The Public Works Department is flushing waterlines. They expect to be done October 14. We suggest water customers not do laundry the day flushing is performed near their home. If there is dirty water from the faucet, let the water run until it clears.
- 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 Saturday's 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 Health Officer 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.
- Town Manager Carl Rogers announced that there will be construction activity on the Websterville Waterline Project starting the week of October 10. This work will be on the side streets of Church Hill Road in Upper Websterville.

GUESTS:

Dexter Lefavour was present. Mr. Lefavour is running for State Senator, Washington 1. Mr. Lefavour stated he has been reaching out to as many voters as possible and meeting Selectboards. Mr. Lefavour lives in Middlesex with his wife and their four children. He is a Registered Professional Engineer. He encourages voters to visit his website at dexter4vt.com to learn more about him and why he is running for State Senator. Mr. Lefavour passed around an informational card to Board members and those present.

CEMETERY COMMISSION INTERVIEW:

Background: The Town has been seeking applications and letters of interest in serving on the Town Cemetery Commission. Currently Merle Miller is filling the vacancy until the Selectboard has found and appointed another member. Brian Littlefield is interested in serving on the Commission. Mr. Littlefield attended the Commission meeting this past Wednesday and has followed up by submitting a letter of interest.

Brian Littlefield was present. Mr. Littlefield is a Barre Town resident who resides with his wife and their two children. Mr. Littlefield shared he is employed with Cabot Creamery and as his career winds down he is looking to become more civically engaged. He has always been very interested in genealogy and finds it is important to preserve the past and how it is being presented to the future. Mr. Littlefield stated he recently attended a Cemetery Commission meeting and found it very interesting.

Town Manager Carl Rogers noted that two additional emails of interest have been received since Mr. Littlefield submitted his letter of interest. The Board is unable to make an appointment until they formally receive Mr. Miller's letter of resignation. The Board decided to interview the two new individuals and an appointment will be made next week.

PUBLIC HEARING OF PROPOSED ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS OF ZONING BY-LAW:

Background: This is the second reading of a proposed ordinance amending the zoning by-law amendments. The notice of the hearing was published and posted as required.

On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Bob Nelson, the Selectboard voted unanimously to open the public hearing.

On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Bob Nelson, the Selectboard voted unanimously to read the ordinance by title only. The proposed ordinance was read, by title only, by Chair White.

Planning and Zoning Administrator Chris Violette gave a brief overview of the zoning by-law. Highlights include:

- Appendix A, Article 2 - Uses: The Planning Commission placed the cannabis uses within the Use Chart
- Article 3 – Agriculture Uses, Accessory on Farm Businesses, Cannabis Establishments
- Article 4 – Accessory Dwelling
- Grammatical changes
- Article 8 – Definitions

On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Bob Nelson, the Selectboard voted unanimously to close the hearing and advance the ordinance to the third and final hearing.

LOWERY ROAD SOLAR PROJECT:

Background: Lowery Road Solar is preparing to file 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 electric generation facility in Barre and Orange. During last week's meeting MHG Solar shared a presentation with the Board regarding the project. MHG is approximately a month out from submitting their

Selectboard Minutes of October 4, 2022 Continued:

application and this is the time for the Board and Planning Commission to share comments with MHG Solar.

Planning and Zoning Administrator Chris Violette stated that the Planning Commission requested for the landowner to attend the October 19 Planning Commission meeting. Unfortunately, the landowner is unable to attend. The developer will now be in attendance.

Mr. Mitchell shared he was part of the site visit and feels it is a good location. He does not object to the project. Mr. Nelson echoed Mr. Mitchell's comments. Mrs. Malone shared her concerns around the environmental impact of the project. She would like to see state agency assessments regarding the impact of the land.

Board comments will be shared with the Planning Commission at the October 19th meeting.

RESOLUTION NO. 7-22:

Background: Barre Town voters authorized borrowing up to \$450,000 for the Wilson Industrial Park waterline project. According to the bond counsel and Robert Clark the state funding program the Town is using for the project allows municipalities to increase the borrowing authority up to \$75,000 by action of the governing body.

Town Manager Carl Rogers shared that the Wilson Industrial Park waterline project was awarded to Munson Earthmoving. In March of 2021 the Selectboard asked at a special town meeting to borrow up to \$450,000, which was approved by voters. State Statute allows the Town to increase up to \$75,000. Town Engineer Josh Martineau recommends submitting to the funding program for 75% loan forgiveness. The \$75,000 increase in borrowing authority is more than needed but it allows the Town to seek 75% grant reimbursement up to \$525,000. If the total project cost is \$485,456.76, this action would allow the Town to receive \$26,592 in reimbursement that it otherwise would not receive.

On a motion by Bob Nelson, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted unanimously to read Resolution 7-22.

On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Jack Mitchell, the Selectboard voted unanimously to adopt Resolution 7-22, A Resolution of the Town of Barre, Vermont increasing the amount of the authorized indebtedness for the Wilson Industrial Park waterline project.

WILSON INDUSTRIAL PARK LOT:

Background: Crosland Barnes Group has a sales contract to purchase a small lot next to Lord and Lord's building on Parker Road. The back of the lot is higher than the front of the lot at the road, because of the stormwater regulations adopted about 10 years ago every Wilson Industrial Park business has to handle its stormwater on its lot. Due to the slope of the Crosland Barnes Group lot, it is logical for their stormwater practice (on-lot facility) to be along the road. Placing the practice there pushes the building back further than it might be. The WIP covenants state there is a maximum 60' front yard setback maximum. The front of the building can't be any further back from the road right-away and zoning by-laws have minimum setbacks.

Town Manager Carl Rogers stated last spring the Town entered into a Purchase Sales Agreement with Crosland Barnes Group. The Purchase Sales Agreement is for a 3-acre lot next to the Lord and Lord's

Selectboard Minutes of October 4, 2022 Continued:

building located on Parker Road. Engineers have been working on the lot for development. Mr. Rogers noted due to the slope of the lot, it makes more sense for the stormwater facility to be near the road. The WIP covenants state there is a maximum 60' front yard setback. Town Manager Carl Rogers is asking the Selectboard to sign a letter for waiving the maximum front yard setback requirement. However, to amend the WIP covenants the Town will need 75% of property owner to sign off on this.

Discussion continued as the Board focused on options of amending the covenants. The amendments would be rewritten by the Selectboard. It is noted that Crosland Barnes Group is looking to get on the November Development Review Board agenda.

On a motion by Bob Nelson, seconded by Norma Malone, the Selectboard voted unanimously to authorize a letter waiving the maximum front yard setback requirement for Crosland Barnes Group proposed building with the added provision that it be no more than what is necessary for the stormwater provision and that Crosland Barnes Group must abide by the side and rear lot line setbacks.

SALE OF 2017 POLICE CAR:

Background: The Town has had several offers for the 2017 Police car. They have received the first \$8,000 offer.

On a motion by Bob Nelson, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted unanimously to except the \$8,000 offer for the vehicle from Mr. Jack Whalen.

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 4, 2022.

MISCELLANEOUS: NONE

ROUND TABLE:

Norma Malone:

- Mrs. Malone inquired about the EMS billing RFP. Town Manager Carl Rogers stated he did not have an update at this time.
- Mrs. Malone inquired about the status of the Town Forest Committee meetings. Mr. Rogers stated he has plans to work on this tomorrow.
- Mrs. Malone inquired about Department Head visits.

Bob Nelson:

- Mr. Nelson shared that he will not be in attendance at the October 18 Board meeting.
- Mr. Nelson congratulated Town Manager Carl Rogers for being awarded the VLCT Lifetime Achievement Award. Mr. Rogers will be recognized with this award at the Town Fair in Killington on Thursday, October 6.

Justin Bolduc:

- Mr. Bolduc asked Town Manager Carl Rogers if he had heard back from Town Attorney Mike Monte regarding the master lease. Mr. Rogers noted he had not received any feedback yet.

Selectboard Minutes of October 4, 2022 Continued:

- Mr. Bolduc inquired about EMS billing invoices.
- Mr. Bolduc noted that the Rec Board meeting was cancelled last evening due to the lack of a quorum. Board discussion focused on encouraging attendance for these meetings. Mrs. Malone shared that illness was a big factor last evening. The Selectboard discussed options for attendance requirements.
- Mr. Bolduc inquired about the baseball field light poles. He has reached out to Riggs Disler. Discussion continued as the Board discussed if they would waive bidding. Mr. Bolduc will work with Mr. Farnham on specifications.

Jack Mitchell:

- Mr. Mitchell noted the Board should be careful on how they approach the attendance situation with Boards, Commissions, and Committees.
- Mr. Mitchell inquired about the EMS Director position timeline.
- Mr. Mitchell inquired about the abatement of the EMS billing request.
- Mr. Mitchell inquired about the condition of the section of Websterville Road to the cemetery. Mr. Rogers noted Town Engineer Josh Martineau plans to have this fixed.

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 7:31 p.m. for labor negotiations and personnel with action possible.

On a motion by Jack Mitchell, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted unanimously to come out of executive session at 8:24 p.m.

ACTION:

On a motion by Jack Mitchell, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve an employee request for a 1-week vacation buy-out.

ADJOURN:

On a motion by Bob Nelson, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:24 p.m.

APPROVED MINUTES

Barre Town Selectboard

Paul White, Chair

Norma Malone, Vice Chair

Justin Bolduc

Jack Mitchell

Selectboard Minutes of October 4, 2022 Continued:

Bob Nelson

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

ATTEST: _____, Barre Town Clerk.