



# Town of Barre VERMONT

## BARRE TOWN SELECTBOARD MEETING September 27, 2022

### AGENDA

1. Call to order.....6:00 p.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Consider approving agenda
4. Consider approving September 20 Selectboard meeting minutes
5. Announcements
6. Receive guests for non-agenda items.
7. Presentation of Lowery Road solar array plans
8. Consider adopting Resolution No. 5-22 forming a Town Cannabis Control Commission
9. Discuss application form for local cannabis control license
10. Consider adopting Resolution 6-22 authorizing lease-financing documents for the new excavator
11. Consider approving sale of 2017 police car
12. Consider approving weekly accounts payable warrants for September 27, 2022
13. Miscellaneous, including licenses and permits if any
14. Round the table
15. Executive session: labor contracts (action possible)
16. Adjourn

### MINUTES

The duly warned meeting of September 27, 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, and Planning and Zoning Administrator Chris Violette.

**Others Present:** Cedric Sanborn, Mike Gilbar, George Clain, Barry Stryker, and Times Argus Reporter Eric Blaisdell. Those present virtually: Sheila Stone, Terry Reil, Jeff Blow, and Thomas Hand.

**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 Bob Nelson, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the amended agenda as follows:*

Selectboard Minutes of September 27, 2022 Continued:

1. Add to item #15 Executive Session: personnel

**APPROVE THE MINUTES:**

*On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the September 20, 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. It also is open Saturday mornings 8:00 a.m. to noon. There is no fee to use the site, which is located near the top of Holden Road. There will be additional weekend hours on three weekends in October. More on that as we get closer to those weekends. Please place your garden and lawn waste on the appropriate pile and do not leave bags or plastic sheeting behind.
- The Grindstone, a cycling event, will be held on Sunday, October 9. The event starts and finishes at the Town recreation area picnic shelter. The cyclists will ride the bike path to Lower Graniteville. Watch for many cyclists to be on Graniteville Road from 9:30 to 9:45 a.m. on October 9. The cyclists should be spread out as they return to Lower Graniteville.
- 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.
- We are accepting applications or letters of interest in serving on the Town Cemetery Commission. The Commission has five members. It meets the fourth Wednesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. Typically the Commission meets April through October. The Commission oversees the three cemeteries. It adjusts Cemetery Rules and Regulations as needed, plans cemetery improvements, approves monument designs and takes other actions as states in the Rules and Regulations. Monthly meetings typically are one to one and a half hours long. For more information contact the Town Manager's Office or read about the Commission and its agendas and minutes, available on the Town website.
- The Public Works Department will start flushing waterlines on Monday, October 3. The flushing work will take about two weeks to complete. 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.

**GUESTS: None.**

**LOWERY ROAD SOLAR PRESENTATION:**

Background: Lowery Road Solar is preparing to file an application for a Certificate of Public Good (CPG) with the Vermont Public Utility Commission (PUC), requesting approval to install and operate a 4.999 MW solar electric generation facility in Barre and Orange. The project is still in the pre-application phase. The Town has completed a site visit. This presentation is intended to help the Board and Planning Commission understand the proposed project.

Those Present - Planning Commission members: Chair Cedric Sanborn, George Clain, Mike Gilbar, and Planning and Zoning Administrator Chris Violette.

Others present - Barry Stryker (landowner). Those present virtually: Thomas Hand from MHG Solar and Sheila Stone from the Town of Orange Selectboard.

Thomas Hand shared that MHG Solar has developed 15 projects in Vermont. This proposed project is a 4.999-megawatt photovoltaic electric generation facility in the towns of Barre and Orange. The project site is located on 30-acres and is to be built on a cornfield owned by Barry Stryker. The project will utilize approximately 10,295 650-watt solar panels. Mr. Hand explained that MHG will connect power using the access road to the cornfield and then run underground power along Lowery Road, where it will then connect to the existing Green Mountain Power 3 phase grid. Mr. Hand expressed environment and location are key aspects for these projects. Lowery Road Solar chose the proposed location for this solar array based upon its solar exposure, accessibility to existing roads, limited visibility, and minimal impacts on natural resources. Mr. Hand stated that as for the benefits to the Town it is expected to pay \$20,000 of personal property tax. Additionally, approximately \$20,000 per year would be paid into the State Education Fund.

Chair White inquired about the underlying value of the land and if this would be affected by adding the solar equipment. Mr. Hand confirmed that the underlying value of the land would not change with the project being added to it. Mrs. Malone noted this land is in Current Use and the installation of the solar project will take this portion of the property out of Current Use.

Chair White inquired about Green Mountain Power's (GMP) ability to take on future projects. Mr. Hand stated this project will not impact future solar projects to this substation and it will still have a 54% capacity after this connection. Conversation continued as Board members and Planning Commission members asked Mr. Hand additional questions regarding the project site and decommissioning plans.

Mr. Hand anticipates they are approximately a month out from submitting their application. He noted this is the best opportunity for the Board and Planning Commission to share their comments with him. Board consensus is to have a discussion next week regarding their comments. Those comments will then be passed along to the Planning Commission and a draft letter will be shared with MHG Solar.

**RESOLUTION NO. 5-22:**

Background: During last week's Board meeting the Board discussed the option of creating a local Cannabis Control Commission to participate in the regulation of cannabis establishments. If a municipality forms a local commission, it should do so by resolution of the legislative body. The Board will vote to adopt Resolution No. 5-22, A Resolution of the Town of Barre, Vermont Forming a Local Cannabis Control Commission.

Resolution No. 5-22 is based on the sample the State Cannabis Control Board (CCB) supplied.

***On a motion by Bob Nelson, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted unanimously to adopt Resolution No. 5-22, A Resolution of the Town of Barre, Vermont Forming a Local Cannabis Control Commission.***

**APPLICATION FOR LOCAL CANNABIS LICENSE:**

Background: If the Selectboard votes to adopt a resolution to form a Local Cannabis Control Commission the next step will be to approve an application for a Local Cannabis License for the Town of Barre. Discussion will focus on the application form template.

Samples of other municipalities applications were shared with Board members for review. Discussion began as Board members shared their feedback regarding these sample forms. Mrs. Malone stated it would be beneficial at the local level to have proof that a site visit has been completed by the Department of Public Safety Division of Fire Safety. Board members, along with Planning and Zoning Administrator Chris Violette agreed that this item should be added to the application. Additionally, Mr. Rogers shared his recommendations and modifications with Board members.

Board consensus is that they will share any additional suggestions with Town Manager Carl Rogers. Town staff will draft an application for future review.

**RESOLUTION NO. 6-22:**

Background: During a previous meeting the Board awarded a purchase of a John Deere excavator. After soliciting proposals, the Board selected MLC to provide the lease-financing over 6 years. Finance Director Katelyn Kran and Town Manager Carl Rogers have submitted the documents that MLC has requested. MLC provided the form of this resolution.

Town Manager Carl Rogers shared that this will be a new Master Lease Agreement with MLC. Mr. Rogers noted that these documents have been shared with Town Attorney Mike Monte for review.

*On a motion by Paul White, seconded by Bob Nelson, the Selectboard voted unanimously to adopt Resolution No. 6-22, A Resolution of the Town of Barre, Authorizing the execution and delivery of a master equipment lease purchase agreement with respect to the acquisition, purchase, financing and leasing of certain equipment or capital items for the public benefit; authorizing the execution and delivery of documents required in connection therewith; and authorizing all other actions necessary to the consummation of the transaction contemplated by this resolution, barring any negative findings by Town Attorney Mike Monte.*

**2017 POLICE CAR:**

Background: The Town has had several inquiries regarding the sale of the 2017 police car. This item is on the agenda, if there is an agreement to the sale of \$8,000 for the vehicle.

Town Manager Carl Rogers noted there is no update on the police car, but the Town has had some offers. Mr. Mitchell noted the condition of the vehicle is not great and the Town may need to reconsider the price.

**ACCOUNTS PAYABLE:**

*On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Jack Mitchell, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the accounts payable warrants for the week of September 26, 2022.*

Bob Nelson inquired about the First Light bill. He asked if this can be a future agenda item once Mr. Violette has had a chance to review other options for the Town.

**MISCELLANEOUS: NONE**

**ROUND TABLE:**

Bob Nelson:

- Mr. Nelson noted the Board received an email to adopt a resolution for childhood cancer awareness week. This request will take place on Tuesday, October 11, 2022.
- Justin Bolduc:
- Mr. Bolduc asked Mr. Rogers what the status was for the removal of the dump truck located at 44 Brook Street and the trailer. Mr. Rogers noted that Town staff was responsible for the removal of these items. Mr. Rogers will have Shop Foreman Mike Martel contact Bolduc Auto Salvage to see if they can remove.
- Mr. Bolduc inquired about the location of the baseball field lights. Mr. Rogers noted he believes they are located in the yellow maintenance building.
- Mr. Bolduc inquired about committee attendance. He asked what the Town can do to help encourage limited amount of missed meetings. Board members discussed the options for establishing guidelines and procedures. The Town currently does not have a process for removal. Board members discussed creating a policy in the future or adding this item to the Administrative Code.

Jack Mitchell:

- Mr. Mitchell inquired about the status of the Websterville waterline project. Town Manager Carl Rogers noted that a pre-construction meeting will take place next week.
- Mr. Mitchell asked Clerk Lunt about the status of the new online payment portal. Clerk Lunt shared that the transition is currently still pending. Finance Director Katelyn Kran and Clerk Lunt are working with AccuFund and CardX to determine if the system is the right decision for the Town. Town staff hopes to have an update soon.

Paul White:

- Chair White asked the Manager if there is any update on the Town Forest Committee meeting schedule. Mr. Rogers noted he does not have an update. The engagement letter to Ms. Earle has been returned.
- Chair White noted that the Town Manager Screening Committee will meet on Wednesday, September 28. A total of 26 applications have been received.
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**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 Bob Nelson, the Selectboard voted unanimously to go into executive session at 8:28 p.m. for labor contract 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 9:14 p.m.*

Selectboard Minutes of September 27, 2022 Continued:

**ADJOURN:**

*On a motion by Jack Mitchell, seconded by Justin Bolduc the Selectboard voted unanimously to adjourn at 9:15 p.m.*

APPROVED MINUTES

Barre Town Selectboard

\_\_\_\_\_  
Paul White, Chair

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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.