



Town of Barre VERMONT

BARRE TOWN SELECTBOARD MEETING February 28, 2023

AGENDA

1. Call to order.....8:00 p.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Consider approving agenda
4. Consider approving February 21, 2023 meeting minutes
5. Announcements
6. Receive guests for non-agenda items.
7. Discussion regarding Town Charter amendments: a) auditors; b) Board of Civil Authority reorganization meeting
8. Consider awarding DPW Yard stormwater facility construction contract
9. Consider approving weekly accounts payable warrants for February 28, 2023
10. Miscellaneous: a) Lawson’s Store tobacco license; b) Martin’s Foods of South Burlington, LLC (d/b/a Hannaford) second class liquor license
11. ‘Round the table
12. Executive session, if needed
13. Adjourn

MINUTES

The duly warned meeting of February 28, 2023 was held at the Barre Town Municipal Building, Selectboard Room, in Lower Websterville at 8:00 p.m.

Selectboard Members Present: Paul White, Norma Malone, Justin Bolduc, and W. John “Jack” Mitchell. Those attending virtually: Bob Nelson.

Selectboard Members Absent: None.

Staff Members Present: Town Manager Carl Rogers and Town Clerk Tina Lunt. Those present virtually: Assistant Town Manager Chris Violette.

Others Present: Times Argus Reporter Eric Blaisdell and Charlie Woodhams.

CALL TO ORDER: Chair White called the meeting to order at 8:00 p.m.

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

APPROVE THE AGENDA:

On a motion by Jack Mitchell, 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 Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted to approve the February 21, 2023 meeting minutes with minor spelling and grammatical corrections. Bob Nelson abstained.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Traditional Town Meeting Day is Tuesday, March 7. The school district conducts its business on Traditional Town Meeting Day. Voters will elect two Barre Unified Union School Directors and two Central Vermont Career Center School District board members. Voters will also be asked to approve two school budgets. You can vote in the Town Clerk's Office, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. The election will be conducted in the Town school gymnasium on March 7 from 7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. If you received an early voting ballot, it must be returned to the Town Clerk's Office by 4:30 p.m. on March 6.
- The Barre Town Fire Department will be hosting their annual drive-thru rabies clinic on Saturday, March 11 at the Public Works Garage, 79 Pitman Road from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. This dog and cat clinic welcomes residents from any town, the cost per vaccination remains at \$15.00. Please make sure that dogs are leashed, and cats are crated and that you have filled out an intake and consent form which can be found at barretown.org. The Barre Town Clerk's Office will be open from 10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. at the Municipal Building to license Barre Town dogs.
- The Town is seeking employees. Applications for an Assistant Town Clerk are being accepted until March 8. Applications for the Zoning Administrator/Municipal Planner also are being accepted until March 8. The vacancy announcements for both jobs are on the Town website, or for more information call the Manager's office at 802-479-9331. We plan to hire two summer helpers for the Public Works Department. Information about these positions can be found in the Town newsletter which should have arrived in your mail very recently.
- The Town Budget Committee meets every Thursday night at 6:00 p.m. The public is more than welcome to attend in-person or remotely. Information about budgets that have been presented is available on the Town website. On the home page hover on Publications and Budget, then click Budget information.

GUESTS: None

TOWN CHARTER AMENDMENTS:

Background: Last week the Board continued their conversation regarding two Charter amendments. One of the amendments is regarding the abolishment of the Office of Auditor and the second is regarding the annual reorganization of the Board of Civil Authority. Attorney Mike Monte provided language for the Board to review regarding Section 6 of the Charter. Board consensus was to have more time for review and further discussion.

Selectboard Minutes of February 28, 2023 Continued:

Auditor Charles Woodhams was present. Mr. Woodhams read a letter to the Board. The letter highlighted that over the years it has been hard to find others to run for the elected Auditor position. Mr. Woodham's letter detailed the duties the Auditors helped with when it came to the Town Report. These duties included the delinquent tax report, decisions regarding the cover and dedication, and proofreading.

Mr. Woodhams stated that over the years the definition of the Auditor has changed. In past years, the Auditors were overseers, making sure all departments were working correctly, and over time as the Town grew this task became too great for the Auditor. The Auditors now focus their work on the Town Report. Mr. Woodhams shared he supports eliminating the Town Auditor position and replacing it with a Town Report Committee. He feels this would eliminate any confusion of the definition of an Auditor and hopes more people would want to be involved with the work.

Conversation continued as Board members discussed the fact that the Town Report Committee does not need to be an elected position, however, the Charter language would need to be updated. Town Manager Carl Rogers suggested asking Town Attorney Mike Monte to prepare language for the Charter vote and to eliminate all language referencing the Auditor. Furthermore, the Board discussed amendments to additional sections (Section 45 and 39) of the Charter that would need to be looked at that reference the Officer of the Auditor.

Mr. Nelson expressed his thanks to Mr. Woodhams for his many years of service as Town Auditor.

Town Attorney Mike Monte prepared a second draft of Board of Civil Authority, Section 6(a) which adds a provision for electing a Chair Pro-Tempore, if the Chair and Vice Chair are absent from a meeting. The language regarding the Deputy Clerk allows the Town Clerk to name Deputies from the Town Clerk Staff (who are residents) or from the BCA.

Mrs. Malone shared she feels the Deputy Clerk language (option 1) is problematic. Board consensus is toward the option 2 language that was provided last week. This will be a better fit for the Charter change, however, this option will need a few amendments. The Board provided their feedback to the Manager who will ask the Town Attorney to draft up proposed language for the Charter change.

DPW YARD STORMWATER FACILITY CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT:

Background: This project will be funded by a grant the Friends of the Winooski River (FWR) received on behalf of the Town. The project originally been estimated for \$160,000, and the grand total is \$120,000. The Selectboard designated \$40,000 of the Town's CLFRF funds for the balance. Ten companies submitted a bid. The low bid is from Poulin Companies LLC of Burlington. Andres Torizzo from Watershed Consulting recommends the Town awards the contract to Poulin. This company has not completed work for the Town before but has done good work for other Vermont towns per references that were received.

The Manager stated this project is for a required stormwater practice at the DPW yard. The Town has been working with Watershed Consulting Associates on this project. The low bid received from Poulin Companies LLC was much lower than Watershed Consulting was anticipating for this work. Mr. Rogers shared that Town Engineer Josh Martineau noted the project is not overcomplicated, but he will be available to help oversee the drainage part of the project, as this will be the most difficult.

On a motion by Bob Nelson, seconded by Jack Mitchell, the Selectboard voted unanimously to award the DPW Yard stormwater facility project to Poulin Companies LLC based on their bid of \$101,468.06.

Selectboard Minutes of February 28, 2023 Continued:

Mr. Mitchell noted out of the 10 bids received Poulin Companies LLC is very low. He expressed concerns with their quote. Mr. Rogers shared the Town initially did share these same concerns. Watershed Consulting did follow up on the quote. The Town received positive references on this contractor from other towns.

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 February 28, 2023.

MISCELLANEOUS:

On a motion by Jack Mitchell, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the 2023 Tobacco License for Beverlee Lawson d/b/a Lawson's Store, pending receipt of Town payment.

On a motion by Jack Mitchell, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the 2023 Second Class Liquor License and Tobacco License for DG Retail LLC d/b/a Dollar General Store #14217, pending receipt of Town payment.

On a motion by Jack Mitchell, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the 2023 Third Class Club Liquor License for Veterans of Foreign Wars MacKenzie Webster Post.

On a motion by Jack Mitchell, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the 2023 Second Class License Martin's of South Burlington d/b/a Hannafords, pending receipt of Town payment.

ROUND TABLE:

Jack Mitchell:

- Mr. Mitchell inquired about the newsletter. He stated residents really like receiving this piece of mail in their mailbox.
- Mr. Mitchell shared his appreciation regarding the information Finance Director Katelyn Kran shared regarding the photocopier fixed monthly maintenance fee.
- Mr. Mitchell inquired about the sewer service line on Church Hill Road. Mr. Rogers noted this information was shared with him last week.

Justin Bolduc:

- Mr. Bolduc shared he had the pleasure of meeting the Town's new mechanic who was plowing, noting he was very pleasurable to speak with.

ADJOURN:

On a motion by Jack Mitchell, seconded Bob Nelson, the Selectboard voted unanimously to adjourn at 9:03 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 _____, 2023.

ATTEST: _____, Barre Town Clerk.