



Town of Barre VERMONT

BARRE TOWN SELECTBOARD MEETING

June 20, 2023

AGENDA

1. Call to order.....6:00 p.m.
2. Pledge of allegiance
3. Consider approving the agenda
4. Consider approving June 13, 2023 meeting minutes
5. Receive guests for non-agenda items.
6. Consider authorizing fuel pricing contracts
7. Consider authorizing the purchase of a 2021 Ford Explorer for the Town Manager
8. Consider awarding the purchase of 2023 Ford F-150
9. Consider approving weekly accounts payable warrants for June 20, 2023
10. Miscellaneous: including permits and licenses, if any
11. Selectboard working session
12. Round the Table
13. Executive session
14. Adjourn

MINUTES

The duly warned meeting of June 20, 2023 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, Bob Nelson, Justin Bolduc, and Mike Gilbar.

Selectboard Members Absent: None.

Staff Members Present: Town Manager Chris Violette, Town Clerk Tina Lunt, and Finance Director Katelyn Kran.

Others Present: None.

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 Norma Malone, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the amended agenda as follows:

1. The Selectboard reserved the right to enter executive session for personnel, contract, and real estate, during their working session discussion, if necessary.
2. Remove item #12: Round Table

APPROVE THE MINUTES:

On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Bob Nelson, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the May 30, 2023 Selectboard meeting minutes with minor spelling and grammatical corrections.

GUESTS: None.

FUEL PRICING CONTRACTS:

Background: The Town has been using Competitive Energy Services (CES) for at least a decade to help manage and track fuel commodities. CES analyzes the market and advises the Town when it is the best time to lock in fuel pricing. The Town uses liquid propane and #2 oil to heat their buildings, and gasoline and diesel fuel for vehicles. CES has advised the Town now is the time to lock in prices.

Mr. Violette shared with the Board that the Montreal Rack price for diesel fuel on June 14, 2023 was \$2.43 for gasoline and \$2.44 for diesel per gallon.

On a motion by Mike Gilbar, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted unanimously to authorize the Town Manager to sign fuel pricing contracts with Irving Energy for liquid propane not to exceed \$1.60 per gallon and with Champlain Valley Fuels for #2 oil not to exceed \$2.92 per gallon. In addition, to authorize the Town Manager to sign contracts with Champlain Valley Fuels to purchase gasoline and on road diesel fuel for Montreal Rack price plus 20 cents.

PURCHASE OF TOWN MANAGER'S CAR:

Background: The Town Manager has been searching for a vehicle over the course of the last several weeks. The Manager has settled on a 2021 Ford Explorer with just under 30,000 miles from Poulin Auto. His research found it hard to find competitive alternatives to a vehicle that didn't have considerably more miles, were older, and even with both miles and age being a factor, the price range was not considerably lower. Buying anything older and with high mileage will mean the Manager's car will have to be replaced sooner rather than later, not setting up the next replacement well. The 2021 Explorer should remain viable for at least 5 years.

On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Mike Gilbar, the Selectboard voted unanimously to authorize the Town Manager to sign a sales contract with Poulin Auto Sales, Inc. of Barre Town for the purchase of a 2021 Ford Explorer in the amount of \$33,150.00.

The Manager shared that Public Works has looked over the vehicle and states it appears to be in good shape.

PURCHASE OF 2023 PUBLIC WORKS PICKUP TRUCK:

Background: The FY 2024 Equipment Fund is calling for the replacement of the Highway Superintendent's pickup truck. Expecting long and unknown lead times, the Town put the truck out to bid a little earlier than they normally would have. Bid specs were sent to 20 automobile dealers. While 20 dealers received RFP's only one bid from Ford of Claremont was received. The vehicle specifications sent with the RFP asked for quotes on a V-8 with an option for a V-6 as well as pricing on an extended cab vs regular.

As expected Ford of Claremont in its bid, notes that of the four options, three would have to be ordered. The delivery timeline was unknown. Ford of Claremont does have a 2023 Ford F-150 extended cab on their lot that is gray that the Town could purchase for the price of \$45,782. The budgeted price for the truck is \$35,000. Shop Foreman Mike Martel is recommending the Town purchase the in-stock truck. Mr. Violette stated from his standpoint the only hurry in awarding the contract now is due to the availability of this truck. The downside of waiting and putting it back out to bid is that it may yield the same limited responses and not see a truck for months, or another year.

On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted unanimously to authorize the purchase of the 2023 Ford F-150 from Ford of Claremont based on their bid price of \$45,782.00.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE:

On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Bob Nelson, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the accounts payable warrants for the week of June 20, 2023.

MISCELLANEOUS:

Last week the Board approved the purchase of 32 Sentry LED Sports Flood lights from Needham Electric Supply for \$78,861.76. Mr. Bolduc informed the Board that the whips were too short and there would need to be an up charge of \$1,051.52 for the cost of the longer whips. He asked if the Board needs to revisit the authorization of the purchase order with a change order. Mrs. Malone recommended having Needham issue a separate invoice for the additional charge.

Mr. Bolduc commented on the streetlight in East Barre. He thanked the individual who fixed it by cutting trees as it is no longer shining towards houses anymore.

Town Manager Chris Violette shared that there is a strong possibility that Rockfire will be postponed due to the weather.

Chair White announced that the Selectboard received a letter of resignation from Jim West. Mr. West serves on the Good Sam Working Group. He is unhappy with direction this property is taking and has chosen to resign from his seat on the Committee. The Town will need to fill this position.

On a motion by Bob Nelson, seconded by Norma Malone, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve and authorize the Town Clerk to approve a firework display permit for Andrew Woodhams, 14 Breer Road on July 1, 2023 with a start time of 9:10 p.m.

SELECTBOARD WORKING SESSION:

Discussion began as the Board reviewed Chair White's existing Barre Town's Project/Action List. The Board made necessary amendments to the documents which included updating, removing, and adding items. Additionally, targeted dates for completion of the projects were updated.

Finance Director Katelyn Kran compiled a list of all ARPA expenditures to date. Additionally, Mr. Violette created a list of all ARPA ideas. This information was used to create a document that was shared with Board members. This document lists the allocated funds, funds spent, and allocation balance for the Town's ARPA

Selectboard Minutes of June 20, 2023 Continued:

funds. Conversation continued as Board members finalized their decisions behind the commitments of the ARPA funds.

The next item for discussion was a list of Retreat Discussion Topics. This is a list of topics that each Selectboard member brought to the table for open discussion. Board members reviewed the list to decide what items should be added to the existing Barre Town’s Project/Action List.

Board consensus is to have a second working group session on Tuesday, July 25 for further discussion on these topics.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

On a motion by Justin Bolduc, seconded by Bob Nelson, 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 Justin Bolduc, seconded by Mike Gilbar, the Selectboard voted unanimously to go into executive session at 9:47 p.m. for personnel, contracts, and real estate.

On a motion by Bob Nelson, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted unanimously to exit executive session at 10:11 p.m.

ADJOURN:

On a motion by Justin Bolduc, seconded by Mike Gilbar, the Selectboard voted unanimously to adjourn at 10:12 p.m.

APPROVED MINUTES

Barre Town Selectboard

Paul White, Chair

Justin Bolduc, Vice Chair

Norma Malone

Mike Gilbar

Bob Nelson

Filed in the Barre Town Clerk’s Office on this _____ day of _____, 2023.

ATTEST: _____, Barre Town Clerk.