

BARRE TOWN SELECTBOARD MEETING AGENDA
January 26, 2010

PILOT: Budget Committee: work session

6:30 p.m.

1. Call to order 8:00 p.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Consider approving minutes from meeting of January 19 meeting
4. Announcements
5. Receive guests (for non-agenda items).
6. Board of Sewer commissioners: Consider Leighanne Menard's request for refund of two sewer connections.
7. Consider authorization to purchase police vehicle through State contract.
8. Consider final action (third reading) of an ordinance amending speed limits on Waterman Street and Donahue Road.
9. Discuss Wilson Depot, solid waste services.
10. Discuss proposed Charter amendments.
11. Consider selecting finance company(s) to provide lease financing.
12. Consider granting authorization to sell an ambulance.
13. Report on Thunder Chickens snowmobile jump demonstration.
14. Consider approving weekly accounts payable warrants.
15. Miscellaneous: alcohol & tobacco licenses
16. 'Round the Table
17. Executive Session: (if needed)
18. Adjourn

BARRE TOWN SELECTBOARD MINUTES
January 26, 2010

The duly warned meeting of the Barre Town Selectboard of January 26, 2010 was held at the Barre Town Municipal Building, Selectboard Room, Lower Websterville at 8:03 p.m.

The following members were in attendance: Jeff Blow, Jeff Newton, Marion Fish, Jeffrey Gagne, and William Wolfe.

REGULAR MEETING

Attendance for the regular meeting included: Town Manager Carl Rogers, Town Clerk-Treasurer Donna Kelty, Town Management Intern Kelly Houston, Police Chief Michael Stevens, Rolland Tessier, William Kirkland, Val Vallerand and John Sevigny.

CALL TO ORDER - The meeting was called to order at 8:03 p.m.

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

MINUTES

On a motion by Fish, seconded by Gagne, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the Selectboard Meeting Minutes of January 19, 2010.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. The Board of Recreation is looking for a new member to step in and fill an unexpired term (2008-2011). If you or someone you know is interested please contact the Town Manager's Office (479-9331 or crogers@barretown.org) for more details.
2. Reminder: Now that the winter heating season is upon us, be sure to check all heating devices (i.e. portable heaters, wood stoves, furnaces) for malfunction part(s) and appropriate use. Performing a quick check could save you from accidental damage.
3. Reminder: Property taxes and sewer use charge are due Tuesday, February 16, 2010. The Town Clerk's Office will be open 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., on Monday February 15, and Tuesday, February 16 to accommodate taxpayers.
4. Notice: Dog license renewals will be mailed out by the end of January; owners will also be notified of rabies vaccination expiration.
5. The Manager reminded the viewing audience the Budget Committee has begun their work. They will be meeting every Tuesday evening (January 26 through March 30) to prepare the 2010-2011 budget to present to the voters in May 2010. Meetings will be held in the lower conference room here at the Municipal Building, 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. and the public is welcome.
6. The Annual Citizen Budget Tour will be held on Saturday, February 20, 2009. We will have coffee and a light snack from 8:00 a.m. - 8:30 a.m. Then the tour begins at 8:30 a.m. and citizens will be transported to the various town owned properties and given an update on the budget preparation process. For more information contact the Management Intern at 479-9331 or by email (khouston@barretown.org).

GUESTS - None

BOARD OF SEWER COMMISSIONERS

Background: About a month ago Leighanne Menard approached the Sewer Commission requesting a refund for a sewer permit on a property she had planned to build

Selectboard Minutes of January 26, 2010 continued:

a duplex on. She cited personal hardship as the reason for requesting the refund. After reviewing the case, the Selectboard decided to consider a waiver from the Sewer Allocation Policy. Per the policy the Planning Commission was asked for a recommendation. The Town Attorney was asked to give input.

The Selectboard meeting recessed and the Board of Sewer Commissioners opened their hearing at 8:07 p.m.

The Planning Commission reviewed Ms. Menard's request. The Commission considers the permit to be a placeholder, giving an individual/developer the right to access the Town's sewer utility. After considering reimbursement options the Planning Commission determined that Ms. Menard should receive a full refund, reasoning that reimbursement of the permitting fee would then free up the permit as well as the sewer resource for another interested party.

While it is within the Sewer Commission's power to waive the Sewer Allocation Policy "if the interests of the Town are served by the waiver," the Town Attorney cautioned about the precedent it might set. In his legal opinion to the Sewer Commissioners, it was noted that should a waiver be granted the written decision should be very clear.

Blow stated he understood the request was made due to medical reasons. There was discussion of postponing a decision until the Sewer Allocation Policy could be amended to address the refund issue. The Board's concern was for setting precedent before the Policy could be amended.

On a motion by Fish, seconded by Newton, the Selectboard voted to deny the request of Leighanne Menard for a sewer permit refund. Wolfe and Blow voted no.

During the discussion Blow stated he was opposed to denying the motion as Ms. Menard came before the Board a few weeks ago and was given the indication of support for a refund. He further stated it is not Ms. Menard's fault our policy is what it currently is.

The Board of Sewer Commissioner adjourned and the Selectboard reconvened at 8:20 p.m.

POLICE VEHICLE PURCHASE

Background: During last week's Selectboard meeting the Police Chief had asked that instead of purchasing the budgeted vehicle (Crown Victoria) a SUV (Ford Explorer) be purchased. Price information was presented. The recommendation is based on the fact the new Explorer gets a lot of use during poor road conditions (mud, snow, ice, etc.). The Selectboard asked this item be put back on the agenda this week, the four wheel drive specifications are confirmed, and the State Contract price for a Chevy Tahoe added for consideration. The 2010 State Contract for the Explorer includes four wheel drive for \$21,079. The 2010 Tahoe under the State Contract comes in at \$27,052.

A motion was made by Gagne, seconded by Newton, to authorize the purchase of a 2010 Ford Explorer for the Police Department under the FY 2009-2010 budget. The motion was withdrawn after discussion regarding the power train warranty. The Police Chief will make inquiries regarding obtaining the additional power train warranty and report back to the Selectboard at the next meeting.

THIRD READING OF SPEED LIMIT ORDINANCE AMENDMENT

Background: This is the third and final reading for an ordinance amendment reducing established speed limits.

On a motion by Wolfe, seconded by Newton, the Selectboard voted unanimously to read by title only "An Ordinance Of The Town Of Barre, Vermont, Amending Section 7-61 Of The Barre Town Code Of Ordinances By Reducing Established Speed Limits."

On a motion by Wolfe, seconded by Gagne, the Selectboard voted to adopt "An Ordinance Of The Town Of Barre, Vermont, Amending Section 7-61 Of The Barre Town Code Of Ordinances By Reducing Established Speed Limits." Blow voted no.

During the motion discussion Blow stated he was against the adoption as he believed changing the speed limit by 5 m.p.h. will have little to no impact. Given the downhill slope to a section of the road it would be setting drivers up for possible tickets.

Wolfe stated for the same reasons, downhill section of slope, the driver's need to control their vehicle, and the various bus stops the speed should be decreased. Gagne agreed with the comment.

Newton reiterated Fish's comment from last week that this Board should support the Traffic Safety Advisory Committee recommendation.

DISCUSS WILSON DEPOT

Background: Last week the Selectboard received a report on the fiscal health of the Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District (CVSWMD) and the elimination of the District's trash & recycling depots. The Town of Barre needs to come up with an alternative disposal provider. Some private companies have expressed interest in operating the Wilson Depot.

Blow stated he received the following information regarding the CVSWMD Executive Director's current annual compensation package: Salaries (\$73,362) plus benefits for retirement (3,301), Health insurance (21,251), Dental insurance (1,103), Disability and Life insurance (1,887), and vision insurance (600) for a total of \$101,504. Given the current financial woes of the CVSWMD he felt this was appalling.

Rogers presented the Selectboard with a draft outline for an RFP. The Board stated the Saturday hours of operation are non-negotiable. However, the weekday hours may vary from the usual Tuesday. The Board's preference is to continue service at the Wilson Depot without interruption. Several timeline options (receiving, reviewing, and awarding a contract) were discussed.

John Sevigny owns and operates a trash and recycling service in Montpelier and Barre. His offer to the Selectboard is to collection trash and recycling at the Wilson Depot on February 9th, 13th, and 16th, to afford the Board additional time to receive bids and allow the recipient to have time to take over operations beginning February 20, 2010. Mr. Sevigny will charge \$4.00 per 30 gallon bag (additional charge for overweight bags) and no charge for recycling.

Selectboard Minutes of January 26, 2010 continued:

On a motion by Wolfe, seconded by Newton, the Selectboard voted unanimously to utilize the service of John Sevigny for trash and recycling services at the Wilson Depot for the dates of February 9, 13, and 16, 2010 and whose hours of operation will be the same as the CVSWMD, and fees as discussed above.

The Manager will email/mail the RFP out tomorrow, with replies due February 5th and the award will be at the February 9, 2010 meeting. This timeline will allow the vendor ample time to set up before the February 20th start date as well as distribute information to the general public.

DISCUSS CHARTER AMENDMENTS

Background: In January the Town Manager set a schedule for proposed Barre Town Charter amendments. The proposed changes include:

- 1) changing the date of the Open Annual Meeting from the Monday before the election to the Wednesday before the election;
- 2) the required number of petition signatures for elected office would be reduced to 30;
- 3) add a sentence to Section 10 to clarify that "No person shall hold offices which are defined as incompatible in Vermont Statutes."
- 4) the Town Report will not be published later than 185 days after the close of the fiscal year; and
- 5) a. Under Budget Preparation, the Manager shall "propose a budget" and b. the Budget Committee (5 Board plus 5 citizens) shall finalize and submit it's budget to the voters.
- 6) A blanket change to all the amended articles replacing the word "selectmen" with the word "selectboard."

During discussion the consensus of the Selectboard is change the Open Meeting time in Section 2 from 7:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. All proposed amendments were acceptable.

The process for approving the Charter amendments will be as follows:

- ✓ March 9: Selectboard will approve language for public hearing notice and drafting of Town Meeting warning.
- ✓ March 23: First public hearing notice published and posted
- ✓ March 26: Proposed changes filed in Town Clerk's Office
- ✓ March 30: Second hearing notice published; Selectboard approves Town Meeting warning with article about Charter amendments.
- ✓ April 6: First public hearing: first notice of second hearing in newspaper and posted.
- ✓ April 13: Second notice of second hearing
- ✓ April 20: Second public hearing
- ✓ May 11: Annual Election: Vote on Charter amendments.

LEASE-FINANCING

Background: During the last meeting the RFPs to finance the recently purchased F-550 and Fire Tanker was distributed. The final date for submission was Monday, January 25, 2010. Of the proposals received interest rates range from 3.54% to 4.48%.

Four RFP's were received (Municipal Lease Consultants, Key Government Financing, California First National Bank, and Balboa Capital). The Manager informed the Board

Selectboard Minutes of January 26, 2010 continued:

California First National Bank is the recommended financing agency. The interest rate is 4.12% and there is a shorter term length, due to payment due dates, which will result in paying less interest.

On a motion by Newton, seconded by Wolfe, the Selectboard voted unanimously to award the lease financing of the F-550 and Fire Tanker to California First National First per their bid of 4.12% interest.

AUTHORIZATION TO SELL AN AMBULANCE

Background: The EMS Director received an offer of \$23,500 on the ambulance the Town is selling. The asking price was \$25,000. The offer has been received in writing.

On a motion by Wolfe, seconded by Newton, the Selectboard voted unanimously to authorize the sale of a Barre Town ambulance to Hanco EMS based on their offer of \$23,500.

The Board was informed the Hanco EMS is located in Findlay, Ohio. They will be coming to inspect the ambulance and if it is acceptable, payment will be given to the Town at that time.

REPORT ON SNOWMOBILE JUMP DEMONSTRATION

Background: The Town Manager has been checking possible insurance sources for the Thunder Chickens snowmobile jump event.

The Board was informed the Manager received an email received today stating due to weather conditions a request may be forthcoming to change the date from February 6 to around February 20. Securing insurance coverage for the jump is continuing and it looks like a company may have been found. A report will be given at the next meeting.

WEEKLY ACCOUNTS PAYABLE WARRANT

A motion was made by Fish, seconded by Wolfe to approve the accounts payable warrant but was rescinded.

On a motion by Wolfe, seconded by Fish, the Selectboard voted to approve the accounts payable warrant excluding the invoice to Barre City for the Mercer Study reimbursement. Blow abstained.

On a motion by Blow, seconded by Fish, the Selectboard voted to pay the accounts payable invoice to Barre City in the amount of \$3,623 for the Mercer Study reimbursement. Gagne voted no.

On a motion by Blow, seconded by Wolfe, the Selectboard voted to pay the accounts payable invoice to Barre City in the amount of \$1705.14 for the final Mercer Report and the dinner at Lucia's Restaurant. The motion passed with Gagne and Fish voting no.

MISCELLANEOUS

There was no miscellaneous.

'ROUND THE TABLE

Fish noted the new vault lighting in the Town Clerk's Office has been installed, as well as obtaining the new PCs.

On January 7, questions regarding Barre City Dispatch were forwarded to the City. Blow asked if a reply had been received. Rogers stated it had not but will check on the status.

During the Budget Committee meeting this evening proposed wage increases, by union contract, were discussed. Blow noted this past Fall the various unions were asked to make concessions on health care, one union said yes and the other three said no.

On a motion by Blow, seconded by Wolfe, the Selectboard voted unanimously to ask the union representatives to meet with the Selectboard to discuss wage increases.

Blow asked for an audit update. Rogers stated the final audit has just been received and the Town Report will go to the printer soon.

Gagne stated he would like to see the Aldrich Library Public budget for the past 5 to 6 years and the number of users by community. Fish requested the per capita cost for the East Barre users only. Newton would like to see the Profit and Loss statements for the last couple of years. Blow informed the Board he had been asked to attend a meeting this Friday at the Library which he assumes will be for budget items.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion by Wolfe, seconded by Gagne, the Selectboard voted unanimously to go into executive session at 9:50 p.m. to discuss legal and personnel.

On a motion by Newton, seconded by Gagne, the Selectboard voted unanimously to come out of executive session at 10:35 p.m.

BOARD ACTION

On a motion by Gagne, seconded by Fish, the Selectboard voted unanimously to execute the agreement with Avery Appraisal Solutions.

ADJOURN

On a motion by Gagne, seconded by Wolfe, the Selectboard voted unanimously to adjourn at 10:35 p.m.

Donna J. Kelty, Town Clerk-Treasurer

Selectboard Chair
