

BARRE TOWN SELECTBOARD MEETING AGENDA
March 9, 2010

PILOT: Budget Review: (General Fund)

6:30 p.m.

1. Call to order. 8:00 p.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Consider approving minutes from meeting of March 2 meeting.
4. Announcements.
5. Receive guests (for non-agenda items).
6. Consider appointing delegate and alternate delegate to CVSWMD Board.
7. Report from Barre Area Development.
8. Consider approving terms of loan agreement with SB Electronics.
9. Consider awarding contract for purchase of public safety pagers.
10. Consider third and final reading of an ordinance re-zoning lot 210 Websterville Road from very high residential to industrial.
11. Consider third and final reading of an ordinance amending the flood hazard regulations in the zoning by-law.
12. Consider approving language of Town Charter amendment proposal.
13. Consider approving letter of intent to apply for Safe Routes to School Grant.
14. Consider authorization to sell old school bus.
15. Consider approving letter asking legislators to exclude reimbursable employers from proposed unemployment compensation tax
16. Consider approving weekly accounts payable warrants.
17. Miscellaneous
18. 'Round the Table.
19. Executive Session: (if needed)
20. Adjourn

BARRE TOWN SELECTBOARD MINUTES
March 9, 2010

The duly warned meeting of the Barre Town Selectboard of March 9, 2010 was held at the Barre Town Municipal Building, Selectboard Room, Lower Websterville at 8:08 p.m.

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

REGULAR MEETING

Attendance for the regular meeting included: Town Manager Carl Rogers, Town Clerk-Treasurer Donna Kelty, Town Management Intern Kelly Murphy, Fire Chief/Zoning Administrator Christopher Violette, BAD Director Darren Winham, Sam Matthews, Fred Thumm, Jeanne Daniele, Paul Malone and S.B. Electronics representative Brad Gordon.

CALL TO ORDER - The meeting was called to order at 8:08 p.m.

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

MINUTES

On a motion by Gagne, seconded by Fish, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the Selectboard Meeting Minutes of March 2, 2010 with the following corrections:

- 1. Page 5, 5th paragraph, second sentence, delete the word "fails" and insert the word failed;*
- 2. Page 5, Hazardous Waste Collection, 1st paragraph, first sentence, delete the word "out" and insert the word our;*
- 3. Page 5, Hazardous Waste Collection, 1st paragraph, 3rd sentence, delete the word "I" and insert the words we have.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. The Fire Department and its Auxiliary are sponsoring a rabies clinic on Saturday, March 20, 2010 from 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. at the South Barre Fire Station. Dogs and cats will be vaccinated. Out-of-town pets are welcome. The Town Clerk will be there to license Barre Town dogs.
2. The Wilson Depot is open for trash and recycling collection either inside or outside the fenced area. The service hours are Tuesday and Saturdays, 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
3. Mud season will be here soon. If you live on a gravel road, you can help minimize muddy road conditions by: (1) limiting the number of trips over your road; (2) calling for fuel delivery now, not during mud season; and (3) planning ahead if you need delivery of building materials.
4. Reminder: HS-122 Homestead Declarations are due by April 15th. Filing this form identifies you as a resident homeowner, a designation for tax purposes. Be sure to file on time to avoid penalty.
5. Notice: the Board of Recreation is still looking for a member to fill a vacancy on the Board.

GUESTS

Fred Thumm was watching the Selectboard meeting from last week and was unable to determine what the outcome was regarding sending out a town truck. It was noted the truck was sent to JB International.

CVSWMD BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Background: Each year the Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District (CVSWMD) Board asks member communities to appoint a representative and alternate to the Board of Supervisors. Appointments are to be made by March 24, 2010. Barre Town's representative is Fred Thumm and the alternate is Jack Mitchell. Attendance records were provided by CVSWMD. Mr. Thumm and Mr. Mitchell are both willing to serve again.

On a motion by Fish, seconded by Gagne, the Selectboard voted unanimously to appoint Fred Thumm as the representative to the CVSWMD Board of Supervisors.

On a motion by Gagne, seconded by Wolfe, the Selectboard voted unanimously to appoint W. John "Jack" Mitchell as the alternate representative to the CVSWMD Board of Supervisors.

During discussion Blow noted the legal opinion for getting out of the CVSWMD...."Financial Obligations for debt incurred while part of the CVSWMD." He noted the CVSWMD has created assets over the years and there has been no mention of a "credit" for the asset when getting out of the District. Thumm stated it is currently being discussed.

Blow asked if the CVSWMD Board will be contracting with Donna Barlow-Casey for work. He encourages the Board to rethink this position and consider contracting with CVRPC to do the job. Thumm stated there was some discussion and there is concern with the "catch up" time. He noted the contract dollars paid for the work with Barlow-Casey would be capped and it is scheduled to be discussed at tomorrow night's meeting.

The CVSWMD Board of Supervisors will also be electing a new Chair and Mr. Thumm is a candidate for the position.

BARRE AREA DEVELOPMENT REPORT

Background: Darren Winham will be present to give a progress report.

Some of the items BAD have been working on the past month include:

- VT. Smoke & Cure (new home)
- Highland Sugarworks (installation of new equipment and hiring)
- Demolition of the old Brooks Building in Barre City
- New owner of the former First VT Bank is considering options
- The new BAD web page is being built
- SB Electronics work is almost complete
- Working on some CDBG grants
- New England Excess Exchange - a confidential project
- Northern Power - assisting with some green technology - tax stabilization
- SBDEC is working with 7 companies from Barre and Berlin
- Looking for business to occupy the various vacant buildings in the Town and City
- NE Material and Rail project is proceeding
- Finished a grant proposal with Barre Partnership for funding to assist City businesses during the reconstruction of Main Street.
- Assist Golden Apple Daycare in renting a property in Barre Town.

SB ELECTRONICS LOAN AGREEMENT TERMS

Background: To keep things moving toward completing the VCDP grant the Selectboard must take action on the loan agreement terms. The terms with SB Electronics (SBE) are a 10 year note with 3% simple interest provided SBE creates 130 new jobs within 5 years. However, should SBE not create the new jobs within a 5 year period (from the signing of the loan) the interest rate will rise 1% annually until the loan is repaid or SBE meets the 130 new jobs at which time the interest rate will revert to the 3% interest rate.

Once the loan agreement terms are approved by the Selectboard they will be submitted to the State. This submission is the last grant award condition to be satisfied and the State can offer the Town a grant agreement.

Brad Gordon was present and reiterated the terms are acceptable. SB Electronics will not begin paying the loan for the first year and then pay quarterly thereafter. He noted the job projection was to create approximately 26 new jobs per year. Currently 30 jobs have been created putting them ahead of schedule.

On a motion by Gagne, seconded by Newton, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the loan agreement terms with S.B. Electronics as follows: 1) loan term is 10 years; 2) interest rate of 3% simple interest provided S. B. Electronics creates 130 new jobs within 5 years; 3) should S.B. Electronics not meet the new job deadline (5 years from the signing of the loan) the interest rate on the loan will rise 1% annually until the loan is repaid OR S.B. Electronics meets the 130 new jobs at which time the interest rate will revert to the 3% interest rate.

PURCHASE OF PUBLIC SAFETY PAGERS

Background: A bid opening was held last Thursday for the purchase of 52 pages which are part of the VCOMM Pager Grant. The grant requires a 20% match from Barre Town. The pagers are to be divided between Fire and EMS. Three bids were received: 1) Radio North (\$23,024.04), 2) Rinkers (\$24,336), and 3) Burlington Communications (\$24,700). All bids met RFP specifications. The Fire Chief and EMS Director recommend the Selectboard award the bid to Radio North for this purchase. The Town's share in this purchase is \$4,604.81.

On a motion by Wolfe, seconded by Newton, the Selectboard voted unanimously to award the contract for public safety pagers to Radio North in the amount of \$23,024.04 as specified in their bid proposal.

THIRD READING - REZONE 210 WEBSTERVILLE ROAD

Background: The Planning Commission was asked to consider amending Article 2, Sec. 2.3 "Zoning Map, changing 210 Websterville Road from Very High Residential to Industrial." According to the report, the proposed change is in conformance with the Town Plan...allows for existing use to be conforming...and will have no effect on the character of this area of town. The request was approved by the Planning Commission and has been through two readings. This is the third and final reading.

Selectboard Minutes of March 9, 2010 continued:

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 Appendix A (The Zoning Bylaw) And the Zoning Map."

On a motion by Wolfe, seconded by Gagne, the Selectboard voted unanimously to adopt "An Ordinance Of The Town Of Barre, Vermont, Amending Appendix A (The Zoning Bylaw) And the Zoning Map."

THIRD READING - AMEND THE FLOOD HAZARD REGS IN ZONING BY-LAW

Background: A few months ago the Zoning Administrator presented the newest Flood Plain maps issued by FEMA. As a result revisions were made to Washington County's Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMS). The changes have impacted Barre Town's flood hazard regulation. The Planning Commission reviewed and made changes needed in our flood hazard regulations within the zoning bylaw. The changes have been through two hearings. This is the final hearing for the amendment.

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 Various Sections of Appendix A (Zoning) Of The Town Code to Enact Necessary Flood Hazard Regulations."

On a motion by Wolfe, seconded by Newton, the Selectboard voted unanimously to adopt "An Ordinance Of The Town Of Barre, Vermont, Amending Various Sections of Appendix A (Zoning) Of The Town Code to Enact Necessary Flood Hazard Regulations."

The Zoning Administrator informed the Board the amendments will become effective March 30, 2010.

TOWN CHARTER AMENDMENT PROPOSAL

Background: In January the Manager put forth a schedule for proposing several Town Charter amendments. The amendments are based on the Selectboard request with the Town Attorney's input on how to re-write those sections. The changes are hand written on the document the Board is reviewing and will be corrected in the first public hearing. Proposed amendments are:

- Section 2 Meetings and Elections: Change the date of the open meeting to the Wednesday evening preceding the annual town meeting
- Section 7 Nomination of Candidates: Change the required number of petition signatures to 30 or 1% whichever is less.
- Section 10 Elected officers: General (c), Add a sentence stating no person shall hold offices which are defined as incompatible in Vermont Statutes.
- Section 12 Auditors: Change the timeline for the availability of the Town Report (due to accounting rule changes)
- Section 28 Budget Preparation (a) note the Town Manager is to propose a budget; and (b) the Budget Committee shall finalize and submit the budget to the voters.

On a motion by Gagne, seconded by Newton, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the enclosed Charter amendment proposal and authorize advertising the necessary public hearings.

SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL GRANT

Background: Barre Town School has been reenrolled in the Safe Routes to School (SR2S) program for some time. Last year Lameureaux and Dickinson completed a preliminary study showing numerous improvements including new sidewalks all the way to Sterling Hill Estates. Applications for infrastructure grants are due in mid-May. Letters of intent to apply are due March 15, 2010.

This grant pays 100% of the project cost. After speaking with Steve Gladczuk from the CVRPC the Manager is suggesting the Town write in the letter we intend to apply for: a) money for radar feedback speed signs for the school zone; and b) sidewalks on school grounds to connect existing sidewalks and bike path to the school entrance. The letter of intent is not binding. If the school decides it does not want the sidewalk it can be eliminated from the application.

A motion was made by Wolfe, seconded by Newton, to authorize a letter of intent to apply for radar feedback speed signs and school grounds sidewalks.

During the discussion the sidewalk layout was discussed. Blow noted it seems unnecessary to fund building a round-a-bout sidewalk path to the front entrance of the school when there is a more direct path from Websterville Road. Parking in front of the school could be eliminated. The round-a-bout sidewalk has the children crossing the bus/vehicle front entrance three times creating greater risks. Fish concurred.

Wolfe inquired as to why Websterville Road is not a designated school zone. TSAC has reviewed the request

Gagne called the question! *The Board voted 3 yes, 2 no (Blow, Fish) to call the motion.*

The original motion was approved with 3 yes and 2 no (Blow, Fish).

SALE OF OLD SCHOOL BUS

Background: Taking advice from the DPW Superintendent the old sewer bus was advertised for sale at \$400.00. R&M Auto Sales, Roxbury, Vermont, would like to purchase the bus at the asking price.

On a motion by Gagne, seconded by Newton, the Selectboard voted unanimously to authorize the sale of a 1988 GMC school bus (sewer).

LETTER TO LEGISLATORS - UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION TAX

Background: The State Unemployment Fund needs money. A .2% tax on employee's pay is proposed to shore up the fund; apparently all employees would pay the unemployment compensation (UC) tax. As stated in the VLCT Legislative Report #9, dated February 26, 2010, cities and towns are among a group of employers known as reimbursable employers. Barre Town is a member of the VLCT Unemployment Compensation Trust. The VLCT UC Trust collects money and pays its own claims. The Town pays into the UC Trust, and if S.290 is passed employees would pay into the State fund, which they would not use if laid off.

Selectboard Minutes of March 9, 2010 continued:

On a motion by Fish, seconded by Gagne, the Selectboard voted unanimously to authorize a letter to our State Legislators and Senators asking that reimbursable employers and their employees be excluded from the .2% payroll tax.

WARRANTS

On a motion by Fish, seconded by Newton, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the accounts payable warrant as presented. The Manager was asked to check to see if there is a duplicate payment for a Bus Horn.

MISCELLANEOUS - None

'ROUND THE TABLE

Fish noted that in the recent edition of the VLCT Newsletter there is an ad for sale of an ambulance.

Blow also noted that our very own Mike Martel is on the front cover of the latest VT Local Roads Newsletter.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion by Wolfe, seconded by Gagne, the Selectboard voted unanimously to go into executive session at 8:54 p.m. to discuss personnel and real estate.

On a motion by Gagne, seconded by Fish, the Selectboard voted unanimously to come out of executive session at 9:52 p.m.

CONTRACT

On a motion by Wolfe, seconded by Gagne, the Selectboard voted unanimously to authorize the Town Manager to enter into an agreement with Golden Apple Learning Center to rent Town property located at 22 Wilson Street effective April 1, 2010.

ADJOURN

On a motion by Wolfe, seconded by Newton, the Selectboard voted unanimously to adjourn at 9:53 p.m.

Donna Kelty, Town Clerk-Treasurer

Selectboard Chair

Barre Town Selectboard