

# BARRE TOWN SELECTBOARD MEETING AGENDA

August 25, 2009

1. PILOT: Executive session - personnel 6:00 p.m.
2. Call to order 7:00 p.m.
3. Pledge of Allegiance
4. Consider approving minutes from meeting of August 11
5. Announcements
6. Receive guests (for non-agenda items).
7. Consider approving Errors & Omissions List #1 for 2009/2010
8. Report on new flood plain mapping and ordinance requirements
9. Consider introducing (first reading) of ordinance amending the Zoning Bylaw
10. Consider introducing (first reading) of an ordinance amending the subdivision regulations (Appendix C Barre Town Code of Ordinances)
11. Animal nuisance control hearing for chickens at 5 Church St., E. Barre 8:00 p.m.
12. Consider awarding contracts: a) roll-offs; b) gravel crushing; c) full-depth reclamation and chip sealing roads; d) lease financing.
13. Consider making appointments to: a) Ancient Roads Committee; b) Chamber Regional Services Committee.
14. Consider approving weekly accounts payable warrants.
15. Miscellaneous: a) date for Bridge St. bridge public information meeting
16. 'Round the Table
17. Executive Session: real estate, legal, contracts.
18. Adjourn

## BARRE TOWN SELECTBOARD MINUTES

August 25, 2009

The duly warned meeting of the Barre Town Selectboard of August 25, 2009 was held at the Barre Town Municipal Building, Selectboard Room, Lower Websterville at 7:00 p.m.

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

Attendance for the regular meeting included: Town Manager Carl Rogers, Town Management Intern Kelly Houston, Town Engineer Harry Hinrichsen, Planning and Zoning Administrator Chris Violette, and

## Selectboard Minutes of August 25, 2009 continued:

### CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

### MINUTES

*On a motion by Wolfe, seconded by Gagne, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the Selectboard Meeting Minutes of August 11, 2009.*

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. The Fall Edition of the Barre Town Newsletter will be out at the end of August. For residents wishing to receive this publication electronically please contact the Town Manager's Office.
2. Barre Town School will be back in session following summer recess on Wednesday, August 26<sup>th</sup>. If you travel on one of the school bus routes adjust your commute time accordingly; be mindful of additional traffic delays and street crossings. Please watch for children crossing the road.
3. The Town owned building formerly Sheppard's Garden Daycare, located at 22 Wilson Street in South Barre is for rent. This 36X30 one story building is behind Hannaford's Supermarket and is an ideal location for a local aspiring business (i.e. daycare, or other service related business). Please direct all inquiries about this property to the Town Manager's Office, 479-9331 or [crogers@barretown.org](mailto:crogers@barretown.org).
4. Reminder: the Municipal Building will be closed on Monday, September 7<sup>th</sup>, in observation of Labor Day. Business will resume on Tuesday, September 8<sup>th</sup>.
5. Notice: Full Bulk Trash Day will be on Saturday, September 19<sup>th</sup>.

### GUESTS

Laura Plude approached the Board about a dog quarantine situation involving her daughter's dog. The dog in question resides in Berlin, Ms. Plude asked the Board if she could take custody of the dog while it finishes out its quarantine. After hearing the case, the Board asked the Town Manager to review the case as well as the Town ordinances and make a decision the following day.

Larry Dueso of the Spring Hollow/ Richardson Road area inquired about fire safety and preventative measures taken by the Town in light of the recent fire on Spring Hollow Lane. He was assured by both the Board and the Fire Chief Chris Violette that the recent fire was being evaluated and that both Barre Town and Barre City are prepared to fight fires in the Richardson Rd. area. Mr. Dueso commented on the number and capability of fire hydrants in the neighborhood. The Town Manager remarked that this matter is under assessment. The Fire Chief noted that in most instances fires are fought using water and equipment from the Town's fire engines.

**Selectboard Minutes of August 25, 2009 continued:**

Other guests present: Gordon Booth, Wayne Pelkey, Rebecca Otis, Ron & Liz Proventure, Mr. & Mrs. Mercer, Phyllis Savyear, George Clain, and Jim & Giselle Duprey.

**Consider approving Errors & Omissions List #1 for 2009/2010**

Background: The Assessor or Listers may submit corrections (errors & omissions) to the current year Grand List. Town Assessor, Joe Levesque presented the Board with his first round of errors and omissions, there were a total of six. Recommendations ranged from minor to substantial.

In the first case Barre Town resident Wendy Rieger requested that her two parcels (one is located on Camp Street and the other on Sunset Road) be combined on one tax bill. Levesque noted that this adjustment would not alter the proportion of taxable land. He also stated that the resident would see savings in state taxes.

On a motion by Fish, seconded by Wolfe, the Selectboard voted unanimously approve the grouping of Rieger's property on Camp Street and Sunset Road in one tax bill.

The second case, involved phone companies Verizon Wireless and UniceL formerly AT&T. Levesque commented on the overall confusion surrounding this case. As it stands there are three parcels in question: 905/675, 905/555, and 904/795. At some point, over the past year, AT& T acquired 904/795 from UniceL meanwhile Verizon some how got a hold of the tax bill. Apparently there was a mistake made when filing personal property forms for 905/675 and 905/555. Verizon questioned why they received two tax bills. Levesque stated that, the new account 905/555 was supposed to be filed as 905/675. He suggested that additional parcel numbers be removed and correct parcel numbers attached to the correct accounts. This would also clear up the confusion surrounding parcel 904/795. Levesque cited the reason for discrepancy as being a lack of communication between companies buying selling property. Town Manager, Rogers asked for clarification on what was done with 675/555 and double billing. Levesque stated that he is certain that this recording error will not happen again and that is has been addressed. Blow commented that the proper venue for consideration of this case would be the Board of Abatement and that they should be approving such request. He encouraged the use of proper administrative channels.

On a motion by Wolfe, seconded by Fish, the Selectboard voted to approve Verizon's request. Blow abstained.

The third case, involved VT Transco (Velco Electric) who feels that their property was not assessed accurately due to poor record keeping and a confusing filing system. They asked that their value be reduced from \$2,769,200 to \$1,629,700; which is a reduction of \$1,139,500. Levesque noted that he has been working with VT Transco's Shannon Tucker to clarify recording procedures and forms for tax purposes. After presenting this case Blow asked once more if this case could have gone to the Board of Abatement. Levesque answered yes. Fish asked if VT Transco filed their grievance on time, Levesque said that they had not and chalked it up to lack of awareness. Wolfe questioned the companies claim. Roger asked Levesque when the company came to him to file a grievance. Levesque answered after they received their tax bill. Blow commented that he cannot see treating a company any different than he would if it were a resident who filed a grievance late, noting that they will have a chance to make their case next year while following the proper procedures and protocols.

On a motion made by Gagne, seconded by Wolfe, the Selectboard voted unanimously to deny VT Transco request for reduction.

## Selectboard Minutes of August 25, 2009 continued:

In the fourth case, the property owner of Quarry Hill Mini Storage requested (back in February) that the Town review his properties due to a decline in business and asked at that time that he be given the opportunity to file a grievance. Levesque made the case that Mr. Myers should have the opportunity to grieve properties that were not reviewed when he missed the filing deadline, due to his February letter. Blow asked Levesque if the letter clearly states the intent to appeal. Levesque stated that it did.

On a motion made by Wolfe, seconded by Fish, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve this request for an appeal.

In the fifth case, in an assessment of Mr. & Mrs. Blodgett's property the Assessor increased the value on this property due to improvements. The owner contested the assessment on the grounds that he had not yet completed his improvements. Levesque's recommendation is to deny this claim.

On a motion by Fish, seconded by Gagne, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the Assessor's recommendation.

In the sixth, and final case, the Assessor asked that Ms. Learned proprietor of Good Sheppard's Day Care be removed from the Grand List since she is no longer in business.

On a motion made by Wolfe, seconded by Newton, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the removal of Good Sheppard's Daycare from the Grand List.

### Report on new flood plain mapping and ordinance requirements

Background: FEMA is working on new flood insurance maps and flood plain regulations. There are certain things that the Town must do. At this time it does not look like we have any properties affected by the map changes.

The Planning and Zoning Administrator gave a presentation on the proposed mapping changes. He stated, "even though we do not have a lot we still do have some, and in order to participate in federal programs we must comply with federal flood regulations." He went on to define the meaning of "flood way" and "flood fringe." As one would assume the "flood way" is the more direct channel in which water flows during storm events while "flood fringe" is the outer barrier water reaches during a storm event. All updates will be available by September 2010. Gagne asked if Graniteville Fire District would see any changes, specifying the many tributaries within the water system. Violette answered that smaller streams and tributaries would not be seen as any greater threat than they are now. He noted that this update is focused on cataloging and categorizing larger channels.

### Animal nuisance control hearing for chickens at 5 Church St., E. Barre

Background: Using a procedure in our Animal Control Ordinance, Officer Truhan has given Kathy Rubalcaba notice to appear before you because he believes Ms. Rubalcaba's chickens have done things that constitute a nuisance under our ordinance. Officer Truhan has the authority to fine her but would like something more done, which only the Selectboard has the authority to do.

The public hearing of the Rubalcaba case was called to order at 8:00p.m.

Seeing that the defendant could not attend the meeting, the meeting was recessed until the Selectboard's September 8, 2009 meeting.

Selectboard Minutes of August 25, 2009 continued:

On a motion make by Fish, seconded by Wolfe, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the recess of the Rubalcaba hearing to ensure that both parties could be present to give testimony.

Consider awarding contracts:

a) roll-offs; b) gravel crushing; c) full-depth reclamation and chip sealing roads; d) lease financing

a) Background: This contract is for the Fall Bulk Trash Collection. Two Bids were received: Casella bid \$95 per ton and Myers \$145 per ton.

On a motion made by Gagne, Seconded by Newton, the Selectboard voted unanimously to award the Trash collection bid to Casella.

Consider introducing (first reading) of ordinance amending the Zoning Bylaw

Consider introducing (first reading) of an ordinance amending the subdivision regulations  
(Appendix C Barre Town Code of Ordinances)

Consider making appointments to:

a) Ancient Roads Committee; b) Chamber Regional Services Committee

WEEKLY ACCOUNTS PAYABLE WARRANT

*A motion was made by Newton, seconded by Gagne, to approve the accounts payable warrant as presented. Blow abstained.*

MISCELLANEOUS

'ROUND THE TABLE

EXECUTIVE SESSION

*On a motion by Gagne, seconded by Wolfe, the Selectboard voted unanimously to go into executive session at 8:00 p.m. to discuss real estate, contracts, and legal. Attorney Michael Monte attended the Executive Session.*

*On a motion by Newton, seconded by Gagne, the Selectboard voted unanimously to come out of executive session at 10:32 p.m.*

ADJOURN

*On a motion by Gagne, seconded by Wolfe, the Selectboard voted unanimously to adjourn at 10:32 p.m.*