

BARRE TOWN SELECTBOARD MEETING AGENDA

January 30, 2018

1. Call to order 8:00p.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Consider approving agenda.
4. Consider approving minutes from meeting of January 23, 2018.
5. Announcements
6. Receive guest (for non-agenda items).
7. Discussion about possible Charter amendments eliminating the elected auditor positions.
8. Consider approving new postage fee per abutter fee for all DRB and Planning Commission applicants.
9. Consider approving weekly accounts payable warrant for January 30, 2018.
10. Miscellaneous: including Hannaford's second class liquor license and other license and permit applications, if any.
11. 'Round the table.
12. Executive session: (if needed).
13. Adjourn.

BARRE TOWN SELECTBOARD MINUTES

January 30, 2018

The duly warned meeting of January 30, 2018 was held at the Barre Town Municipal Building, Selectboard Room, Lower Websterville at 8:00 p.m.

The following members were in attendance: Tom White, W. John "Jack" Mitchell, Bob Nelson, Paul White and Rolland Tessier.

Attendance for the regular meeting included: Town Manager Carl Rogers, Assistant Town Manager Elaine Wang, Assistant Town Clerk Wendy Moore, Town Attorney Michael Monte,

CALL TO ORDER - The meeting was called to order at 8:10p.m.

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

APPROVE THE AGENDA

On a motion by Tessier, seconded by Paul White, the Selectboard voted to accept the meeting agenda.

MINUTES

On a motion by Mitchell, seconded by Paul White, the Selectboard voted to approve the Selectboard meeting minutes of January 23, 2018 with the minor spelling and

Selectboard Minutes of January 30, 2018 continued:

grammatical changes as follows: add under Appeal of Parking Ticket: during the telephone conversation Kim Baston agreed to pay the parking ticket.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Got goats? Would you like some free winter goat feed in the form of Christmas trees? If so, call the DPW office at 476-3522 to arrange for pickup.
- Barre Town's Budget Committee meetings started tonight and will continue through March 27th. Check the town website or grocery store bulletin boards at Hannaford, Trow Hill Grocery, or Graniteville Grocery to see which departmental budgets will be discussed during the next meeting, which will be held on February 6th, 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. in the Municipal Building. Note that while the Budget Committee is active, Selectboard meetings begin at 8:00 p.m.
- Snow cover permitting, the Recreation Board will host a sledding party on Sunday, February 11th behind the town of Barre municipal building from 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Bring your own sleds and have hot chocolate and marshmallows courtesy of the Recreation Board.
- The quarterly property tax installment and semi-annual sewer use fee payments are due Thursday, February 15th. You can choose the method most convenient for you. Pay in person at the clerk's office, drop your check in the drop box at the Town Offices before midnight that night; enroll in direct debit using the form available on the Town website; or pay online. To enroll in direct debit or to pay online, visit www.barretown.org.
- Mark your calendars for the Travis Mercy Skatepark fundraiser on Saturday, February 17th. If you just want to partake of the silent auction or the pulled pork and chicken dinner (which is \$10 for adults, \$5 for children aged 5 to 12 years, children under 5 are free) then come to the Barre Town School Gym at 12:30 p.m. If you are a snowmobiler, visit barretown.org for details on the snowmobile poker ride.
- Tickets are now on sale for the Friends of the Library Winter Banquet and Auction, which will be held Saturday, March 3, 2018, 5:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. at the Barre Elks Call 802-476-7550 for more information.

GUESTS - None

POSSIBLE CHARTER AMENDMENTS - ELECTED AUDITORS

Background: The Selectboard requested discussion about the possibility of eliminating the elected three auditor positions (required by Town Charter). Town Attorney

Selectboard Minutes of January 30, 2018 continued:

Mike Monte will be presenting information on the process/requirements to amend the charter. Charlie Woodhams, elected town auditor was present.

Attorney Monte noted the following:

- The town would have to amend the charter to take steps to eliminate the position of auditors. Monte suggests that we incorporate the statute item 17 section 2651B into a proposed new subsection of the charter to have the town vote to eliminate the position. There are some provisions in the statute that say the selectboard has to make provisions for any other auditing duties and must have a CPA audit each year. The process of amending the charter is to warn the proposed amendments by holding two warned public hearings that are at least 14 days before each meeting. You would need to publish what is going to be changed with underline additions and strikeouts for deletions. Hold 2 public hearings, vote to put on the ballot before the May election. It would then go before the legislature for approval and if approved the charter would be amended. At that point the town would schedule a vote to see if the voters want to eliminate the position.
- Charlie Woodhams stated he has been serving for about 20 years as town auditor. Instead of eliminating the position, he suggests rewriting the job description. He has never audited the town's books, but his duties have been primarily helping to prepare the town report and helping in the delinquent tax report. He would like to see this eliminated from the town report because it is very time consuming and easy to make errors. On the report itself he likes the spiral binders and would like to see a town map included in the town report. Attorney Monty recommended a name change i.e. overseer of accounts if the auditor's duties are changed or the position is eliminated. Tom White thanked Charlie for his 20 years of service.

Discussion was had on what Plan B would be if the auditor's position was eliminated or changed to overseer of accounts and these positions could not be filled.

Discussed who would take over those duties.

Tom White took a poll and presented two options:

1. Continue with the charter change and remove the auditor's position in its entirety or
2. Remove the auditor's position but create an overseer of accounts or committee position.

The board members were in favor of the latter.

In summary, the board is in favor of proceeding with the two warned hearings to remove the auditor's position the way it is currently established and if it goes

Selectboard Minutes of January 30, 2018 continued:

through with the voters to not have that position, then the board can discuss if they will have a committee position and define what that position entails.

NEW POSTAGE FEE FOR DRB AND PLANNING COMMISSION APPLICANTS

Background: Postal rates have recently increased. Every abutter to a property which is the subject of a Development Review Board (DRB) or Planning Commission application MUST receive a notice by certified mail. The Zoning Administrator noted it now costs \$6.67 (42¢ increase) to mail certified letters. He is requesting the Selectboard approve a new fee of \$6.70 abutter fee effective February 1, 2018.

On a motion by Nelson, seconded by Tessier, the Selectboard voted to approve increasing the per abutter mailing fee for the Development Review Board and Planning Commission application to \$6.70 effective February 1, 2018

WEEKLY ACCOUNTS PAYABLE WARRANT

On a motion by Tessier, seconded by Nelson, the Selectboard voted to approve the weekly accounts payable warrant for January 30, 2018.

MISCELLANEOUS

On a motion by Paul White, seconded by Nelson, the Selectboard voted to approve and sign the 2018 Second Class Liquor License for Martin's Foods of South Burlington, LLC (dba Hannaford Food & Drug). Tessier recused himself due to a potential conflict of interest.

'ROUND THE TABLE

- Tessier will not be attending the February 6th Selectboard Meeting.
- Mitchell will be attending the Websterville Fire District Annual Meeting scheduled for February 13th. As this falls on a Tuesday, he will not be attending the Selectboard Meeting. Mitchell also mentioned if the town could look at the Bolster Road entrance to the Municipal Building as the driveway needs repair.
- Paul White will also be attending the Websterville Fire District Annual Meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION - None

Selectboard Minutes of January 30, 2018 continued:
ADJOURN

On a motion by Nelson, seconded by Mitchell, the Selectboard voted to adjourn at 9:08 p.m.

Wendy Moore, Assistant Town Clerk

Selectboard Chair

Barre Town Selectboard

DRAFT