



## BARRINGTON, NH SELECT BOARD MINUTES

MONDAY, October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2019

The Select Board meeting for Monday, October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2019 started at 6:30 p.m. Present were Chairperson Knapp, Selectperson Hardekopf, Selectperson Ayer, Selectperson Hatch, Administrator MacIver, and Municipal Office Administrator Tiffany Caudle. Also at the table were members of the Advisory Budget Committee, including Peter Royce, Town Treasurer, Steve Saunders, John Morris, and Dannen Mannschreck. Selectperson Bailey was absent.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Knapp. Chairperson Knapp welcomed all in attendance, led the Pledge of Allegiance, and requested all silence their cell phones.

### APPOINTMENTS

#### Marybeth Walker – Town Revaluation Update

**6:31pm.** Marybeth is the Town's Assessor's Agent. She spoke today to discuss the findings of the 2019 revaluation. Every 5 years the Department of Revenue Administration (DRA) requires towns to complete a full review of assessed values. Due to changes in the market an update was completed in 2017 in Barrington; due to this recent update, there is not a significant jump in the value of homes in Barrington. The average increase in total assessed value in Barrington is 12%. Mobile and modular home values have increased an average of 30%.

In order to set market values, a review of all sales 6 months before and after April 1<sup>st</sup> is completed. The goal is for assessed values to be as close to market value as possible, especially in a revaluation year. Marybeth encouraged all residents to review their [property record cards](#) and confirm the information on them is accurate. If incorrect information is found or they believe they are over assessed, they are encouraged to reach out to [Amanda Noyes](#), the Administrative Assistant to Assessing, for an appointment with an assessor or guidance for applying for an abatement.

Each part of the home is valued differently, with values calculated by Avitar, the Assessing software program used by Barrington.

The tax rate has not been set, it is expected to be set by the end of October or early November. An increase in values of 12% does not equate to a 12% increase in taxes; many factors, including what spending is approved by voters in March, contribute to the final tax rate for the Town.

### Exemptions and Credits

**6:48pm.** The Select Board has discussed what is available to residents, and what changes need to be made. An exemption and credit analysis was compiled showing where Barrington compares to other municipalities. Approximately 7% of the Town population utilizes a credit or exemption. The state recently increased a credit to 100% disabled veterans, from a limit of \$2,000 to \$4,000. The solar exemption could be altered from an assumed value of \$5,000 to actual value. The single elderly exemption income and asset limits/exemption level is 10% below the county average. The Board was asked to vote to put any proposed changes on the warrant for vote in 2020.

Exemptions are applied for and approved or denied individually. One homeowner could have multiple exemptions on their home. A primary residence is excluded from asset limits, including the first two acres.

Selectperson Hardekopf requested additional information regarding what credits are being used in conjunction with the Service-Connected Total Disability Credit. That information will be compiled in a deidentifying manner.

Motion to present a warrant article to increase the single Elderly Exemption limit from \$30,000 to \$36,000 by Selectperson Hardekopf, seconded by Selectperson Ayer. Ayer – Aye, Hatch – Aye, Hardekopf – Aye, Knapp – Aye. ***The motion passed.***

Administrator Maclver suggested the Board consider reviewing exemptions and credits at the same time of a revaluation.

Motion to review credits and exemptions with revaluation (at a minimum of every 5 years) by Chairperson Knapp, seconded by Selectperson Hardekopf. Ayer – Aye, Hatch – Aye, Hardekopf – Aye, Knapp – Aye. ***The motion passed.***

Motion to present a warrant article at Town Meeting to adjust the Solar Exemption to exempt all assessed value of Solar Equipment by Selectperson Hardekopf, seconded by Chairperson Knapp. Ayer – Aye, Hatch – Aye, Hardekopf – Aye, Knapp – Aye. ***The motion passed.***

The Board declined to motion on the Service Connected Total Disability Credit due to Selectperson Bailey's absence, as he had requested this for consideration.

Information regarding exemptions and credits is available [online](#); questions or concerns can be answered by reaching out to the [Assessing Office](#).

### **Budget Presentation – Fire/EMS/Cemeteries**

Fire Chief Walker presented the 2020 budgets for [Fire, EMS, and Cemeteries](#).

The Fire Department's overtime line is anticipated to be overspent by approximately \$2,000; this is due to the loss of a full-time firefighter necessitating the use of overtime. The part-time hourly line will be underspent by approximately \$9,500, due to difficulty in finding staff. Various factors prevented the completion of the sleeping area being brought to code as anticipated in March. That is expected to be completed before the end of the year. The point system line will be underspent by approximately 30%, and has been reduced by approximately \$5,000. Per diem hourly has been proposed to add one additional night of double coverage in order to work towards having a model of two staff on duty 24/7 within the next five years.

Ambulance call volumes have not changed from last year, fire calls have decreased slightly. The expectation is that there will be an increase in medical calls, and fire calls should stay stable due to fire prevention efforts and code requirements. Call types, volume, and how service is performed have changed as the Town has grown. All communities are struggling to hire in Emergency Services; the Fire Department is looking to implement creative solutions to staffing to fill the needs of the Town, which is experiencing significant population growth. Hiring additional part time employees reduces benefit costs to the Town.

The Ambulance Revolving Fund may be utilized to offset some budget costs in the next review, as the rules for its use were changed to include Fire as well as EMS, and employee costs.

Administrator MacIver explained the budget for benefits assumed that the Fire Department would be fully staffed, and the budget for 2020 does the same. It was not utilized as the Fire Department was not fully staffed.

The ABC had requested the numbers be updated for the truck replacement schedule. The tanker will be updated in 2019, the Committee is looking at the option of remounting the tanker rather than purchasing a new one. It would save approximately \$100,000 to remount rather than purchase new. There is no mandatory replacement schedule, but it becomes challenging to find parts and more cost-effective to purchase new.

The Select Board suggested that the capital reserve line be increased \$5,000 each year until it reaches the \$75,000 mark in order to properly budget for necessary vehicle replacement.

\$8,000 has been added to mowing line of the Cemetery budget in anticipation of possible mowing costs next year. If it is not needed it will be revised.

Information about Cemsites will be available shortly; the plan is to have the program released in waves with additional features made available as they are completed.

*There was a short break at this time, when the meeting resumed Selectperson Hardekopf was not at the table.*

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

**8:49pm.** There were no public comments.

### **REVIEW OF MINUTES**

**8:49pm.** Motion to approve meeting minutes for [September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019](#) as written by Chairperson Knapp, seconded by Selectperson Hatch. Roll Call vote: Ayer – Aye, Hatch – Aye, Knapp – Aye. ***The motion passed.***

### **STAFF REPORTS**

**8:50pm.** Town Administrator MacIver reported that the Town has no year-round employees who were hired in the month of October.

**Municipal office Administrator Tiffany Caudle requested signatures for:**

- Notice of Intent to cut wood or timber on parcel ID 243-0035
- Notice of Intent to cut wood or timber on parcel ID 270-0076
- Accounts payable manifest 2019-80 dated 10/2/2019

*Selectperson Hardekopf returned to her seat at the table.*

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Shared Services with School District**

**8:51pm.** The School and Town share some services in consideration of the best interest of the taxpayers. The School's Facility Manager resigned from his position. The School and Town are using this opportunity to evaluate and possibly revise this arrangement to better serve the community.

Chief Walker spoke to the benefit to taxpayers of sharing resources such as fuel, sand, and salt with the School. The cost is reduced by the arrangement.

Administrator MacIver recently spoke to nearby City Managers and Town Administrators about collaborative agreements in their respective communities. No agreements transfer money, only define transfer of services and remedies.

The Select Board requested a joint meeting with the School Board. There were no changes proposed to the agreement as it is currently written, nor any information requested prior to a joint meeting.

### **Wildcat Turnaround Project Update**

**9:01pm.** The low bid for the Wildcat Turnaround Project was \$73,000. The Highway Department estimated the cost to complete the project in-house for \$27,550. After completion, the final cost for the Wildcat Turnaround was approximately \$10,750. The project was not paved but was built to a standard that would allow it to be paved if that is needed in the future.

In an additional update, the Old Settlers Road Turnaround project was completed in-house, with total materials including excavator rental and cost of materials already owned coming to approximately \$12,500. It was a significant savings to the Town, and also completed to be paved if needed in the future.

The new 20-ton lowbed trailer was delivered to and put into service by the Highway Department last week.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Town Hall Building Committee Recommendation**

**9:06pm.** After a review of the [four respondents](#) to the Request for Qualifications for the new Town Hall, the Building Committee has suggested [Careno Construction](#). 13 evaluation criteria were reviewed, with the conversation centered around which organization could bring the Town the most value for the budget. Each organization brought multiple members of their design/build teams to discuss the value they would bring to the project. The Committee believed all four could provide value and complete the project, but Careno was ultimately selected.

Motion to select Careno Construction and authorize Administrator MacIver and the Town Hall Building Committee to develop a contract by Selectperson Ayer, seconded by Selectperson Hardekopf. Ayer – Aye, Hatch – Aye, Hardekopf – Aye, Knapp – Aye. ***The motion passed.***

### **Police Grant Acceptance**

**9:11pm.** Deputy Chief Joy requested the Select Board approve acceptance of a grant from the Office of Highway Safety. In order to accept the grant, the department is required to participate in DUI enforcement as well as participation in the STEP program, incorporates the Click It or Ticket program as well. The \$10,445 grant requires a 25% match, which is properly budgeted for.

Motion to accept the grant as proposed by Selectperson Hardekopf, seconded by Chairperson Knapp. Ayer – Aye, Hatch – Aye, Hardekopf – Aye, Knapp – Aye. ***The motion passed.***

Additionally, Gebig Heating and Cooling has offered a mini-split unit for the regulation of the temperature in the sally port at the police department for the benefit of Gypsy, the Police Department K-9 Officer. Acceptance of the gift requires approval by the Select Board. The individual making the offer at the company is not a resident of Barrington.

Motion to accept the mini-split by Selectperson Hardekopf, seconded by Selectperson Hatch. Ayer – Aye, Hatch – Aye, Hardekopf – Aye, Knapp – Aye. ***The motion passed.***

### Additional 2020 Warrant Articles

**9:16pm.** The Board is asked to consider placing KENO, a state approved electronic lottery game, on the warrant for decision at Town Meeting in 2020.

The Town has voted on KENO twice in previous years, with the measure failing both times.

Motion to approve a warrant article be written for KENO by Selectperson Ayer, seconded by Chairperson Knapp. Ayer – Aye, Hatch – Aye, Hardekopf – Nay, Knapp – Aye. ***The motion passed.***

### Delinquent Taxes in Town Report

**9:17pm.** Selectperson Bailey requested delinquent taxes be included in the Town Report, which requires approval by the Select Board.

Motion to include delinquent taxes in the Town Report by Selectperson Ayer. ***There was no second, the motion failed by consensus.***

### Mallego Bridge Reopening

**9:18pm.** Mallego Bridge is scheduled to open on October 16<sup>th</sup>. A request has been made to allow Jody Beal, a longtime local resident, to be the first resident to cross the bridge on his tractor.

Motion to allow Jody Beal to be the first resident to cross Mallego Bridge by Selectperson Ayer, seconded by Chairperson Knapp. Ayer – Aye, Hatch – Aye, Hardekopf – Aye, Knapp – Aye. ***The motion passed.***

All concerns raised about the construction of the bridge have been remedied, including an epoxy coating of the exposed rebar and crack that had been previously noted. Selectperson Hardekopf requested residents of Mallego Road and Cate road be notified of the reopening, as there has been an increase in pedestrian and bicycle traffic during construction. A notice will be sent out this week.

### **SELECT PERSONS REPORT**

**9:23pm. *Selectperson Ayer*** noted previous recommendations for logging around the Goodwill Dam, and shared that the Town Forester would be willing to give recommendations regarding the dam.

***Selectperson Hatch*** shared the next zoning board meeting is set for 10/16, with one case scheduled at this time. There have been no changes.

***Selectperson Hardekopf*** attended a co-board meeting of the School Board and Oyster River Cooperative School District. Both Boards have worked to ensure children moving from Barrington Middle School to Oyster River High School are proficient in foreign language, and students from Barrington are scoring higher in SAT scores in math. There has been a 5% increase in students entering the Barrington school system over what was anticipated (equating to five students). The average age of residents is lowering as Barrington is a School Choice Community, with three High Schools to choose from, two of which are top in the state.

***Chairperson Knapp*** attended a Planning Board meeting on 10/6, where an application from Drew Pond LLC for 20 Townhouse Units was reviewed, as well as a request for an extension for a cell tower, a review for an application for a new firing range, and a discussion on the Solar Ordinance and the timeline of when that should move forward. Zoning plans to present the ordinance to voters at Town Meeting in 2020.

The Board and Administrator MacIver discussed the signs at the intersection of Routes 9 and 125; the state has been properly notified and has not yet acted on any violations. The Town cannot direct the State to act on an issue on State property within the Town. Administrator MacIver will ask the Library Trustees to make a formal request for approval to maintain a sign at the proposed library location per Board request.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

**9:36pm.** Casey O'Brien of 24 Hall Road thanked the Select Board for accepting the recommendation of the Town Hall Building Committee. He spoke to concerns about the lack of tip downs on the new bridge on Mallego Road.



Fire Chief Walker shared that the Fire Department open house is scheduled for 9am-1pm on 10/12/19.

There were no further public comments.

### **NON-PUBLIC SESSION**

There was no non-public session.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**9:38pm.** Motioned to adjourn by Chairperson Knapp, seconded by Selectperson Hardekopf. Ayer – Abstained, Hatch – Aye, Hardekopf – Aye, Knapp – Aye. ***The motion passed.***