

TOWN OF BARRE

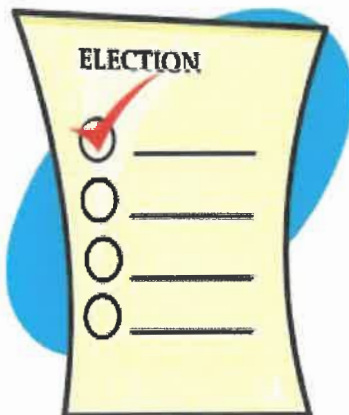
PROPOSED ANNUAL BUDGET

July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025

Election Day, May 14, 2024

Vote by mail: Call 479-9391 or email tlunt@barretown.org to request a ballot

Vote at Barre Town Middle and Elementary School: 7:00 am – 7:00 pm



- *Explanation of General & Highway Fund budgets*
- *Tax Rate Projections*
- *General and Highway budget accounts*
- *Summary of 8 other fund budgets*
- *Election Warning listing all ballot questions*

BOOKLET PROPOSED ANNUAL BUDGET

July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025

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Budget Committee:

Jamie Cushman, appointed by Selectboard
Lindsey Lozier, appointed by Selectboard
Todd Provencher, appointed by Town Clerk
Josh Howard, appointed by first 3 appointees
Chris Neddo, appointed by first 3 appointees



TOWN OF BARRE, VERMONT

OFFICE OF TOWN MANAGER
P.O. BOX 116
WEBSTERVILLE, VT 05678-0116
802-479-9331

April 30, 2024

Dear Barre Town Resident:

On May 14th you will vote on twenty-five ballot articles. Two of those articles are about approving the General Fund and the Highway Fund budgets. These budgets determine what the municipal tax rate will be for fiscal year (FY) 2024-2025. The purpose of this booklet is to provide information about both budgets, the other eight fund budgets and the not-for-profit donation requests. The table of contents on the inside front cover lists the resources, including the election Warnings (ballot questions), found in this booklet.

Annual Open Town Meeting	-Wednesday, May 8, 7:30 pm at Town Municipal Building
Annual Election	- Tuesday, May 14, 7:00 am – 7:00 pm at Barre Town Middle & Elementary School

The items to be voted on during the Annual Open Town Meeting are listed on the Warning as part of this booklet. After the brief Open Meeting an in-person budget presentation with a question-and-answer period to follow. Please join us for both.

The budgets explained in the following pages were set or adopted by the Budget Committee, which is five town citizens and five Selectboard members. The citizen members this year were Lindsey Lozier and Jamie Cushman who were appointed by the Selectboard; Todd Provencher, who was appointed by the Town Clerk; and Josh Howard and Chris Neddo who were appointed by the first three appointees. Together, we reviewed the ten fund budgets submitted by the Town Manager. We met for at least two hours every Tuesday (with the exception of February 27th) night from January 30 to March 26. The General and Highway Fund budgets described below were set by the Budget Committee. The budgets for the other eight funds were adopted by the Committee. The citizen members' insights, suggestions, time, and effort are greatly appreciated. Their perspective on budget matters is very helpful. The amount of twelve accounts in four funds were changed during the review and adoption process.

OVERVIEW

General Fund and Highway Fund Budgets

The General Fund and Highway Fund are the largest of the ten fund budgets. For (FY) 2024-2025 the proposed General and Highway Fund budgets on the ballot equal \$9,597,041, which is an increase of \$1,267,190 or 15.2% above the current budgets. While the percentage increase is considerable compared to last year, below is an excerpt of an article written by Town Manager Chris Violette that appeared in the April 2024 Town Newsletter and it goes a long way to explaining that in reality, the increase is 9%.

"The General Fund (GF) is home to twenty-four departments including the Police Department, Fire Department, various administrative departments within the Town office, Employee Benefits, Ambulance (the per-capita fee that Barre Town residents pay to help fund our EMS department) and Emergency Management.

There are a few noticeable differences in this year's GF budget compared to last year. First, the Ambulance budget is down by \$97,218, which is attributed to better billing and collections within our EMS Department as well as rate increases and an increased number of calls. For the first time, Barre Town's per capita rate is the same as most of the towns we serve; a goal that management and the Selectboard have been working toward for several years.

The second noticeable difference is that the typically small Emergency Management Budget is \$462,371 more than it was

in FY2024. This difference is important to fully understand as the numbers alone do not tell the whole story. This budget contains a line item that will be funded with non-taxpayer revenue from Fund Balance. In this case, Fund Balance will be used to upgrade and expand the Town's emergency services communication system at a cost of \$464,576. This amount happens to be the exact same amount that was once allocated to be paid for with one time revenue from the American Rescue Plan Act or ARPA. Out of necessity for fear of losing our ARPA funds, the balance of the ARPA money was used to pay for FY 2024 operating expenses. This means that the funds once allocated for the radio upgrade landed in Fund Balance. To spend fund balance, Town Charter requires these funds to be approved by the voters. Including them in the budget is the most transparent way to do that. As a result, the \$464,576 for the radio upgrade was placed in the Emergency Management Budget, but it WILL NOT need revenue from tax dollars.

The construction of a new police storage garage is another large purchase (\$50,000) in the GF that was on the ARPA list and WILL NOT be paid for with tax dollars. Combined, the radio upgrade and the police garage account for \$514,576, 10.07% of the GF but will not factor into the tax rate.

The Highway Fund (HF) is composed of nine departments: Admin/Engineering, Summer Road Maintenance, Winter Road Maintenance, Road Retreatment, Grant Funded Projects, Employee Benefits, Gravel Pits, and Signing and Lighting. While on the surface this fund shows a \$773,575 (20.82%) increase over last year, there are a few significant reasons that are important to understand about that number.

One big change in this year's HF budget is tied to a larger project to revamp the Town's Equipment Fund. The Equipment Fund (EF) has been used as an Internal Service Fund for years, but it was not truly operating as one. An internal service fund should be used to provide goods or services to other funds or departments on a cost reimbursement basis, should not run a deficit or a surplus, and should not own any assets. The EF was not operating fully as it should have, resulting in an annual blemish in our audit report. With this being my first year crafting a budget, it was a chance for a fresh start and Finance Director Katelyn Kran, and I endeavored to change the EF and turn it into a true Internal Service Fund. Thus, the birth of the Fleet Maintenance Fund (FMF).

The Fleet Maintenance Fund (FMF) is now a true Internal Service Fund, where all departments that have vehicles or equipment share in the cost of funding it by making a budget transfer which is based on a percentage of expense history (cost reimbursement). The FMF then provides all the maintenance for the Town's fleet of vehicles (goods or services). Many items previously budgeted within the former EF had to be redistributed to the other funds and budgets.

Most notable and costly of these redistributions are vehicles and equipment used by each fund. This includes dump/plow trucks, fire trucks, police cars and ambulances, as well as insurance, radios, and dozens of other items. This significant change resulted in the FMF (EF) budget going down 56.43% or \$979,457, but those monies needed to be accounted for in other funds. These changes are seen throughout the Town budget, but perhaps most drastically within the Highway Fund.

Vehicle and equipment purchases, redistributed from the EF account for 53.9% (\$528,011) of additional expense to the HF. While that sounds like a lot, and it is, this expense is not new, it is just moved from the EF. There were many other smaller dollar items previously budgeted in the EF that needed to be redistributed to the HF as well.

Increased paving costs account for an additional 23.7 % (\$232,048) expense. You may have read in the Times Argus in December that the Selectboard was faced with paving bids that came back considerably higher than expected and they struggled with how to manage that increase in this budget. After much consideration and a very slight alteration to the comprehensive road paving plan, the Board decided to live up to taxpayers' expectations and keep the long-standing tradition of making sure our roads are some of the best in the area.

The HF also includes an additional \$100,000 for stormwater design and permitting to help with the expenses associated with complying with the State's mandated 3-acre stormwater upgrades. The Town is the permittee for seven stormwater systems within existing developments and all must be upgraded to conform and be re-permitted.

Increases in year-to-year expenses such as the cost of labor, health insurance, and road salt play a smaller role in the overall increase in the Highway Fund budget.

To summarize, the General Fund shows an increase of 10.56% over last year but is actually lower by .0045% (\$20,961) when the Fund Balance purchases are removed from the equation. The Highway Fund is up 20.82% but if you remove the two largest increases, equipment purchases and the extra cost of paving, the HF budget would be .0036% (\$13,524) higher than last year.

As the budgets stands to be voted on, with the Fund Balance expenditures included, we project that the General Fund tax rate will go down 2.15¢ per \$100 of assessed value. The Highway Fund's tax rate, with the equipment purchases and extra cost of paving included, will increase by an estimated 7.36¢. Combined we project the tax rate to cover the operational cost of running the Town will result in an increase of 5.21¢ over last year. Based on this projected increase a house with a value of \$150,000 would see a \$78.15 increase in taxes next year, while the taxes of a house valued at \$600,000 would increase by \$312.59. This increase is not final and could decrease a bit if additional Fund Balance is applied before the tax rate is set".

The proposed FY '24-'25 General Fund budget amount is \$5,108,126, a \$493,615 or 10.56% increase to the current budget. No changes in services are being proposed. The General Fund tax rate would go down 2.15¢.

The proposed Highway Fund budget for FY '24-'25 is \$4,488,915 which is \$773,575 or 20.82% higher compared to the current budget. No changes in services are being proposed. The Highway Fund tax rate would go up 7.36¢.

Table 1 below shows a 5-year history of the General Fund and Highway Fund budgets.

Table 1: 5-Year Trend

Fund	'20 - '21	'21 - '22	'22 - '23	'23 - '24	'24 - '25
GF	\$4,047,821	\$4,244,116	\$4,418,306	\$4,614,511	\$5,108,126*
% of total	56.00%	57.49%	56.71%	55.39%	53.23%
HF	\$3,180,375	\$3,137,705	\$3,372,855	\$3,715,340	\$4,488,915
% of total	44.00%	42.51%	43.29%	44.61%	46.77%
Total	\$7,228,196	\$7,381,821	\$7,791,161	\$8,329,851	\$9,597,041
<i>*incl \$514,576 use of Fund Bal from other revenue (doesn't impact tax rate)</i>					

The municipal tax rate to support these two proposed budgets would go up 5.21¢ after the \$514,576 is deducted. However, it should be pointed out that in '23-'24, the original proposed tax rate was .8249 which was reduced to .7666, when the tax rate was actually set by using Fund Balance to maintain the previous year's rate. Compared to the '23-'24 proposed tax rate, the '24-'25 rate is .0062 less than the previous year.

Table 2 below shows a 5-year history of municipal property tax rates. Remember, the reappraisal that went in effect FY '21-'22 and lowered the tax rates.

Table 2: 5-Year Tax Rate History

Fund	'20- '21	'21 - '22	'22 - '23	'23 - '24	'24 - '25
GF	0.5402	0.3981	0.4283	0.4283	0.4068
HF	0.4390	0.3140	0.3365	0.3362	0.4098
Local Agreement	0.0039	0.0022	0.0024	0.0024	0.0021
Total	0.9831	0.7143	0.7669	0.7669*	0.8187
<i>*Fund Balance used to decrease rate (original rate .8249)</i>					

Table 3 below shows significant changes in the G.F.

Table 3:

<u>Department</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Radio System Upgrade	Emergency Man.	\$464,576*
Municipal Building Paving	Municipal Bldg.	+\$150,000
Ambulance Per Capita	EMS	- \$ 97,218
Police Storage Garage	Police Dept.	+\$ 50,000*
GF Health insurance premium	Employee Benefits	+ \$ 30,376
Basketball/Volleyball lights	Recreation	+\$ 15,400
Field Power Rake	Recreation	+ \$ 12,600
Municipal Building Painting	Municipal Bldg.	+\$ 9,000

**Fund Balance used from one-time external revenue – no impact on tax rate*

OTHER FUND BUDGETS

Barre Town has created and operates ten fund budgets. Most funds are connected to at least one other in some way. For instance, the General Fund includes a budget for the Ambulance Fund which pays the Town’s share of the Funds operational cost. This is the same for the Cemetery Fund where after the budget is set and other revenue is deducted from expenses, the General Fund transfers the balance to cover the remaining expense of operating the Cemetery Fund. Additionally, many General and Highway Fund Departments pay into the Fleet Maintenance Fund to pay for the maintenance of their equipment.

The Budget Committee reviews the Manager’s proposed budget for all funds every year. The Committee studies the eight budgets listed below with the same dedication and level of scrutiny applied to the General and Highway budgets. By reviewing and approving all ten budgets the Budget Committee is looking at the complete budget picture.

Tables 4 and 5 below represents a history for the eight budgets that are not on the ballot. The amount of the current budget and the proposed budget are provided with the four prior years.

Table 4: Other Funds Five-Year Perspective

Fund	'20 -'21	'21 -'22	'22 -'23	'23 -'24	'24 -'25
Equipment	\$1,402,220	\$1,377,355	\$1,555,620	\$1,735,755	\$756,298
<i>(becomes Fleet Maintenance FY '25)</i>					
Building	\$60,505	\$62,240	\$63,195	\$66,970	\$90,000
Ambulance	\$2,437,245	\$2,466,070	\$2,562,045	\$2,891,655	\$4,226,952
Sewer	\$1,006,300	\$1,074,705	\$1,163,980	\$1,154,355	\$1,227,811
Water	\$528,025	\$517,515	\$471,270	\$520,785	\$665,652
Cemetery	\$73,485	\$70,020	\$82,070	\$80,750	\$130,801
Records Retention	NA	NA	\$18,770	\$19,200	\$19,961
Sewer Capital improvement	\$18,125	\$18,125	\$18,125	\$0	\$0

Table 5: Summary of Other Budgets

<i>FUND</i> <i>Primary revenue source</i>	<i>EXPECTED RATES for</i> <i>2024-2025</i>	<i>COMMENTS</i>
Ambulance Fund <i>Patient billings & from towns' per capita fees.</i>	<i>Barre Town and contracted Town's (except Berlin) is \$65.00 per capita. Berlin \$60.73.</i>	<i>Budget is up 46.18% compared to the previous year. Much of this increase is attributed to wage & benefit increases due to adding a third full-time crew to staff an ambulance in Williamstown. Also, ambulance purchases are now budgeted here instead of Equipment Fund .</i>
Fleet Maintenance <i>(formerly Equipment Fund)</i> <i>Contribution from other funds</i>	<i>Varies by fund and department based on historical cost of operation.</i>	<i>This was a significant change, eliminating the Equipment Fund and moving to a Fleet Maintenance Fund. The FMF went down by 56.43% by redistributing previously budgeted items to the individual department budgets.</i>
Sewer Fund <i>Mostly funded by user's base fee.</i>	<i>Rate set by Selectboard in June after more revenue information is received.</i>	<i>This budget goes up 6.34% which is mostly related to a portion of a new position (second full-time operator - shared w/Water Fund). Town equipment rental fees are increased to reflect usage.</i>
Water Fund <i>Mostly funded from base charge and customers' water usage fees.</i>	<i>A combination of base and water usage fees will increase, but rate will be set by the Selectboard in June. An average household would see about a \$43.00 total annual increase.</i>	<i>This budget increases by 27.82% which is mostly related to a portion of a new position (second full-time operator – shared w/Sewer Fund). Town equipment rental fees are increased to reflect usage and upgrade to some equipment.</i>
Cemetery Fund <i>Combination of lot sale and General Fund contribution.</i>	<i>Property tax support is up by 112%.</i>	<i>Budget increase by 61.98% which is mostly attributed to wages, town equipment rental reflecting usage, and restoration of the historic Maplewood Cemetery wrought iron fence.</i>
Building Fund <i>All revenue from Town departments.</i>	<i>10% increase in every department's contribution.</i>	<i>Two projects planned for FY '25. Replacing the roof on the South Barre Fire Station and one air handler at the Municipal Building.</i>
Records Restoration <i>100% from state mandated assessment on recording documents in land records.</i>	<i>\$4 per page; not changing.</i>	<i>New fund. Revenues and expenses moved over from the General Fund. Revenue expected to exceed expenses.</i>
Sewer Capital Improvement Fund <i>71.73% from connection fees, remainder from interest.</i>	<i>No changes.</i>	<i>No expenses, builds Fund Balance from connection fee revenue and interest.</i>

NOT – FOR – PROFIT AGENCIES

This year there are nineteen not-for-profit agency donation requests on the ballot. Essentially the same as last year because the donation request for Central Vermont Council on Aging and AmeriCorps Seniors RSVP program were combined at their request into one article. All requests are exactly the same as last year – same agencies, same amounts requested. The total of the requests is \$67,200 again. That amount is roughly 75% of one cent on the tax rate. The owner of a property assessed at \$250,000 would pay about \$18.75 for these requests if all are approved.

See the Warnings for Annual Town Meeting on page 7 and the Annual Election of Officers and Voting by Australian Ballot that starts on page 8 of this booklet. The agency funding requests on page 8 are Articles 5-23.

BUDGET PREPERATION PROCESS

The budget process starts in the fall when department heads and the Manager prepare 5-year plans for equipment purchases, building projects, road paving, gravel road projects and recreation maintenance. These plans are building blocks for preparing the relevant budgets; as such the plans are included in the budget book as appendices. Later, four more budget related appendices are added. In December department heads begin preparing their budget requests, which are submitted to the Town Manager. The Manager prepares complete fund budgets for all ten funds.

CONCLUSION

The proposed General and Highway Fund budgets are \$1,267,190 or 15.2% greater than the current year budgets. A 5.21¢ tax rate increase would be needed. The impact of that tax rate increase on the municipal portion of a tax bill is shown below in Table 6. The tax rate noted here reflects a budget that is \$752,614 more after removing the \$514,576 of expenses (\$464,576 radio upgrade & \$50,000 police garage) that will be paid for with Fund Balance from one time revenue not tax revenue.

Table 6: Tax Rate Increase Impact

<u>House Value</u>	<u>Annual</u>	<u>Quarterly</u>
\$ 150,000.00	\$ 78.15	\$ 19.54
\$ 200,000.00	\$ 104.20	\$ 26.05
\$ 250,000.00	\$ 130.25	\$ 32.56
\$ 300,000.00	\$ 156.29	\$ 39.07
\$ 350,000.00	\$ 182.34	\$ 45.59
\$ 400,000.00	\$ 208.39	\$ 52.10
\$ 450,000.00	\$ 234.44	\$ 58.61
\$ 500,000.00	\$ 260.49	\$ 65.12
\$ 550,000.00	\$ 286.54	\$ 71.64
\$ 600,000.00	\$ 312.59	\$ 78.15

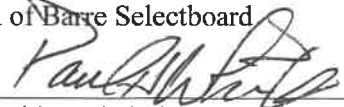
The Highway Fund shows a large increase this year compared to last. There are several factors influencing that. First, the switch from the Equipment Fund to the Fleet Maintenance Fund means that all equipment once purchased from the Equipment Fund (\$528,011) is now in the Highway Fund Budget. Second, the increased cost of paving and the desire to maintain the same level of retreatment added \$232,048 to the Highway Fund budget. Finally, \$100,000 was added to help pay for engineering and permitting for the seven stormwater systems the Town is responsible for to comply with the State of Vermont's so-called 3-acre rule.

We encourage you, your family, friends, and neighbors to vote. If you have any questions about the budgets or any Article on the ballot, feel free to call one of us or the Town Manager (479-9331). Thank you for your attention to this information.


For more details about the budget, including summary sheets, spreadsheets showing line items that changed by more than \$1,000 plus or minus, and 5-year plans, go to [barretown.org / publications & budgets / annual budgets](http://barretown.org/publications&budgets/annualbudgets) or click the link or scan the QR code. [2024-2025 budget details](#)



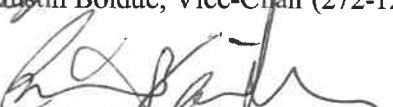
Respectfully,
Town of Barre Selectboard


Paul White, Chair (479-0913)

Bob Nelson (479-4520)


Justin Bolduc, Vice-Chair (272-1273)


Norma Malone (479-5001)


Mike Gilbar (578-4436)

TOWN OF BARRE
WARNING FOR ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
MAY 8, 2024

The legal voters of the Town of Barre are hereby warned to meet at the Barre Town Municipal Building, 149 Websterville Road, Websterville, Vermont, on the 8th day of May, 2024, at 7:30 o'clock in the evening for a Town Meeting to act on the following articles. Immediately following this meeting, a public informational presentation will be held on the proposed budgets of the Town which will be voted on by Australian ballot at the annual election on May 14, 2024.

ARTICLE 1. To see if the Town of Barre will vote to pay its real and personal property taxes to the Treasurer in four installments as follows:

First installment on August 15, 2024

Second installment on November 15, 2024

Third installment on February 17, 2025

Fourth installment on May 15, 2025

ARTICLE 2. Shall the homestead property tax payments received from the State be applied pro rata to reduce the amount of each tax installment?

ARTICLE 3. To see if the Town of Barre will vote to pay its sewer assessments to the Treasurer in semi-annual installments payable on August 15, 2024 and February 17, 2025.

ARTICLE 4. To see if the Town of Barre will vote to authorize the Selectboard to sell real estate belonging to the Town and not needed for Town purposes during the ensuing fiscal year or change the use of any real property owned by the Town in accordance with the Barre Town Charter, Chapter 6, Section 41.

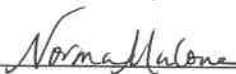
ARTICLE 5. To hear the Selectboard present the Wendell F. Pelkey Citizenship & Service Award.

ARTICLE 6. To transact such other business as may legally come before the Town of Barre.

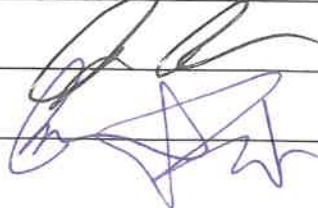
Dated at the Town of Barre, County of Washington, and State of Vermont, this 9th day of April, 2024.

BARRE TOWN SELECTBOARD











Attest:



Tina Lunt, Town Clerk

TOWN OF BARRE

WARNING FOR ANNUAL ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND VOTING BY AUSTRALIAN BALLOT

May 14, 2024

The legal voters of the Town of Barre, Vermont, are hereby warned to meet at the Barre Town Middle & Elementary School at Lower Websterville, Vermont, on the 14th day of May, 2024, at 7:00 o'clock in the forenoon for the annual election and voting by Australian ballot for election of officers and on articles as hereinafter set forth.

Copies of the 2024-2025 proposed Town budget booklet are available at the Municipal Building, Websterville; Hannaford, South Barre; Lawson's Store, Websterville; Harrington's Food and Fuel, Quarry Hill; Gunner Brook Store and Deli, East Montpelier Road; and Graniteville General Store, Graniteville. The budget booklet is also posted on the Town web site: barretown.org; click on "Publications".

ARTICLE 1. To elect all necessary officers for the Town of Barre for the ensuing term commencing May 15, 2024.

ARTICLE 2. Shall the Town of Barre authorize \$5,108,126 to operate the General Government of the Town of Barre during the ensuing fiscal year commencing July 1, 2024 of which \$514,576 will be drawn from fund balance from a one-time revenue and will not impact the tax rate?

ARTICLE 3. Shall the Town of Barre authorize \$76,146 from the General Fund towards the operation of the Town cemeteries during the ensuing fiscal year commencing July 1, 2024; said sum to be added to the General Fund authorizations under Article 2 above?

ARTICLE 4. Shall the Town of Barre authorize \$4,488,915 for construction and maintenance of the Town highways and bridges during the ensuing fiscal year commencing July 1, 2024?

ARTICLE 5. Shall the Town of Barre authorize expenditure of \$20,000 to Central Vermont Home Health & Hospice, Inc.?

ARTICLE 6. Shall the Town of Barre authorize expenditure of a combined amount totaling \$7,000 to Central Vermont Council on Aging and the AmeriCorps Seniors RSVP Program?

ARTICLE 7. Shall the Town of Barre authorize expenditure of \$2,000 to Circle (formerly known as Battered Women's Services & Shelter, Inc.)?

ARTICLE 8. Shall the Town of Barre authorize expenditure of \$2,000 to People's Health & Wellness Clinic?

ARTICLE 9. Shall the Town of Barre authorize expenditure of \$2,900 to Central Vermont Adult Basic Education?

ARTICLE 10. Shall the Town of Barre authorize expenditure of \$4,000 to the Barre Heritage Festival?

ARTICLE 11. Shall the Town of Barre authorize expenditure of \$1,500 to the Family Center of Washington County?

ARTICLE 12. Shall the Town of Barre authorize expenditure of \$7,500 to the Barre Area Senior Center?

ARTICLE 13. Shall the Town of Barre authorize expenditure of \$1,000 to the Capstone Community Action?

ARTICLE 14. Shall the Town of Barre authorize expenditure of \$500 to Elevate Youth Services (formerly known as Washington County Youth Service Bureau)?

ARTICLE 15. Shall the Town of Barre authorize expenditure of \$350 to Mosaic Vermont, Inc. (formerly known as Sexual Assault Crisis Team of Washington County)?

ARTICLE 16. Shall the Town of Barre authorize expenditure of \$2,500 to the Washington County Diversion Program?

ARTICLE 17. Shall the Town of Barre authorize expenditure of \$1,200 to Prevent Child Abuse Vermont?

ARTICLE 18. Shall the Town of Barre authorize expenditure of \$2,000 to the Vermont Center for Independent Living?

ARTICLE 19. Shall the Town of Barre authorize expenditure of \$3,500 to the Good Samaritan Haven?

ARTICLE 20. Shall the Town of Barre authorize expenditure of \$500 to Good Beginnings of Central VT?

ARTICLE 21. Shall the Town of Barre authorize expenditure of \$2,500 to Downstreet Housing & Community Development?

ARTICLE 22. Shall the Town of Barre authorize expenditure of \$1,250 to Community Harvest of Central Vermont?

ARTICLE 23. Shall the Town of Barre authorize expenditure of \$5,000 to Washington County Mental Health?

ARTICLE 24. Shall the Town of Barre amend the Barre Town Charter as follows to reflect that the position of Auditor has been abolished (underlined language would be added and [bracketed] language would be deleted):

Section 10. Elected officers; general

(a) The following officers shall be elected by the legal voters of the Town of Barre and voting for the officers shall be by Australian ballot:

(1) five Selectboard members;

[(2) three auditors;

(3) one Clerk;

[(4)] (3) one Moderator.

~~[(4) The Office of Auditor may be abolished and replaced by an annual financial audit of all funds of the Town by a public accountant, licensed in Vermont, provided the voters authorize the actions at any annual or special Town meeting. The vote to eliminate the Office of Auditor shall remain in effect until rescinded by majority vote of the legal voters present and voting at an annual or special meeting duly warned for that purpose. Unless otherwise provided by law, the Selectboard shall provide for all other auditor duties to be performed. The term of office of any auditor in the office on the date the Town votes to eliminate that office shall expire on the 45th day after the vote or on the date that the Selectboard enters into a contract with a public accountant under this section, whichever occurs first.]~~

{Section 12. Auditors

Unless the Office of Auditor is abolished as provided in section 10 of this charter, auditors shall be elected for terms of three years, with one elected each year. They shall be responsible for the proper financial accountability of the Town, and for this purpose all Town officers shall, within 30 days after the close of the fiscal year, submit to the auditors any reports, records, and materials that the auditors may require for the discharge of their duties. The auditors shall thereupon proceed to examine and adjust the accounts of all Town officers and report their findings in writing, not later than 185 days after the close of the fiscal year. They shall cause their findings to be printed and made available to the voters. The auditors may employ the services of a certified public accountant at Town expense, for the purposes they shall deem proper. They shall also supervise the preparation, publication, and, within budgetary limitations, the distribution of the annual Town report.]

Section 39. Compensation and fees


- (a) The Town election shall annually vote the compensation to be paid to the following officers:
 - (1) Selectboard members;
 - (2) [Auditors;
 - (3)] Moderator.

ARTICLE 25. Shall the Town of Barre establish wages and earnings for the following Town officers as listed below?


- a) Moderator - \$75.00 per year
- b) Selectboard Members (each) - \$2,000 per year

Dated at the Town of Barre, County of Washington, and State of Vermont, this 9th day of April, 2024.

BARRE TOWN SELECTBOARD


Paul White, Chair


Justin Bolduc, Vice-Chair


Bob Nelson


Norma Malone


Mike Gilbar

ATTEST: 
Tina Lamt, Town Clerk

