

BARRE TOWN SELECTBOARD MEETING AGENDA

February 11, 2020

8:00 p.m.

1. Call to order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Consider approving agenda.
4. Consider approving minutes of February 4, 2020.
5. Announcements
6. Receive guests for non-agenda items.
7. Legislative report from Barre Town's two State Legislators.
8. Presentation of School District's proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2020-2021.
9. Consider adopting statement imploring State Government to refrain from passing legislation that infringes on rights in the Second Amendment and Article 16 of the VT Constitution.
10. Public Hearing for Town's Roadside Ash Tree Removal Plan
11. Discuss draft Town Charter amendments.
12. Consider information, guests wanted when asked to approve Developer's Agreement with Fecteau Residential.
13. Consider approving weekly accounts payable warrants for February 11, 2020.
14. Miscellaneous: a) Second Class Liquor License for Graniteville General Store, b) and other licenses or permits, if any.
15. 'Round the table.
16. Executive session, if needed.
17. Adjourn.

BARRE TOWN SELECTBOARD MINUTES

February 11, 2020

The duly warned meeting of February 11, 2020 was held at 8:00 p.m. in the Barre Town Municipal Building, Selectboard Room, in Lower Websterville.

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

Attendance for the regular meeting: Town Manager Carl Rogers, Assistant Town Manager Elaine Wang, Town Clerk-Treasurer Donna J. Kelty, Town Engineer Josh Martineau, House Representative Francis "Topper" McFaun, House Representative Rob LaClair, Town Attorney Michael Monte, Rebecca Post, John Doon, Rodney Morin, Dawnmarie Tomasi, Ken Alger, Wendy Alger, Tristan Jet, John Pandolfo, Sonya Spaulding, Paul Malone, and Evan Hughes.

CALL TO ORDER – The regular meeting was called to order at 8:00 p.m.

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

APPROVE THE AGENDA

On a motion by Bob Nelson, seconded by Paul White, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the meeting agenda.

MINUTE APPROVAL

On a motion by Bob Nelson, seconded by Norma Malone, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the February 4, 2020 meeting minutes with minor spelling and grammatical changes.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ✓ The next quarterly property tax and semi-annual sewer use fee payments are due Tuesday, February 18, 2020. The Town Clerk-Treasurer's office will be open on Monday, February 17th, 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. to accept payments. Remember you can pay in person, online, from your mobile device via application, or sign up for automatic debit from your bank account. Instructions are on the Town website. There is also an after-hours drop box located at the front of the Municipal Building.
- ✓ You should have received the February Newsletter in the mail by now. Read about the new Town Engineer, why rabies vaccinations for your dogs are important, why you should have a new Medicare card, and more. If you rent your Barre Town home, you may not have received a hard copy of the Newsletter, but anyone can receive an email copy. Call 802-479-9331 to be put on the email list for the Newsletter.
- ✓ Barre Town Budget Committee meetings are every Tuesday, 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. through the end of March at the Barre Town Municipal Building. The public is welcome to attend. For details on proposed budgets, to read the minutes, or just get more information check the Town website, www.barretown.org. While the Budget Committee is active the regular (weekly) Selectboard

Selectboard Minutes of February 11, 2020 Continued:

meetings will begin at 8:00 p.m. You can view high-level summaries of the Proposed FY 2020-2021 budgets for the Sewer, Sewer Capital Improvement, Cemetery, and Building Funds online now at www.barretown.org.

- ✓ You are invited to the annual FUN fundraiser for the Travis Mercy Memorial Skatepark, featuring snowmobile poker run, a barbeque chicken dinner, and silent auction, will be held on Saturday, February 22, 2020. See the Town website for more details.
- ✓ The Aldrich Library annual fundraiser Winter Banquet and Auction will be held Saturday, March 7, 2020 at the Barre Elks Lodge. Tickets are \$30 per person. Call 802-476-7550 or go to the Library to purchase yours.
- ✓ If you own and live in your Barre Town home, remember to file your Homestead Declaration Form by April 15, 2020. If you do not you will be assessed a higher education tax rate than you owe. For more information see the February Barre Town Newsletter.
- ✓ On Tuesday, March 3, 2020, from 7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m., there will be three elections: the Democratic Presidential Primary, the Republican Presidential Primary, and the Barre Unified Union School District Annual Meeting. Remember you can register to vote at any time by visiting or calling the Clerk's Office, go online to the Vermont Secretary of State's website, or on Election Day at the polling place. For more details see your February Newsletter.

GUESTS

Chair White introduced the new Town Engineer, Josh Marineau. He began working yesterday. For a bio on Josh be sure to read the February Barre Town Newsletter.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT FROM BARRE TOWN'S LEGISLATORS

Background: It has become an annual practice to receive information from our Legislators about proposed legislation that affects the Town and to give them opinions on certain bills. Last week the Board prepared a list of bills/concerns they wanted to discuss. Our two House Representatives are Francis "Topper" McFaun and Rob LaClair.

Representative LaClair spoke to Cannabis. He noted at this point the bill will now have an opt-in clause and cannabis will not be considered an agriculture product. This means a Town's local Zoning Ordinance will govern where, when, and if the product can be sold. There are provisions which govern the ability to sell (number of plants, local zoning, and licensing with the State). However, there is still concern over the issue of impairment while operating a vehicle. Currently there is lack of roadside testing to show a level of impairment. The use a saliva strip has some constitutional issues to work out. Keep in mind nothing is in stone right now.

Representative McFaun spoke to several bills regarding varying "waiting periods" for the purchase of firearms, penalties for violating law, and the types of firearms which can be sold (including private sales). Currently it appears as though Bill S258 looks to be the most popular (48 hour waiting period after the background check is complete, exempts certain firearms that do not require a background check) and has the best chance for passage.

Minimum Wage bill was vetoed by the Governor. It is unclear if there are enough House votes to override the veto.

House Bill 657 pertains to Transportation. With alternate fuel energy such as electric vehicles there has been an impact to fees collected by the state. The concern is how to ensure electric vehicles can pay their fair share of the fuel tax which helps to fund Highway program. Discussion focused on State infrastructure deficiencies (roads and bridges), the cost to fix said infrastructure, and Vermont has a small population of which only half pay taxes.

House Bill 673 known as the Tree Warden bill is in the Ag Committee. At this time it is unclear if it will come out. However, the bill gives the Tree Warden authority to manage all public trees in the public right-of-way, establishes a hearing process to include notices, requires a Plan to cut trees, and contains fines of up to \$100 but not less than \$10. If it passes the effective date would be July 1, 2020.

To encourage individuals to choose pursuing an EMS Career topics noted are the possibility of giving a break on taxes to EMS members, allowing High School students to take EMS courses, and look at first responders having health related issues later in life.

Representative LaClair spoke to the State Employees and Teachers Pension unfunded liability (currently at \$4.6 Billion). Even with the General Fund allocating \$200 Million the liability is growing. This is due to projected earnings and investments not meeting their rates. This has and could continue to impact the State's bond rating. A meeting with the State Treasurer to discuss this liability is scheduled this week.

Selectboard Minutes of February 11, 2020 Continued:

The Board thanked the Representatives for coming and all the work they do for Barre Town residents. It is great to have individuals that are approachable and easy to talk with.

SCHOOL DISTRICT FY 2020-2021 BUDGET PRESENTATION

Background: Customary practice has been to have the School Board present their proposed budget during a televised Selectboard meeting. The Barre Unified Union School District (BUUSD) budget vote will be held on March 3, 2020, Barre Town Middle & Elementary School gymnasium, 7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. Early ballots are available by contacting the Town Clerk’s Office.

Superintendent John Pandolfo, BUUSD Board Chair Paul Malone, and Finance Chair Sonya Spaulding were present. Documents (Memo from Superintendent and various charts) were presented to the Selectboard. (See Attachment to review the documents.)

The estimated education tax rate for Barre Town will increase 17¢. Most of the increase is due to healthcare costs which the School Board no longer controls. Premiums are negotiated by the State. The proposed budget does not include paying for all school lunches. BUUSD per equalized pupil spending is \$15,074 which is significantly less than the Statewide average (\$17,133). If the school district were to match this per pupil spending the budget would increase another \$5 Million. Student enrollment, the need to attract and keep para-educators (increased wages by \$.75/hour), cost of technology and the role it plays in education were all taken into consideration when preparing this budget. Insurance reimbursements for special education students do not cover the cost of services and yet the expense to provide the mandated programs continues to grow.

The School Board members spoke briefly on the Bond question to purchase property and build a facility for alternative education. Currently the District pays \$85,000 to rent a space that is not ideal and does not meet their needs. The School Board recognizes this is not an “ideal” time to put forth a Bond. However, they do recognize the rental money combined with other expenses (outside tuition, transportation), would be better utilized with the proposed land purchase and new building. While it would not offset the total cost it appears as though it will help to control future costs.

Jack Mitchell noted that John Pandolfo will be leaving his position of Superintendent soon. He thanked him for his service and is very sorry to see him go. Mitchell felt very comfortable talking with him and liked the way he conveyed information.

BUUSD budget information will be available on their website (www.buusd.org), reports will be mailed to Barre Town and City residents, and printed material will be available at various locations around Town including the Town Clerk’s Office.

STATEMENT ON SECOND AMENDMENT AND ARTICLE 16 OF THE VERMONT CONSTITUTION

Background: At the last meeting the Selectboard stated they would not sign the Resolution presented by the VT Gun Owners Association. However, by consensus the Board agreed to making a statement of support with language approved by the Town Attorney.

On a motion by Paul White, seconded by Bob Nelson, the Selectboard voted unanimously to move that the minutes reflect the following statement: “The Barre Town Selectboard stands in support of the Second Amendment of the Constitution of the United States of America, and of Article 16 of the Constitution of the State of Vermont, to wit, that the People have a right to keep and bear arms for the defense of themselves and the State; and that the Board implores the Vermont General Assembly and Governor to refrain from passing any further legislation that would serve to infringe upon that right.” Said statement will be mailed to the Governor of Vermont and the Barre Town Legislators.

Norma Malone stated for the record this motion does not declare Barre Town a “sanctuary town.” Barre Town resident Evan Hughes thanked the Town for their action.

PUBLIC HEARING – ROADSIDE ASH TREE REMOVAL PLAN

Background: The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) was found just across the Town line near Barre Town’s northeast corner. The EAB larvae destroys the fibrous layer under the ash bark, eventually killing the tree. When dead, ash trees pose safety and cost risks. The Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission inventoried ash trees in Barre Town road rights-of-way. They found 3,630 trees.

The Town asked the State’s County Forester to give two (2) DPW staff training on ash tree identification. The Forester’s Department will not allow the training until the Town holds a Public Hearing and has a Plan. A notice for this hearing was published and the Manager has not received any calls regarding the Plan.

On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Bob Nelson, the Selectboard voted unanimously to open a Public Hearing at 9:30 p.m. for the purpose of discussing the Ash Tree Removal Plan.

Selectboard Minutes of February 11, 2020 Continued:

Manager Rogers stated the Town will begin removal in the northeast corner. Property owners will be notified by letter and given an option to keep the wood. They will also receive a flyer on the emerald ash borer. There is no plan to replace any of the cut trees. Unclaimed cut wood will be used at the DPW Garage. There is no time frame to complete the work and it is expected to be a multi-year task.

Norma Malone stated she would like to have progress reports. Jack Mitchell stated the Town has no “woodchipper.” Given the volume of trees to be taken down it would seem wise to at least rent a chipper for a few days to avoid wasting transport time to and from the Lawn Waste Site.

On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Paul White, the Selectboard voted unanimously to close the Public Hearing on the Ash Tree Removal Plan at 9:42 p.m.

Board consensus is to place the Plan on the next meeting agenda to formally approve/adopt.

DISCUSS DRAFT CHARTER AMENDMENTS

The Selectboard has requested the Town Attorney draft articles for Charter amendments which include: 1) Elections – Presiding Officer; 2) Listers/Assessor language clarification; 3) Personnel Policy, ordinance; and 4) to appoint a Town Treasurer. Attorney Mike Monte was present.

- 1) Elections – Presiding Officer. Currently our Charter states that in the absence of the Town Clerk one of the Justices of the Peace will be the Presiding Officer. Due to the varying facets of an Election, the Board of Civil Authority feels the Charter should be amended to allow for the Assistant Town Clerk (provided they are a Barre Town registered voter) be the Presiding Officer and in the event the Town Clerk or Assistant are unavailable the BCA may designate a Presiding Officer (from BCA or a registered voter) to perform the Town Clerk’s duties. Discussion noted the Secretary of State’s Office will be able to offer support if necessary.
- 2) Listers/Assessor. To change the language in Section 34 Board of Abatement to state “listers or assessor.” Our contracted Assessor is to act in the capacity of the Listers.
- 3) Personnel Policy – to amend the Charter and remove the Policy but reference that the Selectboard shall adopt a Comprehensive Personnel Policy.... This way any changes to a Policy will not have to go through a Charter change process (could take up to year).
- 4) Split the position of Town Clerk-Treasurer. Amend the several sections to state the office of Town Clerk will be elected and can be changed to an appointed office upon voter approval and to appoint the Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer.

During discussion the Town Clerk-Treasurer was asked for an opinion on splitting the elected office. Donna Kelty stated the Town is no longer a small community. Our fiscal reporting and requirements are such the position of Treasurer requires specialized education. This is something that is very much needed.

There were some minor wording changes. Attorney Monte will prepare a clean copy for the Board. Consensus is to proceed with the Public Hearing process for the Charter amendments.

All proposed amendments will be placed on the website (www.barretown.org) and posted in various locations throughout the Town.

BECKLEY HILL ROAD – FECTEAU RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPER AGREEMENT

Background: Fecteau Residential has begun work on the Beckley Hill Road subdivision (to be known as Beckley Hill Meadows). The Developer Agreement was worked out with the retired Town Engineer. The Manager is inquiring if the Selectboard preference for taking action would be on February 18th - a short meeting or February 25th a regular meeting.

Consensus of the Board is to have this item on the February 25th meeting agenda to allow all parties ample to time to review and discuss the Agreement.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE WARRANTS

On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Bob Nelson, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the accounts payable warrant dated February 11, 2020.

MISCELLANEOUS

On a motion by Paul White, seconded by Norma Malone, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve a Second Class 2020 Liquor License for Graniteville General Store.

‘ROUND THE TABLE

Clerk-Treasurer Donna Kelty, Manager Rogers, and Board members congratulated Chair Tom White on the recent addition to his family – a beautiful, healthy girl!

Selectboard Minutes of February 11, 2020 Continued:
Norma Malone:

- She thanked the Assistant Town Manager for clarifying an issue on Front Porch Forum regarding the Barre Town “leash law.”
- During the last Selectboard meeting a statement was made during the firearms discussion “encouraging Board members to follow their oath.” It is noted for the record the “oath” read was for Federal Office not that of the local office. Jack Mitchell thanked Ms. Malone for bringing up this topic as it was something he noted as well.
- She inquired on the status of the Town’s year ending June 30, 2019 and the Websterville Fire District audits. For the Town’s fiscal year audit the Manager is still working on detailing the many budget variances. As for the Websterville Fire District, the Town has met with an individual who may be able to assist with the valuation of assets. More information to come.
- The February 18th Selectboard meeting will be a short one due to the Budget Committee’s double meeting. She inquired if it would be necessary for CVTV to film. Consensus of the Board is to have the Manager check the agenda and if there are no “big” items then do not film. The results can be verbalized at the February 25th meeting.

Jack Mitchell gave a big shout out to the Green Mountain Power employees who were replacing poles in the Gregoire Street area. He spoke to the expertise of the heavy equipment operator placing such a long pole between live wires. It was also noted the upgrade to the power substation, around the corner, will provide 3 to 4 sources of power to this station which could be very beneficial during an outage event.

Tom White thanked everyone for their warm wishes.

EXECUTIVE SESSION - None

ADJOURN

On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Paul White, the Selectboard voted unanimously to adjourn at 10:19 p.m.

_____ Donna J. Kelty, Town Clerk-Treasurer	_____ Selectboard Chair
_____	_____
_____	_____

Barre Town Selectboard

ATTACHEMENT – School Budget Documents

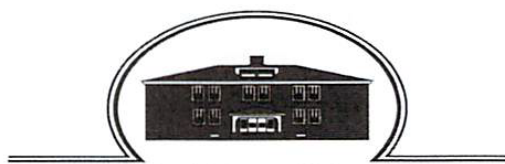
*Barre City Elementary & Middle School
Spaulding High School*

Lisa Perreault, SFO
Business Manager

Jessica Barewicz
Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and
Assessment

Donald E. McMahon, M.Ed.
Stacy Anderson, M.Ed.
Co-Directors of Special Services

Annette Rhoades
Assistant Director of Special Services



Barre Unified Union School District

120 Ayers Street, Barre, VT 05641
Phone: 802-476-5011
Fax: 802-476-4944 or 802-477-1132
www.buusd.org

John Pandolfo
Superintendent of Schools

Doing whatever it takes to ensure success for every child.

*Barre Town Middle & Elementary School
Central Vermont Career Center*

Carol Marold
Director of Human Resources

Emmanuel Ajanma
Director of Technology

Lauren May
Director of Early Education

Jamie Evans
Director of Facilities

Josh Allen
Communications Specialist

From the Superintendent of Schools

Welcome to the Barre Schools! As we enter the most challenging budget season in our recent history, I want to help you understand the progress we've made in building a school district of which we can all be extremely proud. We continue to do more than nearly any other district with the dollars we have; and I hope we all agree that an investment in our schools is an investment in the future of our community.

This is my fifth report as the Superintendent of Schools in Barre, but my first as the Superintendent of the newly formed Barre Unified Union School District (BUUSD). In our first year as a merged district, our operations have gone as smoothly as we could have hoped. Our board has shown a commitment to work together for all our children and is embarking on an effort to define our vision, mission, and strategic goals as a merged district. We now operate under a single set of policies. Our administrators, teachers, and support staff have deepened the collaborative efforts that existed in our supervisory union structure, but now have fewer constraints as a single district.

Educating its students is one of the most important responsibilities of any community, and Barre – year after year – has met that responsibility in true 'Barre Pride' fashion. Unfortunately, the world is changing, and educating our students has become a costly endeavor. We have always found a way to do more with the dollars we have, and while we will continue to do so, we are also faced with certain realities – many of them beyond our control – that we cannot ignore.

- The impact of health care premium increases and a statewide negotiated health care cost-sharing settlement for public education employees is expected to increase our tax rates by as much as 6 cents. This increase is beyond our control.
- As property values increase in Barre City and Barre Town, our Common Levels of Appraisal decrease, and our tax rates go up. If our property values increase more than the state average, then we pay a larger contribution toward the statewide Education Fund. Our current projection is that this will increase our tax rates by as much as 3.6 cents, and this increase is also beyond our control.
- While our schools are not experiencing the drastic declining enrollment of other towns in Vermont, we still experienced a decline of approximately 1%. While we can, and do, adjust our classroom teacher positions for declining enrollment, we cannot decrease many other fixed costs (e.g. utilities, bond payments, etc.) This decline results in an estimated tax increase of as much as 1.5 cents, which is again beyond our control.
- We are currently negotiating all Collective Bargaining Agreements across the district. While we have some level of control over wage increases, as this is a negotiated item, we do not have full control. Under-budgeting in this area to keep the tax rate increase low puts us in danger of running a budget deficit, which would be irresponsible to the taxpayers. Budgeted wage increase estimates result in tax rate increases as high as 5.2 cents.
- Combining the increases described above puts us at estimated increases as high as 16.3 cents, *with none of this increase earmarked for new programs and services*. Attempting to offset these increases with cuts to programs, services and personnel will significantly impact the educational quality we have worked so hard to build and of which we are so proud.
- Additionally, we have avoided larger tax rate increases in recent years by spending down much of our reserves, knowing this would result in higher increases when those large reserves no longer existed. We have now reached that point.

To give you some perspective on our fiscal responsibility, the tax rate increases described above would put Education Spending per Equalized Pupil at \$15,074 in Barre. This is still \$2,000 below the FY21 predicted Vermont average of \$17,133. In fact, if we proposed a budget that was equivalent to the predicted statewide average, we'd be asking you to spend an additional \$4.9 million

dollars. Even with this broad gap between our budget and the statewide average, we are still delivering the quality education that is going to send our community's children on the right path to ensure success, all without spending an additional \$4.9 million dollars to make it happen. We truly are doing more with the dollars we have.

While it is necessary to discuss the challenges of this year's budget, I would much prefer to share the great things we do in our schools. Below you will see examples of cost-effective things we do for our students. You can see these described in greater detail in our Annual Report brochure and on our website.

- Advancements in Technology - Over the past several years we have gradually increased the use of technology in our classrooms. As digital literacy is a critical 21st century skill that our students need in order to succeed in a rapidly advancing technological world, we have planned intentionally to develop our capacity as a school system to meet this need. In our Annual Report, you can read about how we now have 1 to 1 devices in place for our high school and middle school students.
- Giving Back to our Community - One of the things that we should be most proud of about our school system is the number of staff who grew up in our community, came through our school system, and now work to educate our next generation. This is the ultimate contribution to our community. In our Annual Report, you can read about how we are teaching all of our students to give back through the newly implemented community service graduation requirement.
- Expanding Alternative Education - All students are guaranteed the right to a Free Appropriate Public Education. Our students with the highest needs are as deserving of a quality education as all other students. These students can also have the highest impact on our budget. In our Annual Report, you can read about how we are trying to provide a better education for a lower cost to some of our students with the highest needs, and how we are asking you to make an investment in that process.
- School Safety - ALICE - Nothing means more to us than the safety of our students. In our Annual Report, you can read about the investments we have made and the steps we have taken to ensure our facilities, staff and students are prepared to handle different situations that might put our school community in harm's way.

I thank you for your support of our schools – and students – over the years, and for taking the time to carefully consider how doing so is an investment in the future of Barre.

With Gratitude,
John Pandolfo
Superintendent, Barre Unified Union School District

Why do Barre Town and Barre City have different Homestead Education Tax Rates?
The Common Level of Appraisal!

The Common Level of Appraisal is a way for Vermont to ensure that the amount of property tax it collects from houses of equal value in different communities is the same. As property values increase in a given town, the Common Levels of Appraisal decreases, homestead tax rates go up. When the town does a re-appraisal, the CLA resets to 100% and the tax rate also resets.

Consider the following simplified example. Currently the CLA in Barre Town is 83.48% and the CLA in Barre City is 96.37%. That means a house in Barre Town which is truly worth \$100,000 would have an assessed value of \$83,480 on its tax bill, and a house in Barre City which is truly worth \$100,000 would have an assessed value of \$96,370 on its tax bill. With the current tax rates proposed in the school budget, the education property tax on the Barre Town House would be $\$83,480 \times .016596 = \$1,385$, and the education property tax on the Barre City House would be $\$96,370 \times .014376 = \$1,385$.

Because Barre Town’s CLA is very low, it has a higher Homestead Educational Tax Rate. The town re-appraisal will result in the CLA adjusting to 100%, and the tax rate itself would drop 28 cents, but because the property values on tax bills will increase with the re-appraisal, the amount of tax any given house pays will remain the same. Something similar but less drastic would happen in Barre City, with the tax rate dropping 6 cents, and property values on tax bills increasing. In the example above, both houses would have an education property tax of $\$100,000 \times .013855 = \$1,385$.

Example			
	Barre Town Currently	Barre City Currently	Re-Appraisal
True Property Value	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000
CLA	83.48%	96.37%	100%
Tax Bill Value	\$83,480	\$96,370	\$100,000
Homestead Tax Rate	1.6596	1.4376	1.3855
Property Tax	\$1,385	\$1,385	\$1,385

How would this proposed increase affect you?

ASSESSED PROPERTY VALUE	FY 2020 CURRENT YEAR		FY 2021 PROPOSED BUDGET		ANNUAL INCREASE		INCREASE AS A MONTHLY RATE	
\$100,000	\$1,300	\$1,492	\$1,437	\$1,659	\$137	\$167	\$11.42/mo	\$13.91/mo
\$200,000	\$2,600	\$2,984	\$2,874	\$3,312	\$274	\$328	\$22.83/mo	\$27.33/mo
\$300,000	\$3,900	\$4,476	\$4,311	\$4,977	\$411	\$501	\$34.25/mo	\$41.75/mo
\$400,000	\$5,200	\$5,968	\$5,748	\$6,636	\$548	\$668	\$45.66/mo	\$55.66/mo

Barre City = Blue Barre Town = Green

Why does Barre Town have a higher tax rate than Barre City?

Barre Town is has a higher tax rate than Barre City because Barre Town has a lower Common Level of Appraisal (CLA). This is due to Barre City's assessed home values being closer to market values than Barre Town's assessed home values. CLA exists to make sure that a Barre Town and Barre City homeowner pay the same amount of total property taxes if their homes have the same market value. Since Barre Town has a lower CLA, their tax rate needs to be higher to reflect the true market value. At the end of the day, both residents from Barre City and Barre Town that own an equally valued home, pay an equal amount of property taxes to the state.

Spending Per Equalized Pupil by District

