

**BARRE TOWN SELECTBOARD MEETING AGENDA**  
**September 14, 2021**

- P.I.L.O.T. Introduction to Coronavirus Local Recovery Funds.....6:00 p.m.
1. Call to order.....6:45 p.m.
  2. Pledge of Allegiance
  3. Consider approving agenda.
  4. Consider approving September 7 meeting minutes.
  5. Announcements.
  6. Receive guests for non-agenda items.
  7. Discuss snowplowing contracts.
  8. Consider awarding contract for EMS station roof work.
  9. Consider awarding contract for purchase of grease and oil.
  10. Report on meeting room digital audio/visual equipment.
  11. Consider approving weekly accounts payable warrants for September 14, 2021.
  12. Miscellaneous, including licenses and permits, if any.
  13. ‘Round table.
  14. Executive session, if needed.
  15. Adjourn.

**BARRE TOWN SELECTBOARD MINUTES**  
**September 14, 2021**

The duly warned meeting of September 14, 2021 was held at the Barre Town Municipal Building, Selectboard Room, in Lower Websterville at 6:00 p.m.

The following members were in attendance: Norma Malone, W. John “Jack” Mitchell, Bob Nelson, Justin Bolduc and Paul White.

Attendance for the regular meeting: Town Manager Carl Rogers, Assistant Town Manager Elaine Wang, Town Clerk Tina Lunt, DPW Superintendent Richard Tetreault, Town Engineer Josh Martineau and Times Argus Reporter Eric Blaisdell.

**CALL TO ORDER** - The meeting was called to order at 6:40 p.m.

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

**APPROVE THE AGENDA**

*On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Jack Mitchell, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the amended meeting agenda as follows:*

1. *Add to #12: consider amending stormwater grant application.*

## MINUTES

*On a motion by Bob Nelson, seconded by Norma Malone, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the September 7, 2021 meeting minutes with minor spelling and grammatical corrections.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ✓ The first installment of Barre Town property taxes are due Thursday, September 30. You have the option of paying in person, by check via drop box or mail, online by credit card or debit card, by smartphone app, or by automatic debit. More information on these methods are at [barretown.org](http://barretown.org).
- ✓ Don't forget to have your heating system serviced soon to reduce chances of a building fire.
- ✓ The Barre Town Rec Board Fall Festival 2021 has been cancelled.
- ✓ The 2019-2020 Barre Town Report is now available online at [barretown.org](http://barretown.org), and at stores around town: Quarry Hill Quick Stop, Gunner Brook Store & Deli, Graniteville General Store, Trow Hill Grocery, and Hannaford Supermarket.
- ✓ The next bulk trash collection will be held this Saturday, September 18 at the DPW Yard at 129 Websterville Road. Hours are 8:00a.m to 2:00 p.m. Fees are between \$10 and \$25 depending on the vehicle size or use of a trailer. This service is for items too big for a trash bag, such as remodeling material, mattresses, large plastic toys, and lawn furniture. It is for bulky trash from your own Barre Town residence, not for your rental properties or business. Pack your load for easy unloading, such as boxing up roofing shingles, and cutting long lengths of lumber into four-foot pieces. If you are unvaccinated, please wear a mask when you interact with anyone staffing the event. Salvaging is permitted. Reusable items will be placed along the DPW fence throughout the day.
- ✓ The last Household Hazardous Waste Collection of 2021 hosted by the Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District will be on Saturday, September 25 in Montpelier, at the Vermont Department of Labor, 5 Green Mountain Drive. Fees are \$20 per car for Barre Town residents. This is for any common household material that has a hazard symbol on the container, like cleaners, paint thinners, adhesives, or pesticides. You can also bring broken fluorescent bulbs or cans of paint without any legible label.

Selectboard Minutes of September 14, 2021 Continued:

- ✓ Vermont Interfaith Action is organizing a statewide COVID-19 memorial service to be held on Sunday, September 19 at 3:00 p.m. on the statehouse lawn. For more information or to participate, contact Debbie Ingram at 651-8889.
  
- ✓ Chair announcement: After our September 7 executive session, the Selectboard voted to continue the temporary COVID-19 leave policy as amended, backdated to July 1, 2021, to expire 12/31/21.
  
- ✓ Board member Jack Mitchell announced the following regarding the upcoming bulk trash event on Saturday, September 18:
  - volunteers are needed for the Town's spring and fall trash collections. If you like to help, leave your name with staff working the check-in tables.
  - we do not accept credit or debit cards. Cash or check only.
  - no lawn waste will be accepted. Lawn waste can be deposited at the Holden Road Lawn Waste Site.
  - recycled material should be brought to the ARCC or Casella.
  - we will not accept appliances, furniture, lawn mowers, bikes, gas grills or electronics.
  - please be sure to pack loose items accordingly.
  - call 476-5486 for questions on Saturday.

## **GUESTS - NONE**

## **SNOWPLOWING CONTRACTS**

Background: Around 2009 the Selectboard used the occasion of a DPW employee's retirement to retrench a position. To compensate for loss of one employee plowing snow, a contracted plow route was set up, that route is called the Short Streets. Later, another employee was retiring and the Selectboard directed the position not to be filled and a second plow route was contracted out. That route is called the Village Streets. Cheney Trucking has been contracted on both routes. In comparing the costs of employing a full-time employee and owning a truck for a Town employee to use versus a contract with Cheney the decision is saving the Town money.

2013 was the last year the Town sought bids for the two contracted plow routes. Cheney was the only bidder. This spring Cheney offered a three-year extension as the same price per call-out. The Selectboard discussed the offer to extend the contracts during the May 25, 2021 meeting. Questions were raised about the quality of service and how long it has been since the

Selectboard Minutes of September 14, 2021 Continued:

contracts were put out to bid. The idea of splitting each of the two contracts into smaller contracts was put forth.

Town Engineer Josh Martineau and DPW Superintendent Richard Tetreault joined the Board for discussion. During discussion Mr. Tetreault shared that the concerns regarding quality of service are not the contractor's fault. He expressed that many times he will send out his own staff, prior to calling Cheney to save the Town money. He noted that he has had very few complaints about Cheney's service.

Discussion continued in considering if the Short Streets and Village Streets could be broken down into smaller routes for efficiency purposes. Mr. Martineau shared he would be hesitant of breaking up the routes as it leaves more people to call.

The Board supported the idea of adding a Public Works employee to do some of the Town's plowing. Mr. Martineau noted the Town has one new truck ready to sand and plow and one older one.

Board consensus is to see if the Short Streets contract with Cheney can be changed to a one-year contract with a two-year extension and offer a one-year contract on the Village Streets, honoring the same prices. Board members noted they will also plan to add a new Town employee into the 2022-2023 budget.

### **EMS ROOFING RFP**

Background: The front section of the EMS station roof is in this year's building plan for \$12,870. The RFP was emailed directly to five area roofing contractors and posted to the Town's website and the State bid registry. Once bid was received from Hutchins Roofing for \$10,250.

Town Manager Carl Rogers gave a brief overview of the roof replacement history.

A brief discussion took place regarding provisions around repair work and the 7-day completion agreement.

*On a motion by Norma Malone seconded by Bob Nelson, the Selectboard voted unanimously to award the EMS station partial roof replacement to Hutchins Roofing based on their lump sum bid of \$10,250 and dated September 8, 2021.*

## **SUPPLY CONTRACT FOR GREASE AND OIL**

Background: Annually Shop Foreman Mike Martel seeks bids for the estimated amount of oils and grease needed for the year. The Town sent the bidding specifications to six companies, Dennison Lubricants was the only bidder. Last year there were two bidders and Dennison Lubricants was the low bidder. Prices for many oil products are increasing as much as 50%. The unit price for grease is up about 20%.

*On a motion by Jack Mitchell, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted unanimously to award the 2021-2022 grease and oil supply contract to Dennison Lubricants based on their per unit bid prices.*

## **DIGITAL AV EQUIPMENT**

Background: The Board has asked the Town to look into an audio upgrade for their meeting room. During the August 17 Selectboard meeting, Assistant Town Manager Elaine Wang presented audio-visual options for a new AV upgrade. After hearing Board members preferences for, necessary components and in consideration of an unofficial expenditure amount of \$50,0000, Mrs. Wang has researched the Town's available options.

Ms. Wang shared a quote comparison sheet that included three vendors with Board members. She gave a brief overview of the available options.

It is noted that all vendors are Vermont companies and had visited the site prior to submitting their quotes.

A brief discussion took place regarding the provided quote comparisons and room setup. Chair Paul White asked when a final recommendation is agreed upon, the Town has Tony from CVTV review to be sure it is a manageable system for them. It was agreed upon that there is a need for more information, prior to making any decision. The Board expressed their appreciation for Ms. Wang's work on gathering the information so quickly.

## **ACCOUNTS PAYABLE**

*On a motion by Jack Mitchell, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted to approve the accounts payable warrants dated September 14, 2021. Bob Nelson abstained.*

Chair Paul White noted after reviewing the warrants he would like to see a policy regarding EMS meals in the future.

## MISCELLANEOUS

Town Manager Carl Rogers shared he would like the Town to offer a 25% match on the Friends of the Winooski River (FWR) stormwater grant application. He is requesting that the Town uses ARPA funds to do this if the grant is accepted. It is noted that the previous application was for 100% funding, if authorized the Town's contribution would be \$47,711 and ARPA funds could be used to cover the expense. Mr. Rogers noted that he has talked to FWR and they would accept the amended application.

Questions were raised around using federal grant money to apply for a federal grant. Finance Director Katelyn Kran will look into this, and future use of ARPA funds is contingent to her findings.

Mrs. Malone states she is opposed to committing ARPA funds for this purpose at this time, adding it is premature to do so. She would support expending Town funds for the 25% match.

*On a motion by, Norma Malone, seconded by Jack Mitchell, the Selectboard voted unanimously to authorize the expenditure of a 25% match from Town funds towards the DPW stormwater project and authorize amending the grant application.*

Elaine Wang reported the Rec Board received \$5,000 for recreation fencing from Vermont Building and General Services Recreational Facilities Grant.

## ‘ROUND TABLE

Bob Nelson shared he had a conversation with Town Clerk Tina Lunt about the Town's online pay portal. In speaking with Mrs. Lunt, it is his understanding the Town has been experiencing issues with it. Mrs. Lunt shared they have been fielding many calls about system errors. Mrs. Lunt added she has reached out to the Finance Director and Treasurer and will be researching other available options.

Mr. Nelson noted he may need to step out of next weeks meeting for another meeting.

Justin Bolduc reminded the other Board members he will be calling in to next week's meeting. He also added that when he was on his tour of the snow plowing routes, there is a property on McLeod Hill that has junk outside that is now piled out into the street.

Norma Malone registered a complaint that road sign thefts have been an issue in her area. There are several missing road signs and DPW should be on the lookout.

Selectboard Minutes of September 14, 2021 Continued:

**ADJOURN**

*On a motion by Jack Mitchell, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:24 p.m.*

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Tina Lunt, Town Clerk

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Selectboard Chair

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***Barre Town Selectboard***