



# Town of Barre VERMONT

## BARRE TOWN SELECTBOARD MEETING December 14, 2021

### AGENDA

1. Call to order.....6:00 p.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Consider approving agenda.
4. Consider approving December 7 meeting minutes.
5. Announcements.
6. Receive guests for non-agenda items.
7. Consider approving assessor’s Errors and Omissions List No. 1 for 2021.
8. Consider approving Barre Town Thunder Chicken’s request for snowmobile trails across Town Property.
9. Consider authorizing letter of support of Vermont Foodbank’s Vermont Capital Investment Program grant application.
10. Consider awarding contract for purchase of a dump truck body and plow system.
11. Consider sale of: **a)** air compressor; **b)** small roll (compactor); **c)** fire department pumper truck.
12. Consider authorizing Green Up Vermont water bottle filling station grant application.
13. Consider approving weekly accounts payable warrants for December 14, 2021
14. Miscellaneous, including licenses and permits, if any.
15. ‘Round table.
16. Executive session: personnel (action possible).
17. Adjourn.

### MINUTES

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

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

**Selectboard Members Absent:** None

**Staff Members Present:** Town Manager Carl Rogers, Assistant Town Manager Elaine Wang, Town Clerk Tina Lunt and Assessor Russ Beaudoin

**Others Present:** David Rouleau, Jonathan Williams, and Times Argus Reporter Eric Blaisdell.

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

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

**APPROVE THE AGENDA:**

*On a motion by Jack Mitchell, seconded by Norma Malone, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the agenda as presented.*

Mr. Mitchell requested a moment of silence for the Kentucky tornado victims and survivors.

**APPROVE THE MINUTES:**

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

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- Do you need help with overdue property taxes, mortgage payments, homeowners and condo association fees, or utility bills? Stay tuned for the Vermont Housing Finance Agency's Vermont Homeowners Assistance Program. In the meantime, you can go online to use their prescreening tool to see if you will be eligible for the program once it opens. Visit [vhfa.org/new/HAP](http://vhfa.org/new/HAP) to use the prescreening tool and to sign up to receive news about the Vermont Homeowners Assistance Program. You can also call 802-864-5743.
- COVID vaccinations are available. To find a walk-in clinic for those ages 12 and up, or to make an appointment for children aged 5 to 11, go to [healthvermont.gov](http://healthvermont.gov) and click on COVID-19 vaccine.
- The Selectboard seeks volunteers for the FY 2022-2023 Budget Committee. Serving on the Budget Committee is an intensive but great way to learn about how the Town operates, and of course a direct way you can shape how taxes are spent. Applications will be accepted until noon on Thursday, December 30. More information, including how to submit your application, can be found on page 3 of the November Barre Town newsletter.
- If you're planning a fireworks display, a reminder that a Town permit is needed first. The application must be submitted 15 days prior to the display. The permit application form is available at [barrtown.org](http://barrtown.org) or by calling the Town Clerk's Office at 479-9391.
- Barre Town is receiving \$2.3 million in federal funds to help our community recover from the impact the pandemic has had and invest in the future. The Selectboard welcomes public input on how to best spend these funds. Send an email to [offices@barretown.org](mailto:offices@barretown.org) or contact a Selectboard member with your ideas. Note, there are limited ways the money can be spent. For details, go to [barretown.org](http://barretown.org).
- If the twice-yearly bulk trash collection is a service you value, please consider volunteering for a few hours at the events to empty vehicles. Volunteers can bring one load for free. Call the manager's office at 479-9331 to put your name on the list.
- If you celebrate this season with a Christmas tree, keep in mind you have the option to have it recycled by the Town. Details are in your November newsletter.

Selectboard Minutes of December 14, 2021 Continued:

- Chair announcement: After the December 7 executive session, the Selectboard voted to approve the retention bonus for all full-time police department employees as discussed.

**GUESTS: NONE**

**ASSESSOR'S ERRORS AND OMISSIONS LIST #1:**

Background: State Law allows for fixing errors and/or omissions to the Grand List. The corrections must be approved by the Selectboard. There are 26 properties on the Assessor's Errors and Omissions List #1. The Assessor is recommending a taxable assessed value reduction for 16 properties; a taxable assessed value increase for 5 properties, and 5 properties have no change in assessed value, just a change in tax rate category. The net change to the taxable value of the Grand List is a reduction of \$296,330. Of the 21 properties with a taxable assessed value change, 8 are being changed due to Current Use. These changes have no impact on the Town's revenues because the Current Use program pays the Town for the land value deducted from the tax bill calculation.

Assessor Russ Beaudoin was present to answer questions regarding the properties on the error and omissions list.

Mr. Bolduc inquired about the Current Use properties on the list and why that information was applied late. Assessor Beaudoin stated the Town received this information late from the State.

Mrs. Malone inquired about the four properties that were missed during the reappraisal grievance process. Assessor Beaudoin stated that with over 420 grievances that were processed through his office these simply fell through the cracks. Mr. Beaudoin noted many grievances were received through emails. He explained that property owners were out of town and failed to get back to his office therefore accommodations were made.

***On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the Assessor's Errors and Omissions List #1 for 2021. The net change is a reduction of \$296,330.00 to the Grand List and includes a total of 26 properties.***

**THUNDER CHICKENS SNOWMOBILE CLUB REQUEST TO CROSS TOWN PROPERTY:**

Background: The Thunder Chickens' trails cross Town property in several locations. Snowmobile Clubs must have landowner's permission to cross property. A Club also needs the Town's permission for a trail to cross a road at less than 90° angle. This year's permission letter lists 10 locations, the same as last year. The club again addresses the Town's concerns about no fueling near the water well off Waterman Street.

Thunder Chickens' Club President David Rouleau was present for discussion.

***On a motion by Bob Nelson, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the Barre Town Thunder Chickens request to use Town property, per its letter dated December 10, 2021 with conditions stated in the letter and the section of trail in the Violette Street road right-of-way be signed per V.A.S.T. regulations.***

Mr. Mitchell stated he appreciates Mr. Rouleau's letter he presented to the Board. Board members echoed Mr. Mitchell's comments and thanked Mr. Rouleau for his work with the Town.

**VERMONT FOOD BANK LETTER OF SUPPORT:**

Background: The Vermont Food Bank is seeking the Town's support in the Vermont Capital Investment Program grant application. The Vermont Food Bank has completed the expansion, renovation phase using the CDBG the Town acquired. The next phase involves freezer and cooler space.

Jonathan Williams, Senior Grants and Contract Coordinator from the Vermont Foodbank was present.

Mr. Williams stated the renovation of the Vermont Foodbank facility is on-going. The renovation was setback due to pandemic. The next phase is scheduled to begin on March 1, 2022. The Foodbank is seeking to cover the increase in the cost of the renovation for labor and materials due to the supply chain demand. Mr. Williams noted the Foodbank is applying for a grant which requires a letter of support from the host community. A letter of support was presented to the Selectboard for review.

Board members were in consensus for support of the grant application letter and continued renovation of the Vermont Foodbank.

Mr. Williams thanked the Board for their on-going support of the Vermont Foodbank.

*On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Bob Nelson, the Selectboard voted unanimously to authorize the chairman to sign the letter for support of the Vermont Food Bank's Vermont Capital Investment Program grant application.*

**CONTRACT FOR PURCHASE OF DUMP TRUCK BODY AND PLOW SYSTEM:**

Background: The 2021-2022 Equipment Fund budget includes \$180,000 for purchase of a new 6-wheeled dump truck. In August the Selectboard awarded a contract for the purchase of a cab and chassis to Allegiance Trucks (J&B International). The P.O. amount was \$92,246, leaving \$87,754 for the body and plow system. Bidding specifications were sent to seven companies. The Town received one bid from Viking Cives USA with a base bid amount of \$85,800. The total amount with optional features is \$89,000, which puts the complete truck \$1,246 over budget. DPW would like the optional features as they worked well last year.

*On a motion by Bob Nelson, seconded by Jack Mitchell, the Selectboard voted to award the dump truck body and plow system, with optional live edge plow blade and plow sensor to Viking Cives USA in the amount of \$89,000.*

**CONSIDER SALE OF EQUIPMENT:**

Background: Bidding for the air compressor, small roll (compactor) and fire department pumper truck closed at 8:00p.m. on Monday, December 13, 2021.

- a) Air compressor

*On a motion by Justin Bolduc, seconded by Norma Malone, the Selectboard voted to make a second chance offer to the high bidder for the 1995 Sullair air compressor, and if the high bidder accepts, to sell the air compressor for \$3,300.*

- b) Small roll (compactor)

*On a motion by Justin Bolduc, seconded by Bob Nelson, the Selectboard voted to approve the sale of the 2000 Rosco small roll for \$1,825 to Andrew Cohen of Bladensburg, Maryland, the high bidder on the Govdeals auction site.*

c) Fire department pumper truck

*On a motion by Jack Mitchell, seconded by Bob Nelson, the Selectboard voted to approve the sale of the 1994 Freightliner FL80 fire truck for \$7,300 to Kevin Green of Morenci, Michigan, the high bidder on the Govdeals auction site.*

### **GREEN UP VERMONT WATER BOTTLE FILLING STATION GRANT APPLICATION:**

**Background:** Green Up Vermont is granting water bottle filler stations and up to \$1,000 for installation costs. Installation would need to occur by fall of 2022. In terms of future costs, the outdoor unit Green Up plans to provide does not require electricity or a filter. The water inlet hose may need to be replaced as frequently as every 3 months. It is expected to last 20 years. The Recreation Board voted Monday night to recommend the Selectboard to authorize the grant application. The recommended location is the lower restroom of the Recreation area.

*On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted to authorize submittal of the water bottle refill station grant application and for the Town Manager to sign the application.*

A brief discussion regarding the water inlet hose replacement cost and upkeep of the filler stations. Ms. Wang will follow-up with Green Up Vermont to get answers.

### **ACCOUNTS PAYABLE:**

*On a motion by Bob Nelson, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted to approve the accounts payable warrants for the week of December 14, 2021. Norma Malone and Paul White abstained.*

### **MISCELLANEOUS: NONE**

### **'ROUND TABLE:**

Norma Malone:

- Mrs. Malone noted the Division of Property Valuation and Review (PVR) completed its review of the Town's reappraisal. The Town was rated satisfactory for all three statistics.

Paul White:

- Chair White stated he will not be attending next week's meeting, adding Mrs. Malone will chair the meeting.
- Mr. White noted there will be no Selectboard meeting on Tuesday, December 28.
- Chair White inquired about the phone bill audit, asking if the work has been initiated since discussed at the pilot session with Mr. Violette. Ms. Wang noted she thought Mr. Violette had initiated this.

Justin Bolduc:

Selectboard Minutes of December 14, 2021 Continued:

- Mr. Bolduc stated he recently visited the main Rec facility, and he noticed the skatepark fence was not fixed. Ms. Wang noted the fencing contractor did evaluate the work however, the Town has not received a quote back yet.
- Mr. Bolduc inquired about the gate request in lower Graniteville. Ms. Wang stated this item is on the list for the Rec Board to consider for next year’s budget.

Jack Mitchell: None

Bob Nelson: None

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

*On a motion by Jack Mitchell, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted unanimously to find the need to go into executive session citing premature general knowledge would clearly place the Selectboard at a substantial disadvantage.*

*On a motion by Jack Mitchell, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted unanimously to go into executive session at 6:50 p.m. for personnel.*

*On a motion by Jack Mitchell, seconded by Norma Malone, the Selectboard voted unanimously to come out of executive session at 7:19 p.m.*

**ACTION:**

*On a motion by Bob Nelson, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted unanimously to extend as discussed and amend the COVID-19 Temporary Leave Policy through March 31, 2022.*

**ADJOURN:**

*On a motion by Jack Mitchell, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted unanimously to adjourn at 7:29 p.m.*

APPROVED MINUTES

Barre Town Selectboard

\_\_\_\_\_  
Paul White, Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Norma Malone, Vice Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Justin Bolduc

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jack Mitchell

\_\_\_\_\_  
Bob Nelson

Filed in the Barre Town Clerk’s Office on this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2021.

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_, Barre Town Clerk.