



**BARRE TOWN SELECTBOARD MEETING**  
**April 12, 2022**

**AGENDA**

1. Call to order.....6:00 p.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Consider approving agenda
4. Consider approving April 5 Selectboard meeting minutes and March 29 Budget Committee meeting minutes
5. Announcements
6. Receive guests for non-agenda items.
7. Discussion about converting baseball infield to baseball/softball infield
8. Public hearing for two proposed Town Charter amendments: a) constable; b) listers
9. Quarterly department head visits: a) public works; b) town engineer
10. Consider first reading (introduction) for an ordinance banning vehicles over 24,000 pounds from all town highways and authorizing enforcement and penalties through the Municipal Judicial Bureau
11. Consider approving a contribution to Barre City’s water and sewer control and communications systems
12. Consider approving Barre City residents use of the lawn waste site
13. Consider authorizing filing the one-time standard allowance (lost revenue) for CLFRF
14. Consider awarding contract for removal of trash and recyclables
15. Select 2022 Wendell F. Pelkey Citizenship and Service Award winner
16. Consider approving weekly accounts payable warrants for April 12, 2022
17. Miscellaneous, including other licenses and permits, if any
18. Round the table
19. Executive session, if needed
20. Adjourn

**MINUTES**

The duly warned meeting of April 12, 2022 was held at the Barre Town Municipal Building, Selectboard Room, in Lower Websterville at 6:00 p.m.

**Selectboard Members Present:** Paul White, Norma Malone, Bob Nelson, Justin Bolduc, and W. John “Jack” Mitchell.

**Selectboard Members Absent:** None.

**Staff Members Present:** Town Manager Carl Rogers, Assistant Town Manager Elaine Wang, Town Clerk Tina Lunt, and Town Engineer Josh Martineau. Those attending virtually: Planning and Zoning Administrator Chris Violette.

**Others Present:** Times Argus Reporter Eric Blaisdell, Doug Farnham and Bill Ahearn

Selectboard Minutes of April 12, 2022 Continued:

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chair White called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

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

**APPROVE THE AGENDA:**

*On a motion by Bob Nelson, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the amended agenda as follows:*

1. Add to #19 Executive session: legal and personnel

**APPROVE THE MINUTES:**

*On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Bob Nelson, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the April 5, 2022 meeting minutes and March 29, 2022 Budget Committee meeting minutes with minor spelling and grammatical corrections.*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- Barre Town needs 4 public works summer helpers, full time, part time, or job share. The starting pay rate is \$16 an hour. Positions are open until filled. For more details or the application, visit [barretown.org](http://barretown.org).
- The Barre City and Barre Town Recreation Annual Egg Hunt is this Saturday, April 16 at Charlie's Playground in Barre City. The Egg Hunt starts promptly at 10:00 a.m.! Suitable for ages 3-10. Bring your own basket or bag.
- Does your well or wastewater system need work? Low- and moderate-income Vermont homeowners may be eligible for Vermont Agency of Natural Resources funding to help with failed or inadequate wells, springs, septic tanks, leach fields, or wastewater systems. For more information, search for "Vermont ANR ARPA" then click on Individual Drinking and Wastewater.
- The Town still needs two representatives to the Central Vermont Fiber Board. To apply, send an email to [offices@barretown.org](mailto:offices@barretown.org).
- Mark your calendars for the spring Barre Town bulk trash collection May 14. More details can be found at [barretown.org](http://barretown.org) or in the April newsletter.

**GUESTS:** None.

**BASEBALL FIELDS:**

**Background:** Rec Board Chair Doug Farnham would like to modify the baseball field so it could be used for softball and little league baseball. The plan would leave the grass infield intact. The baseball pitcher's mound will be removed. Mr. Farnham's plan appears to be acceptable to Babe Ruth, American Legion and Barre Community Baseball & Softball. Mr. Farnham's vision is softball and little league would use the field

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only for larger tournaments, to catch up on numerous rain outs, or special events. The Recreation Board is in support of the change.

Recreation Board Chair Doug Farnham was present. Mr. Farnham presented the field modification proposal to Board members. Pictures were shared ahead of time for review. Mr. Farnham stated, as Rec Board Chair, he tries to see what can be done to broaden Barre Town's facilities. The major league baseball field is currently used for major league baseball and for one game of varsity field hockey, when they play under the lights. Mr. Farnham explained the modification to the field would allow multi-use play and believes this would bring more people to the Town of Barre.

The baseball pitcher's mound would be removed and be left as open dirt. The bases would have the sods removed. When baseball would be played a portable pitcher's mound would be used. When adult softball was being played the mound would be removed and a pitcher's rubber mat and bases would be installed using anchors in the ground.

Barre Community Baseball and Softball are in support of the change. There were some concerns on how long it would take to change over between games. Mr. Farnham believes it would take approximately 30 minutes.

Mr. Farnham shared that the Rec Board has volunteers who are interested in supporting this project. The estimated cost is \$8,500 and will be covered by donations. St. Johnsbury and Hyde Park have similar field setups.

Conversation continued around Board members asking clarifying questions regarding the specifics to the modifications of the field.

Board consensus is they are in general agreement of the field conversion.

### **PUBLIC HEARING:**

Background: This is the second of two public hearings; April 5 and April 12. The Barre Town Selectboard is holding a public hearing for two proposed Town Charter amendments. The proposed Charter amendments will be on the May 10, 2022 Annual Election ballot.

***On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Bob Nelson, the Selectboard voted unanimously to open the public hearing at 6:45 p.m. for the proposed Town Charter amendments for the constable position and for the board of listers.***

Chair White stated the public hearing is to propose two Town Charter amendments. The first amendment changes the constable from an elected position to a position appointed by the Selectboard. This position is a 1-year term. The Selectboard may prohibit the constable from exercising any law enforcement authority, or the Selectboard may condition exercise of law enforcement authority upon the constable being certified to that level of authority. The second amendment deletes remaining references to the Board of Listers, which Town voters replaced with an appointed assessor.

With no public comment Chair White asked for a motion to close the public hearing.

*On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted unanimously to close the public hearing at 6:47 p.m. for the proposed Town Charter amendments for the constable position and for the board of listers.*

### **QUARTERLY DEPARTMENT HEAD VISITS:**

#### Town Engineer:

Town Engineer Josh Martineau was present.

Mr. Martineau presented his quarterly report for the months of January – March, 2022.

A summary of his presentation includes:

- T.S.A.C.
  - Overweight permits
  - Speed study locations
  - Radar sign locations
- Rte. 302 bridge update
- Bridge Street and Quarry Hill project
- Rte. 110 bridge project update: final plan review
- Paving US 302 in FY 22-23
- Websterville waterline project
- Stormwater inspections
- Salt: 90 winter events (19 tons per event)
- Trail cameras for littering
- Summer intern position: new hire will start May 23
- DPW: need 4 summer helpers

Mrs. Malone inquired about the long-term plan for addressing pavement cracking. Mr. Martineau stated a full redo of the road is the only way to take care of this issue. He explained that making the pavement thicker will not fix the road. Mr. Martineau noted when the crack reappears the road has not failed the substructure of the crack has just come back.

Mr. Martineau shared a document with Board members regarding pavement management. Mr. Martineau noted there are only two road segments that are failing according to the PCI index. Currently, 63% of Barre Town roads are in the good and excellent categories. Middle Road, Church Hill Road, Websterville Road and Waterman Street are listed in the poor category.

#### Public Works:

Town Engineer Josh Martineau was present in Mr. Tetreault's absence.

A copy of Mr. Tetreault's quarterly report was presented to Board members ahead of time for review.

### **OVERWEIGHT VEHICLE ORDINANCE:**

Background: T.S.A.C. learned of Shelburne's ordinance and recommends the Town to adopt an ordinance making driving an overweight vehicle on Town roads a violation of a Town ordinance punishable by a local fine set by the Town ordinance. State law sets weight limits on Town roads at 24,000 except for this or that

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reason, such as a road being designated “weigh limit same as state highway”, a permit for higher weight is issued or the Town sets a lower weight limit such as for a wooden bridge. State law sets fines for being overweight. State fines vary by the amount of overweight.

Chair White asked clarifying questions around the language of the ordinance, noting his concerns. Mr. Martineau explained the thought was this would be beneficial in helping the police department take enforcement without having to weigh the trucks. Chair White noted if this will be at all helpful he wants to support T.S.A.C. and the police department but personally felt there may not be sufficient evidence the officers will need in traffic court.

Mr. Mitchell echoed Chair White’s comments on the enforcement issue.

Conversation continued as Board members shared their thoughts and concerns.

Mrs. Malone stated she would like to seek feedback from the police department on how this would work. Chair White stated he spoke with Chief Dodge, and he thought it would help the police department take enforcement without having to weigh the trucks.

Board consensus is further discussion is needed before any action is taken.

### **BARRE CITY CONTRIBUTION REQUEST:**

Background: Barre City’s main water supply trench line comes into Barre Town along Rt. 302. Barre Town’s sewerage system connects to the City’s sewage system at approximately 10 points. The City of Barre maintains the sewerage system carrying wastewater from the Town to the wastewater treatment plant. Barre City is planning to upgrade its basic radio communications system for its public works departments and to upgrade its water and sewer systems communications and controls systems. Barre City requests the Town contribute \$12,180 to this project.

Bill Ahearn, Director of Public Works for the City of Barre was present.

Mr. Ahearn shared there are concerns with the current waterline that runs on Cobble Hill. The US 302 pipeline is vulnerable as well. The City’s current water, sewer and public works control and communication system technology does not adequately permit control of system failures. With this, the City is unable to prevent catastrophes should there be a water break. The proposal to upgrade the system would allow them control of the system.

The estimated cost of the communication and control system is \$69,974. The City of Barre is proposing to use ARPA funds for these capital expenses. Costs are allocated between the three systems. 30% water, 30% sewer, and 40% streets.

Mr. Mitchell noted that he appreciated Mr. Ahearn’s letter and that it was well written. He inquired about the current system and the age of the structures. Mr. Ahearn noted the structures dating back 85 years.

Mrs. Malone asked Mr. Ahearn about the rationale in asking the Town to contribute toward the purchase of the system. Mrs. Malone noted the Town is a retail customer and this is a capital improvement project for the City. Mr. Ahearn stated the Town receives a significant benefit from the wastewater system the City operates. The Town also has 1,250 direct customers connected to the system.

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Mr. Bolduc noted Mr. Ahearn's presentation was well written. He noted the timing of his request was not sufficient, as the Town has its own plans for their ARPA funds, including a radio replacement project.

Mr. Mitchell favors the proposal and thinks it would help prevent a disaster. Town Manager Carl Rogers shared he was also in favor.

Board members thanked Mr. Ahearn for coming in and putting together a reasonable request.

***On a motion by Jack Mitchell, seconded by Bob Nelson, the Selectboard voted 3-2 to recommend the Town contributes \$12,180 of CLFRF to Barre City's radio and control communication improvement. Norma Malone and Justin Bolduc voted no.***

### **BARRE CITY'S USE OF LAWN WASTE SITE:**

Background: Traditionally, the city requests permission for its residents use the lawn waste site for two full weeks. As in past years, the Town bills the city 50% of the Town's labor and equipment expenses.

***On a motion by Bob Nelson, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve Barre City residents use of the lawn waste site from April 26 to May 7 during the times the site is open for Town residents.***

### **CORONAVIRUS LOCAL FISCAL RECOVER FUNDS (CLFRF):**

Background: Municipalities may claim their CLFRF grant for lost revenue then use the money for government services. VLCT suggests governing boards adopt a motion to authorize election of the standard allowance. The first report is due April 30, 2022.

***On a motion by Jack Mitchell, seconded by Norma Malone, the Selectboard voted unanimously to authorize the Town of Barre to make a one-time irrevocable decision to elect the Standard Allowance approach for the Town's CLFRF/ARPA award in the amount of \$2,307,709.01 to spend on the provision of government services throughout the period of performance of the grant.***

### **2022 -2023 TRASH AND RECYCLABLE CONTRACT:**

Background: Annually the Town contracts out for trash & recycling services for various Town owned properties. Bidding specifications were unchanged from last year. Specifications were mailed to three companies. All Clean Waste Services from Northfield did not bid. Myers is the low bidder and currently have the contract now.

***On a motion by Justin Bolduc, seconded by Bob Nelson, the Selectboard voted unanimously to award the May 1, 2022 to April 30, 2023 trash and recyclables removal contract to Myers Waste based on their per location bids.***

### **SELECTING THE 2022 WENDELL F. PELKEY CITIZENSHIP AND SERVICE AWARD:**

Background: Annually the Selectboard awards the Wendell F. Pelkey Citizenship Award to a resident who has demonstrated an on-going commitment to the Town of Barre. Board members were provided with a list of past recipients. Traditionally this award is presented during the Open Town Meeting.

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Board members placed their votes by casting paper ballots. The recipient will be announced at Open Town Meeting on May 4, 2022.

**ACCOUNTS PAYABLE:**

*On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by, Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted to approve the accounts payable warrant for the week of April 12, 2022. Bob Nelson abstained.*

**MISCELLANEOUS:** None.

**ROUND TABLE:**

Jack Mitchell:

- Mr. Mitchell inquired about the audio on the AV system.

Paul White:

- Chair White noted the Board must have a discussion soon regarding the commitment of the ARPA funds.
- Chair White reminded Board members he will be attending virtually next week. Mrs. Malone will chair the meeting.

**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 8:38 p.m. for legal and personnel.*

*On a motion by Jack Mitchell, seconded by Bob Nelson, the Selectboard voted unanimously to come out of executive session at 9:54 p.m.*

**ACTION:**

*On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted unanimously to authorize the Town Manager to sign a waiver form for a legal conflict of interest.*

**ADJOURN:**

*On a motion by Jack Mitchell, seconded by Bob Nelson, the Selectboard voted unanimously to adjourn at 9:55 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 \_\_\_\_\_, 2022.

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