



# Town of Barre VERMONT

## BARRE TOWN SELECTBOARD MEETING December 20, 2022

### AGENDA

1. Call to order.....6:00 p.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Consider approving agenda
4. Consider approving December 13, 2022 meeting minutes
5. Announcements
6. Receive guests for non-agenda items.
7. Consider adopting Resolution #11-22 in appreciation of Chris LaMonda’s service to Barre Town EMS
8. Consider adopting Resolution #12-22 in appreciation of Craig Pelletier’s service to Barre Town DPW
9. Consider approving EMS billing rates for 2023
10. Consider Turning Point’s request for donation from Town’s Coronavirus Relief Funds
11. Consider Graniteville Fire District’s request for donation from Town’s Coronavirus Relief Funds
12. Review status of Coronavirus Relief Fund spending and obligations
13. Consider adopting 5-Year Building Plan
14. Consider approving weekly accounts payable warrants for December 20, 2022
15. Miscellaneous, including licenses and permits if any: a) Fireworks permit Elizabeth & Paul Perreault, 42 Littlejohn Road, December 31, 2022; b) Fireworks permit Ryan Roberts, 131 W. Cobble Hill, December 21, 2022; c) Fireworks permit Zachary and Azaliah Tillinghast, 167 Middle Road, December 21, 2022
16. Round the table
17. Executive session: personnel and real estate
18. Adjourn

### MINUTES

The duly warned meeting of December 20, 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, Justin Bolduc, Bob Nelson, and W. John “Jack” Mitchell.

**Selectboard Members Absent:** None.

**Staff Members Present:** Town Manager Carl Rogers, Town Clerk Tina Lunt, EMS Director Chris LaMonda, Town Engineer Josh Martineau, Finance Director Katelynn Kran, Craig Pelletier, and David Danforth. Those attending virtually: DPW Supervisor Richard Tetreault

**Others Present:** Times Argus Reporter Eric Blaisdell, Chip Castle, Bob Purvis, Andre Rouleau, Jen Malnati, Jeff Gagne, Carlton Pelletier, Kathleen Pelletier, Linda Mercy, Harry Hinrichsen, Max Pelletier, and Edith Gingras.

**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 Justin Bolduc, seconded by Norma Malone, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the agenda as presented.*

**APPROVE THE MINUTES:**

*On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted to approve the December 13, 2022 meeting minutes as presented. Bob Nelson abstained.*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- We are accepting letters or emails from registered Town voters who would like to serve on the 2023 Budget Committee. The Committee will meet from the end of January to the end of March and review every Town fund budget. Participation on the Budget Committee is the most efficient means to learn about Town operations. Letters or emails will be accepted until December 29.
- We hope everyone enjoys the upcoming holiday season. During holiday gatherings, sometimes homeowners light the seldom used fireplace. Prepare for the festivities and have the chimney cleaned and fireplace checked out before starting the fire. Wood ashes are a potential cause of fire. Be sure to use a metal bucket to remove ashes and place the bucket outside – not in the garage or on the front porch – far enough away from combustibles to prevent a fire.
- To help with your safety during the holidays and entire winter, the Town makes sand available to residents. The sand pile is outside the DPW Yard gate at 129 Websterville Road. You could use the sand on your sidewalks, driveways, and paths. Please take a reasonable amount, such as no more than several 5-gallon buckets, at one time. We suggest residents take some sand before a storm starts.
- In Barre Town there is an overnight, on-street parking ban. Vehicles cannot be parked on the street between 11:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. The ban is in place for road maintenance purposes. We know through the holiday season people have company and parties. If you know your guests will be parked on the street after 11:00 p.m., call the Police Department.
- Chair Announcement: The Selectboard will not be meeting on Tuesday, December 27. The next meeting will take place on Tuesday, January 3, 2023.

**GUESTS: None.**

**RESOLUTION #11-22 – IN APPRECIATION OF CHRISTOPHER LAMONDA’S SERVICE TO THE TOWN OF BARRE:**

Background: Chris LaMonda was hired as a full-time paramedic on May 12, 2014 and promoted to Director of EMS on July 1, 2015. During his tenure as EMS Director, he represented the Town of Barre with distinction on several Boards and Committees such as the VT-EMS District 6, Vermont Technical College Paramedic Program Advisory Committee, Central Vermont Career Center EMS Program Advisory Committee, as an instructor in the CVCC EMS program, as a member of the Governor’s Emergency Preparedness Advisory Council and a member of the Washington County Substance Abuse Regional Partnership.

Chair White read the Resolution.

*On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Bob Nelson, the Selectboard voted unanimously to adopt “Resolution #11-22, A Resolution of the Town of Barre, Vermont In Appreciation of Christopher LaMonda’s Service.”*

Board members and co-workers offered their appreciation for Mr. LaMonda and thanked him for his service to the Town. It was noted that Mr. LaMonda was clearly respected by his peers.

Town Manager Carl Rogers shared that Mr. LaMonda has earned a Master of Public Health and during COVID times that proved to be beneficial to the Town. He noted that Mr. LaMonda was a valuable resource during that time.

Mr. LaMonda shared that education is truly his passion. He expressed that he has enjoyed his time as the EMS Director and with this role he has learned a lot.

**RESOLUTION #12-22 – IN APPRECIATION OF CRAIG PELLETIER’S FOURTEEN YEARS OF VALUABLE SERVICE:**

Background: Craig Pelletier was hired to a full-time Department of Public Works position on March 25, 2008. Craig’s earned his Class 2 Public Water System Operator Certificate in 2012 and his Class 4A Public Water System Operator Certificate in 2020. Craig Pelletier is known for his versatility, knowledge, and skills in performing numerous public works tasks.

Chair White read the Resolution.

*On a motion by Bob Nelson, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted unanimously to adopt “Resolution #11-22, A Resolution of the Town of Barre, Vermont In Appreciation Of Craig Pelletier’s Fourteen Years of Valuable Service.”*

Board members expressed their appreciation for Mr. Pelletier, noting that this will clearly be a big loss for the Town. Mr. Pelletier’s depth of knowledge and skillset will be missed. His ability to step in and willingness to help was an asset for the Town.

Mr. Rogers noted the word “valuable” in the resolution, as this is what Craig was. The Manager wished him good luck with his new career.

Selectboard Minutes of December 20, 2022 Continued:

Town Engineer Josh Martineau expressed his appreciation for Mr. Pelletier. He said that Craig was always willing to help him when needed and he will be greatly missed.

Mr. Pelletier shared his appreciation for the Town. He thanked the Town of Barre for giving him the opportunity and tools for success. Additionally, he thanked his family and the community for their support.

### **EMS BILLING RATES FOR 2023:**

Background: The Selectboard was provided EMS Billing rates to be effective January 1, 2023.

EMS Local President David Danforth was present.

Mr. Nelson opened discussion by sharing a list of proposed rates that he has been working with Mr. Danforth on in preparation for the budget. He noted the proposed mileage rates and Specialty Care Transport (SCT) rates are substantially different than the rates proposed by the Manager and EMS Director Chris LaMonda. Mr. Nelson noted these rates are based on information from other billing companies and what the hospitals charge.

Mr. Danforth gave a summary on the proposed rates. He stated that EMS provides the highest level of care in Central Vermont. Expenses are on the rise with the increase in health insurance, negotiation pay increases, staff additions, and medical supplies and the EMS billing rates are something the Town needs to revisit to help with the deficit.

Mr. Mitchell inquired about the rate increase and how this will affect the collection process. He shared his concerns for those residents who are struggling on fixed incomes and how they will afford their medical bills. Mr. Danforth noted the proposed rates are not out of the average range.

There was a discussion regarding why the EMS billing rates are set in January and if a rate could be set now and then adjusted once the '23-'24 budget has been determined.

Town Manager Carl Rogers stated that the 2023 EMS rates he and EMS Director Chris LaMonda proposed were raised 7.5% from the 2022 billing rates.

Board consensus is they would like more time to review the proposed rates before a decision is made regarding an increase. The Board has requested that Mr. LaMonda provide them with the average number of call types for the fiscal year.

### **TURNING POINT REQUEST FOR TOWN CLFRF DONATION:**

Background: In May of 2022 the Turning Point requested a Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (CLFRF) \$50,000 donation to Turning Point's building project. The Turning Point is planning to acquire and renovate the building located at 18 South Main Street in Barre City.

Chip Castle and Bob Purvis were present. The Turning Point is an addiction peer recovery center for Central Vermont. Mr. Purvis shared The Turning Point had 7,000 individuals come through their doors this past year. Since their last presentation to the Board, they have received earmark funding from Senator Leahy and Barre City has sponsored them for a Community Development Grant. Additionally, the Turning Point has requested \$50,000 in funding from Barre City which they are considering. Mr. Purvis shared they continue to apply to other entities and foundations that may be able to support them.

Selectboard Minutes of December 20, 2022 Continued:

The Turning Point is working with Northfield Savings Bank and has been approved for a mortgage. Mr. Purvis noted they currently are in phase 2 of the project and are awaiting approval on an Environment Site Assessment and once this is approved, they will be able to move forward in purchasing the property. The hope is this will be completed in January.

Mrs. Malone inquired about the developmental expert that The Turning Point hired. She asked if there were any plans for capital campaigns or individual donations. Mr. Purvis stated they will be developing a campaign for these purposes.

Mr. Bolduc suggested having a contractor do a thorough analysis on the building project for an accurate cost estimate as he believes some of the cost estimates are on the low end.

### **GRANITEVILLE FIRE DISTRICTS TOWN CLFRF DONATION REQUEST:**

Background: The Fire District (GFD) made a request earlier this year. The Selectboard made the decision not to give the GFD CLFRF funds as there is an abundance of grant money available for water projects. The GFD did apply to the State for funding to begin their water source development work. In response to GFD questions about status of its application the State has replied they are very busy with many applications. Robert Clark from Otter Creek Engineering agreed the State has numerous applications for staff available. GFD has tried to get State funding and wants to start the project sooner rather than late.

Andre Rouleau, Jen Malnati, and Jeff Gagne of the Prudential Committee were present.

Mr. Rouleau gave a brief history on how the Graniteville Fire District was formed. Mr. Rouleau stated the Graniteville Fire District (GFD) has had to purchase a lot of water over the last several years due to a lack of water supply. GFD is working with Otter Creek Engineering who advised them to do a 20 Year Planning Study. They applied for grant funding in March of 2021. Due to the number of applications and being understaffed the State has been unable to respond to their application. The GFD continues to receive comments regarding the taste and quality of the water. They are requesting \$50,000 - \$200,000 from the Town of Barre to start the 20 Year Planning Study.

Mr. Rouleau noted he has inquired with Don Murray from the Rock of Ages about a promising location for a new water source development. This would help increase their current flow and what they would sell to the Town.

Chair White noted the Town needs to look at what funds they have already obligated but they appreciate the updated information that GFD has supplied. Board members thanked Andre Rouleau, Jen Malnati, and Jeff Gagne for coming in.

### **REVIEW CORONAVIRUS LOCAL FISCAL RECOVERY FUND (CLFRF) STATUS:**

Background: The Town of Barre received \$2,307,709.02 in ARPA funds. Selectboards have the discretion over how to spend these allocations. The Barre Town Selectboard requested public input for the expenditures. Over the past several months the Board has put together a list of priorities to use the funds and a timeline. This agenda item is to review the status of the funds.

Town Manager Carl Rogers shared an updated list of the use of CLFRF funds. He gave a brief explanation of the document which included those projects that have been paid for, those that are obligated, and those that are still pending.

The Board discussed the following items:

- 22 Wilson Street improvements (lighting, airlock, and kitchen upgrade)
- 44 Brook Street: budget for restroom facility vs. current port-a-let service
- Electric charging stations: Mr. Crossley is looking at grant funding for installing stations
- Police additions: Mr. Bolduc will look into the possibility of a feasibility study

Chair White inquired about the Graniteville Fire District's request and if this would help save the Town money. Mr. Rogers noted overall it would as this would alleviate the Town from having to purchase the City's water at a higher rate. Mr. Rogers suggested the Town contact the State to investigate the possibility of lending the Fire District the funds while the grant is processing. Mrs. Malone noted she would like to see a more accurate number on the estimated cost of the Fire District's request.

Board Members discussed the Turning Point's request but are not prepared to commit to funds at this time. The developmental campaign will allow them additional funding opportunities and they would like to wait to see how things proceed.

### **5-YEAR BUILDING PLAN:**

Background: The 5-Year Building Plan is the basis for the Building Fund budget. The 3% increase in contributions practice started last year is continued. The revenues in the Building Fund budget will be increased 3%. Department Head input is sought for the Plan.

Mr. Rogers gave a summary of the 5-Year Building Plan document. The summary included the following:

- Fire Chief Chris Violette requests that the South Barre Fire Station furnace be moved up one year
- South Barre Fire Station siding replacement
- Air compressor at truck garage
- Wilson Street water pump station roof: year 1
- Paving driveway at the truck garage: year 5
- Carpet replacement in lower lobby and back stairwell of municipal building: year 5

*On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Bob Nelson, the Selectboard voted unanimously to adopt a 5-Year Building Plan for the period starting 2023-2024.*

### **ACCOUNTS PAYABLE:**

*On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Bob Nelson, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the accounts payable warrants for the week of December 20, 2022.*

Mrs. Malone inquired about the M&T Bank issues. Clerk Lunt stated the Clerk's Office and Finance Office had experienced problems with M&T Bank during their transition and there have also been multiple issues since. This is something the Town will keep an eye on.

### **MISCELLANEOUS:**

Selectboard Minutes of December 20, 2022 Continued:

***On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve a fireworks permit for Elizabeth & Paul Perreault to hold a display on December 31, 2022 with a rain date of January 1, 2023 at 42 Little John Road with the condition the display will cease by 10:00 p.m.***

***On a motion by Bob Nelson, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve a fireworks permit for Ryan Roberts to hold a display at 9:00 p.m. on December 31, 2022 at 131 West Cobble Hill Road with expectation it will cease by 10:00 p.m.***

***On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Bob Nelson, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve a fireworks permit for Zachary & Azaliah Tillinghast to hold a display at 9:00 p.m. on December 31, 2022 at 167 Middle Road with the expectation it will cease by 10:00 p.m.***

### **ROUND TABLE:**

Norma Malone:

- Mrs. Malone extended holiday wishes to all of the Barre Town residents. She commended residents on their holiday decorations and gave a special recognition to the resident located at 307 Hill Street!

Bob Nelson:

- Mr. Nelson echoed Mrs. Malone's comments. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. He commented for all to "be safe, be well, and be merry."

Justin Bolduc:

- Mr. Bolduc wished everyone a safe and happy holiday.

Jack Mitchell

- Mr. Mitchell echoed everyone's comments. He added that the weather will bring ice and asked residents to be aware and watch their footsteps. Everyone should preplan for sand from DPW.

### **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 8:58 p.m. for personnel and real estate.***

***On a motion by Jack Mitchell, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted unanimously to come out of executive session at 10:31 p.m.***

### **ADJOURN:**

Selectboard Minutes of December 20, 2022 Continued:

***On a motion by Bob Nelson, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted unanimously to adjourn at 10:32 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.