



# Town of Barre VERMONT

## BARRE TOWN SELECTBOARD MEETING January 11, 2022

### AGENDA

- P.I.L.O.T. Budget Committee interviews.....6:00 p.m.
1. Call to order.....6:30 p.m.
  2. Pledge of Allegiance.
  3. Consider approving agenda.
  4. Consider approving January 4 meeting minutes.
  5. Announcements.
  6. Receive guests for non-agenda items.
  7. Quarterly department head visits: a) public works superintendent and b) town engineer.
  8. Consider approving 2022 Town Highway Mileage Certificate.
  9. Consider approving COVID testing and vaccination grant from VT Department of Health.
  10. Consider appointing two budget Committee members.
  11. Discuss Coronavirus Local Recovery Fund grant usage.
  12. Consider approving weekly accounts payable warrants for January 11, 2022.
  13. Miscellaneous, including licenses and permits, if any.
  14. 'Round table.
  15. Executive session: personnel (action expected).
  16. Adjourn.

### MINUTES

The duly warned meeting of January 11, 2022 was held at the Barre Town Municipal Building, Selectboard Room, in Lower Websterville at 6:30 p.m.

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

**Selectboard Members Absent:** None

**Staff Members Present:** Town Manager Carl Rogers, Assistant Town Manager Elaine Wang, and Town Engineer Josh Martineau. Attendance by phone: Town Clerk Tina Lunt.

**Others Present:** Josh Howard.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chair White called the meeting to order at 6:23 p.m.

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

### APPROVE THE AGENDA:

*On a motion by Bob Nelson, seconded by Norma Malone, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the agenda as presented with the following addition:*

1. Add to #15 Executive Session: legal

**APPROVE THE MINUTES:**

*On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the January 4, 2021 meeting minutes with minor spelling and grammatical corrections.*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- The Vermont Housing Finance Agency's Vermont Homeowners Assistance Program provides help for homeowners who have experienced financial hardship due to COVID-19 in the last year. New funds haven't been released yet, but in the meantime, their Helpline opened last week to answer questions you may have about getting ready to apply. You can reach the Helpline at 833-221-4208 on Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- COVID vaccinations are available, including boosters for anyone aged 12 and up. Go to [healthvermont.gov](http://healthvermont.gov) for locations. Barre Town EMS is also vaccinating people Mondays and Thursdays 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m., including Pfizer boosters for anyone aged 12 and up who received their last COVID vaccine at least 5 months ago. No appointment is needed for this clinic, located at the EMS Station at 9 McLaughlin Road, just off Route 302.
- Christmas trees placed along roads south of 302 are being picked up this week. If you live north of 302 and your tree is still by your road, call 802-476-3522 with the address and Public Works will pick it up. Remember to remove all decorations first before putting the tree by the road. No wreaths, please.
- The elections for the Barre Unified Union School District and Central Vermont Career Center At-Large Director will be on March 1, 2022. To run, you must submit a nomination petition and consent of candidate form by Monday, January 24, 2022. The petition, form, and more information can be found at [barretown.org](http://barretown.org), on the Town Clerk page, under Election information. If you have questions, contact the Town Clerk's office at 479-9391.
- Help emergency services find you by having a house number at your driveway or mailbox post. If you wish, you can purchase them through the Town for \$11. To order yours, contact Tina at 479-9331, or visit [barretown.org](http://barretown.org), and click on announcement for a link to the form.
- If you appreciate the Town bulk trash service, please consider volunteering, and encourage others you know to volunteer. To be added to the volunteer list, call the Town Manager's office at 802-479-9331.

**GUESTS:** None

**QUARTERLY DEPARTMENT HEAD VISITS:**

Background: Department heads typically report quarterly to the Selectboard during P.I.L.O.T session. Due to the Budget Committee interviews the Public Works Superintendent and Town Engineer quarterly check-ins were moved to the regular agenda.

**Town Engineer:**

Town Engineer Josh Martineau was present.

Mr. Martineau's quarterly report was provided in the Board packet for review.

Mr. Martineau updated the Board on the following:

- TSAC agenda items: speed study, no outlet sign, overweight ordinance from Shelburne
- Foam overflow incident on Sterling Hill, Cherrywood and the Cross-Country line.
- Salting/Plowing: 47 events for salting/plowing, used 940 tons of salt which is an average of 20 tons per event.
- 586 overtime hours have been logged.
- Cheney has been called out a total of 5 times this year.
- VT 110 Bridge project.
- Bridge Street and Route 14 project.
- Quarry Hill project.
- Waterline projects: Websterville and Wilson Industrial Park.

Mrs. Malone inquired about pieces of crushed granite she found on the road in her neighborhood used in the gravel/sand mix for winter. She asked about this stone being used in the mixing of gravel. Mr. Martineau explained the process for using this particular cut stone and how it is helpful in the mixing process to build the roadbed.

A brief discussion took place regarding fleet fuel cards and if these would be beneficial for the Town.

**Public Works:**

DPW Superintendent Richard Tetreault was not able to be present for the meeting. It is noted for the record that Mr. Tetreault's quarterly report was provided in the Board packet for review.

**2022 HIGHWAY MILEAGE CERTIFICATE:**

Background: Annually the Town must file a Highway Mileage Certificate. The mileage reported is used to update maps and, more importantly, calculate the State Aid for Town Highways grant for the ensuing fiscal year. Cities and towns are granted money based on their Class 1, 2, and 3 road miles. Town Engineer Josh Martineau reports no changes from the 2021 report.

*On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Bob Nelson, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the 2022 Certificate of Highway Mileage as presented.*

**VERMONT DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH COVID TESTING AND VACCINATION GRANT:**

Background: This is a Vermont Department of Health COVID testing and vaccination work grant. The grant is titled Coronavirus Emergency Outbreak Testing and Vaccination administration. The grant is for the year 2022 and is up to \$300,000. There is no local match.

***On a motion by Jack Mitchell, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve and authorize EMS Director Chris LaMonda to sign the 2022 Coronavirus Emergency Outbreak Testing and Vaccination Administration grant, #03420-09171, with the Vermont Department of Health.***

**APPOINTING TWO BUDGET COMMITTEE MEMBERS:**

Background: The Selectboard appoints two committee members. The Town Clerk appoints one member. The three appointees select the final two members. All members must be registered Barre Town voters. Selection of Committee members is not limited to the pool of applicants who responded to the Selectboard's ads, but the Selectboard should appoint from this pool.

Mr. Nelson thanked everyone who applied for the Budget Committee. He expressed the Town is fortunate to have multiple qualified individuals who are interested in serving on this committee.

Board members placed their top two choice by paper ballots.

Chair White announced the top two votes were Phil Cecchini and Alan Garceau. Mr. Cecchini and Mr. Garceau will appoint two more members to complete the Budget Committee.

***On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Jack Mitchell, the Selectboard voted unanimously to appoint Phil Cecchini and Alan Garceau to the Budget Committee.***

**CORONAVIRUS LOCAL FISCAL RECOVERY FUNDS:**

Background: Barre Town is receiving \$2,307,709 in federal funds to help our community recover from the impact the pandemic has had and invest in the future. Finance Director Katelyn Kran will join the January 18 Selectboard meeting to discuss the funds Barre Town has received. The purpose of this discussion will be to get some direction or request for information for the January 18 agenda discussion.

Town Manager Carl Rogers shared that the US Treasury released the Final Rule for the use of the CLFRF funds. Mr. Rogers gave a brief overview of the Final Rule. The most significant change will be the reporting requirements and restrictions on how the money can be used. Mr. Rogers noted the first report for filing will be due on April 30, 2022.

The Final Rule broadens the Town's ability on the eligibility of the funds. There are still many restrictions. Mr. Rogers noted the funding can not be used to reduce taxes.

Conversation focused on creating a priority list for the Town's projects. Discussion continued regarding looking into the costs associated with these projects.

Mr. Nelson suggested offering a program to landlords to apply for assistance. The Federal and State assistance programs are for renters.

Mrs. Malone expressed she would like to see this money used to benefit the vast majority of residents and visitors.

Mr. Bolduc expressed he would like the Town to pursue electric charging stations at the Recreation area. Wilson Harley Davidson is the only electric charging station in Barre Town.

In closing, Board members will continue the work on the priority list and staff will start working on the costs associated with these projects.

**ACCOUNTS PAYABLE:**

*On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted to approve the accounts payable warrants for the week of January 11, 2022. Bob Nelson abstained.*

**MISCELLANEOUS:** None

**'ROUND TABLE:**

Norma Malone:

- Mrs. Malone expressed her appreciation for Assessor Beaudoin and Planning and Zoning Administrator Chris Violette. She noted the new information available on the GIS Tax Map system which now includes the tax cards is valuable information.
- Mrs. Malone commended the Clerk for the new minutes format.
- Mrs. Malone asked if there could be a discussion regarding the policies and procedures for public postings. This would eliminate duplicated information being shared.
- Mrs. Malone inquired about the draft audit. Mr. Rogers noted he does not have any information at this time.

Justin Bolduc:

- Mr. Bolduc stated an email chain was shared with him regarding the Freezing Fun for Families tournament. Mr. Bolduc expressed this group has gone above and beyond to restrict the size of the tournament voluntarily, even with no State restrictions. Ms. Wang shared the Rec Board is having a Special Meeting regarding this.

Jack Mitchell:

- Mr. Mitchell commented regarding the upcoming Budget Committee meetings. He stated if the meetings are held in person and individuals are masked it is important that everyone speaks clear and loudly as it will be difficult to hear.
- Mr. Mitchell asked if dogs are required to be leashed in the Town Forest, as he has received complaints. Ms. Wang confirmed dogs should be leashed anywhere on Town property. Mr. Mitchell asked for a reminder to be included in the announcements.

Paul White:

- Chair White noted at the BACD meeting on Monday they were recruiting people to serve on the Housing Task Force. He asked if Town Manager Carl Rogers was aware of this. Mr. Rogers stated he was not aware. Chair White wondered if our Town Housing Advisory Committee would be interested in serving on this committee.

**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.*

Selectboard Minutes of January 11, 2022 Continued:

*On a motion by Jack Mitchell, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted unanimously to go into executive session at 7:55 p.m. for personnel and legal.*

*On a motion by Jack Mitchell, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted unanimously to come out of executive session at 9:20 p.m.*

**ACTION:**

*On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Bob Nelson, the Selectboard voted 4-1 to authorize the Chair to sign the amended Temporary COVID-19 Leave Policy, retroactive to January 4, 2022 and effective until March 31, 2022. Justin Bolduc voted no.*

**ADJOURN:**

*On a motion by Jack Mitchell, seconded by Bob Nelson, the Selectboard voted unanimously to adjourn at 9:21 p.m.*

APPROVED MINUTES

Barre Town Selectboard

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

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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.