



Town of Barre VERMONT

BARRE TOWN SELECTBOARD MEETING January 4, 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 December 21 meeting minutes.
 5. Announcements.
 6. Receive guests for non-agenda items.
 7. Receive quarterly department head visit from EMS Director.
 8. Consider adopting EMS billing rates to be effective January 1, 2022.
 9. Consider adopting Sewage Allocation Policy for 2022.
 10. Consider approving weekly accounts payable warrants for December 28, 2021 and January 4, 2022.
 11. Miscellaneous, including licenses and permits, if any.
 12. ‘Round table.
 13. Executive session: legal, personnel.
 14. Adjourn.

MINUTES

The duly warned meeting of January 4, 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, and W. John “Jack” Mitchell. Attendance by phone: Bob Nelson.

Selectboard Members Absent: None

Staff Members Present: Town Manager Carl Rogers, Assistant Town Manager Elaine Wang, and Town Clerk Tina Lunt. Attendance by Teams: EMS Director Chris LaMonda.

Others Present: Times Argus Reporter Eric Blaisdell, and Cody Morrison. Attendance by phone: Kristen Martin.

CALL TO ORDER: Chair White called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

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

APPROVE THE AGENDA:

On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the amended agenda as follows:

- I. Add to #9 Miscellaneous: Request for letter of support for Montessori School of Central Vermont (MSCVT).

APPROVE THE MINUTES:

On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the December 21, 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, you can see if you will be eligible for the program once it re-opens by using their online prescreening tool, available at vermonthap.vhfa.org. There you can also sign up to receive news about the Vermont Homeowners Assistance Program.
- COVID vaccinations are available. Go to healthvermont.gov for locations. Barre Town EMS is also vaccinating people Mondays and Thursdays 3pm to 5pm. This clinic is for first doses, or second doses of Pfizer or Moderna, for people aged 12 and up. They will also administer booster shots for ages 16 and up. No appointment is needed for this clinic.
- If you celebrate this season with a Christmas tree, you have the option to have it collected and recycled by the Town this month. Roads north of 302 will be picked up the first week and roads south of 302 will be picked up the second week. Remember to remove all decorations first before putting the tree by the road. We are no longer accepting wreaths.
- When clearing snow from your property remember that no snow is to be pushed across or into a Town road, highway, or public sidewalk. Doing so could result in fines of \$60 to \$210 per offense.
- If you're looking for a gentle sledding hill, you are welcome to one behind the Town offices at 149 Websterville Road. You can park in that lot too.
- If you are interested in running for one of the offices up for election on March 1, 2022, you must submit a nomination petition and consent of candidate form. The two offices up for election, forms, and signature requirements can be found on the Barre Town website on the Town Clerk page under Election Information. The deadline for submission is Monday, January 24. Contact the Town Clerk's office at 479-9391 with questions.
- There is a free monthly clinic for dogs and cats. The next date is Saturday, January 8th, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., at the East Barre Fire Department. The address is 119 Mill Street in East Barre, Vermont. The clinic offers wellness exams, rabies vaccinations, treatment of parasites, treatment of minor illnesses, wounds, and injuries. No appointment necessary. Dogs must be on leash and cats must be in a crate. This free clinic is for individuals and families who are homeless or receive public assistance. More information is on the Town website.

GUESTS: NONE

QUARTERLY DEPARTMENT HEAD VISIT FROM EMS DIRECTOR:

Background: Department heads typically report quarterly to the Selectboard during P.I.L.O.T session. Due to the Budget Committee interviews the EMS quarterly check-in was moved to the regular agenda. EMS Director Chris LaMonda provided his quarterly report with the Board packet.

Chris LaMonda was present virtually on Teams.

Mr. LaMonda updated the Board on the following:

- Staffing
- Vaccination clinic hours
- COVID-19 testing grant
- Delinquent billing process
- Budget projects: roof, attic ceiling/installation and painting

Mr. Bolduc inquired about the increase in calls turned over this quarter. Mr. LaMonda stated he needs to review December numbers to get a better idea on the comparison.

Chair White stated the Board sees ambulance bills for various reasons, noting the multiple Ferry transports to New York. Mr. LaMonda explained these are the mental health transports to CVPH in Plattsburgh.

NEW EMS BILLING RATES FOR 2022:

Background: This is an annual action by the Selectboard. The Board was provided with an enclosure that shows the rate increase history. EMS Director Chris LaMonda is recommending a 7.5% rate increase.

Chris LaMonda presented a spreadsheet to the Board that included the proposed rates. Board members asked clarifying questions regarding the basis of the increase.

On a motion by Bob Nelson, seconded by Norma Malone, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the 2022 EMS Fee Schedule dated January 4, 2022, as presented at the meeting.

2022 SEWAGE ALLOCATION POLICY RENEWAL:

Background: Annually the Selectboard reviews and updates the Sewage Allocation Policy. This is prepared by the Town Engineer. The Town of Barre sewage is treated by Barre City. Sewage discharges to the Barre City collection line and interceptors from most of the Town are at metered points. This policy is intended to be used as a plan to allocate a finite resource (sewage treatment capacity) and a planning tool for investments and improvements. The allocation purpose is not as critical since the year 2000 when the plant was upgraded, and the Town acquired additional allocations. The requirement for an annual renewal is still an opportunity for the Town to check in on, and revise the numbers, and to review the policy provisions for continued relevance.

On a motion by Bob Nelson, seconded by Jack Mitchell, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the 2022 Sewage Allocation Policy renewal.

Mrs. Malone asked Town Manager Carl Rogers several questions pertaining to the policy. After discussion, it is noted changes will be made on page 4 (number of meters) and page 7 (date change).

A discussion regarding infiltration took place. Mrs. Malone asked Mr. Rogers if the Town has ever done an estimate of the cost associated with the water used due to infiltration. Mr. Rogers explained what has been done to monitor any potential concerns.

Conversation continued regarding the possible use of ARPA funds to replace the clay tile pipe to try to reduce the infiltration.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE:

On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the accounts payable warrants for the week of December 28, 2021 and January 4, 2022.

MISCELLANEOUS:

Cody Morrison from Barre Area Development was present.

Kristen Martin from the Montessori School of Central Vermont (MSCVT) was present on the telephone.

Cody Morrison shared that Barre Area Development is seeking to earn the Town's support for a grant application. A letter of support for the Montessori School of Central Vermont (MSCVT) was provided to the Board. Mr. Morrison noted the school is undergoing an expansion project that will allow the school to increase their enrollment and bring more staffing opportunities. There are currently only two other Montessori schools in Vermont.

Mrs. Malone inquired about the expansion and how this would affect the current parking situation at the school. Kristin Martin explained the proposed options for traffic flow and an additional parking source.

On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted unanimously to authorize the chair to sign the letter of support for the Montessori School of Central Vermont for the grant application.

'ROUND TABLE:

Norma Malone:

- Mrs. Malone stated she is hopeful the Budget Committee meetings can be held in-person using the Selectboard meeting room. There should be adequate space to social distance.
- Mrs. Malone inquired about the AV system. Ms. Wang shared the electricians have been at the Town office completing work. She noted the programmer is also scheduled. Ms. Wang stated the T.V. was backordered and she advised Fuzzbuzz Technologies to order a replacement option.

Justin Bolduc:

- Mr. Bolduc noted the Town calendar on the website has not been updated to reflect 2022 meeting dates. Mrs. Lunt shared that this information was brought to her attention earlier and she had passed this information along to the Town Manager's Executive Secretary who will be updating as soon as possible.

Jack Mitchell:

- Mr. Mitchell shared that the Casella Driver gave praise to the Town's Public Works Department. The Casella Driver expressed that Barre Town roads are some of the best roads in the area. Mr. Mitchell asked that this news be passed along to all of the Public Works staff.
- Mr. Mitchell shared his appreciation for Governor Scott's letter to Raymond Brown. He noted it was very nice of the Governor to take the time to send Mr. Brown the letter.
- Mr. Mitchell commented on the CLA information in his Board packet. He noted the Times Argus had an article regarding CLA.
- Mr. Mitchell inquired about the foam in the sewer lines and if the Town had figured out what had caused this. Mr. Rogers stated they are not sure exactly what the foam was but do believe it was a cleaning detergent that Vermont Creamery was using. There have been no reports since November.

Bob Nelson:

- Mr. Nelson inquired about the increase in COVID-19 cases. He asked how staff feels about the building staying open and if the Town is considering making any changes. Mr. Rogers confirmed that no changes are currently being made. The staff continues to stay diligent with social distancing and cleaning. The Town office does have a mask requirement in place.

Paul White:

- Chair White inquired about the firetruck that was sold before Christmas. Mr. Rogers noted the owners are still interested. The Town shop is working with Alison's Transmission's regarding the specific part that is needed to have the firetruck fixed.

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 7:56 p.m. for legal and personnel.

On a motion by Jack Mitchell, seconded by Norma Malone, the Selectboard voted unanimously to come out of executive session at 9:16 p.m.

ADJOURN:

On a motion by Jack Mitchell, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted unanimously to adjourn at 9:16 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.