



# Town of Barre VERMONT

## BARRE TOWN SELECTBOARD MEETING

April 11, 2023

### AGENDA

1. Call to order.....6:00 p.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Consider approving agenda
4. Consider approving April 4, 2023 Budget Committee and Selectboard meeting minutes
5. Announcements
6. Receive guests for non-agenda items.
7. Public hearing for a proposed amendment to Town Charter Section 6 (a), regarding the Board of Civil Authority’s annual re-organization meeting
8. Public information session regarding a Town Meeting ballot article asking if the position of Auditor shall be abolished
9. Quarterly department head visits: **a)** public works; **b)** town engineer
10. Consider awarding contracts: a) road reclaiming, milling and paving, b) trash and recyclables hauling, c) port-a-lets
11. Consider authorizing letter of intent for municipal roads grant-in-aid (stormwater)
12. Consider sale of excavator
13. Consider appointment of the Planning Commission
14. Consider designating group to volunteer and seek donations at the spring bulk trash collection
15. Consider approving agreement to rent farm fields
16. Consider approving weekly accounts payable warrants for April 11, 2023
17. Miscellaneous: a) GG Store Inc.’s (aka Graniteville General Store) license applications for second class liquor, tobacco and tobacco substitute
18. ‘Round the table
19. Executive session: contracts, personnel, labor contracts
20. Adjourn

### MINUTES

The duly warned meeting of April 11, 2023 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, Town Clerk Tina Lunt, Assistant Town Manager Chris Violette, DPW Superintendent Richard Tetreault, and Town Engineer Josh Martineau.

**Others Present:** Times Argus Reporter Eric Blaisdell.

**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 Norma Malone, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the agenda as presented with the additional liquor licenses.*

**APPROVE THE MINUTES:**

*On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the April 4, 2023 Selectboard meeting minutes with minor spelling and grammatical corrections.*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- If you own or live in your Barre Town home, remember to file your Homestead Declaration Form by April 18, 2023. If you don't file, you'll be assessed a higher education tax rate than you should be. The 2023 Homestead Declaration form is available at [tax.vermont.gov](http://tax.vermont.gov).
- We are seeking volunteers to help operate the Barre Town Lawn Waste Site on weekdays through the summer and fall. Lawn Waste Site volunteers are not required to help unload vehicles. The primary responsibilities are to open and close the site and to make sure people know how to use the site properly. The volunteer can work one or more days a week, for 2 or 3 hours a day. Volunteers allow the site to be open more than it might otherwise be which is a big help to Town residents. If you would like more information or are interested in volunteering, please call the Town Manager's Office at 802-479-9331.
- Early ballots for election day, May 9<sup>th</sup>, will be available by April 19<sup>th</sup>. Voters will be asked to vote on the municipal budget and to elect two Selectboard members as well as several requests by the usual slate of outside entities. In addition, voters will be asked, once again, to vote on a revised Barre Unified Union School District budget. Anybody who requested an early ballot for the March school vote will automatically be mailed an early ballot, those that didn't, but would like to for this election, should contact the Town Clerk's Office at 802-479-9391.
- Green Up Day is Saturday, May 6<sup>th</sup> and supplies have arrived at the Town Manager's Office in the Municipal Building. Stop by Monday through Friday between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. and pick up green trash bags and gloves and if you wish, sign up for a particular section of road you would like to cover. In case you are eager to get going before the official day, greening up isn't limited to just Green Up Day, you can grab supplies and begin anytime.
- Mark your calendars for the spring Barre Town bulk trash collection May 13<sup>th</sup>. More details can be found in the April newsletter and soon at [barretown.org](http://barretown.org).
- Mr. Mitchell announced items that will not be accepted at the spring bulk trash collection. Some of those items include: lawn waste, hazardous materials, tires, appliances, electronics, household trash. These items can be taken to other designated locations, such as the Lawn Waste Site, District

ARCC, Wilson Depot, or CVSWS. Please visit [www.barretown.org](http://www.barretown.org) for more information. On Saturday, May 13 they will be accepting cash only, no credit or debit cards will be accepted at the bulk trash event.

**GUESTS:** None

**PUBLIC HEARING – PROPOSED TOWN CHARTER AMENDMENT:**

**Background:** This is the second of two hearings for a proposed amendment to Town Charter Section 6 (a), regarding the Board of Civil Authority’s annual re-organization meeting. The first meeting was held on Tuesday, April 4. The proposed Charter amendment will be on the May 9, 2023 Annual Election ballot.

***On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted unanimously to open the public hearing at 6:09 p.m. for the proposed amendment to Town Charter Section 6 (a), regarding the Board of Civil Authority’s annual re-organization meeting.***

Chair White recapped the proposed Charter amendment. The amendment clarifies that the Board of Civil Authority re-organization will take place at the first meeting on or after February 1 of each year, the Board shall elect a Chair and a Vice-Chair. Additionally, in the absence of either the Chair or Vice-Chair or Clerk from a meeting, the first order of business would be for the Board to elect a Chair or Clerk, Pro Tempore to serve for the meeting.

There was no public comment.

***On a motion by Bob Nelson, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted unanimously to close the public hearing at 6:11 p.m. for the proposed amendment to Town Charter Section 6 (a), regarding the Board of Civil Authority’s annual re-organization meeting.***

**INFORMATION SESSION REGARDING TOWN MEETING BALLOT ARTICLE:**

**Background:** The Town Charter, Section 10, allows for the possibility of the voters abolishing the Office of the Auditor. If the Barre Town voters vote in favor of this article, the following year the Selectboard would propose amendments to delete any reference to the elected auditors from the Charter.

This agenda item is for informational purposes only. There was no public comment or questions.

Many years ago, the Town hired a public accountant to audit their books. The Town Auditors have not worked on the Town’s financial records for decades. The Town Charter allows for abolishing the Office of the Auditor if the voters of the Town are in favor. This question will be on the May 9 ballot.

**QUARTERLY DEPARTMENT HEAD VISITS:**

**Department of Public Works:**

DPW Supervisor Richard Tetreault was present.

Mr. Tetreault presented his quarterly report. A summary of his presentation includes:

- Staffing update
- The new grader arrived on March 29

Selectboard Minutes of April 11, 2023 Continued:

- DPW has had an early start on spring sewer cleaning, grading, and plow damage
- Statistics update:
  - 2,179 tons of salt was purchased = \$185,742.90
  - 75 call outs
  - 293 yards of salt was used (1.06 tons of salt = 1 yard of salt)
  - 3194 yards of sanding

Mr. Mitchell inquired about the plow service that Thomas Farm and Garden provide this year. Mr. Tetreault said they received very few complaints from the taxpayers, and he would not hesitate to hire them again.

Town Engineer:

Town Engineer Josh Martineau was present.

Mr. Martineau presented his quarterly report. A summary of his presentation includes:

- Traffic Safety Advisory Committee (TSAC)
  - No meeting in January or March
  - February Meeting:
    - Speed reduction request on Taplin Road: speed study will be completed
    - Speed studies on the following streets: Cassie Street, Camp Street, Hillside Avenue, Beckley Hill Road
- Websterville Waterline: Munson has finalized all connections, and everything has been tested.
- Wilson Industrial Park: Munson completed the interconnection in the beginning of March, and will return in May to complete the pavement patch and lawn work on Bolster Road.
- VTrans: The culvert project on Route 302 was started yesterday. There are a total of 27 culverts to complete.
- 110 Bridge: This project is slated to start in June of 2023. The 60-day closure is anticipated for June 26<sup>th</sup>. Notification will be communicated at least 2 weeks prior to the 60-day closure.
- Rt. 14 and Merchant Street construction update
- Intersection projects: Slated for 2025/2026
- DPW Yard Stormwater: Poulin Companies is expected to start construction on May 20.
- Misc. Projects: paving, culverts, manholes, line striping, culvert lining, and line service inventory

Mr. Martineau stated his intern from last year will be returning. Additionally, he will have a second intern, Alex Maurice, who is a UMass student joining him this summer.

Mr. Mitchell acknowledged Munson Earth Moving and their work on the Websterville Waterline project. He stated the Websterville residents pass their appreciation on to them for their good work.

**CONTRACTS:**

**Reclaiming, Milling, and Paving**

Background: Town Engineer Josh Martineau prepared bidding specifications based on the approved Road Paving Plan. Apart from adding the specifications for reclaiming, the specs are the same as in prior years. The specifications were sent to 16 companies. The specifications call for one contract performing all three types of work. The contract period is July 10, 2023 to September 15, 2023. Any section of road milled or reclaimed must be paved within fourteen days of initial disturbance. The specs allow the work on Plainfield

Brook Road and Richardson Road to be done from April 15, 2024 to June 7, 2024. The Town received two bids. Pike is the low bidder. The sum of their bid is \$9,401 under budget.

The budgeted prices for the work were: reclaiming \$6.50/s.y; milling \$2.00/s.y; and paving \$90/ton.

***On a motion by Bob Nelson, seconded by Justin Bolduc, The Selectboard voted unanimously to award the 2023 road reclaiming, milling, and paving contract to Pike Industries based on the per unit prices of \$2.20 per square yard for milling, \$4.00 per square yard for reclaiming, and \$94.20 per ton for paving.***

Town Manager Carl Rogers stated if the Town receives the paving grant, he would like to consider putting down 4" of pavement on Plainfield Brook Road rather than 3", as he thinks it will help with the amount of traffic on that road.

### **Trash and Recyclable Hauling:**

**Background:** This contract is for removing trash and recyclables from the EMS station, DPW truck garage, municipal building, and recreation area (seasonal). Additionally, trash is picked up at the Wilson Cemetery. The schedule at all locations is bi-weekly. Bidding specifications were mailed to four companies, including A&J Recycling for the first time. The Town received two bids; Casella and Myers. Myers is the low bidder.

***On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted unanimously to award the May 1, 2023 to April 30, 2024 trash and recyclables hauling contract to Myers Waste and Recycling.***

### **Port-a-lets:**

**Background:** The bidding specifications are the same as the 2022-2023 contract, which was awarded to P&P Septic. The locations are Wilson Cemetery, Town Forest (2), East Barre Park, Trow Hill Playground, Lower Graniteville Playground. Except for the Town Forest location the service is seasonal. Bidding specifications were mailed to four companies including Wind River. Copies of the bid result sheet were handed out at the meeting for Board members to review, as the bid opening was Tuesday morning.

Town Manager Carl Rogers distributed a bid result sheet. Two bids were received; P&P Septic and Wind River. Wind River is the low bidder and under budget. Additionally, the bid is lower than what the Town is currently paying with P&P Septic. The Town has used Wind River in the past, however, their administrative services were not great. Mr. Roger's stated he has heard the company has grown and become more efficient. The Manager recommends the Town give them a second chance.

***On a motion by Justin Bolduc, seconded by Norma Malone, The Selectboard voted unanimously to award the 2023-2024 port-a-let service to Wind River based on their per month price for service at each location.***

### **MUNICIPAL ROADS GRANT-IN-AID (STORMWATER) LETTER OF INTENT:**

**Background:** This letter of intent (LOI) is for the non-competitive grant that will reimburse the Town for work performed on eligible stormwater quality practices in hydrologically connected sections of road. The Town currently has 700 segments in Town. This is the grant that was added to the Highway Fund revenues, as the Town knows it will be received. The grant is for \$22,000.

***On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Bob Nelson, The Selectboard voted unanimously to authorize Chris Violette to sign the letter of intent for the state fiscal year 2024 municipal roads grants-in-aid program.***

**SALE OF EXCAVATOR:**

Background: The 2003 Caterpillar excavator was advertised for sale in the local newspapers, on the VLCT website and on Vermont Local Roads listserv. If there are no bids the Town will ask for authorization to place it on Govdeals auction site.

Mr. Roger's stated no bids were received. The recommendation is to list the excavator on Govdeals auction site to expand the market. There was consideration to lower the cost of the machine.

**PLANNING COMMISSION:**

Background: Last week the Board interviewed four applicants for a vacancy on the Planning Commission. This appointment will fill the vacancy created by Chris Violette's resignation. The term expires May 31, 2024.

Mr. Nelson noted the Town is extraordinarily fortunate to have multiple highly qualified candidates that were all willing to serve on the Planning Commission.

Paper ballots were used to cast votes. Chair White tallied the votes.

***On a motion by Chair White, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted unanimously to appoint Alice Farrell to the Planning Commission to fill the term previously held by Chris Violette that expires May 31, 2024.***

Board members thanked all citizens for their interest in volunteering for the Planning Commission.

**SPRING BULK TRASH COLLECTION GROUP:**

Background: For many years Project Graduation has been the volunteer group for the Spring Bulk Trash Collection. Project Graduation decided not to participate this year. Mike Gilbar reached out to the Fire Department Auxiliary, who was the volunteer group in 2020 when COVID delayed the collection in June. The Auxiliary has agreed to volunteer again.

***On a motion by Jack Mitchell, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted unanimously to designate the Barre Town Fire Department Auxiliary as the volunteer group for the 2023 spring bulk trash collection.***

**FARM FIELD RENT AGREEMENT:**

Background: The Town has leased out the vacant land that sits behind the Municipal Building adjacent to the Industrial Park. This has been leased out for a long time to a farmer for the purpose of growing and harvesting hay. This farmer is no longer interested in leasing the property, and the Town has identified a new operator.

Selectboard Minutes of April 11, 2023 Continued:

Town Manager Carl Roger stated the 3-year rent agreement was signed by the Lamberts. The Lamberts have paid the \$1,000 rent for 2023 which is due on September 30.

The agreement allows them to take the hay off by baling or chopping. They also may plant and harvest other crops Although the Lamberts said they will not need to spread liquid manure, the agreement states they may spread it on the east side, with the Selectboard's approval.

***On a motion by Justin Bolduc, seconded by Bob Nelson, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve a 3-year farm field rent agreement, beginning April, 2023 and expiring November, 2025, with Jesse and Jen Lambert.***

### **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 April 11, 2023. Bob Nelson abstained.***

### **MISCELLANEOUS:**

***On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Bob Nelson, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the 2023 Second Class Liquor, Tobacco License, and Tobacco Substitute License for GG Store Inc. (aka Graniteville General Store).***

***On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Bob Nelson, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the 2023 First Class Commercial Caterer License for Jockey Hollow Deli & Catering, Inc.***

***On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Bob Nelson, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the 2023 First Class and Third Class Liquor License for Canadian Club, Inc.***

### **ROUND TABLE:**

Jack Mitchell:

- Mr. Mitchell stated he was happy to see Mr. Roger's notes in the Board packet regarding the Church Hill sewer line.
- Mr. Mitchell announced when he departs from his Selectboard seat he would like to take his designated chair with him.

### **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 7:25 p.m. for contracts, personnel, and labor contracts.***

***On a motion by Jack Mitchell, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted unanimously to exit executive session at 8:32 p.m.***

**ADJOURN:**

***On a motion by Justin Bolduc, seconded by Bob Nelson, the Selectboard voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:32 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 \_\_\_\_\_, 2023.

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