



Town of Barre VERMONT

BARRE TOWN SELECTBOARD MEETING

April 4, 2023

AGENDA

1. Call to order.....6:00 p.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Consider approving agenda
4. Consider approving March 28, 2023 Budget Committee and Selectboard meeting minutes
5. Announcements
6. Receive guests for non-agenda items.
7. Interview Planning Commission applicants: **a)** JP Isabelle, **b)** Chris Neddo, **c)** Rodney Morin, **d)** Alice Farrell
8. Public Hearing for a proposed amendment to Town Charter Section 6 (a), regarding the Board of Civil Authority’s annual re-organization meeting
9. Public information session regarding a Town Meeting ballot article asking if the position of Auditor shall be abolished
10. Quarterly department head visits: **a)** fire chief; **b)** police chief
11. Consider approving a police services agreement with Thunder Road
12. Consider authorizing the Town Clerk to issue a special event permit to Thunder Road for the 2023 season
13. Consider awarding contract for a dump body and plow on a new one-ton truck
14. Consider approving Warnings for the Annual Open Town Meeting and the Annual Election of Officers and Voting by Australian Ballot
15. Consider appointment to the CV Regional Planning Commission
16. Consider approving weekly accounts payable warrants for April 4, 2023
17. Miscellaneous: **a)** Bevins 5 Family Enterprises, LLC (d/b/a Gunner Brook Store and Deli) second class liquor and tobacco licenses; **b)** other licenses and permits, if any
18. ‘Round the table
19. Executive session: contracts, personnel, labor contracts, real estate
20. Adjourn

MINUTES

The duly warned meeting of April 4, 2023 was held at the Barre Town Municipal Building, Selectboard Room, in Lower Websterville at 5:30 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, Fire Chief Andy Lange, and Police Chief William Dodge.

Others Present: JP Isabelle, Chris Neddo, Rodney Morin, Alice Farrell, and Times Argus Reporter Eric Blaisdell.

CALL TO ORDER: Chair White called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. at the EOC Conference Room in the Municipal Building.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

On a motion by Bob Nelson 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 Bob Nelson, seconded by Jack Mitchell, the Selectboard voted unanimously to go into executive session at 5:32 p.m. for labor contract joined by EMS Director Paul Ginther and Attorney Scott Cameron (virtual attendance).

On a motion by Bob Nelson, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted unanimously to exit executive session at 5:59 p.m.

The Selectboard recessed the meeting at 5:59 p.m.

The Selectboard reconvened the meeting at 6:03 p.m. in the Selectboard Meeting Room.

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 agenda as presented.

APPROVE THE MINUTES:

On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Bob Nelson, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the March 28, 2023 Budget Committee and April 4, 2023 Selectboard meeting minutes with minor spelling and grammatical corrections.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- The Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District will hold their annual household hazardous waste collection on Saturday, April 8th at the Public Works Yard, 79 Pitman Road from 9:00am – 1:00pm. The cost is \$20 per vehicle. More information can be found at barretown.org.
- Equally as important as the household hazardous waste event, is the annual Egg Hunt, also this Saturday, April 8. Rotary Park in Barre City will once again host this exciting spectacular, co-sponsored by the Barre City and Barre Town Recreation Departments. If your children are between the ages of 3 and 10, you do not want to miss this! The hunt will begin at 10:00 a.m. SHARP, anything later will likely be too late.

- We are still in pursuit of summer help. We have at least one opening in each of our Public Works and Cemetery Departments. Please contact the Town Manager's Office or barretown.org for more information.
- 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 allows 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 in volunteering, please call the Town Manager's Office at 802-479-9331.
- We are also seeking letters of interest from residents willing to serve as alternates on the following regional organizations: Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission, CV Fiber Board and Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission's Transportation Advisory Committee. As an alternate, the time commitment is typically less than what the regular member may need. This is a great way to dip your toe in to public service and serve your community. For information about these organizations visit their website or call the Town Manager's Office. Letters or emails of interest may be sent to the Town Manager's Office, P.O., Box 116, Websterville, VT 05678 or emailed to offices@barretown.org.
- Mr. Mitchell announced that the spring bulk trash event will take place on Saturday, May 13 from 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. He reminded residents this service is for Barre Town property owners and not for landlords looking to clean up properties. A utility bill or Town tax bill with name and address will serve as identification and must be shown at the check-in table. Mr. Mitchell stated items that are accepted and not accepted, please visit www.barretown.org for more information. Stay tuned for more information as we get closer to the event.

GUESTS: None

PLANNING COMMISSION INTERVIEWS:

Background: The vacancy on the Planning Commission is due to Chris Violette's resignation. The Town advertised the vacancy in January, however, due to the Budget Committee meetings they have not been able to interview applicants until now. Since this time, the Town has learned there may be another Planning Commission vacancy as a current member is running for a Selectboard seat. The Board has 4 applicants that were recruited and will be interviewed this evening with a plan to appoint on April 11. The new members term will expire on May 31, 2024.

JP Isabelle

Mr. Isabelle stated he was born and raised in Barre Town and has been a Barre Town property owner for the past 12 years. Mr Isabelle currently serves on the Board of Civil Authority as an elected Justice of the Peace. He works fulltime at the Secretary of the State's Office as a lawyer in the Election's Division Office. Previously, Mr. Isabelle has served as the Rec Board Chair and on the Barre Town Budget Committee. He noted the Planning Commission would help him become more involved within the community.

Chris Neddo

Mr. Neddo is a current member of the Development Review Board (DRB). Mr. Neddo stated he has been following the Legislative changes closely and this is one of the main reasons he is looking to become involved with this Committee. He expressed his interest in the S.100 bill, sharing his concerns for Barre Town. Mr. Neddo noted he has reviewed the Town Plan and has attended prior Planning Commission meetings as an observer and applicant. He has experience with Forestry and Current Use. Mr. Neddo noted his intent would be to serve on both the DRB and Planning Commission if he is appointed.

Rodney Morin

Mr. Morin stated he has been a longtime Barre Town resident and is familiar with the area. He has not volunteered in the past, however, was encouraged by others to start getting more involved in the community. Mr. Morin retired after 34 years from the Agency of Transportation where he served as a Motor Technician. He currently is working as a full-time realtor and, in the summer, he works at the Barre Country Club. Mr. Morin noted with his real estate knowledge, along with his understanding of the Town databases, he thought he could help serve the Town on the Planning Commission. Additionally, he has knowledge of Act 250 and has attended DRB meetings with his real estate clients.

Alice Farrell

Mrs. Farrell has been a Barre Town resident for the past 12 years. Previously, she lived in New York where she served on the Planning Committee for many years. In New York her work involved creating the Master Plan and updating this plan. Mrs. Farrell stated when she saw the advertisement regarding the Planning Commission vacancy, she thought this was a great opportunity to dedicate her time to the Committee as she is no longer serving on the Barre Unified Union School District School Board. Mrs. Farrell has completed trainings and has familiarity with the Vermont State Statutes. She noted Barre Town has a very strong family component and the development she has seen has been well done.

The Board thanked the volunteers for coming in and an appointment will be made at the Tuesday, April 11 meeting.

QUARTERLY DEPARTMENT HEAD VISITS:

Police Chief:

Chief Dodge was present.

Chief Dodge presented his quarterly report. A summary of his presentation includes:

- Training:
 - K-9 monthly trainings
 - ARIDE course
 - First-Aid and Taser
 - Spring trainings: Use of Force & Firearms
- Staffing:
 - Update on Officer Hook
 - Officer Day has completed Phase I
- School Resource Officer (SRO):
 - 177 hours this quarter
 - Response to bomb threat on March 22
 - Safety meeting: Barre Town and Barre City will have card access to all BUUSD buildings
- Highway Safety Grants:

Selectboard Minutes of April 4, 2023 Continued:

- Vehicles
 - Officer De Prato's vehicle
 - No new update on truck
- Stat's
 - 1535 total calls this quarter

Mr. Nelson shared his appreciation for the Chief and his team for continuing to look out for all of the Barre Town residents.

Mrs. Malone inquired about the lack of the SRO at the high school. She asked Chief Dodge his opinion on this matter. Chief Dodge said if it was his decision, he would have an SRO at each school. The value of having this position at the school is beneficial for all.

Fire Chief:

Chief Lange was present.

Chief Lange presented his quarterly report. A summary of his presentation includes:

- Staffing Update:
 - Retirement of Chris Violette after 18 years, has involved a team effort for this transition
 - The Fire Department is full staffed at this time
 - 5 new firefighters have been recruited this quarter
 - Recruitment drive scheduled for May 13
 - The Town currently have 28 active firefighters (minus the officers)

Chair White inquired about the Fire Departments gear supply. Chief Lange stated their pager and gear supply is running low, and depending on how the recruitment drive goes the Town may need to look into purchasing more gear.

- Emergency calls: 35 for the quarter
 - Bomb threat at Barre Town Elementary School: Chief Lange plans to schedule related future training
- Trainings:
 - Tanker supply and pumper training
 - Stabilization and Extrication
 - UTV and off-road rescue training
- 3 Officer Meetings were held
 - Tour of Orange School in February
- Miscellaneous
 - Training Committees have been formed
 - Welcome home parade for SHS Girls Hockey parade
 - Rabies Clinic
 - Freezing Fun for Families

Mrs. Malone inquired about electric vehicle fire training. Chief Lange stated the only firefighter that has completed this training is Chris Day. Unfortunately, there was a cap on this training when it was offered and only one individual per Fire Department was allowed at that time. Chief Lange explained he values the

importance of electric vehicle fire training, and it is on his list for the entire department to be trained. He hopes to report back within the next 6 months with more information.

Board members shared their appreciation for Chief Lange.

2023 POLICE SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH THUNDER ROAD:

Background: Police Chief William Dodge and Town Manager Carl Rogers met with Thunder Road Representative Cris Michaud for the Town's usual pre-application, season introduction. Thunder Road is planning a total of twenty (20) events this coming season. A notable difference this year is the July 20 Superstar Racing Experience. In this made-for-TV event, about a dozen famous drivers will race and a large crowd is expected to attend. Thunder Road is making plans to use off-site parking and bus spectators to the track. Additionally, they are hiring a security company to assist the police. The Police Department and Thunder Road are satisfied with the police coverage provided last year. The hourly rates per officer were updated.

Town Manager Carl Roger's noted the Town received a revised schedule from Thunder Road which included the Milk Bowl dates.

On a motion by Bob Nelson, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the 2023 Police Services Agreement with Thunder Road.

Mrs. Malone inquired about the Notice of Compliance dates. She stated the Fire Department and Police Department dates were not aligned with each other. The Police Chief will revise his document. For the record, the correct dates should be listed as May 1 to October 31, 2023.

SPECIAL EVENT PERMIT FOR THUNDER ROAD'S 2023 RACE SEASON:

Background: Per the Town's ordinance, the Selectboard authorizes the Town Clerk to issue a special event permit. Thunder Road has insurance effective to June 3, 2023. They will send a new certificate of insurance when the policy is renewed. A copy of Thunder Road's contract with Speedway Safety Service and event schedule was provided for review. The permit fee of \$800 was paid to the Town. The State racing permit is valid for the 2023 season.

On a motion by Bob Nelson, seconded by Norma Malone, the Selectboard voted unanimously to authorize the Town Clerk to give Thunder Road a special event permit for Thunder Road's 2023 race season.

PUBLIC HEARING – PROPOSED TOWN CHARTER AMENDMENT:

Background: This is the first 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 second meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 11. The proposed Charter amendment will be on the May 9, 2023 Annual Election ballot.

On a motion by Bob Nelson, seconded by Norma Malone, the Selectboard voted unanimously to open the public hearing at 7:38 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 summarized the proposed Charter amendment. The amendment clarifies that the 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.

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

On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Bob Nelson, the Selectboard voted unanimously to close the public hearing at 7:42 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 present for questions.

Chair White stated many years ago the Town hired a public accountant for auditing the 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.

ONE-TON DRUCK DUMP BODY AND PLOW CONTRACT:

Background: The FY '22-'23 Equipment Fund includes money to purchase a new one-ton dump truck. The purchase plan calls for four (4) annual payments of \$36,575, a total of \$146,300. Last summer a Ford F-550 was ordered from Ford of Claremont. The price was \$60,005. Bid specifications were sent to six companies for a dump body and plow. Three bids were received. H.P.

Fairfield is the low bidder. H.P. Fairfield's price for a stainless-steel body and plow is \$69,850. The total cost of the truck would be \$129,855. The recommendation from DPW is to reward to H. P. Fairfield.

On a motion by Chair White, seconded by Bob Nelson, The Selectboard voted unanimously to award the one-ton dump body and plow contract to H.P. Fairfield for a stainless-steel body at a price of \$69,850.

ANNUAL OPEN TOWN MEETING & ELECTION OF OFFICERS BY AUSTRALIAN BALLOT:

Background: The Annual Election warning states the budget amounts approved by the Budget Committee. Last year every not-for-profit donation was approved. The not-for-profit organizations supplied information for the Town to verify the organization still provides services to eligible Barre Town residents that the Town's donation is used for those service(s), including the approximate number of Town residents served. All of the not-for-profits that were on the 2022 ballot will be back on the 2023 ballot. No new groups

petitioned to be on the 2023 ballot. Additionally, the Town Charter amendment and the article about abolishing the auditors are on the warning. The Annual Open Town Meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 3 and the Annual Election of Officers by Australian Ballot will be held on Tuesday, May 9.

Clerk Lunt stated she would like to include the Barre Unified Union School District budget revote question on the Town Meeting ballot. This will be more cost efficient and certainly make tallying easier if there is one ballot. Board consensus is to move forward with this option.

Chair White inquired about the May 3 warning. He suggested a language amendment to the header that states a “public hearing” to an “informational presentation”. Town Manager Carl Rogers stated the Charter does not address how it should be completed or written, he stated the word public hearing has been used for a long time but that he agrees the Chair recommendation is more accurate. Board consensus is to move forward with this change. Additionally, Chair White inquired about the May 9 warning. He questioned the language of Article 25, asking if there should be an addition to the dollar amount noted referencing Article 2. He noted this would stay consistent with past practice. Board members discussed the Chair’s recommendations, and the ultimate decision was to amend Article 25 for consistency purposes.

On a motion by Justin Bolduc, seconded by, Bob Nelson, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the Annual Open Town Meeting and Election of Officers by Australian Ballot as amended.

CENTRAL VERMONT REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION:

Background: George Clain has been the primary representative to the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission. His term expired on March 31, 2023. Mr. Clain has agreed to continue serving as the Town’s primary representative to the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission (CVRPC). Mike Gilbar who is currently the Town’s alternate representative is running for Selectboard.

On a motion by Jack Mitchell, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted unanimously to re-appoint George Clain as the Town’s primary representative to the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission for a term that expires March 31, 2024.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE:

On a motion by Justin Bolduc, seconded by Norma Malone, the Selectboard voted to approve the accounts payable warrants for the week of April 4, 2023. Bob Nelson abstained.

MISCELLANEOUS:

On a motion by Jack Mitchell, seconded by Norma Malone, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the 2023 Second Class Liquor and Tobacco License for Bevins 5 Family Enterprises, LLC d/b/a Gunner Brook Store and Deli.

On a motion by Jack Mitchell, seconded by Norma Malone, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the Tobacco Substitute Endorsement License for Maplewood Convenience Store, Inc.

AV System:

Assistant Town Manager Chris Violette stated that the beginning of this evening’s meeting had to be muted. He also shared that he took down the video within the room. Mr. Violette explained the reasoning for this is

due to the lack of exterior participants. When there are no other participants, the video will only show the room view. He continues to find a way to manage this within the Zoom platform. Additionally, Mr. Violette shared that this evening's meeting is the first meeting in a while that he has not had to manipulate the cameras. He has been working with Fuzzbuzz Technologies, Inc. and the company that manufactures the AV equipment to get the camera tracking issues resolved. The issue was finally solved as they found out both microphones were auto tracking, this was resolved by turning off the auto tracking on one of the microphones.

Training:

Mr. Violette shared he is now an official member of IMCA.

ROUND TABLE:

Justin Bolduc:

- Mr. Bolduc inquired about the transformer that Velco needs to return to the Williamstown substation. He asked if the Manager knew if they were using Baptist Street for storing this equipment? Mr. Rogers stated he did not get this impression, and the last time it was moved to Milton.
- Mr. Bolduc inquired about the status of the Websterville interconnection. He stated it was brought to his attention that the Town has a water bleed off Websterville Road and asked if the interconnection would resolve this? Mr. Rogers explained the process of how the interconnection would take care of this issue, noting there has been no further information discussed regarding the interconnection as of this time.

Paul White:

- Chair White inquired about the Barre City water boil notice. He stated this affected Barre Town residents and was wondering how the City alerted these residents. Mr. Rogers said the Town was not aware of the boil water notice. Chair White noted it was only on the City's website. He suggested Mr. Rogers reach out to the new City Manager regarding communication in the future.
- Chair White followed up regarding a vehicle for the Rec Director. There was a previous discussion regarding providing the Rec Director with a recycled police vehicle. He asked the Manager if new plans should be set in place knowing the police truck will not be here for some time. Mr. Rogers noted the Department would have access to a truck if needed that would also be shared with the Cemetery.
- Chair White noted the Manager's car is on the "needs on the horizon list". Mr. Rogers stated the 2014 vehicle only has 42,000 miles on it, noting he and Mr. Violette could also work with the Rec Director to see if this would be an option for a vehicle for his use.

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 8:20 p.m. for contracts, personnel, labor, and real estate.

Selectboard Minutes of April 4, 2023 Continued:

On a motion by Bob Nelson, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted unanimously to exit executive session at 9:10 p.m.

ADJOURN:

On a motion by Bob Nelson, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted unanimously to adjourn at 9:10 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.