



**BARRE TOWN SELECTBOARD MEETING
February 14, 2023**

AGENDA

1. Call to order.....8:00 p.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Consider approving agenda
4. Consider approving February 7, 2023 meeting minutes
5. Announcements
6. Receive guests for non-agenda items.
7. Consider authorizing grant agreement for writing a Local Hazard Mitigation Plan
8. Consider authorizing payment of fees for use of the Taplin tower
9. Consider approving revised price for ambulances
10. Consider awarding grease and oil supply contract
11. Consider approving weekly accounts payable warrants for February 14, 2023
12. Miscellaneous: a) Global Montello Group (d/b/a Jiffy Mart) second class liquor license
13. ‘Round the table
14. Executive session, if needed
15. Adjourn

MINUTES

The duly warned meeting of February 14, 2023 was held at the Barre Town Municipal Building, Selectboard Room, in Lower Websterville at 8:00 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, Assistant Town Manager Chris Violette, and Town Clerk Tina Lunt.

Others Present: Times Argus Reporter Eric Blaisdell.

CALL TO ORDER: Chair White called the meeting to order at 8:00 p.m.

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

APPROVE THE AGENDA:

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

1. Item #14. Executive Session: add contracts

APPROVE THE MINUTES:

On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Bob Nelson, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the February 7, 2023 meeting minutes with minor spelling and grammatical corrections.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- The Barre Town Fire Department will be hosting their annual drive-thru rabies clinic on Saturday, March 11 at the Public Works garage, 79 Pitman Road from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. This dog and cat clinic welcomes residents from any town, the cost per vaccination remains at \$15.00. Please make sure that dogs are leashed and that cats are crated and that you have filled out an intake and consent form which can be found at barretown.org. The Barre Town Clerk's Office will be open from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the municipal building to license Barre Town dogs.
- The Travis Mercy Skate Park Fundraiser will be held this Saturday, February 18. This annual fundraiser is hosted by the Barre Town Thunder Chickens in conjunction with the Mercy Family and proceeds directly benefit the park. A snowmobile poker run is the center piece of this event with registration beginning at 8:15 a.m. at the Great Energy Store in South Barre. A pulled pork dinner (plus) will be served at 12:30 p.m. at the Barre Town School cafeteria and is open to all. The cost is \$15.00/adult, \$7.00/children (12 & under), and free if under 5.
- Help support the Town of Barre Community Dog Park by attending a Calcutta style raffle on March 10 at the Canadian Club. A \$100 ticket will get you two meals and a chance at the grand prize of \$1,000. Money is being raised to improve the entrance to the park, create a pathway to a memorial bench, a rainbow bridge and marquee. Financial support for the park is purely from donations and fundraisers such as this. A meal only ticket can be purchased as well for \$20. Contact Dave Rouleau at 802-839-0523 to purchase tickets.
- The annual Freezing Fun for Families Co-Ed Snowball Softball Tournament will be held at the Barre Town Recreation Fields on March 4th – 6th. This is the Freezing Fun for Families largest fundraiser and a lot of fun. Money raised from this event will benefit families battling childhood cancer. Check out their website for more details.

GUESTS: None

LOCAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN GRANT AGREEMENT:

Background: Municipalities are required to have plans that intend to mitigate hazards to protect life, property, and natural systems from natural disasters. This includes long term planning and implementation of the plan to meet the goal of reducing loss of life and property. The plan must be renewed every five (5) years. Barre Town's LHMP was last approved on May 11, 2018.

Assistant Town Manager Chris Violette stated the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) is required for Town's who want to be eligible for disaster funds. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) requires municipalities to have Local Hazard Mitigation Plans (LHMP) to qualify for post-disaster funding. Mr. Violette noted each year the plan has different requirements.

Barre Town was included as part of a FEMA awarded State of Vermont grant called “Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) 2021”. This grant will provide Barre Town with \$8,362.50 to hire a consultant to review the current LHMP, gather data and develop a risk assessment, identify mitigation strategies, prepare a draft plan, perform public outreach, do revisions based on State and FEMA comments and see the plan through final adoption. There is a local match of \$2,787.50.

On a motion by Bob Nelson, seconded by Norma Malone, the Selectboard voted unanimously to authorize the Town Manager to sign the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities 2021 grant agreement #02140-31237-004D, also known as the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan grant, and to sign the Advanced Notice to Proceed form for the same grant.

RADIO SYSTEM FEES – TAPLIN HILL:

Background: The Town has been working on a radio tower relocation project that has been part of the emergency service radio upgrade. They have been researching the possibility of moving to the Taplin Road site which is owned by Spectrum and while the Town had previously received preliminary approval to locate on this tower the \$1,800 a month fee was concerning. The Town has been working with a consultant on this project. Town Manager Carl Rogers asked for a fee reduction based on the nature of the request being part of critical emergency service infrastructure improvements. Spectrum has agreed to a 50% monthly rental reduction. The tower rental fee has dropped to \$900 a month.

Assistant Town Manager Chris Violette stated the Town had a radio study done and there were opportunities to pick up radio coverage, and that began a conversation regarding relocating their radio tower. Taplin Hill is managed by KGI out of Austin, TX. Mr. Violette noted this is a great site and they would like to proceed to the next step. The next step would be for the Town to submit a formal application which includes a fee of \$7,450. Permitting is still a question and the Town Manager has contacted the Public Utility Commission and the Town’s radio vendor to find out what, if any, permitting would have to be completed.

Additionally, the Town has heard back from American Tower Corp. on the Mt. Pleasant West site and their rental fee is \$2,000 a month. Town Manager Carl Rogers has also asked for reduction consideration and this response is pending.

Chair White asked if the \$900/month fee on Taplin Hill is a locked in price. Mr. Violette believes there will be a contract with this agreement but will follow-up on this inquiry. Additionally, Chair White inquired about the additional licensing involved with FCC. Mr. Violette noted the consultant will help with this process.

On a motion by Bob Nelson, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the expenditure of \$7,450 to KGI of Austin, TX so that a formal application can be submitted.

PURCHASE OF AMBULANCES:

Background: In the fall of 2021 the Town sought bids for two ambulances; one for fiscal year ’21-’22 and the second one for fiscal year ’22-’23. The Medix ambulances on Ford chassis were ordered from Bert’s Emergency Vehicles at a cost of \$144,825 each. The purchase order is dated November 24, 2021.

Last week Bert's Emergency Vehicles called the Town Office to state that the chassis has arrived from Medix, however, the price per ambulance is increasing \$10,458. Ford has increased the price of the chassis and reduced the rebate program. Parts and supplies also raised the price per ambulance. The chassis are what the Town specified in the bidding documents.

Mr. Nelson recommended asking Bert's Emergency Vehicles and Ford to absorb half of the cost increase. Board members shared their opinions on the increase, supply chain issues, and the fact that they still have more ambulances to order. Board consensus is they will ask the EMS Director to make a request for Bert's Emergency Vehicles and Ford to absorb half of the cost increase, however, if they are not in agreement Board members approve the full amount to purchase the ambulances.

On a motion by Bob Nelson, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted unanimously to ask the EMS Director to request Bert's Emergency Vehicles and Medix to discuss the possibility of a discount on the unbudgeted amount and if they do not agree they approve adding \$10,458 to the cost of each ambulance listed on purchase order 3552, dated November 24, 2021.

GREASE AND OIL CONTRACT:

Background: Bidding specifications were sent to five bidders. The bid form lists 11 items. The Town received bids from Dennison Lubricants and Irving Blending and Packaging. Dennison offered the low bid for every item. Dennison Lubricants was awarded the contract in 2021 and often in past years. If the Town purchases the estimated quantity for every item, the bill would be \$13,289.32.

On a motion by Jack Mitchell, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted unanimously to award the fiscal year '22-'23 grease and oil supply contract to Dennison Lubricant's based on the unit bid costs.

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 February 14, 2023. Bob abstained.

Mrs. Malone inquired about the EMS air exchanger plans. Mr. Rogers explained that Mr. Alfred Ladd visited the EMS Station. Mr. LaMonda had pointed out a concern with the paint. There is a moisture problem at the facility. The air is too moist which is caused from the ambulances getting washed with the doors closed during the winter season. Mr. Ladd called in Brad Flowers who also observed the concern. Mr. Flowers had F.W. Webb investigate this and they recommended an air exchanger. Additionally, the heating elements are undersized for the facility. Mr. Rogers will keep the Board updated as he learns more.

MISCELLANEOUS:

On a motion by Justin Bolduc, seconded by Norma Malone, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the 2023 Second Class Liquor License for Global Montello Group d/b/a/ Jiffy Mart.

Assistant Town Manager Chris Violette shared he is unsure what happened, however, CVTV has dropped out of the meeting.

ROUND TABLE:

Norma Malone:

- Mrs. Malone inquired about the building facility inventory list. She mentioned that the two Websterville Fire District buildings still needed to be added to this list. She asked Mr. Rogers if this list could be updated.
- Mrs. Malone asked the Town Manager if he had any conversations with Town Attorney Mike Monte regarding the Charter Changes that are needed. Mr. Rogers stated he has not.

Bob Nelson:

- Mr. Nelson inquired about the monthly EMS report for December. He asked if the new EMS Director could get a updated version of this report for them.
- Mr. Nelson noted the 23% increase in Berlin calls from 2021 to 2022.

Jack Mitchell:

- Mr. Mitchell stated he talked with the new EMS Director today and he shared that he wants to be sure his reports include information that the Selectboard would like to see.
- Mr. Mitchell shared the power pole project in the Websterville area is going very well and they are making progress. He noted the pole by his house was rotted, and they had to remove it with a chainsaw.
- Mr. Mitchell inquired about the article in the Times Argus by Ted Brady from VLCT regarding the need for more local housing. He asked if the League has been in touch with the Town. Mr. Violette shared the League is aware of the Town's concerns and they have been trying to help with some of the language being proposed. Mr. Mitchell shared his concerns with this matter. The League's biggest concerns are the limitations involved in Act 250. Mr. Violette shared that two State Senators will be attending the next Planning Commission meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

On a motion by Jack Mitchell, seconded by Justin Bolduc, 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 9:11 p.m. for contracts.

On a motion by Jack Mitchell, seconded by Bob Nelson, the Selectboard voted unanimously to exit executive session at 9:57 p.m.

ADJOURN:

On a motion by Jack Mitchell, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted unanimously to adjourn at 9:57 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.