



Town of Barre VERMONT

BARRE TOWN SELECTBOARD MEETING February 7, 2023

AGENDA

1. Call to order.....8:00 p.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Consider approving agenda
4. Consider approving January 31, 2023 meeting minutes
5. Announcements
6. Receive guests for non-agenda items.
7. Consider approving 2023 Sewage Allocation Policy
8. Consider authorizing expense for mapping service to assist county forester with Town Forest Study
9. Consider approving C.V. Solid Waste Management District’s request to hold a household hazardous waste collection at DPW
10. Consider approving returning Consolidated Communications work in the right-of-way deposit
11. Discuss expense for engineering new stormwater permits for six subdivisions
12. Consider approving weekly accounts payable warrants for February 7, 2023
13. Miscellaneous: **a)** VFW Post 790’s First Class Club Liquor License; **b)** Beverlee Lawson d/b/a Lawson’s Store Second Class Liquor License
14. ‘Round the table
15. Executive session, if needed
16. Adjourn

MINUTES

The duly warned meeting of February 7, 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, Town Clerk Tina Lunt, and Town Engineer Josh Martineau.

Others Present: Times Argus Reporter Eric Blaisdell. Those present virtually: Jeff Blow.

CALL TO ORDER: Chair White called the meeting to order at 8:01 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:

Selectboard Minutes of February 7, 2023 Continued:

1. Item #15 Executive Session: add contracts
2. Move item #10 and #11 after #7

APPROVE THE MINUTES:

On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the January 31, 2023 meeting minutes with minor spelling and grammatical corrections.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Because of Budget Committee meetings which run Tuesday nights from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m., Selectboard regular meetings now begin at 8:00 p.m. Feel free to join either meeting in person or remotely. Remote access information can be found on the agendas posted at barretown.org.
- The next quarterly installment of property taxes and the second semi-annual sewer payment are due February 15th.
- We are currently recruiting for two full-time positions including a Zoning Administrator/Municipal Planner and a Public Works person. More information about these positions and how to apply can be found at barretown.org.
- The Barre Town Fire Department will be hosting their annual rabies clinic on Saturday, March 11 at the Public Works garage, 79 Pitman Road. Time and cost will be announced next week, more information will be available on the Fire Department page at barretown.org.
- The first of two important Barre Town votes will happen on March 7. This is when Town voters will vote on the Barre Unified Union School District budget and election of School Directors. Election day voting takes place at the Barre Town Middle and Elementary School, but voters can request early ballots now by contacting the Town Clerk's Office at 802-479-9391. More information can be found at barretown.org including sample ballots. The other important voting date is May 9 when the Town municipal budget and Selectboard elections will be voted on.
- Chair White was asked to share the following two announcements:
 - The Barre Town Thunder Chickens Snowmobile Club is sponsoring the Travis Mercy Skatepark Fundraiser event on Saturday, February 18, 2023 at Barre Town School. There will be a snowmobile poker run and a meal at the school put on by Randy Henry. Additionally, there will be a silent auction and quilt raffle.
 - The Barre Community Dog Park is having a Calcutta Fundraiser. The dog park is self-funded and looking to rebuild funds to address the high traffic entrance area. The event will take place on Friday, March 10 at the Canadian Club. The \$100 ticket includes a meal for 2 and a chance to win the grand prize of \$1000. Meal only tickets will also be available for purchase for \$20.00. For more information contact Dave Rouleau at 802-839-0523.

GUESTS: None

2023 SEWAGE ALLOCATION POLICY:

Background: The Sewage Treatment Residual Capacity Allocation Policy is renewed each year. The policy is in effect for the calendar year. Town Engineer Josh Martineau updates the policy using flow information. There were no changes to the text. The reserve allocation list was updated. The flow information indicates there was a significant increase in flow as of September 30, 2022, as compared to September 30, 2021, therefore the uncommitted reserve allocation decreased from 644,082 gpd to 550,237. That number represents spare allocation for 1,834 equivalent units, or single-family homes.

Town Engineer Josh Martineau was present.

The Board had a brief discussion regarding the BOD pretreatment permit that is now required by the State.

On a motion by Justin Bolduc, seconded by Bob Nelson, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the 2023 Sewage Treatment Residual Capacity Allocation Policy.

CONSOLIDATED COMMUNICATIONS RIGHT-OF-WAY DEPOSIT:

Background: In 2021 Consolidated Communications filed numerous working in the right-of-way permits because of underground fiber it was laying. Town Engineer Josh Martineau had Consolidated Communication pay \$85,000 in deposits for the permits. Last year, after the one-year warranty period, Mr. Martineau submitted a request to return Consolidated's deposits. The Selectboard did not approve the payment because of concerns about the number of double poles in Town. The Town Engineer and Town Manager have communicated with Consolidated and GMP and prepared a list of double poles.

Town Engineer Josh Martineau was present. Mr. Martineau noted that he, along with DPW employee Ryan John, prepared the list by reviewing all roads. The list was provided to Consolidated Communications for their review. Consolidated's Engineer returned the list with notes regarding the status on the removal work. The list shows Consolidated is not responsible for all the double poles. In some cases, notes on the list indicate Consolidated has issued a work order.

Mr. Mitchell expressed his appreciation in preparing the list. He noted that the company working in the Websterville area is doing a good job in the removal process, noting he supports the return of the deposit.

On a motion by Bob Nelson, seconded by Norma Malone, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve refunding Consolidated Communications \$85,000 deposit.

STORMWATER PERMIT RENEWALS:

Background: In January, Andres Torizzo of Watershed Consulting Associates (WCA) attended a Selectboard meeting to update the Board regarding the new State requirements around stormwater permits. There are eight subdivision/permits on the renewal list. Maple Ridge has a renewal date of July 19, 2023. The other seven are due on June 30, 2024. Wildersburg Common's improvements and permit renewal are being paid for by a State ARPA grant. The engineering for the other seven permit renewals is estimated to cost \$770,000, according to Watershed Consulting Associates.

Town Engineer Josh Martineau spoke with Mr. Torizzo to confirm what work had to be completed by June 30, 2024. Mr. Torizzo told Mr. Martineau the full (100% plans) engineering must be completed. This expectation is different than what Mr. Martineau thought. Mr. Martineau thought 30% or 60% plans would be required to file the NOI.

Town Manager Carl Rogers shared that he received an email from Mr. Torizzo regarding a funding opportunity through the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC). Applications will be accepted starting in February. The program is intended to provide some relief for engineering costs. The grant will pay up to \$20,000 per permit on a reimbursement basis.

The estimated cost of the engineering work is \$770,000. Mr. Mitchell expressed concerns regarding the cost involved in the engineering work. He suggested municipalities work together to address their concerns with the State. Mr. Bolduc noted it would have been beneficial for municipalities to be made aware of these requirements in advance for planning purposes. Mrs. Malone stated businesses and school districts will also be impacted by the 3-acre rule. The Town must find a way to navigate the funds involved for the infrastructure needed to stay in compliance. Board members will work with our Legislators and advocate for more time and funds to be made available.

The Manager suggests not budgeting the \$770,000 from the '23-'24 budget. He recommends the Town rely on grants when they become available and look at using ARPA funds. Additionally, there may come a time the Town will have to address the voters regarding this matter.

TOWN FOREST MAPPING:

Background: County Forester Robert Nelson is helping the Community Forest Management Plan Committee. He has attended all meetings. His responsibility is to provide a forestry or timber management plan.

Robert Nelson's services to prepare a forestry plan is free, per State law. Mr. Robert Nelson has asked if the Town would pay for mapping services that would enhance his plan. He obtained a not-to-exceed \$1,500 cost estimate from Redstart Forestry of Corinth. Redstart would produce maps for forest stands, soils, and recreational trails. This work would begin in the spring.

On a motion by Bob Nelson, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve hiring Redstart Forestry at a cost not to exceed \$1,500 to produce certain Town Forest maps, as requested by the Country Forester.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION:

Background: The Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District wants to hold its first Household Hazardous Waste Collection of the season in Barre Town. The proposed date is April 8 and the District has asked to use the DPW Yard.

On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Bob Nelson, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the Solid Waste District's use of the DPW Yard for a household hazardous waste collection on April 8, 2023.

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 7, 2023. Bob Nelson abstained.

Mrs. Malone inquired about the Fecteau Development refund. Assistant Town Manager Chris Violette stated the refund is for permits that that Town was going to be unable to approve. These were accessory dwelling permits for duplexes and the parcels are only eligible for single-family dwellings.

MISCELLANEOUS:

On a motion by Paul White, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the 2023 First Class Liquor License and Outside Consumption Permit renewal for Veterans of Foreign Wars MacKenzie Webster Post, pending receipt of Town payment.

On a motion by Paul White, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the 2023 Second Class Liquor License and Tobacco Endorsement renewal for Beverlee Lawson d/b/a Lawson’s Store, pending receipt of Town payment.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

On a motion by Jack Mitchell, seconded by Bob Nelson, 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 Bob Nelson, the Selectboard voted unanimously to go into executive session at 9:02 p.m. for contracts.

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

ADJOURN:

On a motion by Jack Mitchell, seconded by Bob Nelson, the Selectboard voted unanimously to adjourn at 9:11 p.m.

APPROVED MINUTES

Barre Town Selectboard

Paul White, Chair

Norma Malone, Vice Chair

Justin Bolduc

Jack Mitchell

Bob Nelson

Selectboard Minutes of February 7, 2023 Continued:

Filed in the Barre Town Clerk's Office on this _____ day of _____, 2023.

ATTEST: _____, Barre Town Clerk.