



**BARRE TOWN SELECTBOARD MEETING  
January 10, 2023**

**AGENDA**

1. Call to order.....6:00 p.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Consider approving agenda
4. Consider approving January 3, 2023 meeting minutes
5. Announcements
6. Receive guests for non-agenda items.
7. Interview Budget Committee applicants
8. Update on stormwater projects including re-permitting subdivision stormwater systems
9. Quarterly department head visits: a) Public Works b) Engineer
10. Consider approving highway mileage certificate
11. Consider appointments to the Budget Committee
12. Consider approving EMS billing rates
13. Consider authorizing an EMS grant agreement
14. Consider approving weekly accounts payable warrants for January 10, 2023
15. Miscellaneous, including licenses and permits if any
16. Round the table
17. Executive session: personnel, real estate
18. Adjourn

**MINUTES**

The duly warned meeting of January 10, 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, 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 Engineer Josh Martineau, DPW Supervisor Richard Tetreault. Those attending virtually: Town Clerk Tina Lunt and David Danforth.

**Others Present:** Times Argus Reporter Eric Blaisdell, Josh Howard. Those attending virtually: Andres Torizzo and Josh Howard.

**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 amended agenda as follows:*

Item #17. Executive Session: action is expected

**APPROVE THE MINUTES:**

*On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Bob Nelson, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the January 3, 2023 meeting minutes with minor spelling and grammatical corrections.*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- Christmas tree pickup started this week and will continue for the next couple. The Barre Town Department of Public Works started picking up trees this week north of Route 302. This includes the neighborhoods of Richardson Road, Beckley Hill Road, Camp Street, Trow Hill, Windywood

Selectboard Minutes of January 10, 2023 Continued:

Road, East Hill and Cobble Hill. Pick up in the areas south of Route 302 will begin the week of January 16. Because these trees will be chipped into mulch, it is very important to make sure that all lights, ornaments, garland, and any other decorations are removed! Winter road maintenance may delay the timetable outlined here.

- There is an open position on the Barre Town Planning Commission and letters, or emails of interest are being accepted from Barre Town residents. The Planning Commission meets monthly (third Wednesday of the month) and is responsible for recommending Zoning Bylaw amendments to the Selectboard, Town Plan and other land use related plans. The Commission also monitors other activities of interest happening in Town such as renewable energy projects. See the front page of the Town website for more information or call 802-479-9331.
- Barre Town is looking for a Deputy Health Officer. The Deputy Health Officer fills in for the Health Officer when the Health Officer isn't available. Barre Town sees about a dozen Health Officer related calls per year. For more information about this position, contact the Town Manager's officer at 802-479-9331.
- The Community Forest Management Plan Committee has been meeting and meets again on Monday, January 16 at 6:30 p.m. at the Municipal Building. The Committee is updating the Forest Management Plan. When complete, they will submit their recommendations to the Selectboard for adoption. The meeting minutes and upcoming agendas are posted on the Town website along with other Board and Commissions' agendas and minutes. The public is welcome to attend and there is a remote option as well which is noted on the published agenda.
- Chair Announcement: During last week's Selectboard meeting after executive session the following two action items were taken:
  - The Selectboard authorized the Employment Agreement entered into by the Selectboard and Chris Violette. Mr. Violette was appointed as Assistant Town Manager immediately and will be appointed as Town Manager the end of April.
  - The Selectboard approved the Town Manager's recommendation to appoint Andy Lange as Barre Town Fire Chief.

Chair White congratulated both Mr. Violette and Mr. Lange on their new positions within the Town.

**GUESTS: None.**

### **2023-2024 BUDGET COMMITTEE INTERVIEWS:**

Background: The opportunity to apply for appointment on the 2023-2024 Budget Committee was announced at Selectboard meetings, published in the Times Argus, posted on Front Porch Forum and at six locations around Town. A total of nine residents applied. The Selectboard appoints two members, and the Town Clerk appoints one member. The three appointees then select the final two citizen members. Last week, the Selectboard interviewed three candidates. Josh Howard has submitted his letter of interest to serve on the Budget Committee and will be interviewed this evening.

Josh Howard was present. Mr. Howard stated he moved to Vermont in 2006 and has lived in Barre Town since 2016. He is looking to be more involved within the Barre Town community and thought the Budget Committee would be a great way to start. Mr. Howard currently serves on the Barre Town Forest Committee and the PTO. Mr. Howard has an MBA from Ohio State University.

Board members thanked Mr. Howard for his interest.

### **UPDATE ON STORMWATER PROJECTS:**

Background: The re-permitting of eight subdivision stormwater systems prompted this agenda item. Andres Torizzo of Watershed Consulting Associates will provide updates on the DPW Yard project and on the Wildersburg Common project. This information on the eight subdivision systems is needed for budgeting. Permit application fees will be due during FY '23-'24.

Selectboard Minutes of January 10, 2023 Continued:

Andres Torizzo Principal of Watershed Consulting Associates was present virtually. Mr. Torizzo stated they have been consulting with the Town of Barre for over 10 years. Most recently they have been working with permitting over the State's 3-acre rule. The 3-acre rule is a new permit regulation that has been issued by the State. It is a stormwater regulation that covers impervious surfaces over 3-acres in size. There are a number of these 3-acre sites in the Town of Barre. Mr. Torizzo shared the list of properties that fall under the 3-acre rule. The program requires stormwater upgrades and is broken down in two phases. The first phase is an Initial Notice of Intent (INOI) and the fee is \$240 per permit. This initial phase has been completed for all 8 sites. The State will now issue a permit which will start an 18-month timeline. During this time, Watershed Consulting Associates will complete an engineering feasibility analysis of each site to submit back to the State. The opt-out fee is \$12,500 per acre of impervious surface, but the opt-out can only be approved after the engineering feasibility analysis has been completed and it can be demonstrated the project cannot be accomplished without expensive relocation of utilities or has impacts on natural resources. The full NOI fee is \$860 per acre of impervious surface. The full NOI for Maple Ridge Common is due in July 2023. The other sites will be due June 2024.

Mr. Torizzo stated the State has been promising funding. If the Town is interested in seeking funds, he recommended looking into the Clean Water SRF Program. Mr. Torizzo noted there will also be an additional program through the Agency of Natural Resources. Additionally, he stated the Town may want to consider cost sharing with the property owners.

Mr. Torizzo gave an update on the DPW Yard project. He noted this is a grant funded project. The design has been completed and they have permits. The funds are held with the Friends of the Winooksi River. The project is cleared for bidding and construction will begin in 2023.

The Wildersburg Project is grant funded through the State. They are partially through the design and the Initial Letter of Intent has been submitted. This project will be ready to construct next year during construction season. They have been meeting with the homeowners regularly.

Board members and Town staff will look into funding options and begin work on the Maple Ridge site as that deadline is approaching.

Mr. Torizzo wished Mr. Rogers well on his retirement and stated it has been great working with him.

### **DEPARTMENT HEAD VISITS:**

Background: The Supervisor of Public Works and Town Engineer will share quarterly reports.

#### Public Works

DPW Supervisor Richard Tetreault was present.

A summary of his presentation includes:

- Staffing:
  - 2 staff members going through tank endorsements
  - 1 staff member getting CDL
- Overhead door damage/repair
- Windstorm update

#### Town Engineer

Town Engineer Josh Martineau was present

A summary of his presentation includes:

- TSAC
  - Request for No Outlet on Philbrook
  - Request for School Bus Stop on 546 Anderson Road
  - Request for 3-way stop on Cassie Street and Plainfield Brook Road intersection.
- Websterville Waterline project: 4 weeks from completion
- Wilson Industrial Waterline project update: 6-week completion timeline is expected
- Route 110 Bridge project: start construction as soon as April 15
- Route 302 paving project: construction will start in 2024
- Quarry Hill construction project
  - The right-away project is taking longer than expected. The construction is scheduled for Spring of 2025 to Winter of 2026
- Bridge Street: Construction planned for Spring of 2025 to Winter of 2026
- Road salt usage:

Selectboard Minutes of January 10, 2023 Continued:

- 17 snow events
- 456 tons of salt used
- \$25,800 used out of budget

Over the last month Mr. Martineau has been working with the State of Vermont investigating BOD levels. This week they have started their site visits. The purpose is to see if a permit will be required for BOD monitoring. Mr. Martineau noted this process has been educational for the businesses.

Mr. Martineau commended Mr. Tetreault and his crew for all of their hard work on the windstorm event.

**2023 HIGHWAY MILEAGE CERTIFICATE:**

Background: This is an annual action. The Town must file a Highway Mileage Certificate. The mileage reported is used to update maps and calculate the State Aid for Town Highways grant for the ensuing fiscal year. Cities and towns are granted money based on their Class 1, 2, and 3 road miles. There are no changes to the Towns highway mileage.

*On a motion by Bob Nelson, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the certificate of highway mileage for the year ending February 10, 2023.*

**BUDGET COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS:**

Background: The Barre Town Budget Committee consists of 10 members. The Selectboard and 5 citizens. Of those citizen appointments two are selected by the Selectboard and one by the Town Clerk. These three citizens appoint the remaining two members.

The Selectboard voted by paper ballots.

*On a motion by Justin Bolduc, seconded by, Bob Nelson, the Selectboard voted unanimously to appoint Jamie Cushman and Todd Provencher to the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Budget Committee.*

The Town Clerk appointed Mike Gilbar.

**EMS BILLING RATES:**

Background: On December 20 EMS Director Chris LaMonda shared his recommended 2023 EMS Billing Rate Fee Schedule. The Selectboard asked for more information before rates were approved. During last week's meeting the Board received additional information that was collected from Jeff Spencer of Medical Business Services. This item is back on the agenda for further discussion.

Conversation began as Board members discussed Medicare and Medicaid rates. There was discussion around the adjustments on the bills.

Mr. David Danforth was present virtually. Mr. Danforth explained that for the Medicare adjustments, EMS billing writes off the remaining balance as a contract obligation. The bigger difference will be the patients that are on a Medicare advantage plan.

*On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted to approve the 2023 EMS Town billing rates for services rendered, effective January 16, 2023 as presented by the Manager and EMS Director. Bob Nelson voted no.*

**EMS GRANT AGREEMENT:**

Background: This grant is from the VT Department of Health, Emergency Preparedness, Response and Injury Prevention. The grant is for up to \$35,000. The grant covers refresher training for EMT's, AEMT's, and paramedics from December 1, 2022 to March 15, 2023. The Town will submit for reimbursement based on the number of students in each level.

Chair White asked why they were offering this reimbursement. Town Manager Carl Rogers stated he was not sure why but thought maybe it was to help with the shortage of EMT's.

Selectboard Minutes of January 10, 2023 Continued:

Mr. Danforth stated he sits on the Vermont EMS Advisory Committee and the Legislator appropriated a significant amount of money for the State to use for training. The State had a fair amount of funds left and these funds are now being used for refresher training.

***On a motion by Jack Mitchell, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted unanimously to authorize Finance Director Katelyn Kran to sign the EMS Continuing ED Refresher Training Voucher Program grant agreement (#03420-09636) with the Vermont Department of Health.***

**ACCOUNTS PAYABLE:**

***On a motion by Justin Bolduc, seconded by Bob Nelson, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the accounts payable warrants for the week of January 10, 2023.***

**MISCELLANEOUS: None**

**ROUND TABLE:**

Jack Mitchell:

- Mr. Mitchell commented on the photo array and suggested a photo opt before Carl's retirement with all the different sport fans in the Town building.

Norma Malone:

- Mrs. Malone commented on the new carpet in the Selectboard room. She said she thinks it looks "stellar"!

Bob Nelson:

- Mr. Nelson announced that he intends to seek another 3-year term on the Selectboard.

Justin Bolduc:

- Mr. Bolduc inquired about the Websterville Water Plant furnace. Mr. Rogers noted the boiler part corroded. The contractor who replaced it said he thinks it's from the chlorine in the air causing the corrosion.

Paul White:

- Chair White inquired about the notes in the Board packet regarding the copier going out to bid. He asked if the Town has ever thought about purchasing them all from the same company other than bidding them out. Mr. Rogers explained that they are on different life cycles.

**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 7:59 p.m. for personnel and real estate.***

***On a motion by Jack Mitchell, seconded by Bob Nelson, the Selectboard voted unanimously to exit executive session at 9:21 p.m.***

**ACTION:**

***On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted unanimously to authorize the Town Manager to sign the document entitled "Consent Regarding License To Sell Real Estate And Plan Liquidation, Administration and Termination" related to the Trust Estate of Amos C. King.***

***On a motion by Bob Nelson, seconded by Jack Mitchell, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve non-union employee wage adjustments as discussed.***

**ADJOURN:**

***On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted unanimously to adjourn at 9:23 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.