



**BARRE TOWN SELECTBOARD MEETING
July 11, 2023**

AGENDA

- 1. Call to order.....6:00 p.m.
- 2. Pledge of allegiance
- 3. Consider approving the agenda
- 4. Consider approving June 27, 2023 & July 6, 2023 meeting minutes
- 5. Announcements
- 6. Receive guests for non-agenda items.
- 7. Consider approving EMS Billing Contract
- 8. Consider approving Good Samaritan MOU
- 9. Consider setting hourly pay wage rate for interim EMS Director
- 10. Consider approving weekly accounts payable warrants for July 11, 2023
- 11. Miscellaneous: including permits and licenses, if any
- 12. Round the Table
- 13. Executive Session: personnel
- 14. Adjourn

MINUTES

The duly warned meeting of July 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, Justin Bolduc, and Mike Gilbar.

Selectboard Members Absent: Bob Nelson.

Staff Members Present: Town Manager Chris Violette, Town Clerk Tina Lunt, and Town Manager Assistant Leslie Babic. Those present virtually: Finance Director Katelyn Kran.

Others Present: Jeffrey Kelly and Times Argus Reporter Eric Blaisdell.

CALL TO ORDER: Chair White called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

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

APPROVE THE AGENDA:

On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the agenda as discussed.

APPROVE THE MINUTES:

On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Mike Gilbar, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the June 27, 2023 and July 6, 2023 Selectboard meeting minutes with minor spelling and grammatical corrections.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- The Grand List was lodged yesterday, July 10th. If your property value changed since the last lodging, you will receive a Notice of Change of Appraisal in the mail very soon. It is important to understand that within 14 days of the Grand List lodging, all property taxpayers (whether a change was made or not) have the right to file an appeal with the Assessor and grieve their assessment. The appeal must be either postmarked or received by the end of business on July 24th. According to State law, this is the only opportunity to appeal your taxes.
- The Town Clerk & Finance Offices are scheduled to mail out tax bills no later than July 15th. You can expect to receive your property and/or sewer bills shortly thereafter. The envelopes will include your bills for the year. Please remember that you are responsible for forwarding a copy of your property tax bill to your mortgage company if you pay your property tax by escrow. The first installment of property tax, and the sewer use charge, are due on August 15.
- The FY '22 annual reports are now available. You can pick up a copy at the Municipal building or numerous local stores. It will also soon be available on the Town website.
- The Ice Cream Socials are back, beginning tonight, July 11th. Tonight's social is at the Trow Hill Playground, next weeks will be at the Upper Graniteville Playground on Park Street. The Ice Cream Social will highlight a different playground every Tuesday night through August 15th beginning at 6:30pm. Check the Town website for more details.
- Construction on the Rt. 110 bridge continues. As a result of Rt. 110 being closed, Old Rt. 302 is being used as a detour. Old Rt. 302 is a town gravel road not designed to see this kind of traffic. We ask that motorist who use Old Rt. 302, to enter the construction area slowly and travel the road cautiously. Trucks are prohibited at all times and should be using the official detour which is clearly marked.
- Town Manager Announcement: The Manager gave a brief update regarding the current flooding situation. Mr. Violette stated Barre Town was impacted significant. There were numerous shoulder washouts. The biggest concern are people driving on closed roads where the road has been undermined. Mr. Violette expressed that it is extremely important people abide by the road closures. Several dozen roads were impacted, including the most significant being Waterman Street and Plainfield Brook Road. Mr. Violette shared that currently, Lower Usle, Gun Club Road, Holden Road, Sterling Hill Road are closed. The town hired 6 trucking companies to help. The Town was asked to be on standby to open up BTMES for a shelter if needed. Emergency services have been strained due to difficult getting around Town.

GUESTS: None.

EMS BILLING CONTRACT:

Background: A couple of weeks ago, the Selectboard reviewed a very detailed bid proposal from Quick Med Claims of Pittsburg, PA for EMS billing services. Quick Med was recommended by Finance Director Katelyn Kran, EMS Director Paul Ginther, and the Town Manager to be the Town's new EMS billing company. The Selectboard was in agreement that Quick Med seemed to be the best option, however, the Board had additional questions before making a final decision.

Quick Med Claims Territory Sales Manager Jeffrey Kelly was present virtually. Mr. Kelly gave a brief presentation. A summary of the presentation included the following:

- Mr. Kelly has over 30 years in the Fire and EMS industry
- Quick Med Claims has been in business since 1991, serving clients in 41 states
- 170+ certified ambulance coders
- 1.3 million+ claims annually
- EMS claims process review
- Business intelligent platform
- Reporting: easy access to clear reports
- Business philosophy
- Company values (integrity, compassion performance, learning & innovation, and relationships)
- Training and Education (documentation training, blogs, webinars & podcasts)
- Account Representation: on site visit, web calls, client success manager
- Compliance
- User-friendly Patient portal

A number of questions were raised at the last Board meeting regarding onboarding and the transition timeline. Mr. Kelly stated typically the onboarding period is 90 days or less. A master billing guide will be created that will be specific to Barre Town. Overall, this will look at the Town's needs and expectations. Discussion focused on back billing. Mr. Kelly explained the Board must come to a formal agreement on what the back billing will look like during the phase of the onboarding process.

Mr. Kelly stated if the Board decides to move forward with Quick Med Claims the next step would be to start the contract process. This is typically completed within 2-3 weeks. Mr. Kelly noted with expediting the Town could expect a September 1st start date.

On a motion by Justin Bolduc, seconded by Mike Gilbar, the Selectboard voted unanimously to award the EMS billing contract to Quick Med Claims of Pittsburg, PA to provide EMS billing service at a rate of 4.95% of collected revenue for a term of three years.

The Board thanked Mr. Kelly for coming in, and stated they are looking forward to working with him.

GOOD SAMARITAN MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING:

Background: The Good Samaritan Haven came before the Selectboard on June 13th to review the existing MOU that they have with the Town for use of 580 South Barre Road for transitional housing. An annual review is required and for various reasons, this was the first. The focus of the meeting was related to Good Sam's desire to expand their service from more of a transitional housing for homeless to recovery based for individuals with substance abuse concerns. Mr. DeAngelis from the Good Samaritan Haven was present

Selectboard Minutes of July 11, 2023 Continued:

and stated his belief that the current MOU would be compliant even with a slight focus change. After discussion, the Board decided to seek a legal review and opinion.

Town Manager Chris Violette reached out to Town Attorney, Mike Monte. Mr. Monte reviewed the existing MOU, while the Manager provided him with the written proposed change provided by Good Sam. Mr. Monte's legal opinion relates to the level of risk for those who would reside at the house with regard to their level of substance abuse.

Board members shared their thoughts and opinions on the proposed changes of the facility. Mr. Bolduc stated he agrees it is a needed service in the area, however, the name change will result in different clientele. Additionally, Mr. Bolduc raised concerns about the location of the facility. Mrs. Malone stated Good Sam is still requiring a selection process. She believes introducing a more structured program will improve compliance with the MOU as it pertains to substance abuse. Town Manager Chris Violette shared he is confident Good Sam will manage the facility as they are stating. There have been little to no incidents with how the current facility is being managed.

Board consensus is to authorize the Manager to sign the MOU to acknowledge this annual review. Additionally, the Board requested that the DRB be informed of this review for informational purposes only.

INTERIM EMS DIRECTOR WAGE:

Background: On July 5, 2023, The Town Manager named Carl Matteson Interim Director of Barre Town EMS upon Paul Ginther's departure on July 9th. The Town Manager is recommending Mr. Matteson's compensation be set at \$40.00 per hour while acting as Director. Prior to his appointment, Mr. Matteson was a per diem provider for Barre Town EMS and will return to his pre-appointment rate, plus any changes to the rate if any in the meantime, when the interim appointment ceases.

On a motion by Mike Gilbar, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted unanimously to set the hourly rate of Carl Matteson, while acting as Interim EMS Director at \$40.00/hr.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE:

On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the accounts payable warrants for the week of July 11, 2023 for FY'23 and FY'24.

MISCELLANEOUS:

On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve and authorize the Town Clerk to approve a firework display permit for Thunder Road International Speedbowl, 80 Fisher Road Road on July 30, 2023 at dusk.

On a motion by Paul White, seconded by Mike Gilbar, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve and authorize the Town Clerk to approve a firework display permit for Kitty Korner Inc., 444 Prospect Street on July 22, 2023 with a start time of 9:00 p.m.

Town Manager Chris Violette updated the Board on the following items:

- Mr. Violette introduced Leslie Babic to the Board. Leslie was recently hired as the Assistant to the Town Manager. The Board welcomed Mrs. Babic to the Town.

Selectboard Minutes of July 11, 2023 Continued:

- Mr. Violette stated he intends to declare and request an emergency declaration for Barre Town to be included in the State of Vermont emergency declaration issued by the Governor.
- The Manager reported that the Town lost a police cruiser in the flood. The cruiser was at Yipes Stripes being repaired at the body shop.

ROUND TABLE:

Mike Gilbar

- Mr. Gilbar stated the appropriation section of the Administrative Code needs to be updated as the language is not correct. Mrs. Malone confirmed this can be corrected by adopting an ordinance.

Paul White

- Chair White asked the Town Manager to reinforce the use of handheld cellphones while operating town equipment. He stated that today was a unique day but this is a very important reminder that this will not be tolerated.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

On a motion by Justin Bolduc, seconded by Norma Malone, 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 Justin Bolduc, seconded by Norma Malone, the Selectboard voted unanimously to go into executive session at 7:21 p.m. for personnel.

On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted unanimously to exit executive session at 8:01 p.m.

ADJOURN:

On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Mike Gilbar, the Selectboard voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:02 p.m.

APPROVED MINUTES

Barre Town Selectboard

Paul White, Chair

Justin Bolduc, Vice Chair

Norma Malone

Mike Gilbar

Bob Nelson

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

ATTEST: _____, Barre Town Clerk.