



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

AGENDA

1. Call to order.....6:00 p.m.
2. Pledge of allegiance
3. Consider approving the agenda
4. Consider approving October 31, 2023 meeting minutes
5. Announcements
6. Receive guests for non-agenda items.
7. Interview Recreation Board Candidate
8. Consider allowing private forced main sewer line in right-of-way (outside of sewer service territory)
9. Consider establishing an Energy Committee
10. Consider appointment to Recreation Board
11. Williamstown ambulance service contract update
12. Consider approving weekly accounts payable warrants for November 7 and November 14, 2023
13. Miscellaneous: including licenses and permits if any
14. Round the Table
15. Executive Session: contracts
16. Adjourn

MINUTES

The duly warned meeting of November 14, 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 Interim EMS Director David Danforth. Those present virtually: Town Engineer Josh Martineau and Zoning Administrator/Planner Brandon Garbacik.

Others Present: Larry Rogacki, Craig Chase, Paul Pennoyer, Janis Carrier, Pam Benoit, and John Benoit.

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 Mike Gilbar, 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 Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the October 31, 2023 Selectboard meeting minutes with minor spelling and grammatical corrections.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- There is a vacancy on the Recreation Board. We are accepting letters and emails of interest from Town residents who would like to serve on this active Board. The 7-member Recreation Board meets the first Monday of the month at 6:00 p.m. To learn more, visit the Town website and use the Boards and Commissions link or call the Town Manager’s Office. Emails of interest can be sent to offices@barretown.org.
- We are looking for a Deputy Health Officer. The Deputy fills in for the Health Officer when he is not available. Barre Town sees about a dozen Health Officer-related calls per year. For more information about this position contact the Town Manager’s Office at 802-479-9331.
- The Barre Congregational Church once again is offering the Thanksgiving morning 5k run or walk Gobble Wobble Turkey Trot. Runners and walkers will be using Websterville Road from the school to the 4-way intersection by the cemeteries and Graniteville Road from that intersection to Rock of Ages. Race time is 9:30 a.m., so drivers will see participants on the road from shortly after 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Please slow down when near runners and walkers.

GUESTS:

Paul Pennoyer was present. Mr. Pennoyer lives at 24 Barclay Quarry Road, which is the last house on the road before a secluded parking lot at the end of this street. He is proposing the Town put a restriction or add signage to the parking lot due to the activity going on at this location after hours. Mr. Pennoyer reported on nuisance vehicles, drinking, groups of teenagers hanging out, and drug activity. Mr. Pennoyer noted he has contacted the Barre Town Police Department on numerous occasions, but, due to staffing shortages, they are unable to respond regularly. He proposed the installation of a gate, signage, or an Ordinance be put in place to help with these concerns.

Town Manager Chris Violette stated he does not doubt this is a problematic area. Additionally, Chair White stated he would not be opposed to signage or an Ordinance. Discussion continued as Board members discussed the idea of adding lights to the parking lot or game cameras.

In conclusion, the Manager will speak with department heads regarding the next steps on how to proceed with this concern.

RECREATION BOARD INTERVIEW:

Background: The Town has two vacancies on the Recreation Board and one person who has indicated an interest in serving on the Board. Larry Rogacki submitted an email to the Town Manager on October 16. The Board will interview this applicant.

Mr. Larry Rogacki was present. Mr. Rogacki and his wife live in South Barre. Mr. Rogacki most recently chaired the Town Forest Management Plan Committee. Additionally, he has volunteered on Bulk Trash Day. Mr. Rogacki stated he thought volunteering with the Rec Board would be a good opportunity to continue involvement with the Town Forest. Furthermore, he expressed he believes in the value of the recreation opportunities the Town has to offer.

SEWER IN RIGHT-OF-WAY:

Background: Barre Town has a defined sewer service territory which is generally laid out according to where sewer can flow by gravity and not rely on pumping. On occasion, the Selectboard has been approached, and approved, individual pump stations for fringe areas or for properties in the service territory but still not able to rely on gravity. John and Pam Benoit purchased the former Martineau property on the Northerly side of School Road, a few hundred feet from the Beckley Hill Road intersection, and have since received a Conditional Use Permit from the Development Review Board to operate an event barn. The Benois would like to connect the barn to municipal sewer, however, the location of the barn is just outside of the sewer service territory and cannot get access to the system by gravity. The only option to get to the municipal sewer main is by pumping to either Beckley Hill or Richardson Road. The applicants, John & Pam Benoit, are seeking assurance that their plan will be approved before investing significant money in engineering.

Those present: Craig Chase, Consultant from Chase & Chase Surveyors, and John and Pam Benoit. Those present virtually: Town Engineer Josh Martineau

Craig Chase, Consultant from Chase & Chase Surveyors, stated they have determined that the best avenue to connect to the municipal sewer main is by running it to Richardson Road. This makes more sense for collection purposes as they would be pumping downhill. Additionally, the land has potential for future development which could utilize these sewer capabilities. Mr. Chase confirmed that they understand this would be a private sewer line and not the responsibility of the Town.

Town Manager Chris Violette asked how one becomes aware if there was a problem with the pump station. Mr. Chase said all the pumps have a float system that triggers them to turn on once the water level gets to a certain point, and beyond that point there is an alarm associated with it. Mr. Chase noted these are state requirements, and a state wastewater permit will be required.

Town Engineer, Josh Martineau has reviewed the plans and from an engineering standpoint is comfortable with them. Board consensus is they are supportive of the forced sewer line as long as a written agreement is in place.

ENERGY COMMITTEE:

Background: At the recommendation of the Planning Commission, the Selectboard has discussed the merit of forming an Energy Committee several times over the last few months. At the October 10th meeting, there was consensus to finalize the Charge and bring it back for formal action.

Zoning Administrator/Planner Brandon Garbacik was present virtually.

A draft Charge was shared with the Board for review. Board members reviewed the Charge while suggesting minor amendments as they found necessary.

Town Manager Chris Violette stated it is not his preference to have Mr. Garbacik staff the Energy Committee, although he does not have another option at this time. Mrs. Malone suggested asking staff to take meeting minutes. A brief conversation regarding suggestions around this option took place. Mr. Garbacik stated he is happy to help staff this committee, and if he can get help with the minutes that would be great.

Conversation continued as Board members discussed advertising for the position, reminding the Manager to note the specific skillset the Town is looking for. Additionally, there will be an expectation that the Energy Committee will meet monthly.

On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Mike Gilbar, the Selectboard voted unanimously to form an Energy Committee for an initial term of eighteen (18) months with a make-up of five members, at least one of whom will be a Planning Commission member and up to four citizens.

RECREATION BOARD APPOINTMENT:

Background: There are two vacancies on the Recreation Board. The Board interviewed Larry Rogacki who has an interest in serving on the Board. This agenda item is to consider his appointment to the Recreation Board.

On a motion by Mike Gilbar, seconded by Norma Malone, the Selectboard voted 3-1 to appoint Larry Rogacki to the Recreation Board with a term ending May 31, 2026. Motion passed.

Chair White stated he thinks Mr. Rogacki's points about the Town Forest not getting enough attention through the Recreation Department are valid and will be a helpful resource to the Recreation Board. Additionally, Mrs. Malone commented that Mr. Rogacki demonstrated his commitment and appropriate demeanor when he served on the Town Forest Management Plan Committee.

TOWN OF WILLIAMSTOWN EMS SERVICE CONTRACT:

Background: Williamstown held a public information meeting on November 6th regarding the Town of Barre's proposal, at their request, offering to provide ambulance service to their town. Town Manager Chris Violette and Interim EMS Director David Danforth will provide a brief update.

Town Manager Chris Violette gave a brief overview of the November 6th informational meeting held in Williamstown. Mr. Violette said there were a lot of emotions, questions about the process, and the delay in being notified. Additionally, Mr. Danforth shared the numbers involved with the proposal. Mr. Violette noted there were discussions regarding paying current staff more, and Williamstown felt there should have been more transparency. Mr. Violette noted that it was brought to Williamstown's attention that Barre Town has been providing care at no cost, and this would end if an agreement was not put in place.

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 November 7, 2023 and November 14, 2023.

Mr. Bolduc inquired about the All States Construction, Inc. invoice from August which has a October delivery date. There was 4500 gallons of calcium chloride delivered that was in question. Mr. Violette stated he will look into this.

Chair White inquired about the Rec Director not turning in receipts for credit card usage.

Additionally, Chair White stated he understands the convenience of getting fuel at Maplewood's but asked how this is a better option than fueling up at the Town. Mr. Danforth stated the route taken determines what is the best option to fuel the trucks.

MISCELLANEOUS:

Town Manager Chris Violette updated the Board on the following:

- Mr. Violette shared that Camp Street will be closed on November 21. He noted that the Town is starting to hear from residents regarding the closure.
- Mr. Violette shared the Town received the Friends of the Winooski River grant to replace the Gunners Brook culvert under Mitchell Road.
- Mr. Violette noted the November newsletter will be going out on Thursday or Friday.

ROUND TABLE:

Norma Malone:

- Mrs. Malone inquired about the light issue on Camp Street yesterday. She asked about the utility truck that was there. Mr. Violette stated he was not aware of a light issue other than a power concern, noting that a week from today the road will be closed.
- Mrs. Malone inquired about the fence project that needs to be completed at the rec field. Mr. Violette noted the material has arrived and they are hoping this will be completed in the next couple of weeks.
- Mrs. Malone asked when the Board will be seeing the 5-Year Plans. Mr. Violette stated department heads are reviewing and the Board should see these in December.
- Mrs. Malone asked when the Town will be advertising for the Budget Committee. Mr. Violette said this will take place the last week of November.

Justin Bolduc:

- Mr. Bolduc asked for a status regarding the radio project. Mr. Violette said he will have an update next week.

Paul White:

- Chair White asked the Board how they wish to proceed with the Barclay Quarry Road guest. The Manager suggested having the Rec Board look into improving the parking lot. Chair White stated he would be open to an Ordinance. The Manager will review Town Ordinances and see if there is already one that addresses these concerns. The Ordinance will give the Police Department authority to keep individuals off this property. The Town Manager will speak with the Rec Director regarding additional brainstorming on improvements to this area.
- Chair White asked about the Gobble Wobble Turkey Trot 5k. This entity typically uses the Municipal Building for registering participants. Mr. Violette stated they do not use the Town building anymore and registration is done at the school.
- Chair White inquired about the Grindstone bicycle event that was held a couple weekends ago. He asked if Town staff had any news to share regarding how this event went. There was no news to share.

Selectboard Minutes of November 14, 2023 Continued:

- Chair White shared a color-coded document with Board members. The document was a list of Town policies broken down into categories that department heads will review. Mrs. Malone noted she reviewed the Town Ordinances and at least 3 polices should be Ordinances. She stated this is a discussion that needs to take place.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

On a motion by Justin Bolduc, seconded by Mike Gilbar, the Selectboard voted unanimously to find the need to go into executive session citing premature public general knowledge would clearly place the Selectboard at a substantial disadvantage.

On a motion by Justin Bolduc, seconded by Mike Gilbar, the Selectboard voted unanimously to go into executive session at 7:35 p.m. for contracts with possible action and invite David Danforth to join.

On a motion by Justin Bolduc, seconded by Mike Gilbar, the Selectboard voted unanimously to exit executive session at 9:03 p.m.

ACTION:

On at motion by Paul White, seconded by Mike Gilbar, the Selectboard voted unanimously to authorize and approve the EMS Coverage Rate Schedule as presented in the memo dated 11/9/23 from Interim EMS Director to the Town Manager with an effective date of December 1, 2023.

ADJOURN:

On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted unanimously to adjourn at 9:04 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.