



BARRE TOWN SELECTBOARD MEETING
November 21, 2023

AGENDA

1. Call to order.....6:00 p.m.
2. Pledge of allegiance
3. Consider approving the agenda
4. Consider approving November 14, 2023 meeting minutes
5. Announcements
6. Receive guests for non-agenda items.
7. Review update on ARPA funds
8. Revisit discussion and consider awarding ARPA funds to Recreation Board for pickleball nets
9. Consider giving permission to Thunder Chickens and Sno-Bees to use Town property for winter season
10. Consider authorizing the Town Manager to sign the Vermont Agency of Transportation Relinquishment and Maintenance Agreement
11. Consider approving purchase of a utility trailer for the Cemetery Division
12. Consider authorizing the Town Manager to sign off on Grant Reimbursement from Drinking Water State Revolving Fund
13. Consider approving weekly accounts payable warrants for November 21, 2023
14. Miscellaneous: **a)** Second Class Liquor and Tobacco License for R.L. Vallee, Inc. **b)** other permits and licenses
15. Round the Table
16. Executive Session: as needed
17. Adjourn

MINUTES

The duly warned meeting of November 21, 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 Bob Nelson. Those attending virtually: Mike Gilbar.

Selectboard Members Absent: None.

Staff Members Present: Town Manager Chris Violette and Town Clerk Tina Lunt. Those attending virtually: Recreation Director Johnny Crossley and Interim EMS Director David Danforth.

Others Present: David Rouleau.

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

1. Item #10: change motion to consider authorizing the approval of the document and authorizing the Selectboard to sign the document.
2. Item 12: change motion to consider designating Town Manager as the authorized representative and authorizing the Chair to sign.

APPROVE THE MINUTES:

On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted to approve the November 14, 2023 Selectboard meeting minutes with minor spelling and grammatical corrections. Bob Nelson abstained.

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.
- We are aware that many are unhappy about the closing of Camp Street. The closing is unfortunately necessary to ensure the safety of the traveling public. Since the July flood, staff have been working diligently toward getting an engineered solution to fix the problem once and for all. They have also been working with State and Federal Officials to secure funding. The repair of Camp Street and its reopening is a high priority, we hope to see work begin sometime this winter.
- Chair Announcement: After exiting Executive Session last week, the Selectboard voted unanimously to authorize and approve an EMS Coverage Rate Schedule that will become effective on December 1, 2023.

GUESTS: None.

ARPA UPDATE:

Background: During a meeting this past summer, ARPA funding requests were put on hold while trying to figure out how the cost of flood repair was going to impact the Town. After getting an update from Town Engineer Josh Martineau, including a cost estimate, \$500,000 of ARPA funds were committed to be put towards cost shares related to flood repair. Additionally, before ARPA funds are designated elsewhere, there was a desire to find whether there were needs within the emergency services.

Board members received an updated ARPA spreadsheet with their Board packets which shows ARPA funds spent, committed, as well as uncommitted requests or ideas. Town Manager Chris Violette gave a brief overview of this document. Mr. Violette stated he did speak with Emergency Services and the list has been updated to include their requests. Furthermore, Mr. Violette noted staff is still working on many estimates, including the building needs assessment. These items are still on this list but do not have a cost estimate associated with them at this time. Additionally, many items were removed from the list.

Discussion began as Board members reviewed the list, recommending items they wish to commit to. Some of those include message boards, building needs assessment, and Taplin Road facility improvement (for radio study). Additionally, the Board noted items they wished to be removed from the list.

Interim EMS Director David Danforth was present virtually. Mr. Danforth is requesting multiple items such as monitors, uniforms, software upgrades, and equipment upgrades. Board members discussed Mr. Danforth's request and recommended some of these items be included as a budget request rather than be included on the ARPA list. Board consensus was to commit to the purchase of monitors, Narc Safe upgrade and additional AED's.

Mr. Bolduc updated the Board regarding the Rec Road upgrade. Mr. Bolduc gave an overview of the quote that was received for this project. The current ARPA balance will not allow for this work to be complete at this time. The Manager suggested leaving this item on the list and seeing where FEMA reimbursements come in.

RECREATION BOARD ARPA FUNDING REQUEST:

Background: Former Recreation Board Chair Doug Farnham came before the Selectboard on August 8th requesting \$12,600 in ARPA funds to upgrade the pickleball court by adding poles and nets that would be more permanent than the current setup. While generally there seemed to be support for making the purchase, the flooding in July and unknown cost associated with repair left the Board reluctant to commit at that time. There was no decision made as to whether the Board would grant the funds toward this project. David Rouleau is appearing this time to follow-up with this request, seeking a commitment to fund the poles and nets.

Recreation Board Interim Chair Dave Rouleau was present. Mr. Rouleau stated he is working with Vermont Tennis Courts who have confirmed they can complete this work this coming spring. Mr. Rouleau said Vermont Senior Games loves the Barre Town Recreation facility and he believes this would be a great use of the ARPA funds. Currently, several hundred individuals play pickleball throughout the week at the Barre Town facility. Mr. Rouleau noted the facility brings local and out of state users. Mr. Rouleau said that 4 courts are being used and this is not enough for the number of individuals utilizing the courts. He said using the ARPA funds to upgrade the courts would go a long way. Overall, it will be more cost efficient for equipment repairs. Board consensus is to grant this ARPA request.

THUNDER CHICKENS AND SNO-BEES REQUEST TO USE TOWN ROAD:

Background: Annually snowmobile clubs must have property owners' permission to run a trail across private property. The Thunder Chickens and Sno-Bees snowmobile clubs cross numerous parcels of Town owned land. Permission to cross a road at a 90 ° angle is not required but riding on or along a road does require the Town's approval.

The Sno-Bees have submitted their request for permission to use portions of several Town roads. The only change from previous years is that they will not be using Phelps Road. Their permission form stipulates that they will meet all state law and Vermont Association of Snow Travelers requirements.

On a motion by Bob Nelson, seconded by Mike Gilbar, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the request by the Sno-Bees Snowmobile Club to use a portion of several Town roads as noted on their permission form dated November 10, 2023, conditioned upon them adhering to the commitments noted on the form.

The Thunder Chickens have submitted their request for permission to use several parcels of land owned by the Town. The request is the same as in past years. A letter dated October 19, 2023 stipulates meeting conditions that have been applied in prior years.

On a motion by Bob Nelson, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the request by the Thunder Chickens Snowmobile Club to cross parcels of land owned by the Town, as identified in their letter dated October 19, 2023, conditioned upon them adhering to the commitments noted in the letter regarding crossings and signage.

Mrs. Malone inquired about the trail in the Town Forest. Mr. Rouleau said this is known as the “bob sled run”. He has asked that this section of trails is closed to non-snowmobile users for safety concerns. Additionally, granite blocks were added to a trail by a quarry near 44 Brook Street for safety reasons.

Mr. Rouleau stated last year they brought back the Travis Mercy Skatepark fundraiser which was another success. They raised the largest amount they ever have (\$6,431.00). Linda Mercy donated this amount back to the Town. Mr. Rouleau said they are looking forward to this fundraiser again this March.

VERMONT AGENCY OF TRANSPORTATION RELINQUISHMENT AND MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT:

Background: A few years ago, the intersection of Mill Street and VT Route 110 was realigned as part of a state project. As part of that project, an easement for a portion of land owned by the Town (East Barre Fire Station and Mill St. right-of-way) was conveyed to the State. As was planned, once the project was completed, that easement would be relinquished by the State and all rights given back to the Town. In addition, as part of normal procedure when Town roads intersect with State highways, maintenance agreements are created to make it clear that the Town maintains the aprons of their road as they enter into the State right-of-way. The maintenance agreements essentially are for plowing and road maintenance generally including paving and line striping.

On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the Relinquishment and Maintenance Agreement between the Town of Barre and the State of Vermont for the Mill Street and VT Route 110 realignment project and authorize the Selectboard to execute said document.

CEMETERY UTILITY TRAILER:

Background: The FY’24 Equipment Fund has a \$4,500 line item budgeted for the purchase of a utility trailer for the Cemetery. The Town put a bid out on October 23, 2023, and received one bid from Kingdom Trailers in Danville. The bid included a trailer that was considerably heavier than what the Town spec’d,

and it was well over budget at \$6,050. Shop Foreman Mike Martel reached out to a few local dealers to see what they might have on their lots. Perfection Trailers Sales in Richmond, VT has one trailer available that meets the Town's specs for a quote of \$4,600.

Mr. Gilbar asked if Perfection Trailers was on the list of bidders that was originally sent out. Mr. Violette stated he believes so. Mr. Gilbar shared concerns about this not being compliant with the bidding process. He suggests rejecting the original bid and then having the Manager purchase the trailer.

On a motion by Bob Nelson, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted unanimously to reject the bid from Kingdom Trailers for non-compliance on the purchase of a utility trailer.

GRANT REASSIGNMENT:

Background: Going back several years, the Town received a grant/loan from the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) for the Wilson Industrial Park water line extension. This is the project that Munson Earth Moving completed during the winter months earlier this year. That project is now complete, and the Town is working towards getting reimbursed. Previous Town Manager Carl Rogers is the official authorized representative for Barre Town for this project and the program has requested an official action by the Selectboard to change the authorization to current Town Manager, Chris Violette. By making this change, Mr. Violette will be able to sign the reimbursement request and get the \$423,213.24 that is due to the Town.

On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Bob Nelson, the Selectboard voted unanimously to designate the Town Manager Chris Violette as the authorized representative for the State of Vermont Drinking Water State Revolving Fund and authorize the Chair to sign.

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 November 21, 2023 for FY'23 and FY'24. Bob Nelson abstained.

Mrs. Malone inquired about office supplies being purchased that included sales tax.

MISCELLANEOUS:

On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the 2023 Second Class Liquor License and Tobacco License for R.L. Vallee, Inc. d/b/a/ Maplefields #71.

Clerk Lunt shared that the Town will soon be receiving a third tabulator. Currently, the Town of Barre has two tabulators and to help the election process run more efficiently she has requested a third. She has been working with the Secretary of State's Office and was notified that this request was granted through the Help America Vote Act. The tabulator will be delivered sometime before the March election.

Mr. Violette wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and safe weekend.

ROUND TABLE:

Norma Malone:

- Mrs. Malone wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and safe travels.
- Mrs. Malone said she saw that a property owner made a significant payment towards back taxes. She asked if the Board could receive property tax, water, and sewer delinquent aging reports.

Justin Bolduc:

- Mr. Bolduc inquired about the November 29th Emergency Response Plan meeting for the AmeriGas facility. He asked where this meeting was being held. Mr. Violette said the meeting will be held at the Municipal Building, Selectboard Meeting Room.
- Mr. Bolduc stated the Websterville Christian Academy rented light towers to light the East Barre Park at night to extend their playing season. He asked that the Rec Board be made aware and remind them to lock the lights as they were left on or someone turned them on the other night.
- Mr. Bolduc shared he had a request from a resident that the trash can at the East Barre basketball courts be put back.

Mike Gilbar:

- Mr. Gilbar shared, in reviewing the BADC minutes, he is wondering what happened to the branding efforts and the discussion about changing to non-profit status. He asked if this was pending until their Strategic Plan is in place. Mr. Violette stated he believes they want to get through the Strategic Plan. Chair White asked if they plan to continue to send periodic reports. Mr. Violette said he plans to ask them to do this.

Bob Nelson:

- Mr. Nelson wishes everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and safe travels.

Paul White:

- Chair White wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.
- Chair White sent his thanks for the Town holiday luncheon invitation, but shared he is unable to attend this year.

ADJOURN:

On a motion by Bob Nelson, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:07 p.m.

APPROVED MINUTES

Barre Town Selectboard

Paul White, Chair

Justin Bolduc, Vice Chair

Norma Malone

Mike Gilbar

Selectboard Minutes of November 21, 2023 Continued:

 Bob Nelson

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

ATTEST: _____, Barre Town Clerk.