



BARRE TOWN SELECTBOARD MEETING
October 24, 2023

AGENDA

1. Call to order..... 6:00 p.m.
2. Pledge of allegiance
3. Consider approving the agenda
4. Consider approving October 17, 2023 meeting minutes
5. Announcements
6. Receive guests for non-agenda items.
7. Interview Good Samaritan Haven Working Group candidate
8. Public Hearing for sale of lot in Wilson Industrial Park
9. Review and possibly approve geotechnical engineering service proposals from Sanborn Head Associates for the five Barre Town sites affected by July flooding
10. Consider appointing new Commissioner to the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission
11. Consider appointing new member to Good Samaritan Haven Working Group
12. Discuss approving funds for EMS training
13. Consider approving weekly accounts payable warrants for October 24, 2023
14. Miscellaneous: including permits and licenses if any
15. Round the Table
16. Executive Session: Contracts
17. Adjourn

MINUTES

The duly warned meeting of October 24, 2023 was held at the Barre Town Municipal Building, Conference Room #3 and the Selectboard Room, in Lower Websterville at 4:30 p.m.

Selectboard Members Present: Paul White, Norma Malone, Justin Bolduc, Bob Nelson, and Mike Gilbar.

Selectboard Members Absent: None.

Staff Members Present: Town Manager Chris Violette, Town Clerk Tina Lunt, and Town Engineer Josh Martineau. Those attending virtually: EMS interim Director David Danforth.

Others Present: Times Argus Reporter Eric Blaisdell, Marisa Pacetti, Paul Tomberg, and Marie Tomberg.

CALL TO ORDER: Chair White called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. at the Barre Town Municipal Building Conference Room #3 (Emergency Operations Center).

APPROVE THE AGENDA:

On a motion by Bob Nelson, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the amended agenda as follows:

1. Add Executive Session for Personnel as agenda item 3(a)
2. Add Personnel to Executive Session under item 16

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 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 4:32 p.m. for personnel and invite the following guests: Recreation Director Johnny Crossley, Finance Director Katelyn Kran, Police Chief William Dodge, Planning and Zoning Administrator Brandon Garbacik, Town Clerk Tina Lunt, Interim EMS Director David Danforth, and Town Engineer Joshua Martineau.

On a motion by Norma Malone seconded by Mike Gilbar, the Selectboard voted unanimously to exit executive session at 5:58 p.m.

The meeting location was moved to the Selectboard Room.

CALL TO ORDER: Chair White reconvened the meeting at 6:00 p.m. in the Selectboard Room.

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

APPROVE THE MINUTES:

On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Bob Nelson, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the October 17, 2023 Selectboard meeting minutes with minor spelling and grammatical corrections.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- The Holden Road Lawn Waste is officially open for one more week, including Thursday the 26th from 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., Saturday the 28th, 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., and Sunday the 29th 12:00 - 4:00 p.m. It is possible we may extend to a few days in November, stayed tuned.
- We currently have two vacancies on our Recreation Board. The Recreation Board works with the Recreation Director on matters related to town parks, playgrounds, recreation facilities, the Town Forest, and other land used for leisure purposes. The Board also advises on budget preparation and capital improvements. This Board is a great way to have input on matters related to recreation in Barre Town.
- The second quarterly installment of property taxes is due on Wednesday, November 15th. The Town Clerk's Office is open M-F 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. to accept payments. Payments may also be deposited into one of the drop boxes located at the Municipal Building, or mailed to PO Box 124, Websterville, VT 05678. Mail must be postmarked on or before November 15, 2023, to avoid penalty. Additionally, payments can be made online using the "make a payment" link. In accordance with Town Charter, a 5% late charge will be assessed to payments received after the due date.
- The gravel section of Sterling Hill Road will be closed for the season on October 31st.

- Beginning November 1st parking on town streets and roads will be prohibited between the hours of 11:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. No Parking is allowed during that time so please plan to park vehicles off the street overnight.
- For more information about any of these positions or events, feel free to contact the Town Manager's Office by calling 479-9331 or emailing offices@barretown.org.

GUESTS:

Paul Tomberg and Marie Tomberg were present. Mr. & Mrs. Tomberg live at 64 Wildersburg Common and are seeking information regarding the damage in their area caused by the impact of the July flooding. They stated that they have seen geologists and engineers in the area, some which are from out of state taking soil samples. They have not heard from the Town and are curious what is going on with the ravine. Town Manager Chris Violette stated he has been working with Art Bombardier, President of the Wildersburg Common Homeowners Association. Additionally, Mr. Violette shared that Town Engineer Josh Martineau has brought geologists to look at the site. The site has been deemed to pose no immediate hazard to the houses in the area. The Town worked with Vermont Emergency Management Services to see what could be done to stabilize the private properties but currently there are no programs available. The State expects there will be mitigations programs available for homeowners. Mr. Violette said he expects the Wildersburg Homeowners Association will be keeping an eye out for these programs. Town Engineer Josh Martineau added that he has been in contact with Norwich University, and they are looking at alternative fixes for the area.

GOOD SAMARITAN HAVEN WORKIKNG GROUP CANDIDATE:

Background: When the Good Samaritan Haven moved into the building at 580 South Barre Road to operate a transitional shelter, an MOU was agreed to that spells out numerous items in the interest of creating a collaborative effort to ensure success of the shelter and a good relationship with the Town and the community of South Barre. Additionally, the MOU required the creation of the Community Relations Work Group. The group meets quarterly and consists of the Good Samaritan Haven's Executive Director and other staff, along with a representative of the Selectboard, the Police Chief, the Town Manager, and a South Barre community member. These meetings include a report from the Executive Director and to hear about activities at the house. The Police Chief also has an opportunity to talk about any issues that have occurred during the preceding few months. Additionally, the community representative will also have a chance to note any concerns. Jim West was the most recent community member from South Barre serving on the group. Mr. West resigned a few months ago, leaving a vacant position. The Town has been recruiting a new member with announcements, Front Porch Forum, and word of mouth. The Police Chief spoke with Marisa Pacetti who lives in South Barre, and she is interested in joining the group.

Marisa Pacetti was present. Mrs. Pacetti was born and raised in the Barre area. She lives in South Barre with her husband and two young children. Additionally, Mrs. Pacetti works near the 580 South Barre Road facility. Mrs. Pacetti stated she is interested in knowing what goes on at the facility with being a mother of two young children. Board members made Mrs. Pacetti aware of the MOU that is in place and that there is a vetting process for residents at the facility. Mrs. Pacetti confirmed that time commitment was not an issue for her to serve on the committee.

GOOD SAMARITAN HAVEN WORKING GROUP APPOINTMENT:

Background: There is a vacant community representative seat on the Good Samaritan Haven Working Group. South Barre resident Marisa Pacetti has expressed a desire to serve on the committee.

On a motion by Justin Bolduc, seconded Mike Gilbar, the Selectboard voted unanimously to appoint Marisa Pacetti to the Good Samaritan Haven Working Group as the Community Representative.

PUBLIC HEARING – SALE OF WILSON INDUSTRIAL PARK LOT:

Background: Crossland Barnes Group, LLC entered into a Purchase and Sale Agreement with the Town in March of 2022 to purchase just under 3 acres of land in the Wilson Industrial Park. Subsequently, Crossland Barnes Group, LLC assigned the Commercial Real Estate Purchase and Sale Agreement to a new entity called Barre Partners, LLC, a Delaware based limited liability company. Since that time, Barre Partners, LLC has been working on engineering plans for construction of a 7,650 square foot building and associated site improvement, along with obtaining local and state permits. Town Attorney Mike Monte has been working with Barre Partners, LLC moving towards closing the property in the very near future.

On a motion by Bob Nelson, seconded by Norma Malone, the Selectboard voted unanimously to open the public hearing for the sale of a Wilson Industrial Park lot to Crossland Barnes Group, LLC at 6:33 p.m.

As required by the Town Charter whenever Town owned land is sold there must be a public hearing to allow comment. Authority to sell land was granted to the Selectboard at Barre Town’s Annual Town Meeting held on May 3, 2023.

There were no public comments.

On a motion by Bob Nelson, seconded by Norma Malone, the Selectboard voted unanimously to close the public hearing at 6:35 p.m. and approve the sale of 2.97 acres of land within the Wilson Industrial Park to Barre Partners, LLC of Delaware for \$28,500 per acre per the Purchase and Sale Agreement dated March 21, 2022, and authorize the Town Manager to sign the deed and related closing documents.

GEOTECHNICAL ENGINEERING SERVICES:

Background: The Town previously contracted with Vanasse Hangen Bruslin, Inc. (VHB) to provide them with engineering options and cost estimates to repair the five municipally owned sites (Holden Road, Camp Street, East Cobble Hill, South Barre Bike Path, and Wildersburg sewer line) that were impacted by the July rain event. VHB indicated in their contact that they may need to hire a Geotechnical Engineer to obtain more information to help them. Sanborn Head is a Geotechnical Engineering firm that VHB would be contracting with to study the Town’s sites. Geotechnical Engineering, and Town Engineer Josh Martineau has met and reviewed each site with them. Geotechnical Engineering has provided proposals.

Town Engineer Josh Martineau was present. Mr. Martineau stated his hope is the Camp Street location would be worked on as soon as possible, noting as early as this winter. Mr. Martineau explained the goal is to meet an April 4th deadline to receive 100% funding through Federal Highway Administration.

Mr. Gilbar asked if any of the locations would be in danger if the work was delayed until springtime. Mr. Martineau stated the Wildersburg sewer line could be a possibility. Mr. Martineau noted there is a contingency plan in place if this was to happen, however, there is no immediate hazard to residents or any safety concerns.

Mr. Bolduc inquired about East Cobble Hill Road and the South Barre Bike Path as the budget estimates on these sites are much lower. Mr. Martineau explained there is no soil boring in these areas.

Mr. Violette shared the Town is fully expecting most of this work to be covered by FEMA. Mr. Martineau stated Camp Street and East Cobble Hill are covered by Federal Highway and at a minimum is 90% reimbursable.

On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Bob Nelson, the Selectboard voted unanimously to authorize the cost associated with Sanborn Head's Geotechnical Engineering for VHB as follows:

Camp Street - \$35,900
East Cobble Hill Road - \$3,700
Holden Road - \$40,300
South Barre Bike Path - \$3,700
Wildersburg sewer line - \$34,600
Grand total of \$118,200

CENTRAL VERMONT REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION APPOINTMENT:

Background: George Clain has served as Barre Town Commissioner on the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission (CVRPC) since Byron Atwood stepped down a year or two ago. Mr. Clain is stepping down effective October 31st. Mrs. Alice Farrell is a Barre Town resident and serves on the Barre Town Planning Commission and currently is the alternate CVRPC Commissioner, appointed on May 30, 2023. Mrs. Farrell has expressed that she would be willing to move into the primary Commissioner role provided that she won't have to forfeit her seat on the Barre Town Planning Commission. She was assured this was not a problem. If Mrs. Farrell is appointed to Commissioner, that will leave the alternate position vacant for which the Town will begin advertising.

On a motion by Mike Gilbar, seconded Bob Nelson, the Selectboard voted unanimously to appoint Alice Farrell to the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission effective November 1, 2023 with a term expiring June 30, 2024.

EMS UNBUDGETED TRAINING EXPENSE:

Background: EMS Interim Director David Danforth has proposed ARPA funding in the amount of \$22,750 be used for EMS refresher courses. The FY'24 budget did not include any funds for bi-annual refresher training for EMS employees. Refresher training is needed for Paramedic and AEMT's. Town Manager Chris Violette is bringing this item before the Board for discussion.

EMS Interim Director David Danforth was present virtually. Mr. Danforth stated during the pandemic the EMS Department moved to online learning. Last year, the state funded in-person training, however, this year they did not. Mr. Danforth explained remote learning is still an option, but it is not as effective and in-person training helps ensure that EMS staff are having hands-on training that is more beneficial all around.

The cost is \$15,000 for the Paramedic refresher and \$7,750 for the AEMT refresher. Mr. Danforth said this would cover all of the EMS staff for the next two years.

Chair White asked how the EMS Department staff would be able to accomplish attending trainings and covering shifts. Mr. Danforth explained staff will rotate hours as they need to satisfy their training hour requirements. Furthermore, Mr. Nelson asked if other services could be utilized to help share the training expense, and if so, how likely they would be interested. Mr. Danforth stated last year 6 outside paramedics took a course which helped offset training costs and this is something that could be offered.

Mr. Violette is not recommending this item to be included on the ARPA list, based on previous Selectboard conversations. Mr. Gilbar asked if there were other areas in the fund that would absorb these costs. Mr. Violette stated he expects there is with the unfilled positions within the department but could not confirm now. Mr. Danforth stated overtime is decreasing as they onboard new staff members. Overall, he feels the Town is in good shape.

On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the expenditure in the amount of \$22,750 for Paramedic and Advanced EMT refresher training which will exceed the budgeted amount for training within the EMS budget.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE:

On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded Bob Nelson, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the accounts payable warrants for the week of October 24, 2023 for FY'23 and FY'24.

Chair White inquired about the second phone line for the Town Engineer. Mr. Violette confirmed this is for the Engineer's tablet.

Mr. Violette stated the Board will be expecting one more FY'23 invoice from Watershed Consulting.

Mr. Bolduc inquired about the Green Mountain Power bill and the amount of minimal usage. Mrs. Malone explained this is due to the way the solar credits are being allocated.

MISCELLANEOUS:

Mr. Violette updated the Board on the following:

- Mr. Violette shared Pike Industries reported they will not be completing paving of Plainfield Brook Road and Richardson Road this year due to the weather.
- Mr. Violette shared that an offer of employment was made to a full time EMS employee
- Mr. Violette reminded all that he will be out of the office next week. The Tuesday, October 31 Selectboard agenda will be light. The Board may treat the meeting like a retreat, and a good portion may not be broadcasted.

ROUND TABLE:

Bob Nelson:

- Mr. Nelson shared he may be late to next Tuesday's meeting as he will be working the late shift on Halloween.

Justin Bolduc:

- Mr. Bolduc inquired about 22 Buick Street. Mr. Violette stated the water has been run to this location and the Town has found the sewer line. The property could be marketed anytime. Board members discussed what the property would be sold for.
- Mr. Bolduc inquired about the 5 parcels on Quarry Hill Road. He asked what it would take for the Town to sell these properties. Mr. Violette stated it would be more valuable to merge the lots and sell them as one lot.

Paul White:

- Chair White inquired about the odor in the Town building. Mr. Violette stated CSI did repairs on the heating system. Alfred Ladd has been in contact with them to come back to the building to investigate the issue. The odors are oil generated. Mr. Violette said he has tested for carbon monoxide in the building, and it is negative. Mr. Violette will purchase some carbon monoxide detectors for the building.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

On a motion by Bob Nelson, 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 Justin Bolduc, seconded by Bob Nelson, the Selectboard voted unanimously to go into executive session at 7:31 p.m. for personnel.

On a motion by Justin Bolduc, seconded by Bob Nelson, the Selectboard voted unanimously to exit executive session at 8:17 p.m.

ADJOURN:

On a motion by Justin Bolduc, seconded by Bob Nelson, the Selectboard voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:17 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.

Selectboard Minutes of October 24, 2023 Continued:

ATTEST: _____, Barre Town Clerk.