



**BARRE TOWN SELECTBOARD MEETING  
September 12, 2023**

**AGENDA**

1. Call to order.....6:00 p.m.
2. Pledge of allegiance
3. Consider approving the agenda
4. Consider approving September 5, 2023 meeting minutes
5. Announcements
6. Receive guests for non-agenda items.
7. Discuss Emergency Service Dispatch Contract
8. Discuss creating an Energy Committee
9. Designation of ARPA Funds
10. Consider approving weekly accounts payable warrants for September 12, 2023
11. Miscellaneous: including permits and licenses if any
12. Round the Table
13. Executive Session: contracts
14. Adjourn

**MINUTES**

The duly warned meeting of September 12, 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 Mike Gilbar.

**Selectboard Members Absent:** None.

**Staff Members Present:** Town Manager Chris Violette, Assistant Town Clerk Catherine Whalen, and Interim EMS Director David Danforth. Those present virtually: Zoning Administrator/Planner Brandon Garbacik.

**Others Present:** Doug Farnham, Claire Simonetti, and Steve Simonetti.

**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:*

1. Item #13 Executive Session: add legal

**APPROVE THE MINUTES:**

*On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Bob Nelson, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the September 5, 2023 Selectboard meeting minutes with minor spelling and grammatical corrections.*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- Fall Bulk Trash collection will be held on Saturday, September 16<sup>th</sup> at the Public Works Garage. Barre Town residents can use the opportunity to dispose of large (bulky) items not appropriate for weekly trash pickup or disposal in trash bags, including left over demolition debris from flooding. A new entrance from Pitman Road and exiting via Websterville Road will be indicated with signs. For more details about what can and can't be disposed of check the new and improved Barre Town website.
- Expanded hours for the Holden Road Lawn Waste site have begun. For the rest of September, the site will be open Tuesday's and Thursday's, 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. & Saturday, 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. In October, in addition to the days mentioned, the site will extend Saturday hours to 4:00 p.m. and be open on Sundays, 12:00 -4:00 p.m. If you have questions, please contact the Town Manager's Office.
- The Town Office has a large quantity of various size paper binders that we don't have a use for and would hate to see them go to waste. If you like to acquire a few for free, please contact the Town Manager's Office.

**GUESTS:** Claire and Steve Simonetti, residents of Valley View Circle were present. Mrs. Simonetti stated they had questions following the September 6 stormwater project meeting they attended. Mr. and Mrs. Simonetti wanted to discuss the stormwater upgrades and how residents could be more informed on the process. Their concerns were whether the Town of Barre would be the sole applicant on the permit or if the State of Vermont would require the homeowners to form an Association. The Town's full intent is to remain the sole applicant, but this will remain to be seen dependent on what the State requirements are.

**EMERGENCY SERVICE DISPATCH CONTRACT:**

**Background:** The contract with the Lamoille County Sheriff's Department for dispatching services expires on June 30, 2024. The Sheriff's Office has inquired if the Town will be renewing their contract in preparation for the budget. The Lamoille County Sheriff's Department has provided the Town with excellent service and has a great relationship with the Town.

Chair White inquired about the price increase of the contract. Mr. Violette stated he was not sure what the increase would be at this time. Board consensus was if Lamoille is fair with cost increases, the Town will most likely renew the contract.

**ENERGY COMMITTEE:**

**Background:** At the August 22<sup>nd</sup> Selectboard meeting, Cedric Sanborn, Chair of the Planning Commission, presented a recommendation from the Planning Commission suggesting that a Town Energy Committee be

Selectboard Minutes of September 12, 2023 Continued:

formed. The recommendation provided a proposed Charge and structure. The Board shared some concerns but there was no real objection, further discussion was needed.

Mrs. Malone recommended a subcommittee be created overseen by the Planning Commission. She suggested this begin as a pilot program. Questions were raised about who would appoint this committee, how often they would meet, whether any resident would be able to apply, and the number of members necessary for the Committee. Mr. Bolduc asked that the Chair of the Planning Commission reach out to the public to see if there is an interest in the Town Energy Committee before the Town moves forward.

Further discussion focused on the proposed Charge provided by the Planning Commission. The Charge will require a few amendments which will include the subcommittee working closely with the Planning Commission serving in an advisory role, with all policy decisions remaining with the Selectboard.

After much discussion, the Board recommends forming a committee of five for a temporary 18-month appointment with the possibility of extending its term or making a permanent committee. The committee would consist of two Planning Commission members and three additional Barre Town residents. The Selectboard would appoint the members to the committee. This plan will be discussed with the Planning Commission at their next meeting and feedback will be provided to the Selectboard with their comments.

### **ARPA FUNDS:**

Background: This topic is on the agenda for discussion purposes. The Town Manager has provided the Selectboard with an updated list of ARPA funded projects, which includes how much money has been allocated and spent for each project. Additionally, the list includes items that have been suggested but no funding commitment has been made. During last weeks Board meeting, a brief discussion took place regarding looking at where the Town is at with ARPA funds. It was recommended the Town estimate their financial obligations that Town may have as a result of the flooding and respond to outside and other entities that have requested funds.

Chair White mentioned the entities that have requested funding. Those include:

- The Turning Point
- The Spaulding High School Foundation
- Town of Barre Recreation Department

Recreation Board Chair Doug Farnham was present. Mr. Farham submitted a new request for the use of ARPA funds to help support Barre Youth Sport Association (BYSA) in their goal to add new artificial turf panels at the BOR. BYSA is looking for \$15,000 from the Town to help support the total project cost. The Town of Barre will be offered preferential pricing for the use of the artificial turf if they are to help support this project. Additionally, Mr. Farnham said the uses of the turf are innumerable and the Recreation Board would benefit from an indoor facility for all ages. Mr. Violette stated he was briefed on this request today and has asked BYSA to submit a formal request. The Recreation Board supports this request.

Conversation continued as Board members discussed the numerous items on the ARPA list. Some of those conversations included:

- 22 Wilson Street updates
- Brook Street restroom
- Upgrading the Rec Road

Selectboard Minutes of September 12, 2023 Continued:

- Portable message board
- Town radio system upgrade
- Water and sewer repairs/treatment
- HVAC repair for the Town office and EMS buildings
- EMS facilities

The Board amended the ARPA list making additions and deletions as they felt were necessary at this time.

Conversation continued as Board members discussed the entity requests and how to move forward. Future opioid settlement funding could be dedicated to the Turning Point Center. Board members were in agreement that The Spaulding High School Foundation was an entity that they were not inclined to support. Mrs. Malone noted there are sufficient funds in the Foundation accounts to take care of the school project

### **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 September 12, 2023 for FY'23 and FY'24. Bob Nelson abstained.*

### **MISCELLANEOUS:**

Mr. Violette updated the Board on the following:

- Town Manager Assistant, Leslie Babic applied for a VLCT grant for stand-up desks to promote health and safety. This grant was approved, and the Town currently has 6 within the Town currently being used.
- Mr. Violette stated that K9 Lakota had a growth on her chest removed. This is the vet bill the Board will see in the warrant.
- Mr. Violette gave kudos to the Police Department for their work in Upper Graniteville recently.

### **ROUND TABLE:**

Mike Gilbar:

- Mr. Gilbar inquired about the water discoloration that Barre Town residents on the Barre City water supply are experiencing.

Norma Malone:

- Mrs. Malone asked if there was anything new to report regarding paving areas of road/flood damage. Mr. Violette stated Town Engineer Josh Martineau is working on specs so they can hopefully wrap things up to begin the bidding process.
- Mrs. Malone noted the road sign from the intersection of Phelps Road and Cutler Corner Road is missing.

Chair White:

- Chair White will not attend the November 14 meeting. Mr. Nelson will also not be present.
- VT Rural Development has an event scheduled at the Barre Opera House the evening of Thursday, September 14. They are planning to address the flooding concerns.

**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 8:10 p.m. for contracts and legal.*

*On a motion by Norma Malone seconded by Mike Gilbar, the Selectboard voted unanimously to exit executive session at 9:40 p.m.*

**ADJOURN:**

*On a motion by Bob Nelson, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted unanimously to adjourn at 9:40 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.