



**BARRE TOWN SELECTBOARD MEETING
September 5, 2023**

AGENDA

- 1. Call to order.....6:00 p.m.
- 2. Pledge of allegiance
- 3. Consider approving the agenda
- 4. Consider approving August 22, 2023 meeting minutes
- 5. Announcements
- 6. Receive guests for non-agenda items.
- 7. Discuss request to change East Street Ext name
- 8. First reading to add Yield sign on LePage Road
- 9. Consider request for various Travel Cautionary or Advisory signs
- 10. Discuss temporarily closing lower Sterling Hill Road for party
- 11. Consider Barre City’s use of Lawn Waste Site
- 12. Designate organization to receive donations for the Fall Bulk Trash Collection
- 13. Consider awarding contracts for: **a)** truck body; **b)** gravel crushing
- 14. Consider approving weekly accounts payable warrants for August 29 and September 5, 2023
- 15. Miscellaneous: **a)** Fireworks permit for Thunder Road; **b)** other permits and licenses
- 16. Round the Table
- 17. Executive Session: contracts
- 18. Adjourn

MINUTES

The duly warned meeting of September 5, 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 and Town Clerk Tina Lunt. Those present virtually: Zoning Administrator/Planner Brandon Garbacik and Town Engineer Josh Martineau.

Others Present: Burnie Allen, Rebecca Smith, and Scott Laurendeau.

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 Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the agenda as presented.

APPROVE THE MINUTES:

On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Mike Gilbar, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the August 22, 2023 Selectboard meeting minutes with minor spelling and grammatical corrections.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Fall Bulk Trash collection will be held on Saturday, September 16th at the Public Works Garage. This service is for Barre Town residents and is a great way to economically dispose of large (bulky) items not appropriate for weekly trash pickup or disposal in trash bags. For more details about what can and can't be disposed of look for the upcoming newsletter or check barretown.org.
- Good news to report! The VT Rt. 110 bridge is scheduled to be opened on Sunday morning, September 10th. There is still much to be done on the project, so crews will be around for some time, please drive with caution around the site.
- Whether you are a professional or just like to snap pictures with your phone for fun, the Town is looking for pictures taken in Barre Town for its new website. Let's show off our beautiful town! We are inviting our residents and visitors to take part in sharing photos that spotlight the Town of Barre. Photos can be emailed to Tina Lunt at tlunt@barretown.org.
- Look for the latest edition of the Barre Town Newsletter next week. Learn about things happening around town and meet our most recent staff additions.
- The Barre Town Fire Department Association will soon be selling tickets for their annual 52-gun raffle. Pre-sale for previous ticket holders is almost complete and if you haven't purchased a ticket before, your chance will begin in October. Tickets will be available at the Town Office, R&L Archery, or any fire department member. Tickets are \$50.00 which gives you a chance to win 52 guns.

GUESTS: None.

EAST STREET EXT – NAME CHANGE REQUEST:

Background: Mr. Allen has lived at 16 East Street Ext. since 1980. He has approached the Town Manager about changing the name of the road due to confusion between East Street Ext. in Barre Town and East Street in Barre City. He states that deliveries are commonly mistakenly sent to Barre City. The hope is that changing the name of the road will eliminate the confusion. Mr. Allen reports all residents on the road are in favor of the name change. A road name change request has been submitted in writing. Mr. Allen and residents are requesting that East Street Ext. be renamed to Ridge Road. Mr. Allen reports that sometime during the late 1990's the name was changed from Ridge Road to East Street Ext.

Mr. Burnie Allen was present. Mr. Allen stated he wished he had made this name request many years ago to eliminate the years of problems that he and the residents have experienced. Mail delivery is the largest concern that is shared by all. Mail is consistently delivered to East Street in Barre City rather than East Street Ext. Mr. Allen expressed in addition to the consistent mail delivery confusion, he would like to address this concern before there is ever a real emergency in the area. He would like to eliminate any

confusion with emergency responders being able to locate the correct address if this situation was to arise. Mr. Allen stated he is recommending the road be renamed to Ridge Road, and a second-choice option would be Aljen Road.

Brandon Garbacik, Barre Town's E-911 Coordinator, provided a memo which noted the potential conflicts and similar sounding road names. Additionally, he consulted with the Vermont E-911 Board, and they noted the same concerns. VT E-911 mentions that if Ridge Road is used, that it be paired with something else either before or after the word Ridge. They also suggest using something other than Road. Mr. Violette stated he is in favor of the road name change but shares the same concerns with Mr. Garbacik. Board members echoed these concerns, commenting that they have no objection to changing the name of the road, but further discussion must take place with E-911 to see what name would be appropriate.

Name suggestions included: Aljen Street, Aljen Acres, Aljen Ridge Acres, Aljen Lane, Aljen Ridge Drive.

In closing, Mr. Violette stated Mr. Garbacik will follow back up with the Vermont E-911 Board, and the Town will then be back in touch with Mr. Allen to confirm the name change.

FIRST READING – YIELD SIGN ON LEPAGE ROAD:

Background: At their June 21, 2023 meeting, the Traffic Safety Advisory Committee (TSAC), in accordance with Chapter 7, Article III, section 7-43, held a public hearing for the purpose of considering adding a yield sign on LePage Road at the intersection with Beckley Hill Road and Mekkelsen Road. This is the first reading, in accordance with Town Charter, Chapter 6, section 37 whereas the proposed ordinance is introduced. Subsequent meetings on September 19 and 26th will follow.

The Selectboard introduced the ordinance, pending amendment. A public hearing will be held on September 19. The proposed amendment is for Chapter 7, Section 7-44(c) to add LePage Road to the list of yield intersections.

On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Bob Nelson, the Selectboard voted unanimously to read the proposed ordinance change by title only.

REQUEST FOR TRAVEL CAUTIONARY OR ADVISORY SIGNS:

Background: At the August Traffic Safety Advisory Committee (TSAC) meeting they considered a multitude of sign requests. Town Engineer Josh Martineau provided a memo to the Selectboard which detailed TSAC's recommendations. These include:

- Add a stop sign to the left side of the road of School Road and Nichols Road at their intersection with Beckley Hill Road.
- Add a "Stop Ahead" sign on Nichols Road about 400' before its intersection with Beckley Hill Road.
- Add two 35-MPH speed signs on East Cobble Hill Road. One West of Taplin Road and the other East of Partridge Road.
- Add a "Blind Drive Ahead" sign on Farwell Street, about 180' South of the Mekkelsen Road intersection.

Town Engineer Josh Martineau was present virtually. Chair White stated he does not have a concern with any of TSAC's recommendations.

On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Bob Nelson, the Selectboard voted unanimously to authorize Town Engineer Josh Martineau to install signs as detailed in his memo dated August 17, 2023.

TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSING REQUEST FOR STERLING HILL ROAD:

Background: Rebecca Smith lives at 26 Sterling Hill Road. Ms. Smith has formally requested that the lower portion of Sterling Hill Road be closed on September 24, 2023 from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., for all except residents who live on it or for any of the roads off it. This temporary closure would be for the purpose of a block party to welcome new arrivals to the neighborhood. Vermont State Statute Annotated, Title 23, section 1010 allows the Selectboard to close roads in part when it appears that traffic will be congested by reason of a public occasion.

Rebecca Smith and Scott Laurendeau were present. Ms. Smith stated she is requesting a temporary road closure for Sterling Hill Road on Sunday, September 24th. This request is for a neighborhood block party from 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Additionally, a rain date of October 1st has been requested.

Discussion focused on the conditions that would be put in place considering the Department of Public Works would not be working this day. The bottom part of Sterling Hill will be closed after the Maplewood's access. The Town will close the upper part of Sterling Hill, from the gate located below Cherrywood Drive. The Town will deliver signage and barriers for the residents to set up during the road closure.

Chair White spoke highly of the idea and how it is a great time for the neighborhood to socialize.

On a motion by Bob Nelson, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted unanimously to close Sterling Hill Road under the authority of Title 23, section 1010 of VSA for the purpose of a "public occasion" from the gate located below Cherrywood Drive to the bottom part of Sterling Hill after the Maplewood's access on September 24, 2023, with a rain date of October 1, 2023 between the hours of 11:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.

BARRE CITY'S USE OF LAWN WASTE SITE:

Background: As in the past, Barre City has requested the use of the Holden Road Lawn Waste Site this fall for their residents. The City is expected to pay 50% of the Town's labor and equipment expenses for the days and times they use the site. The request begins October 7th and runs through the end of the year when the site is closed.

Chair White asked the Manager how much the site is being utilized by the City when the Selectboard authorizes these requests. Mr. Violette stated he learned there is a slight increase after speaking with staff and the volunteers who run the site. Chair White proposed that the Town make the site available for the remainder of the calendar year to Barre City residents. Additionally, Mr. Bolduc suggested extending the invitation to the City for the entire year the site is open.

Conversation continued as Board members discussed the financial aspect. The Manager noted volunteers could be utilized from the City to help staff the site. After much discussion, the Manager will have a discussion with the City Manager to see if this is a service they are interested in for their residents.

On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted unanimously to allow residents from the City of Barre to use the Holden Road Lawn Waste Site, beginning October 7th and running through the seasonal closure and only during periods when the site is open for Town residents with the understanding that Barre City will reimburse the Town for 50% of labor and equipment cost and to authorize the Town Manager to negotiate and earlier opening if Barre City is open to the agreement.

There was a brief discussion regarding this item being excluded from future agendas. Board members shared comments that this is an item the Manager could authorize in the future and would not need Selectboard approval. Chair White and Mr. Gilbar suggested that the Board consider adopting a policy for this purpose.

FALL BULK TRASH VOLUNTEER GROUP:

Background: Traditionally, both annual bulk trash collections have an entity named as a beneficiary of donations received during the event. In exchange for the donations, the group will provide volunteers to work. The Cemetery Commission has worked as the volunteer group at the fall bulk trash collection over the years. The Commission has indicated that all five of their members will volunteer during the September 16th Fall bulk trash collection.

On a motion by Mike Gilbar, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted unanimously to name the Barre Town Cemetery Commission as the designated beneficiary of donations received during the 2023 Fall Bulk Trash event to be held on September 16, 2023.

CONTRACTS:

Truck Body

Background: The FY '24 10-wheeled dump truck was ordered in August of 2022. As a result of that truck being ready in the not too distance future, the Town sent out bid specifications for the body on August 7. Bids were due back on August 24 and only one was received. Viking-Cives was the only bidder with a bid price of \$104,400. As requested, they provided an option for a stainless-steel dump body which adds \$7,200 to the total cost.

The total budget amount for the FY '24 truck is \$245,000. The chassis cost is \$140,669, adding to the price of the body, the total cost of the truck is \$245,069. Shop Foreman Mike Martel has reviewed the bid and states that it meets Town specifications. He is requesting that the Town consider the stainless-steel option as it will likely be less susceptible to corrosion and be in better shape when it comes to selling it.

On a motion by Bob Nelson, seconded by Mike Gilbar, the Selectboard voted unanimously to award the FY '24 truck body to Viking-Cives of Williston, VT in the amount of \$111,600 to include the option of a stainless-steel dump body.

For the record this is \$7,269 over budget.

Gravel Crushing

Background: Request for bids with specifications were sent to four companies with a due date of August 24th. Only one bid was received from McCullough Crushing, Inc. in the amount of \$5.50 a cubic yard. The Town estimates to crush between 5,330 to 6,330 cubic yards of gravel and waste granite this Fall. There is \$40,000 in the budget for crushing gravel. The bid price is \$2.80 less than last year's price from J.A. McDonald.

The Manager shared that a second bid was received today. The bid was sent to the wrong address. The bid is \$2.50 per cubic feet more than the McCullough Crushing, Inc. bid.

On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted unanimously to award the FY '24 gravel crushing contract to McCullough Crushing of Middlesex, VT for the bid price of \$5.50 per cubic yard of gravel and waste granite mixture.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE:

On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Mike Gilbar, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the accounts payable warrants for the week of August 29 and September 5, 2023 for FY'23 and FY'24.

MISCELLANEOUS:

On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Mike Gilbar, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the fireworks permit for Thunder Road International Speedway, 80 Fisher Road on September 15, 2023 at dusk with the condition that the display must cease by 11:00 p.m.

On a motion by Chair White, seconded by Bob Nelson, the Selectboard voted 4-1 to approve the fireworks permit for Rockfire, Inc., 560 Graniteville Road on September 16, 2023 at 8:00 p.m. subject to approval by the property owner. The motion passed.

The Board had a brief discussion regarding firework applications. The focus was regarding 20 V.S.A. § 3132. The law requires permit requests to be submitted in writing 15 days in advance of the date of the display. Board members and Town staff discussed the fact that residents must take this law seriously and applications submitted prior to the 15-day law will not be considered.

For the record the Town Clerk is informing the Selectboard that on September 5, 2023 a Request to Cater Malt Vinous and/or Spirituous Liquors application was approved for JWD Corporation, dba as Gusto's for an event held at 663 South Barre Road on September 9, 2023 by the Town Clerk. This report is entered into the record as a requirement of the Barre Town Request to Cater, Malt, Vinous, and/or Spirituous Liquors Policy adopted by the Selectboard on June 19, 2018.

On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted unanimously to authorize the Town Clerk to approve a Request to Cater Malt, Vinous and Spirituous Liquors application for Jerry's Sports Tavern LLC for an event on September 23, 2023 at 29 Little John Road.

Mr. Violette updated the Board on the following:

- 2 Wilson Street: there is a tree located at this property that a neighboring property owner has concerns with. They feel the tree is in a dangerous position and may eventually fall on power lines

or cause a larger risk. Mr. Violette and Board members viewed the existing tree on the Gis Tax Map system. The Town does not have the authority to remove this tree as it is on private property. Comments were made that the two property owners should have a conversation regarding the tree.

- Quick Med Claims: Mr. Violette shared Quick Med Claims has been a pleasure to work with. EMS Interim Director David Danforth has been working with their staff and Town staff has been having weekly meetings with them. Discussion continued as Board members discussed the collection process that Quick Meds will be involved with. Mr. Violette stated that the Selectboard will be asked soon how they wish to handle the “buckets” of uncollected funds. Ultimately, this will be handled by the Board of Abatement.

ROUND TABLE:

Mike Gilbar:

- Mr. Gilbar stated he spoke with Chip Castle. Mr. Castle has inquired about the status of Turning Point’s request for the use of ARPA funds. Mr. Gilbar suggested the Town works on getting rough estimates, so they can get back to those entities who have requested funds. Mr. Violette stated he is working on updating the ARPA funds list. Additionally, Mr. Violette noted he did hear back from the State about the Opioid Settlement, and it is not too late for the Town of Barre to apply. Barre Town would not be expected to receive funds for a few years.

Norma Malone

- Mrs. Malone inquired about the status of the Community Forest Plan. Mr. Violette stated he did not have an update at this time. Mr. Violette will follow up with the Rec Director for an update.
- Mrs. Malone inquired about the status of the Hazardous Mitigation Plan. Mr. Violette shared the Plan was submitted to the State. He has no update to share at this time, but he did hear from the Regional Planning Commission that the percentage that VEM will make up is 87.5%.

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 7:50 p.m. for contracts.

On a motion by Mike Gilbar seconded by Bob Nelson, the Selectboard voted unanimously to exit executive session at 8:18 p.m.

ADJOURN:

On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Bob Nelson, the Selectboard voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:18 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.