



**BARRE TOWN SELECTBOARD MEETING
February 13, 2024**

AGENDA

- 1. Call to order.....5:00 p.m.
- 2. Pledge of allegiance
- 3. Consider approving the agenda
- 4. Consider approving February 6, 2024 meeting minutes
- 5. Announcements
- 6. Receive guests for non-agenda items.
- 7. Three-acre stormwater permitting discussion
- 8. Consider private road name request
- 9. Auditor Discussion
- 10. Consider approving – Certificate – No Appeal or Suit Pending
- 11. Consider ratifying contract with Local 3702 (EMS)
- 12. Consider Recreation Board appointment
- 13. Consider approving weekly accounts payable warrants for February 13, 2024
- 14. Miscellaneous: including licenses and permits if any
- 15. Round the Table
- 16. Executive Session: as needed
- 17. Adjourn

MINUTES

The duly warned meeting of February 13, 2024 was held at the Barre Town Municipal Building, Selectboard Room, in Lower Websterville at 5:00 p.m.

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

Selectboard Members Absent: None.

Staff Members Present: Town Manager Chris Violette, Town Clerk Tina Lunt, Town Engineer Josh Martineau, and Finance Director Katelyn Kran. Those present virtually: Zoning Administrator/Planner Brandon Garbacik.

Others Present: Times Argus Reporter Eric Blaisdell. Those present virtually: Andrews Torizzo and Jeff Blow.

CALL TO ORDER: Chair White called the meeting to order at 5:00 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 amended agenda as presented.

Selectboard Minutes of February 13, 2024 Continued:

1. Add contracts to item #16. Executive Session
2. Move item #9 under item #16 (contracts)

APPROVE THE MINUTES:

On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the February 6, 2024 Selectboard meeting minutes with minor spelling and grammatical corrections.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: None.

GUESTS: None.

3-ACRE STORMWATER SITE PERMITTING:

Background: As the Town works through the 3-acre stormwater designs for Wildersburg and Maple Ridge Common (Valley View Circle), the Manager has reached out to Watershed Consulting regarding the cost that may need to be budgeted in FY25. Andres Torizzo from Watershed Consulting provided a letter, indicating a lot of design work that will be needed over the next year or so. Barre Town is responsible for a total of eight sites that have been inherited over time (Maple Ridge Common, Miller's Woods, Sugarwoods, Cobble Hill Meadows, Countryside Estates, Wilson Industrial Park (phase 2), Stone Mountain, and Wildersburg). The State funded Wildersburg design is almost complete, while Maple Ridge Common is well underway. The remaining sites will need engineering and design work. The Watershed Consulting letter states that by September 2025, all regulatory due dates set forth in General Permit 3-3050 Subsection 2.3 for eligible ARPA funded projects will have passed. It is imperative to continue to move through this process quickly.

Andres Torizzo from Watershed Consulting was present virtually. Mr. Torizzo provided the Board with a brief update regarding the stormwater sites. Mr. Torizzo stated that phase 1 has been completed for all eight sites. The next step is a phase 2 application, and this is where the engineering work is required to meet State requirements.

Mr. Torizzo noted that the Valley View Circle project is currently underway. Watershed Consulting is currently in discussions with homeowners. He notes that collecting feedback and having discussions is important to find solutions as there is only so much work that can be done in the Town right-of-way.

Mr. Torizzo reported that the deadline for ARPA funds to be spent for the current grant program is September 2025. He explained the State requires a grant application for each site, and these have been completed. These grants are up to \$50,000 to help offset the costs. Mr. Torizzo said he is hopeful the Town will hear back soon what sites have been approved for funding.

Chair White shared his concerns on how this work is completed when the property owners do not agree with the work that must be done. Mr. Torizzo said fortunately they have always found a compromised solution that has worked. He suggested in a case like this, the Town should have a discussion with the State.

Conversation continued as there was a brief discussion regarding the Town being listed as the permittee. The Board discussed how to handle this moving forward. Mr. Bolduc suggested a stormwater utility, and a second idea was having an HOA in place.

Mrs. Malone inquired about additional permits that may be required. She asked if any of the subdivisions currently have any wetlands or wetland permits. Mr. Torizzo stated he suspects a few of them do, noting the Wilson Industrial Park. He said the sites that will require Act 250 jurisdiction will require review by stream biologists and river scientists, etc. for approval. Furthermore, Mr. Torizzo noted the good thing is the State engineering feasibility analysis states they do not want to impact wetlands as the expense of stormwater upgrades. He is hoping they will not get to a point where we will see this.

In closing, the Board asked Mr. Torizzo to break down the anticipated cost per fiscal year. Ideally, this will help the Town prepare for the budget.

PRIVATE ROAD NAME REQUEST:

Background: Mr. Blow owns property in both Barre Town and adjacent Williamstown. The parcel subject to this request is located completely in the Town of Williamstown where Mr. Blow operates a Go Kart racetrack. The access to the property is via a 50' wide easement that extends from Baptist Street through land owned by Pierre Ducharme (in Barre Town). Mr. Blow is requesting that his access be given a private road name to help better identify it for first responders.

Mr. Blow's request is to name the private drive "Go Kart Ridge Road". VT E911 Coordinator Brandon Garbacik and the Manager both received feedback from VTE911 regarding this request. Typically, a private road is used when access is provided via a driveway to three or more locatable addresses. Mr. Blow's private road will only provide access to his use. Mr. Blow has asserted that while the current access does only provide access to one locatable address, it could in the future be more. Mr. Blow is correct, however, it does not generally meet VT E911 standards.

Those present virtually: Jeff Blow and Brandon Garbacik, E911 Coordinator

A memo from Mr. Garbacik and email from Mr. Blow were shared with the Board for review.

The recommendation from Mr. Garbacik is to hold off on this request at this time due to this not meeting the requirements outlined in the State's addressing standards. Secondly, because of Williamstown's Ordinance.

Discussion began as Board members discussed the complex situation. There were several red flags that were raised. Those include state standards, cooperation with Williamston, private property owner right-of-way, and the legality of the request. Board members noted the current address of 905 Pirie Road can be located on Google Maps.

Mr. Blow stated he understands this is a complex situation, but his concern is safety. He feels establishing this location with an E911 address and private road name to help identify the track would be the best solution. It is important to help identify this location and make sure first responders know where to go in case of an emergency.

Selectboard Minutes of February 13, 2024 Continued:

Mrs. Malone asked if there have been any issues to date with first responders finding the track. Mr. Blow said a few years ago when there was vandalism at the track a Vermont State Police Officer was unable to locate the track.

Discussion continued as Board members shared concerns around naming a road on a piece of private property without talking to the property owner. Board members asked if there had been any contact with the Ducharme's regarding this request. Mr. Garbacik noted that the adjacent property owner is against there being a private road name at this location.

In response to Mr. Blow's request, Mr. Nelson suggests adding a 905 Pirie Road sign at the end of the road to help identify the location for first responders.

In closing, Board consensus is to move forward with placing a clearly identified sign for the benefit of EMS first responders. Additionally, Town Engineer Josh Martineau recommends using the same color scheme that Williamstown uses for road signs.

CERTIFICATE – NO APPEAL OR SUIT PENDING:

Background: Annually, the final step in closing the grand list, is for the Assessor to provide a certificate stating that there are no outstanding tax assessment appeals or suits pending. Assessor Russ Beaudoin has provided a signed certificate which requires Board signatures.

On a motion by Bob Nelson, seconded by Mike Gilbar, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve Barre Town Assessor Russ Beaudoin's Certificate – No Appeal or Suit Pending.

On a motion by Justin Bolduc, seconded by Bob Nelson, the Selectboard recessed at 5:56 p.m.

The Board reconvened at 8:00 p.m.

LOCAL 3702 (EMS) CONTRACT:

Background: Over the last seven months, negotiations with the International Association of Firefighters Local 3702 (Barre Town EMS) have been ongoing. Negotiations wrapped up a few weeks ago and since that time final editing has been taking place. The Local ratified the contract on February 8, 2024.

The Manager confirmed the Union has signed the contract.

On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the Labor Agreement with Local 3702 of the International Association of Firefighters with a term of July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2026.

Mr. Nelson thanked and noted a job well done by all involved. Mr. Gilbar echoed Mr. Nelson's comments.

Additionally, the Manager followed by thanking Mrs. Malone, Mr. Bolduc, and Finance Director Katelyn Kran for all their work.

Mrs. Malone said it was a long process but productive. She enjoyed working with the EMS folks.

RECREATION BOARD APPOINTMENT:

Background: As reported last week. Amanda Gray has resigned from the Recreation Board. As directed, the Manager reached out to the four candidates that were recently interviewed by the Selectboard to see if they were still interested in being appointed to the Recreation Board. Of the four candidates, Jill Wilkinson, Josh Howard, and Shadi Battah are all still interested.

The Manager said Jill Wilkinson has been attending the Rec Board meetings as an observer, and is very interested in the seat. He personally thinks she would be a great fit, however, any of the candidates would be fitting.

Board members voted by paper ballots. Clerk Lunt tallied the votes.

On a motion by Chair White, seconded by Norma Malone, the Selectboard voted unanimously to appoint Jill Wilkinson to the Recreation Board to fill the vacancy with a term that expires May 31, 2026.

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 February 13, 2024. Bob Nelson abstained.

MISCELLANEOUS:

Mr. Violette shared there is a plan in place for the Town's sidewalk snow removal contract.

ROUND TABLE: None.

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 8:18 p.m. for contract and invite Finance Director Katelyn Kran to join.

On a motion by Bob Nelson, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted unanimously to exit executive session at 8:48 p.m.

ADJOURN:

On a motion by Bob Nelson, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:48 p.m.

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 _____, 2024.

ATTEST: _____, Barre Town Clerk.