



**BARRE TOWN SELECTBOARD MEETING  
January 2, 2024**

**AGENDA**

- 1. Call to order.....6:00 p.m.
- 2. Pledge of allegiance
- 3. Consider approving the agenda.
- 4. Consider approving December 19, 2023 meeting minutes.
- 5. Announcements
- 6. Receive guests for non-agenda items.
- 7. Interview Budget Committee applicant, Lindsey Lozier
- 8. Consider ARPA funding for EMS.
- 9. Report from BADC
- 10. Consider Awarding Contract for Fire Department’s new Rescue/Pumper Truck
- 11. Report from the Barre Town Fire Chief
- 12. Consider awarding the Emergency Service Dispatch Contract
- 13. Review and appoint applicants to the FY '24-'25 Budget Committee
- 14. Consider approving weekly accounts payable warrant for December 26, 2023, and January 2, 2024
- 15. Miscellaneous: **a)** Second Class Liquor and Tobacco Licenses for Slayton and Harrington Holdings; **LLC b)** Tobacco license for Global Montello Group, LLC; **c)** other permits and licenses, if any
- 16. Round the Table
- 17. Executive Session: labor contract & personnel
- 18. Adjourn

**MINUTES**

The duly warned meeting of January 2, 2024, was held at the Barre Town Municipal Building, Selectboard Room, in Lower Websterville at 6:00 p.m.

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

**Selectboard Members Absent:** None

**Staff Members Present:** Town Manager Chris Violette, Assistant Town Clerk Catherine Whalen, Fire Chief Andrew Lange, Asst. Fire Chief Chris Day, Chair of Truck Committee Brandon Tessier, Interim EMS Director David Danforth.

**Those Present Virtually:** None

**Others Present:** Times Argus Reporter Eric Blaisdell, Aimee Green; Lindsey Lozier; Bob Hutchins, Bob Lord, Shannon Alexander.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Paul 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 Justin Bolduc, seconded by Bob Nelson, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the amended agenda as follows:*

1. Add labor contract and personnel under executive session.

**APPROVE THE MINUTES:**

*On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Mike Gilbar, the Selectboard voted to approve the December 19, 2023, Selectboard meeting minutes with minor spelling and grammatical corrections.*

Bob Nelson abstained, as he had not been present at the December 19<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- Get your Christmas Tree ready! Over the next few weeks, the Public Works Department will be scouring the countryside looking for discarded Christmas Trees. Typically, the Christmas Tree collection begins on the North side of Rt. 302 shortly after the first of the new year and then it moves to the South side. The reality is, if the tree is out at the curb, it may get picked up anytime. If you have noticed that DPW has been around and you still have a tree that needs to be collected, feel free to contact Public Works at 476-3522. Please make sure that ALL decorations have been removed before placing it outside.
- It's time to license your dog! Dog registrations are due April 1, 2024. Licensing your dog with the Town Clerk each year is a state requirement and a civic duty to ensure the health and safety of the residents of Barre Town. To obtain a new license, the Town Clerk's Office must have a copy of your pet's current rabies certificate on file. If the Town Clerk's Office has a current copy of this certificate, you were notified by email or mail, and you can simply register your animal online or by using our register-by-mail service. If the rabies certificate on file has expired or will expire by April 1, 2024, you were notified by mail or email. Once you obtain an updated certificate, you may contact the Town Clerk's Office to license your animal.
- To help with licensing your dogs if their rabies vaccination is or about to expire, The Barre Town Fire Department will hold their annual rabies clinic on Saturday, March 9th from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. at 79 Pitman Road. For your convenience, the Town Clerk's Office will be open this day from 10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. for the purpose of dog licensing. Visit [www.barretown.org](http://www.barretown.org) where more information will be provided soon regarding this event.
- The newly formed Energy Committee still needs members. If you'd like to be involved, and you have an interest in matters related to energy use and conservation, this is an exciting opportunity to serve your community in helping to formulate Town Energy Policy and help develop and implement community outreach and education opportunities for residents, among other things. The Energy Committee will meet monthly on the first Wednesday of the month starting in February.

Selectboard Minutes of January 2, 2024, Continued:

- It is time to request your early/absentee ballots for the Barre Unified School District's and the Central Vermont Career Center School District's, annual election, as well as the Presidential Primary, all to be held on March 5, 2024. You can request ballots through My Voter Page at [mvp.vermont.gov](http://mvp.vermont.gov), by calling the Town Clerk's Office at (802) 479-9391, or emailing Tina Lunt at [tlunt@barretown.org](mailto:tlunt@barretown.org) or Catherine Whalen at [cwhalen@barretown.org](mailto:cwhalen@barretown.org). To participate in the Presidential Primary, voters will be asked to select the Democrat or Republican ballot. State law requires that you pick a specific ballot and record this information on the entrance checklist. If you have questions around any of the upcoming 2024 Elections, contact Town Clerk Tina Lunt at (802) 479-9391.

**GUESTS:** None.

### **INTERVIEW BUDGET COMMITTEE APPLICANT, LINDSEY LOZIER**

**Background:** In late November Barre Town began seeking interested residents to serve on the FY '24- '25 Budget Committee. Of the total seven emails received from people expressing interest in serving on this year's committee, five have previously served and won't need to be interviewed again. Of the remaining two without prior experience, one withdrew.

Lindsey Lozier resides at 6 Tanglewood Drive and would like to be considered for the committee. Lindsey has experience in the banking profession and feels that her experience will be an asset while serving on the committee. She states that she also has a passion to be involved in her community. She mentioned that her love for numbers, curiosity and common sense will add a new perspective to the committee.

Appointments to the Budget Committee are a separate item on this agenda.

### **CONSIDER ARPA FUNDING FOR EMS:**

**Background** – This item is on the agenda after discussion a couple of weeks ago about adding approximately \$33,000 to the committed ARPA reserve to purchase a refurbished power load, stretcher, stair chair, these would be used to outfit a sixth ambulance in the fleet. EMS Interim Director, David Danforth explained how BTEMS' excellent maintenance program allows trucks and equipment to last longer, so purchasing the used equipment at a 50% discount makes sense. The fact that the equipment is also the same as what BTEMS ambulances are currently outfitted with also means that equipment and ambulances can be rotated, as necessary, should repairs or extended coverage be needed. Discussion on whether this should be funded from ARPA or from the budget.

***On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the expenditure of \$33,000 from the Town of Barre ARPA funds to purchase a refurbished Stryker stretcher, power load and stair chair.***

### **REPORT FROM BADC:**

**Background** – Aimee provided an update on Barre Area Development Corp., or BADC, activities over the last six months or so. Aimee prepared a presentation, having done so for Barre City already. The focus of FY '24/'25 will be housing, economic development, furthering local business development and recruitment,

Selectboard Minutes of January 2, 2024, Continued:

increasing Barre area tourism, and continued support for flood-stricken businesses with the Barre Community Relief Fund.

The BCRF raised approximately \$485,000 to help local businesses recover from the July storms. Housing is a goal because an increase in industry will require a place for the employees of said businesses to dwell. BADC is keeping a list of commercial properties available for companies in hopes of having them make Barre Town their home.

BADC also launched a new website, they have seen an uptick in social media engagement. While there is no specific way to tell how many people find BADC through the website and online activities, Aimee is certain their reach is expanding. They are still in the process of switching IRS status to a 501(c)(3) from a 506(b), which will open more funding opportunities from grants.

**CONSIDER AWARDING CONTRACT FOR FIRE DEPARTMENT-NEW RESCUE/PUMPER TRUCK:**

Background: This year's Equipment Replacement Plan has the planned purchase of a fire truck for the Fire Department. This truck will replace the current rescue truck as well as add pumping capabilities that were lost when engine 1 was retired and sold a few years ago, which dropped the East Barre station down to just one pumper. When that happened and Engine 1 was sold, it was done so knowing that the next truck to be purchased would be a combination rescue/pumper.

The Fire Department formed a Truck Committee in 2022 with members from both stations. The committee spent over a year looking at truck designs, meeting with truck manufacturers, and visiting other Fire Departments to get a firsthand view of modern design, construction, and functionality. Their hard work should be commended.

A request for bids was sent to six vendors on November 17, 2023, which included two options (awning & blackout package). Two bids were received by the opening deadline of December 21, 2023, Lakes Region Fire Apparatus, Inc and Allegiance Fire & Rescue. The lowest bidder is Lakes Region at \$839,963 for a 2025 Alexis Rescue/Pumper while Allegiance's bid was \$1,173,754 for a 2027 Pierce. As noted in the memo from Fire Chief Andy Lange, the truck committee reviewed the low bid proposal and found that it conforms with the specifications sent. Chief Lange and the committee recommend awarding the purchase of a 2025 Alexis Rescue/Pumper to Lakes Region. In doing so they note that not only is the Lakes Region's bid lower, but their delivery time is considerably better than the other bid. Also noted is that Lakes Region was the dealer for the last two pumper trucks purchased and that the experience with them has been positive. Regarding the two options, one is for an awning that is used to protect the driver side of the apparatus from the elements which is important because unlike the current rescue truck, breathing apparatus bottles will be filled outside and the awning will protect the fill area. The Barre Town Firefighter Association is willing to pay for the blackout package. The Fire Department representatives desire the blackout package because it is supposed to slow corrosion due to salty roads. The safety of the black material was questioned, but Chair of the Truck Committee, Brandon Tessier assured the board that the black was reflective and conformed to all safety standards.

One important thing to note is that the budget number used for the Equipment Replacement Plan is considerably lower than what the bids came back at. The Equipment Replacement Plan has been contemplating a 10-year lease with an annual payment of \$73,750 (principal and interest). The first payment is included in FY '24's General Fund Budget. The board may want to consider an MOU with the association.

***On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Mike Gilbar, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the purchase of the 2025 Alexis Rescue/Pumper truck, with awning and blackout package to Lakes***

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***Region Fire Apparatus, Inc. of Tamworth, NH in the amount of \$866,877; the amount to be financed will be \$844,233 as the blackout package will be paid for by the BTFA.***

**REPORT FROM BARRE TOWN FIRE CHIEF:**

Background: Chief Andy Lange provided a report on activities related to the Fire Department over the last several months.

1. Steve Morrison retired after many years of service. Thank you, Steve.
2. Three firefighters are taking the Fire 1 & 2 courses in Shelburne. Of the roughly 40 members of the volunteer firefighters, about half have taken the course.
3. Chief Lange covered the call volume and data for 2023.
4. A brief overview of recent training and fire prevention was presented with slides.
5. This was the second year of the East Barre Santa Parade with the Fire Truck. There was an addition of elves and candy canes. Community members facilitated the parade, and the Fire Department was happy to join in. Santa was rumored to be “ho, ho, ho-ing” on the radio waves, spreading some cheer!
6. Building and vehicle maintenance – South Barre station’s new furnace is working great. The trucks have just had general maintenance: light bulbs, etc.

**CONSIDER AWARDING THE EMERGENCY DISPATCH CONTRACT:**

Background: Barre Town has a three-year contract for emergency dispatching with the Lamoille County Sheriff’s Department that is set to expire on June 30, 2024. For budgeting and continuity purposes for both entities, consideration of renewing the contract sooner rather than later is prudent. The contract proposed by Lamoille is essentially identical to previous contracts except for the annual fee. Lamoille struggles to maintain smaller increases for us compared to their other customers. Increases for the other services they dispatch for have been in the vicinity of 7% while Barre Town is in the 2%-3% range. The Town may need to reevaluate the current split cost of dispatch for Police, EMS and Fire since adding Williamstown as a customer, with an additional 500 or so calls a year to dispatch. Discussion also questioned whether other dispatching agencies had been contacted, but it was decided that, because the Town is happy with the service, it would be renewed again for FY ’24-’25 and other options would be sought in the next cycle.

***On a motion by Mike Gilbar, seconded by Bob Nelson, the Selectboard voted unanimously to award the FY’25 emergency dispatch contract as proposed to Lamoille County Sheriff’s Department for FY ’25-’27.***

**APPOINT FY’24-’25 BUDGET COMMITTEE MEMBERS:**

Background: Annually, in advance of reviewing next (’24-’25) fiscal year’s proposed budget, a Budget Committee is formed. The committee consists of ten members, five Selectboard members and five residents. Residents interested in serving on the committee were solicited beginning in late November. A total of seven people submitted emails of interest; one has since withdrawn. Five of the six residents have served on the committee before, the sixth, you met earlier in this agenda. The Selectboard is tasked with selecting two members while one of the other members has been selected by the Town Clerk and the final

Selectboard Minutes of January 2, 2024, Continued:

member will be selected by the group of four appointed to date. Budget Committee meetings will begin on January 30<sup>th</sup>. Town Clerk, Tina Lunt, previously selected Todd Provencher.

The Selectboard voted by ballot for the two members needed. The results were Jamie Cushman and Lindsey Lozier.

### **ACCOUNTS PAYABLE**

*On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Mike Gilbar, Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the accounts payable warrants for the week of December 26, 2023, and January 2, 2024, with the exception of the Factual Data invoice.*

Chris Violette mentioned that warrants for Jan. 2<sup>nd</sup> should be approved, less the invoice for Factual Data. This was a service the town employed, but never used. Mr. Bolduc inquired about the cost for heat tape on the new water line. A question was also asked about the new electric meter service on the shed. It seems an old electric account was activated instead of just expanding the existing service. Last month's power bill for the Municipal Bill had been missed, somehow. The Board believes the solar generation interrupts the regularity of the bills.

Norma Malone asked about the Dog Park expenses for mowing and bandanas. The Board thinks the general fund should not be used with the Dog Park, as the park is a separate entity from the Town funded by donations. Norma suggests it should be an agency fund. The MOU is scheduled to be reviewed soon.

### **MISCELLANEOUS:**

- a) Slayton and Harrington Holdings, LLC (d/b/a Harrington's Food & Fuel, business location at 296 Quarry Hill Road) is requesting a liquor and tobacco license. Please approve their request for a Second-Class Liquor License and Tobacco License.
- b) Global Montello Group, LLC (dba. Jiffy Mart #450, located at 973 E. Barre Road) is requesting a tobacco license.

*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 Slayton & Harrington Holdings LLC d/b/a/ Harrington's Food & Fuel.*

*On a motion by Bob Nelson, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the 2024 Tobacco License for Global Montello Group, Corp. d/b/a/ Jiffy Mart #450.*

### **ROUND TABLE:**

Norma Malone:

- Norma offered condolences and remembrance of Claire Duke. Claire was a well-known and civically active member of the community.

Bob Nelson:

- Bob agreed with Norma about Claire Duke.
- Bob will not be attending the Jan. 16th meeting

Paul White:

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- Paul had a low-interest flood recovery loan offer he received from VLCT. The board did not think this was something the Town needed.

**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 8:50 p.m. for personnel.*

*On a motion by Mike Gilbar seconded by Bob Nelson, the Selectboard voted unanimously to exit executive session at 9:31 p.m.*

**ADJOURN:**

*On a motion by Mike Gilbar, seconded by Bob Nelson, the Selectboard voted unanimously to adjourn at 9:31 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.