



**BARRE TOWN SELECTBOARD MEETING
March 19, 2024**

AGENDA

1. Call to order.....5:00 p.m.
2. Pledge of allegiance
3. Consider approving the agenda.
4. Consider approving March 12, 2024, meeting minutes
5. Announcements
6. Receive guests for non-agenda items.
7. Discuss and consider obligating ARPA Funds
8. Consider approving two loans from the Barre Revolving Loan Fund
9. Consider approving the University Health Network Ambulance Agreement
10. Consider appointing two members to the CVSWM
11. Consider approving the 2024 Sewer Allocation Policy
12. Consider approving Rock of Ages' twelve unregistered vehicle road crossing permits
13. Consider approving weekly accounts payable warrants for March 19, 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 March 19, 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, Bob Nelson, and Mike Gilbar.

Selectboard Members Absent: None.

Staff Members Present: Town Manager Chris Violette and Town Clerk Tina Lunt, Finance Director Katelyn Kran, and EMS Director David Danforth.

Others Present: Times Argus Reporter Eric Blaisdell. Those present virtually: Dan Winslow

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 follows:

1. Item #16. Executive Session: add labor contracts

APPROVE THE MINUTES:

On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the March 12, 2024, Selectboard meeting minutes with minor spelling and grammatical corrections.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Dog license renewals are due before April 1st. If your dog has been licensed before in Barre Town, you should have received a renewal notification. If your dog hasn't been licensed before and is at least 6 months old, it must be licensed by the Town Clerk before April 1st. A valid rabies certificate must either be on file or provided with the renewal or new license. Contact the Town Clerk's Office for more information at (802) 479-9391.
- The April edition of the Barre Town Newsletter will be available soon. If you are interested in receiving the newsletter digitally instead of mailed to you, please email Town Clerk Tina Lunt at tlunt@barretown.org.
- While you still have a month to file, please remember to file your Homestead Declaration form by April 15, 2024. If you don't file, you'll be assessed a higher education tax rate than you should be. The 2024 Homestead Declaration form is available at tax.vermont.gov.
- The annual egg hunt hosted by the Barre Town and Barre City Recreation Departments will be held Saturday, March 30th at Rotary Park in Barre City beginning at 10:00 a.m. SHARP. There will be three separate age group hunts, 3-4, 5-7, and 8-10. Arrive early so that you can park and walk to the designated location before the start time. If you're late, you'll have some disappointed little ones.

GUESTS: None.

ARPA FUNDS:

Background: In 2021 the Federal Government was determined to help the American public from the tremendous economic impact of the Coronavirus Pandemic. To that end, the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (CSLFRF) was established which is also known as the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). States and municipalities received billions of dollars that for the smaller municipalities ended up coming with few strings attached. Barre Town received \$2,308,253.08 in ARPA funds, and to date, has expended all of the allocated ARPA funds on either tangible assets, services or non-contractual operational expenses.

On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Mike Gilbar, the Selectboard voted unanimously to obligate and expend ARPA funds in the amount of \$1,162,733.13 to offset non-contractual operating expenses in the current fiscal year.

BARRE REVOLVING LOAN FUND:

Background: In 2009 the Town of Barre obtained a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) from the Vermont Community Development Program (VCDP) on behalf of SB Electronics. As part of the Close-Out Agreement with the State of Vermont, program income from loan repayments were to go to the newly

established Barre Revolving Loan Fund (BRLF). Per agreement, the loan fund would be administered by the well-established Vermont Community Loan Fund (VCLF) and be marketed by Barre Area Development Corporation (BADC). VCLF is responsible for assisting potential borrowers with loan applications and performing financial and impact analysis of loan applications. Besides marketing the loan program, BADC is tasked with screening potential applicants and reviewing quarterly reports provided by VCLF on loan activity and performance. Aimee Green, Executive Director of BADC, has been working with a potential new business in Barre City and through VCLF has decided that a BRLF would be best suited for this start-up restaurant. The applicant, Lisa St. Lawrence, Tasty Bites LLC (dba Tasty Bites Diner) has applied for two loans totaling \$60,000. The purpose of these loans is to provide equipment and fit-up of leased space for a restaurant. The loan was reviewed by Barre Area Development's Board of Directors and unanimously approved by them to move forward on March 11, 2024. The Manager notes this will bring new business to downtown Barre which will provide a much-needed service. Mr. Violette said he is familiar with the applicant's food wagon business and overall feels this would be a good fit.

Dan Winslow was present virtually. Mr. Gilbar asked Mr. Winslow about previous VCLF loans, noting Bob's Camera specifically. He asked if liens are put on insurance recovery funds. Mr. Winslow confirmed as the lender, standard practice is to have a lien on the business assets.

On a motion by Bob Nelson, seconded by Norma Malone, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve two loans from the Barre Revolving Loan Fund in the amount of \$6,000 and \$54,000 respectfully to Lisa St. Lawrence/Tasty Bites LLC (dba Tasty Bites Diner) based on the terms and conditions as noted in the Credit Memorandum from the Vermont Community Loan Fund.

The Board wished Ms. St. Lawrence the best of luck in her new endeavor.

UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT HEALTH NETWORK AMBULANCE AGREEMENT:

Background: EMS Director David Danforth has worked out an agreement with the University of Vermont Health Network (UVMHN) to be an ambulance transportation partner with them. UVMHN is the parent organization of both the University of Vermont Medical Center (UVMC) and the Central Vermont Medical Center (CVMC). This will be especially beneficial for transports to and from both UVMC and CVMC and allows for addendums for transports specific to the hospitals Barre Town EMS transports the most to.

EMS Director David Danforth was present.

Mr. Nelson expressed his appreciation for Mr. Danforth's hard work on this project. Board members echoed Mr. Nelson's comments.

On a motion by Bob Nelson, seconded by Mike Gilbar, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the Ambulance Service Agreement between the University of Vermont Health Network and the Town of Barre through Town Emergency Medical Service and authorize the Town Manager to sign it.

It is noted for the record the agreement term is for 1 year and it will renew automatically. Mr. Danforth noted the agreement will be reviewed in November.

CENTRAL VERMONT SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT APPOINTMENTS:

Background: Barre Town is a member of the Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District (CVSWMD). As such, Barre Town has a representative that serves on the District's Board of Supervisors who is appointed annually. While an alternate isn't necessary, Barre Town has historically appointed one. Fred Thumm is the primary representative from Barre Town and Jack Mitchell is the alternate. Both have indicated their desire to continue in their respective roles.

On a motion by Justin Bolduc, seconded by Mike Gilbar, the Selectboard voted unanimously to appoint Fred Thumm as Barre Town's representative to the Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District's Board of Supervisors and Jack Mitchell as the alternate for a term beginning April 1, 2024, and expiring March 31, 2025.

Mrs. Malone thanked both representatives for their continued service. Board members echoed Mrs. Malone's comments.

2024 SEWER ALLOCATION POLICY:

Background: This is an annual renewal of the Sewer Treatment Policy. Josh Martineau, Public Works Director, has updated the plan to reflect current and accurate data. Only data was updated, no changes to the text within the policy were made. The average daily flow for the period ending September 30, 2023, was edited to show 1,323,402 gallons per day which is up from 2022's number of 983,163 gallons per day. This is a significant increase which then lowers the uncommitted reserve to 198,898 gallons per day. Mr. Martineau feels that this doesn't necessarily reflect actual increased use but is more likely reflective of the extremely wet summer of 2023. The uncommitted reserve equivalent units dropped from 1,834 last year to 663 this year.

On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Bob Nelson, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the 2024 Sewage Treatment Residual Capacity Allocation Policy.

Mr. Gilbar asked whether the Town should be reflecting more realistic estimates since 2023 may be an anomaly. Mr. Violette explained years ago these numbers were very important because of the lack of capacity. He stated the policy is necessary, but these numbers do not call for concerns. The Manager noted there will be amendments to the policy proposed next year due to the situation with the Barre City Treatment Plant and BOD.

ROCK OF AGES ROAD CROSSING PERMITS:

Background: Rock of Ages has 12 vehicles or pieces of equipment that are too large to be registered and do not normally use public roads. However, these vehicles need, at times, to cross town roads to get from one work area to another. State law requires that the owners of such vehicles get permits to cross specific roads. As is typical, Rock of Ages is seeking permits to cross seven roads at locations noted on each permit.

On a motion by Mike Gilbar, seconded by Bob Nelson, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve Rock of Ages 12 unregistered vehicle road crossing permits to allow them to cross seven town roads as noted on each permit and authorize the Town Manager to sign each permit.

Selectboard Minutes of March 19, 2024, Continued:

Mr. Bolduc inquired about Northeast Materials Group and if they had any vehicles that may fall under this scenario. Mr. Violette noted they would need to cross Graniteville Road if they were not registered through the State.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE:

On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Mike Gilbar, the Selectboard voted to approve the accounts payable warrants for the week of March 19, 2024. Bob Nelson abstained.

Chair White inquired about the invoice for Fisher Auto Parts. Mr. Violette confirmed this has been corrected.

Mrs. Malone inquired about the Staples business credit. Mr. Violette confirmed that this has also been corrected. Additionally, Mrs. Malone asked about the Video Vision deduction. She said this was not correctly coded. Mr. Violette said they will make an adjustment on this.

MISCELLANEOUS: None.

ROUND TABLE:

Bob Nelson:

- Mr. Nelson reported that next Tuesday he will be attending the Selectboard meeting remotely.
- Mr. Nelson said he saw the note about the turf dedication on April 6, asking what time it is at. Chair White confirmed it is 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
- Mr. Nelson expressed his kudos to the DPW crew. He said having travelled on neighboring roads the Barre Town roads are in good shape.

Norma Malone:

- Mrs. Malone echoed Mr. Nelson's comments.

Justin Bolduc:

- Mr. Bolduc also echoed Mr. Nelson's comments. Additionally, he said DPW has been doing a great patchwork on Websterville Road.

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 public 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 5:33 p.m. for labor contracts.

On a motion by Mike Gilbar, seconded by Bob Nelson, the Selectboard voted unanimously to exit executive session at 5:50 p.m.

Selectboard Minutes of March 19, 2024, Continued:

ADJOURN:

On a motion by Bob Nelson, seconded by Mike Gilbar, the Selectboard voted unanimously to adjourn at 5:50 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 _____, 2024.

ATTEST: _____, Barre Town Clerk.