



**BARRE TOWN SELECTBOARD MEETING
May 7, 2024**

AGENDA

1. Call to order.....6:00 p.m.
2. Pledge of allegiance
3. Consider approving the agenda.
4. Consider approving April 30, 2024 meeting minutes.
5. Announcements
6. Receive guests for non-agenda items.
7. Update on the 3-acre stormwater projects
8. Consider approving Resolution #2-24 for MLC Lease Financing
9. Consider approving Resolution #3-24
10. Discuss May 8th Budget Presentation
11. Consider approving weekly accounts payable warrant for May 7, 2024
12. Miscellaneous: **a)** Fireworks Permit for Bruce and Emily LaRose; **b)** other permits and licenses, if any
13. Round the Table
14. Executive Session: as needed
15. Adjourn

MINUTES

The duly warned meeting of May 7, 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 and Town Clerk Tina Lunt.

Others Present: Times Argus Reporter Eric Blaisdell. Those present virtually: Andres Torizzo and Ron Rodjenski.

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 Mike Gilbar, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the agenda as presented.

APPROVE THE MINUTES:

On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Bob Nelson, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the April 30, 2024 Selectboard meeting minutes with minor spelling and grammatical corrections.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Final reminder, the Spring Bulk Trash Collection is this Saturday (May 11th) from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Public Works garage. While still at the normal location, the entrance is at 79 Pitman Road facility in the Wilson Industrial Park. This new entrance allows a more efficient traffic pattern and eliminates the possibility of traffic backing out onto Websterville Road. This is a service provided by the Town to help residents economically dispose of large (bulky) items not appropriate for weekly trash pickup or disposal in trash bags. Details on what can and can't be disposed of at the event can be found at barretown.org or by calling the Town Manager's Office at 479-9331.
- Please remember to vote on May 14th which is Barre Town's Annual Election of Officers and Voting by Australian Ballot. This is when we elect Barre Town's officers like Selectboard members and vote on the operating budgets for both the General and Highway Fund. There is also a Town Charter amendment on the ballot and not-for-profit funding requests. The ballot also includes the revote article for the Barre Unified Union School District budget.

- On May 8th members of the Budget Committee will present an overview of the General and Highway Fund budgets as well as highlight other important matters regarding the budget this year. The presentation is available at barretown.org.

GUESTS: None.

STORMWATER UPDATE:

Background: Andres Torizzo from Watershed Consulting will be in attendance to provide an update on the 3-acre stormwater projects. The engineering plans for Wildersburg were recently completed and reviewed and approved by the Wildersburg Homeowners Association. Discussion will focus on next steps, what the expected construction costs will be and what additional funding sources may be available.

Andres Torizzo from Watershed Consulting was present virtually. Discussion began as Mr. Torizzo stated the Town has applied for and received grant funding for all 7 of the designated 3-acre stormwater projects. Currently, they are working on the outreach components of the stormwater projects and have recently developed an internal communications plan. This will help guide them on how they communicate with citizens and route questions to the correct individuals. Additionally, Mr. Torizzo shared a letter that was developed and will be mailed out to all affected landowners within the seven designated 3-acre sites. The letter includes a QR code to an informational website where landowners will find site information, maps of the designated sites, project updates, meeting minutes, contact information, etc.

Discussion continued as Mr. Torizzo provided the Board with an update on the Wildersburg stormwater project. This project was funded through a separate grant program by the State. Mr. Torizzo shared that the design is complete. He is meeting with one of the HOA members tomorrow to go over specifications and hopes to have a finalized plan after the meeting. Furthermore, permitting should take place within the next month or two.

Mr. Nelson asked how the July flooding affected the Wildersburg plan. Mr. Torizzo said it required a redesign. The system is now bigger than when they started with to accommodate the larger floods. This will offset some of the stormflows that are in the ravine and help protect the side slopes.

Mr. Gilbar inquired about accessibility to any of the sites. Mr. Torizzo said he believes everyone is on the same page at Wildersburg, however, there may be some pushback at Mapleridge (Valley View Circle) and there will need to be more dialogue to work through. In regard to the other sites there simply has not been enough work done yet.

Mrs. Malone asked Mr. Torizzo if the Town has met all the benchmarks to date that the State requires for the seven stormwater locations. Mr. Torizzo shared that all appropriate paperwork has been filed, but notes that the Town is behind schedule on MapleRidge in terms of when the final plan is due back to the State. Mr. Troizzo explained this is not a rare case, as many are in the same position. Mr. Torizzo shared that if the State understands the Town is working on a plan, he does not see foresee an issue. Additionally, Mrs. Malone asked what Mr. Torizzo's sense was of the State's capacity to review these items in a timely manner. Mr. Torizzo said the State is backed up, however, the smaller projects come back relatively quickly, noting the more complicated ones take 6-8 months. Additionally, Mr. Bolduc inquired about Act 250 amendments. Mr. Torizzo said in his experience these have been going smoothly.

Mrs. Malone inquired about the financial picture of this work. Mr. Violette said he believes the Town is on target for what was estimated. Mr. Torizzo said he will revisit the cost and provide the Manager with an update.

The Board asked Mr. Torizzo to provide an updated cost on Wildersburg. Additionally, the Board asked Mr. Torizzo to provide them with a copy of the letter/webpage in case residents have questions for the Board. In closing, the Board thanked Mr. Torizzo for providing an update.

LEASE PURCHASE RESOLUTION:

Background: Last week the Selectboard approved using Municipal Lease Consultants to provide the lease-financing for the body and plow for the newly acquired truck 14. The chassis was paid for using FY'23 & FY'24 budgeted funds. After acquiring the chassis from Ford of Claremont, it was sent to H.P. Fairfield to have the body and plow installed. The Town took delivery of the completed truck on March 28, 2024, and subsequently paid Fairfield and will be reimbursed by the finance company. This resolution is the standard part of lease-financing. The first lease payment will be due in May of 2025.

On a motion by Justin Bolduc, seconded by Mike Gilbar, the Selectboard voted unanimously to adopt Resolution 2-24 authorizing the documents needed to close the financing for truck 14's body and plow and authorize the Chair to sign and the financing is not to exceed \$70,000.

WENDALL F. PELKEY RESOLUTION:

Background: Annually the Selectboard awards the Wendell F. Pelkey Citizenship and Public Service Award to an individual who demonstrates an on-going commitment to the Town. The recipient will receive the award at the Open Town Meeting being held on May 8, 2024, 7:30 p.m. at the Barre Municipal Building. A winner was selected last week, and the Resolution is being presented for adoption.

On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Bob Nelson, the Selectboard voted unanimously to adopt Resolution 3-24, A Resolution of the Town of Barre, Vermont presenting the 2024 Wendell F. Pelkey Citizenship and Public Service Award.

BUDGET PRESENTATION:

Background: This agenda item is for discussion purposes only. Budget Committee members will present a Budget Presentation immediately following Open Town Meeting being held on May 8, 2024, 7:30 p.m.

The Manager provided Selectboard members with a copy of the budget presentation for review. The Board commended Finance Director Katelyn Kran for her work on the presentation.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE:

On a motion by Justin Bolduc, seconded by Norma Malone, Selectboard voted to approve the accounts payable warrants for the week of May 7, 2024. Bob Nelson abstained.

MISCELLANEOUS:

On a motion by Bob Nelson, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the fireworks permit for Bruce and Emily Larose, 336 Farwell Street on May 17, 2024, at 9:00 p.m., with a rain date of May 18, 2024.

The Manager asked that Clerk Lunt make the applicant aware of the storage requirements for fireworks.

Clerk Lunt updated the Board on the polling place. Clerk Lunt shared that the regular entrance doors will be used on election day. The DPW staff will be helping with traffic during school pick-up and drop-off times. Additionally, Clerk Lunt shared that the normal exit doors will not be used as they are being replaced. There will be a change to the exit doors at the polls. Due to this, the inside of the polling place will look different to voters. Tabulators will be located in the back of the gymnasium and voters will exit out the door towards the back of the gymnasium. Signage will be added throughout the gym regarding the new exit.

Town Manager Chris Violette updated the Board on the following:

- Mr. Violette shared a new Annex I Culverts page for the LEMP
- The Manager reported that EMS Supervisor Kyle Brown welcomed a new baby recently
- Mr. Violette shared that the Police Department will have a new graduate as of May 31
- The Manager noted that he and Clerk Lunt testified yesterday before of the Senate Government Operations in regards to last May's Charter amendment

ROUND TABLE:

Justin Bolduc:

- Mr. Bolduc said there was an article in the Times Argus regarding a discussion the City is having to promote housing. One of the ideas was a wastewater fee cap as part of a TIF district. He was wondering how that works when Barre Town pays a percentage of the cost to the City. The Manager will need to talk to the City Manager about this.

Mike Gilbar:

- Mr. Gilbar asked the Manager to provide copies of the LEMP to Board members.

Bob Nelson:

- Mr. Nelson shared that this is Chair White’s last Selectboard meeting. He publicly thanked Chair White for all of his hard work and leadership. Mr Nelson said that he will be missed, and he has appreciated his management and friendship over the years. Board members echoed Mr. Nelson’s comments.

Norma Malone:

- Mrs. Malone echoed Bob’s sentiments, noting Chair White has spent 8 years on the Selectboard and 4 as Chair. Chair White also served numerous years on other Boards/Committees. Mrs. Malone noted the sacrifices he has made. She said she appreciates his leadership, dedication, and fortitude he has shown. Mrs. Malone presented Chair White with a card and gift on behalf of the Board.

Paul White:

- Chair White said it has been an enjoyable 8 years. He noted that serving on the Selectboard is something he had wanted to do for some time and had to wait for his first retirement before he could. He appreciates the confidence of the voters for electing him, and the Board in electing him as Chair. Chair White added that his family members have served on Selectboards, and this is a tradition. In closing, Chair White said he appreciates the collegial nature of the Board.

ADJOURN:

On a motion by Mike Gilbar, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Selectboard voted unanimously to adjourn at 7:02 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.