

SPECIAL SELECTBOARD MEETING  
MONDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2022 AT 7:00AM  
AT TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE  
AGENDA

MEETING IS IN PERSON, BUT ALSO AVAILABLE VIA ZOOM

Join Zoom meeting with the following link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82213715076>

Meeting ID: 822 1371 5076

Or by calling: 1-929-205-6099

TIME

BOARD  
ACTION

7:00AM Call the meeting to order-introduce those present

7:05AM Barry Sahagian – complaint of alleged open meeting law violation  
(attached)

DISCUSS/  
VOTE

7:25AM Unfinished/new business

DISCUSS/  
VOTE

7:30AM Executive session (if necessary)

DISCUSS/  
VOTE

7:40AM Adjourn

VOTE

# COMPLAINT OF ALLEGED OPEN MEETING LAW VIOLATION

Date of complaint filing – October 18, 2022

Date and location of alleged violation

Oct 6, 2022 Newport Center VT via Zoom Meeting

Complaint against the public body of Newport Center,,Vermont for alleged violation of Vermont's Open Meeting Laws. Pursuant to

1 V.S.A. § 312. Right to attend meetings of public agencies - Vermont Laws

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/section>

(h) At an open meeting, the public shall be given a reasonable opportunity to express its opinion on matters considered by the public body during the meeting, ...

314 any person aggrieved by a violation of that law must provide the public body with written notice that alleges specific violations and requests a specific cure of such violations.

## **Complainant's Name:**

Barry Sahagian  
46 Vance Hill Road  
Newport Center, VT 05857

## **Public body that is alleged to have violated the law:**

Newport Center VT Select Board:  
Steve Barrup, Gerry Waterman, Richard Gosselin

## **Details**

On October 6 2022, during a scheduled Selectboard meeting for the town of Newport Center, I Barry Sahagian, (resident of Newport Center, VT ) attended the meeting online with the Zoom video conferencing platform which the town uses to host online participation.

I was on the agenda, to discuss points of "Municipal law Basics" a VT state document that includes many laws and case laws. There were only few people who attended

meeting physically , I was the only one who attended Virtually.

At this meeting of October 6, 2022 the cameras that were usually directed at the 3 selectmen were not on as well as the sound being turned down so I could not communicate with the select chair on an issue only he could address. I believe this to be an obfuscation to avoid transparency on the issue which was bringing the meeting to order while I spoke on my time on agenda I was scheduled for. Subsequently, residents of the town would be allowed by the selectchair to call me names ridicule and interrupt with out the select chair bringing the meeting to order. This action or lack of encouraged others to do this and is now out of control. I do have numerous other incidents like this on Video.This meeting was no different only the method of obfuscation Turning off the cameras and the sound.

I have been having extreme difficulty at these meeting for some time now when trying to discuss particulars about disbursement of town money and other sensiive town.

### **Video Evidence:**

October 6th Date of Incident

<https://youtu.be/l4-p-cc57-Y>

Previous meeting to illustrate the way the meeting is usually run with the camera on and the sound can be heard from Jan 22 2022.

<https://youtu.be/l4-p-cc57-Y>

### **Cure**

Agreement by the select board to insure that the video is turned on at the beginning of all Select Board meetings so that **“all the Select Board”** can be seen on camera and heard by all who attend the meeting or notify the attendees if the select board is having technical issues before hand

### **Addendum**

Numerous times at subsequent meetings, I have been ridiculed, called names and other acts of obfuscation to discourage me from speaking during the meetings. The select board Chair( Steve Barrup) who's job is to bring the meeting to order does not.

Residents in the town know by harassing me will be tolerated by Steve Barrup with this obfuscation. At one meeting the Select Board chair even encouraged this by asking a resident if he had anything say to me which the resident attendee did, resulting a heated dispute in which once again the select Board chair did not bring the meeting to order. This passive aggressive approval of this behaviour has made the situation worse. Almost every meeting a resident attendee of the meeting will engage in this type of disruption with Steve Barrups support of not bringing the meeting to order.

Barry Sahagian