BARRE TOWN SELECTBOARD MEETING AGENDA
July 1, 2014

P.I.L.O.T. Town Clerk and Zoning & Planning/Fire Department Head visits 6:30 p.m.

1. Call to order 7:00 p.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Announce changes to agenda.
4. Consider approving minutes from meeting of June 24, 2014
5. Announcements
6. Receive guests (for non-agenda items).
7. Discussion about Regional Public Safety Authority charter.
9. Consider appointment to Recreation Board.
10. Consider authorizing research and survey to layout the ancient John Hood Road.
12. Consider approving weekly accounts payable warrants.
13. Miscellaneous: including permits and licenses.
14. ‘Round the Table."
15. Executive Session: personnel.

BARRE TOWN SELECTBOARD MINUTES
July 1, 2014

The duly warned meeting of the Barre Town Selectboard of July 1, 2014 was held at the Barre Town Municipal Building, Selectboard Room, Lower Websterville at 7:10 p.m.

The following members were in attendance: Jeff Blow, Robert LaClair, Rolland Tessier, and Tom White.

Attendance for the regular meeting included: Town Manager Carl Rogers, Assistant Town Manager Andrew Dorsett, Town Clerk-Treasurer Donna J. Kelty, Paul McGinley, Paul Malone, George Malek, Bob Sager, Tom Golanka, and Dona Bate.

CALL TO ORDER - The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

Under # 17 Miscellaneous - add 2 fireworks items: 1) Richard Rea, 409 Windy Wood Road, new request and 2) an amendment for Thunder Road to add a rain date; and the Assistant Manager requests an addition under the same item for action on purchasing the East Barre Bike path fencing.

MINUTES

On a motion by LaClair, seconded by Tessier, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the Selectboard Meeting Minutes of June 24, 2014. Mitchell was not present for the vote.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- July 4th is just around the corner! If you plan to have a fireworks display you must obtain a permit. The application ($15) must be approved by the Police Chief, Fire Chief, and Selectboard. For more information contact the Town Clerk’s Office (479-9331) or the Fire Chief (479-2595).
Selectboard Minutes of July 1, 2014 continued:

- The Aldrich Library is hosting authors, illustrators and artists, every Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. through August 13th.

- There are weekly co-ed volleyball matches at the Barre Town recreation facility. All are welcome. Matches will be played on Sundays from 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. beginning June 22, 2014. For more information email Sara Maas, her email address is: saracmaas@gmail.com or simply show up.

GUESTS - None

DISCUSS REGIONAL PUBLIC SAFETY AUTHORITY CHARTER

Background: The Selectboard prepared a list of questions after reading the Regional Public Safety Authority Charter. The former Barre Town members Bob Sage and Louis LaCroix, and possibly representatives from the Chamber will be present to answer the questions.

Discussion focused on answers to the questions, whether or not to have a public vote during a special meeting in November, exit points for the Town prior to a fiscal commitment; the additional election costs associated with the Town always having to hold an election in March when our Town Meeting is in May; and the need for a little more time to digest the information presented.

The consensus of the Selectboard is that this item should be on the July 15th meeting for a decision on whether or not to have a question on the November 2014 ballot.

FY 2014-2015 TAX RATE

Background: The Selectboard will be setting five (5) tax rates for the current fiscal year. The State sets the education rates. However, by law the Town must bill the property owners these rates (Homestead and Non-residential). The Homestead rate is $1.3930 and the Non-residential rate is $1.7328.

When preparing the proposed budget for this fiscal year it was estimated the Grand List would increase by $4,000,000, which generates $400 more in the tax revenue per 1¢ of tax rate. The Assessor has finished his grievances and the Grand List will be increasing $7,623,100 generating about $800 more revenue per penny of tax rate.

Factors which influence the remaining 3 tax rates are the Rock of Ages credit (year 2 of 3) which equals $50,000, disabled veterans exemptions, tax stabilization contracts, voter approved non-profit organization exemptions, delinquent tax allowance, and approved General Fund and Highway budgets.

Last year the Selectboard sliced $72,120 (1.2¢) off the General Fund tax revenue and tax rate. The $72,000 grant was used to reduce the Highway tax rate and revenues. For fiscal years 2013 and 2014 both budgets were unbalanced. This year's proposed budgets are balanced. The Manager planned to levy a tax for all tax revenue needed to balance the General and Highway Fund budgets. The tax rate must compensate for last years unfunded spending and the new growth in spending. The bottom line would mean a 4.43¢ (General Fund 2.52¢ and Highway Fund 1.91¢) municipal tax increase.

The final tax rate is the Local Agreement rate. This raises the revenue to replace tax revenue that municipalities forgive through tax stabilization contracts, disabled veterans exemptions, or voter-approved non-profit organization exemptions. Barre Town voters, years ago, increased the veteran's exemption from $10,000 to $40,000, the maximum allowed by law. This year there are 51 claims, down from 53 last year. This exemption cost tax payers $21,312.
Barre Town also has one tax stabilization contract that affects the state education taxes. Highland Sugarworks' contract caps its property tax bill at $20,000 (up from $8,000 last year). Because the stated education axes would be more than $20,000 other tax payers pay the difference of $7,799.

On a motion by LaClair, seconded by Tessier, the Selectboard voted unanimously to spend down the cash reserve to lower the General Fund tax rate by 1¢ and to set the Fiscal Year 2014 - 2015 tax rates as follows:

1. The education homestead rate at $1,3930
2. The education non-residential at $1,7328
3. The Highway Fund rate at $.3948
4. The General Fund rate at $.4944
5. The Local Agreement rate at $.0047.

Mitchell was not present for the vote.

APPOINTMENT TO RECREATION BOARD

Background: There is a vacancy on the Recreation Board as one individual did not seek reappointment. Our advertising through the Newsletter, website, and meeting announcements did not attract any applicants. Shaun Corbett applied to be on the T.S.A.C., but the existing member wished to be reappointed. Mr. Corbett was contacted and is interested in serving on the Recreation Board; he submitted his letter of interest which the Selectboard has received.

On a motion by Tessier, seconded by White, the Selectboard voted unanimously to appoint Shaun Corbett to the Recreation Board for the unexpired 3-year term which will expire May 31, 2017. Mitchell was not present for the vote.

JOHN HOOD ROAD - ANCIENT ROAD RESEARCH & SURVEY REQUEST

Background: The John Hood Road is off of Hillside Avenue in East Barre. It is not really an ancient road because we know it exists; but are not exactly sure where it is. The Ancient Road Committee recommended the old road be retained, at minimum as a legal trail. The Committee also recommended the end of John Hood Road that joins Partridge Road (by the Dessureau farm) be given up.

The Town Engineer obtained a costs estimate from Chase & Chase Surveyors. The high end of their estimate range is $3,200; it included preparing a plat and staking out the road. Research alone would cost $1,350. There was $2,500 in the FY 2013-2014 Highway Fund budget for this type of work.

On a motion by White, seconded by Tessier, the Selectboard voted unanimously to authorize Chase & Chase to do the survey deed work to locate boundaries of the John Hood Road (off Hillside Avenue in East Barre) and not exceed their estimate of $1,350.00. Mitchell was not present for the vote.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT QUESTIONNAIRE DOCUMENT

Background: Annually, Vermont Statutes Annotated, Title 32 Section 133 (11), Title 24, Section 872 (b), and Title 24 Section 1571 (d), states the Town Treasurer shall before June 30th each year provide the Selectboard for review a completed questionnaire (provided by the State Auditor) that ensures property use of public funds. The Selectboard is requested to acknowledge receipt of said document.

On a motion by White, seconded by LaClair, the Selectboard voted unanimously to acknowledge receipt of the Financial Management Questionnaire - Vermont Auditor's
Selectboard Minutes of July 1, 2014 continued:
Office (Municipal), dated June 27, 2014 from the Town Treasurer Donna J. Kelty. Mitchell was not present for the vote.

NON-UNION STAFF PAY INCREASES

Background: The Manager will be presenting a list of non-union staff pay increases for Fiscal Year 2014 - 2015.

On a motion by Tessier, seconded by White, the Selectboard voted unanimously to adopt the list of Barre Town non-union staff pay increases, as presented by the Town Manager and dated July 1, 2014, for the Fiscal Year 2014 - 2015. Mitchell was not present for the vote.

WEEKLY ACCOUNTS PAYABLE WARRANT

On a motion by White, seconded by LaClair, the Selectboard approved the accounts payable warrant for July 1, 2014. Blow abstained from the vote due to an employer conflict and Mitchell was not present for the vote.

MISCELLANEOUS

On a motion by White, seconded by Tessier, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve and authorize the Town Clerk to sign a fireworks permit for Richard Rea Jr., 409 Windy Wood Road to hold an event on July 4, 2014 (rain date of July 5 - 8); and to amend the approved fireworks permit of Thunder Road whose event is scheduled for July 3, 2014 to include a rain date of Sunday July 6, 2014. Mitchell was not present for the vote.

A motion was made by LaClair, seconded by Tessier, to award the purchase of the East Barre vinyl fence from Round Hill Fencing for their bid price of $9,600. The motion was withdrawn. During the discussion Blow stated for $100 difference in pricing he would rather see a local company receive the award. It was noted that all products have similar warranty, rails pricing, and locking systems.

On a motion by LaClair, seconded by Tessier, the East Barre bike path vinyl fencing purchase was awarded to Lafayette Highway Specialties per their bid price of $9,700.

ROUND THE TABLE

Tessier inquired about the scheduling of a meeting/visit to the DPW garage - what it supposed to be in July?

EXECUTIVE SESSION - None

ADJOURN

On a motion by LaClair, seconded by Tessier, the Selectboard voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:43 p.m. Mitchell was not present for the vote.

Donna J. Kelty, Town Clerk-Treasurer  
Selectboard Chair

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Barre Town Selectboard