BARRE TOWN SELECTBOARD AGENDA  
October 7, 2014

P.I.L.O.T. Department Head visits: EMS, Fire and Planning & Zoning 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 September 30, 2014.
5. Announcements
6. Receive guests (for non-agenda items).
8. Public hearing for adopting Central Vermont Regional Public Safety Authority charter.
9. Consider awarding contracts for purchase of: a) plow blades and shoes; b) tire chains.
10. Consider approving weekly accounts payable warrants.
11. Miscellaneous, including permits and licenses.
12. “Round the table”
13. Executive Session – (real estate).

BARRE TOWN SELECTBOARD MINUTES  
October 7, 2014

The duly warned meeting of the Barre Town Selectboard of October 7, 2014 was held at the Barre Town Municipal Building, Selectboard Room, Lower Websterville at 7:00 p.m.

The following members were in attendance: Jeff Blow, Robert LaClair, Tom White, W. John “Jack” Mitchell, and Rolland Tessier.


CALL TO ORDER - The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

On a motion by Tessier, seconded by White, the Selectboard voted unanimously to amend the agenda as follows:

1. Item #11, add discussion and approval of a recreation grant application.

MINUTES

On a motion by White, seconded by Tessier, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the Selectboard Meeting Minutes of September 30, 2014 as follows:

1. Page 4, first paragraph, first sentence, delete the word President and insert the word “Chair.”
ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The Holden Road lawn waste site is open. Hours are: Wednesdays 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.; Thursdays 9:00 a.m. - Noon; Saturdays 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 P.M.; and Sunday's Noon - 4:00 P.M.

- The General Election and Special Town Meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 4th. Early ballots are now available. To have a ballot mailed to you contact the Town Clerk's office at 479-9391.

- Studies have shown that daytime running lights or daylight running lights (DRL's) reduce daytime accidents by 11.3%. Not all cars are equipped DRL's. As we head into shorter daylight hours it is even more important to drive with your headlights on at all times, even in the daytime, and especially in inclement weather.

- Prepare for a safe winter - remember check and clean woodstoves, stove pipes, chimneys, and be sure to have your furnace serviced and remember to keep fresh batteries in all your smoke detectors.

GUESTS - None

PUBLIC HEARING - PROPOSED TOWN CHARTER AMENDMENTS

Background: The Public Hearing is to explain the four charter sections which contain amendments and to see if there are any questions or comments.

On a motion by Tessier, seconded by White, the Selectboard voted unanimously to open the public hearing at 7:08 p.m. to take questions or comments on the proposed Town Charter amendments to be voted on at the November 4, 2014 Special Town Meeting.

The Manager gave a brief overview of the proposed amendments. The only comment was to inquire who is the delinquent tax collector, which is the Town Manager, Carl Rogers.

On a motion by Mitchell, seconded by White, the Selectboard voted unanimously to close the public hearing on the proposed Town Charter amendments to be voted on at the November 4, 2014 Special Town Meeting at 7:15 p.m.

PUBLIC HEARING
ADOPTING CENTRAL VERMONT REGIONAL PUBLIC SAFETY AUTHORITY CHARTER

Background: This is the second public hearing for the Central Vermont Regional Public Safety Authority (CVRPSA) charter question on the November 4, 2014 ballot. Ads were run in both the Times Argus and the World to assist with notifying the public.

On a motion by Tessier, seconded by White, the Selectboard voted unanimously to open the public hearing at 7:15 p.m. to take questions or comments on the November 4, 2014 Special Town Meeting, Article 1. Question: Shall the voters of the Town of Barre adopt the Central Vermont Public Safety Authority Charter.

The hearing began with an updated power point presentation by the Town Manager. Highlights included: should the ballot question be approved Barre Town will be a member of the Central Vermont Regional Public Safety Authority (CVRPSA); once a member the earliest we can vote to get out is May 21, 2017 which would be effective May 21, 2018; he described our existing public safety departments, personnel, equipment and their respective budgets the past 10 years.

Selectboard members White and Tessier reviewed the latest draft of the CVRPSA Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). Changes from the original draft include: the MOU
must be approved by all 3 municipalities before it is in effect, budget must be approved before CVRPSA can borrow funds, the allocations of costs are 45% to Barre City, 38.9% to Montpelier, and 16.1% to Barre Town; and no spending can occur without an approved MOU.

Louise Coates:
- The ballot question was not really clear on what was being asked. It was confirmed if the question passes then yes we are a member of the CVRPSA.
- Spoke to many residents and compiled their comments which were read to the Selectboard (Town Manager has a copy).
- Concern was raised with regards to a commitment of at least 3 – years and the financial obligations which might accompany the membership.
- Concern for maintaining the level of public safety service we currently have.
- Impact on Mutual Aid for Fire, Police, and ambulance.
- Personnel who could/might lose jobs due to consolidations.

Bob Sager:
- He is an appointed Barre Town Representative to the CVRPSA. The other Town appointed representatives are EMS Director Dave Jennings and Bertil Agell.
- CVRPSA budgets must be approved this Board before going to the voters.
- During the Town presentation he noted there were healthy increases the past 10 years in the public safety budgets.
- Benefits to being a CVRPSA member are a larger pool to help pay and to assist with the changing government rules and regulations.
- The CVRPSA is in its infancy and no discussion has taken place with regards to other divisions of public safety. Administration will be the first priority, then perhaps dispatch and move on from there.
- The past 2 meetings regarding the MOU have seen extreme cooperation between all communities.

Christopher Violette:
- Concern that CVRPSA charters states the Board must vote on motions. He is hearing the MOU is being conducted by consensus and with communities that are not members yet.
- Concurs with Ms. Coates regarding the ballot question confusion and what it means.
- The question is still unanswered – What happens if no MOU is agreed to? We can’t just walk away if the article question is approved.
- What happens if we join with regards to all our equipment, buildings, etc. and then decide to get out?
- In the beginning he supported the idea of a CVRPSA. However, after spending almost $40,000 there are still more questions than answers.
- Concern that the big decisions are made after the vote by the Selectboard. The decisions to be made are too big for just 5 elected individuals. The only say the voters will have is on the annual budget.
- He reiterated concerns for the level of service including dispatch. Noting in particular the needs of rural Barre Town are much different than the cities of Montpelier and Barre City.
- The loss of local control over the operation of public safety services.
- He understands there will be a MOU for each “department,” (admin, dispatch, police, fire, and ambulance). How often can the MOU’s be amended.
- Based on the limited knowledge he would recommend voting no.

Blow felt confident in saying a Barre Town Selectboard would never vote to put our community in a vulnerable or expensive position with regards to public safety. We are looking down the road 20 – 25 years on the best way to provide the best service possible with every tax dollar.
Selectboard Minutes of October 7, 2014 continued:

Dona Bate:
- She is on the Montpelier City Council and a Board member for the CVRPSA.
- The CVRPSA recognizes that Barre Town is not a member at this time, but feels it is integral to include us in the talks to form the first MOU. Since this is sort of an orientation a consensus is used as opposed to a formal vote, which will be used when the document is complete.
- Public Safety should have no boundaries. Everyone is entitled to these services.
- The CVRPSA study committee spent the $40,000 frugally. They have lots of designs for the various departments but agreed only the new CVRPSA Board should make the decisions on how to form departments.
- Based on the Central Vermont population, vehicles, and available buildings, (using a Regional Planning Commission program) it was determined we are the right size for a regional authority.
- The idea is to maintain services, stabilize costs, and hopefully improve services in the future but this cannot be defined at this point in the process.

George Malek:
- He is with the Chamber of Commerce and has been part of this study since its inception.
- He concurred the study offered many options to consolidate departments and agreed the Committee should not propose how to run a service.
- The Committee checked the cost for details on running a service but it was too expensive, so the decision was to rely on the expertise we currently have.

Chauncey Liese:
- Concern for makeup of the Board. In theory it is possible that 5 members of the CVRPSA Board could be from one community.
- The Authority is just like a municipality and as such all decisions should be voted on and duly recorded.
- The Charter should reflect how votes are taken and how to amend not only the Charter but the MOU.
- He noted a regional service was tried at one time (Barre Regional Ambulance) and this did not work.
- Concerns for the level of service, vote is too close and not enough answers.

George Bernier:
- Barre Town resident who cannot retire and still works full-time and has difficulty paying taxes.
- If the system is not broken and working well for us then why are we trying to fix it?
- Voting yes is like grabbing a mystery brown bag of items at a store.
- Bigger does not always make it better.
- Bottom line is the need to invest in things that benefit the Town.

Jay Perkins:
- He noted that the CVRPSA charter does spell out the voting process in Section 12 – stating only a majority is needed.
- Is Barre Town willing to lose the ability as a Town to determine what we want for services and let the CVRPSA choose for us?
- Currently Barre Town, in his opinion, has the better services for less cost and does not want to lose control over the process.

Linda Leu:
- Concern that a yes vote on this ballot question still does not address the issue of what if a MOU is not approved?
- Feels like this is the proverbial "trust me."
Marc Bernier:
• Concern for keeping jobs in Barre Town and maintaining 100% control. There is no guarantee for keeping our existing personnel if Barre Town becomes a CVRPSA member.

Paul McGinley:
• The power point was a good presentation but will be watching like a hawk.
• We do need to look out for what we have.
• Concern that if we do not join CVRPSA we may end up having to reduce our EMS services and it could have a big impact to the tax rate.

Scott Williams:
• Berlin resident and has attended the Study Committee meetings in Berlin and Montpelier.
• Getting information to the public is a big issue.
• Residents should not assume there will be savings if we join the CVRPSA. The hope is cost containment.
• When considering public safety issues - care is the first priority.
• Changes to the operations create risk(s) to public safety personnel - these must be watched carefully. Support to these individuals is critical.

Bertil Agell:
• He has been on the CVRPSA Board for two weeks and is not up to speed on everything but is present to listen.
• Several entities of recent have merged: Chamber of Commerce, Economic Development Corp. for the purpose of being better able to serve all of central Vermont.

Rogers confirmed the CVRPSA charter, Page 38, Section 3, paragraph 2 states that upon a yes vote the Municipality will be deemed a member of the Authority, regardless of the approval or denial of a Memorandum of Understanding. There will be costs associated with the startup such as office help, liability insurance, etc.

On a motion by Mitchell, seconded by White, the Selectboard voted unanimously to close the public hearing on the Central Vermont Regional Public Safety Authority ballot question to be voted on at the November 4, 2014 Special Town Meeting at 9:12 p.m.

**CONTRACTS FOR PLOW BLADES & SHOES and TIRE CHAINS**

Background: Blade & Shoe bid specifications were mailed to eight companies and three were received. One bid did come in late. The low bid is from Tenco. The Town does not budget a specific dollar amount for plow blades and shoes. The purchase is part of the large Equipment Fund parts account.

Tire chain bids were also mailed to eight companies with four bids received and one was incomplete. The low bid is from McLeods Spring. The total based on the estimate quantity in the specifications is $12,777.00. The budgeted amount was $15,000.00 for chains.

On a motion by White, seconded by Tessier, the Selectboard voted unanimously to award the purchase of blades and shoes to Tenco Industries based on their unit bid price.

On a motion by White, seconded by LaClair, the Selectboard voted unanimously to award the purchase of tire chains from McLeods Spring based on their unit bid price.
WEEKLY ACCOUNTS PAYABLE WARRANT

On a motion by Tessier seconded by White, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the accounts payable warrants for October 7, 2014.

MISCELLANEOUS

Assistant Manager Dorsett informed the Selectboard he would like to apply for a $24,000 State of Vermont Recreation Facilities Grant to be used to for the Upper Websterville playground renovations. One of the grant requirements is that the project must be shovel-ready. He further noted that the Recreation Board is doing a playground assessment and inventory which will assist in preparing a repair/replace/improvement program.

The Town has the matching funds for this grant and this is a way to purchase additional playground equipment and advance the project.

On a motion by White, seconded by Tessier, the Selectboard voted unanimously to:
1. Authorize the Manager to draft and sign a Selectboard letter of support for this grant request; and
2. Authorize the Assistant Town Manager/Manager to sign and submit a $24,000 State of Vermont Recreation Facilities Grant application for the Websterville Playground project.

ROUND THE TABLE

Tessier stated he is on vacation next week and will not attend the Selectboard meeting.

LaClair encouraged the Selectboard to consider having a third public hearing on the Central Vermont Regional Public Safety Authority ballot question. During discussion it was noted the CVRPSA Board will be meeting two more times prior to the November vote which means there could be additional changes made to the Memorandum of Understanding which would clarify more of the existing concerns.

On a motion by Mitchell, seconded by White, the Selectboard voted unanimously to have a third public hearing on Tuesday, October 28, 2014 during the regular meeting for the purpose of discussing the Central Vermont Regional Public Safety Authority ballot question to be voted on at the Special Town Meeting, November 4, 2014.

White expressed his pleasure with having so many individuals present for the public hearings this evening.

Mitchell was not present for the last Selectboard meeting and questioned why we are being invited to attend a School Finance Committee meeting. Rogers stated the thought was it might help this Board better understand the school finances. The invitation was generated as a result of the Selectboard tabling a Resolution asking for support of freezing the school tax rate for 3 years. Board consensus was to wait until input was received from the School Boards. The Chairs (Barre Town and Spaulding High School Boards) will be coming before the Selectboard on October 28th to provide comment on impacts of a possible tax rate freeze.

LaClair read an invitation from the Barre Town School asking for Selectboard participation in a “Walk to School Day” on Wednesday, October 8, 2014. The time is 7:30 - 8:30 a.m.

Mitchell inquired about the Cutler Corner Road line painting request from a non-resident. There was discussion as to whether or not a formal response was needed.
On a motion by Mitchell, seconded by Blow, the Selectboard authorized the Manager to send an official brief response to the written request for road line painting from Fred Cheyette.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion by Tessier, seconded by LaClair, the Selectboard voted unanimously to go into executive session at 9:37 p.m. to discuss the sale of real estate, whereby divulging such information would jeopardize the deal and put the town at a disadvantage.

On a motion by White, seconded by Tessier, the Selectboard voted unanimously to come out of executive session at 9:50 p.m.

ADJOURN

On a motion by Mitchell, seconded by White, the Selectboard voted unanimously to adjourn at 9:51 p.m.

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Donna J. Kelty, Town Clerk-Treasurer  Selectboard Chair

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Barre Town Selectboard