BARRE TOWN SELECTBOARD AGENDA
November 11, 2014

P.I.O.T. Review Emergency Management 6:30 p.m.

1. Call to order 7:00 p.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Announce changes to agenda.
5. Announcements
6. Receive guests (for non-agenda items).
7. Report and discussion about solar energy farm.
8. Consider approving weekly accounts payable warrants.
9. Miscellaneous, including permits and licenses.
10. “Round the table”
11. Executive Session – (personnel).
12. Adjourn.

BARRE TOWN SELECTBOARD MINUTES
November 11, 2014

The duly warned meeting of the Barre Town Selectboard of November 11, 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, Tom White, Rolland Tessier, and W. John “Jack” Mitchell.

Attendance for the regular meeting included: Town Manager Carl Rogers, Assistant Town Manager Andrew Dorsett, Town Clerk-Treasurer Donna J. Kelty, Richard & Johanna Currier, and Alex Bravakis.

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

On a motion by Mitchell, seconded by Tessier, the Selectboard voted unanimously to amend the agenda as follows:
1. Item #9 add the approval of a 2014 First Class Alcohol License; and
2. Item #10 add discussion of the 13-14 Town Report.

MINUTES

On a motion by Tessier, seconded by LaClair, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the Selectboard Meeting Minutes of October 28, 2014.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The steep gravel section of Sterling Hill Road will close for the winter at 8:00 a.m., on Friday, November 14. The section of road may be closed temporarily before November 14th if weather and road conditions require it.
- Town Reports are available at Lawson’s Store, Graniteville General Store, Quarry Hill Quick Stop, Morgan’s East Barre Market, Trow Hill Grocery, Brookside Country Store, Hannaford’s and the Municipal Building.
Selectboard Minutes of November 11, 2014 continued:

- The winter on-street parking ban began on November 1st. On street parking is prohibited from 11:00 p.m. - 7:00 a.m. The ban is in effect regardless of the weather. Violators will be ticketed.

- The Barre Congregational Church will hold its Thanksgiving Day 5K road race in Lower Websterville. Drivers should be aware that runners will be in the road and there may be traffic delays on Graniteville Road between 9:20 a.m. - 10:15 a.m. For more information visit the Town of Barre’s website.

GUESTS

Richard & Johannah Currier, Valley View Circle residents were present. They provided the Selectboard with a letter and maps (see the minute attachment). Concern was raised regarding the Central Vermont Public Safety Authority public hearings and lack of information. Mr. Currier noted that it was not until Friday October 31st that he saw maps denoted fire response times for Barre Town and Barre City. These maps prompted a decision to vote yes to the Public Safety Authority question on the November 4th ballot.

His concern was that Valley View Circle was not within the 10 minute response time from any of Barre Town Fire Departments. For him this is an issue of fairness and tax equality. Taxes are paid at the same level as every other property owner to support these stations.

Mr. and Ms. Currier inquired if the Town was considering going from a volunteer to full-time service and if there are any plans to construct a new fire station in his area of Town. Chair Blow answered no to both questions. He further noted there is a mutual aid agreement with the City and in the event of fire the City would be toned out the same time as the Town. The City would probably arrive first and they are within the 10 minute response time to Valley View Circle.

SOLAR ENERGY FARM - REPORT AND DISCUSSION

Background: Alex Bravakis will discuss a second solar farm on the former Pike lot, Westerville Road. At the recent VLCT Town Fair there was a session on solar project agreements. Unfortunately, the presentation does not tell what a reasonable lease amount is or what discount the electricity user should get. There are lawyers/consultants who could advise the Town on the lease and solar service agreement.

Mr. Bravakis stated the first solar project is under construction. Precedence has been set and Novus Energy is confident a second solar farm could be placed on the same lot as the first. Since the DPW Facility is not going to be built on this lot Novus would like to use the area that was initially proposed for the first solar project. This location is ideal based on access, topography, 3-phase power availability, and it does not impact the “views.”

During discussion it was noted the Ferris Street site was deemed to be a second class wetland and therefore could not be clear-cut. The Websterville Road parcel is much better suited to the needs and will require less “prep” work which lower construction costs and can increase payouts. Mitchell stated he would feel more comfortable if there were better communications, such as regular reporting to keep everyone in the loop.

The proposal for the second site provides power for Spaulding High School and they could use more. Blow is not satisfied with the lease payments listed for years 21 - 35. A lot could happen between now and then. Mr. Bravakis stated the lease payment agreement could be amended to read the years 21 - 35 lease payments would be negotiable.

The consensus of the Selectboard is to have Mr. Bravakis work with the Town Manager to determine the exact location of a second solar farm on the Websterville Road.
Selectboard Minutes of November 11, 2014 continued:
before making a decision. The Town DPW currently uses a portion of this lot and the Board want to ensure it will not interfere with operations.

WEEKLY ACCOUNTS PAYABLE WARRANT

On a motion by Tessier, seconded by White, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the accounts payable warrants for November 4, 2014.

On a motion by LaClair, seconded by White, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the accounts payable warrants for November 11, 2014. Blow recused himself from the vote due to an employer conflict.

MISCELLANEOUS

On a motion by LaClair, seconded by Tessier, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve and authorize a 2014 First Class Alcohol License for Diann Chaloux with the condition the Planning Commission approves Ms. Chaloux’s permit to operate. The permit will not be signed until the results are known.

ROUND THE TABLE

Mitchell thanked the Town Manager for the paving work completed on Church Hill Road and by Wilson Cemetery.

Mitchell read the DPW monthly report and questioned the work performed at the Quarry Hill culvert and the cleaning of the Sterling Hill Brook. Rogers noted the culvert was routine maintenance and Sterling Hill Brook was to put some armoring back in place. Both jobs needed to have a tract machine.

There was brief discussion on the solar farm agreements and rates. Rogers states he feels confident about the agreement but is not sure about the rates.

White, LaClair, and Tessier thanked all those who came to vote on November 4th.

White and Tessier thanked all those veterans who have or are now serving in the U.S. Armed Forces.

White stated he will not be attending the Selectboard meeting next week.

Blow inquired on the DPW roller repair. Rogers informed the Board a roller was rented to complete the Taplin Road project. A repair was made to get the equipment moving but there are other unknown issues which are still trying to be resolved.

Blow state the FY 2012-2013 Town Report is now available. His concern is there was a Charter Change in 2010 to allow for more time to generate a Town Report due to the changes in accounting procedures. Even with this extension the report has not been made available in a timely basis. He recognizes that we are at the mercy of the outside auditors to complete their work.

On a motion by Blow, seconded by LaClair, the Selectboard voted unanimously to direct the staff to have the Town Report completed no later than 10 days before the March Town Meeting.

During discussion the consensus is to put this item on the Selectboard Meeting agenda for next week. It was noted the Town Report must include the Spaulding Union High School financial report. There have been delays because we did not have the school information. The Town’s elected Auditor’s and School Board Chairs will be invited.
EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion by Mitchell, seconded by Tessier, the Selectboard voted unanimously to go into executive session at 8:12 p.m. to discuss personnel issues. Assistant Manager Dorsett and Town Clerk-Treasurer Donna Kelty were excused.

On a motion by Tessier, seconded by Mitchell, the Selectboard voted unanimously to come out of executive session at 8:37 p.m.

ADJOURN

On a motion by Tessier, seconded by Mitchell, the Selectboard voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:37 p.m.

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Donna J. Kelty, Town Clerk-Treasurer  Selectboard Chair

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Barre Town Selectboard

Attachment - Currier statement to the Selectboard

We found that Article 1: "Shall the voters of the Town of Barre adopt the Central Vermont Public Safety Authority Charter", was a complex issue and difficult to decide.

It wasn’t until, Friday, October 31, 2014, when we saw the maps of fire response times for Barre Town and Barre City that we decided to vote. Yes.

What the Barre Town map shows is that geographically ½ of Barre Town is within the blue 10 minute fire response time and geographically the other ½ of Barre Town is not within a 10 minute fire response time by the Barre Town Fire Department. We live in the ½ of the town that does not have the 10 minute fire response time from the Barre Town Fire Department.

On the Barre City map, the blue area is the 5 minute response time and the magenta area is the 10 minute fire response time. What the Barre City maps shows is that the geographic ½ of Barre Town that is not within a 10 minute fire response time from Barre Town Fire Department is within the 10 minute fire response time from Barre City Fire Department.

We figure that by the time Barre Town Fire Department reaches us, that our house would be a total loss.

You may not have seen these maps before. They were commissioned by the Central Vermont Chamber of Commerce, as part of the study for planning the Safety Authority and made by the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission.

Now that the Barre Town voters have decided not to be part of the Safety Authority how do you plan to provide the same level of fire coverage through-out all of Barre Town?

Is there currently an agreement with the Barre City Fire Department to respond to fire calls that are not within the Barre Town 10 minute response time?

Are you considering purchasing land and building a new fire station in the area not currently covered in the 10 minute fire response time?

Are you considering going from a volunteer fire department to a full time fire department?

For us this is an issue of fairness and tax equality. We pay the same level of taxes, to support the 2 Barre Town Fire Stations, as those who live in the part of town that has the 10 minute response time but receive substantially less fire protection.

We would like to know how you plan to equalize emergency service response times for all of Barre Town.

Richard and Johannah Currier
107 Valley View Circle
Barre Town
Selectboard Minutes of November 11, 2014 continued: