BARRE TOWN SELECTBOARD AGENDA
December 16, 2014

P.I.L.O.T. Early budget presentation for new sewer map system 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 December 9, 2014.
5. Announcements
6. Receive guests (for non-agenda items).
7. Discuss Town Report content.
9. Discuss solar farm #2.
10. Consider authorizing signing a revised Consent and Assignment for solar farm #1.
11. Consider canceling the December 30 Selectboard meeting.
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
December 16, 2014

The duly warned meeting of the Barre Town Selectboard of December 16, 2014 was held at the Barre Town Municipal Building, Selectboard Room, Lower Websterville at 7:18 p.m.

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

Attendance for the regular meeting included: Town Manager Carl Rogers, Assistant Town Manager Andrew Dorsett, Town Clerk-Treasurer Donna J. Kelty, Assessor Joseph Levesque, Paul McGinley, Charles Woodhams, Tina Thurston, Melissa Brown, and Alex Bravakis.

CALL TO ORDER - The meeting was called to order at 7:18 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, item #13, Miscellaneous, and add taking action on a 2015 Liquor License.

MINUTES

On a motion by White, seconded by Tessier, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the Selectboard Meeting Minutes of December 9, 2014.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

• Winter sand is available for Barre Town residents outside of the public works fence. This service is only offered to residents, please follow instructions posted at the sand pile.

• The Budget Committee recruitment process is currently open. If interested in serving the community in this vital role, please submit a letter of interest to the Town Manager’s office. Visit the Town’s website or refer to the latest town
Selectboard Minutes of December 16, 2014 continued:

newsletter for more information. Letters of interest will be accepted until December 31st.

- The Town Offices will be closed on Thursday, December 18th, Noon to 1:30 p.m. and on December 25th and 26th.

- When clearing snow from your property remember that no snow is to be pushed across or into a town road, highway, or public sidewalk. Doing so could result in fines of $60 to $210 per offense. And please remember to remove any snow from your vehicle.

- If having a party during the holiday season, please inform your guests of the winter on street parking ban after 11:00 p.m.

- The Town offices have a new phone system; we appreciate your patience as we learn how to use this new system.

- During last week's meeting the Selectboard entered executive session to discuss contracts. Action was taken following the meeting but the event was not taped for the viewing audience. The Selectboard voted unanimously to approve a 1 year contract with the Barre Town Police Association, Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 004 for the period July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015.

- After a close call, Selectboard member Mitchell, reminded residents if they are walking along the roads during the dusk and dark hours to be sure to wear reflective clothing and to walk facing traffic.

- Part-time Police Officer Mitchell also reminded residents that using hand held cell phones while driving is illegal and if caught will be ticketed.

- Just a quick reminder that next week the Selectboard meeting will be held on Monday, December 22, 2014, 6:30 p.m. at the Municipal Building, Selectboard meeting room. The regular Tuesday meeting (December 23, 2014) has been canceled.

**GUESTS - None**

**DISCUSS TOWN REPORT CONTENT**

**Background:** A survey was distributed by email, mail, and through the website asking individuals to speak to what they like/do not like in our Town Report. The Selectboard was presented with the results. The 3 elected Town Auditors, and School Board Chairs Brenda Buzzell and Norma Malone were also invited as some of their information is also included.

Survey results were distributed to those present. Thirty-eight were returned. Most were satisfied with content. Respondents asked that some items be "shortened" such as some Departments Reports and not printing the full audit, as well as changing the page size to 8 ½ x 11 and have spiral bound books. Additions included items such as historical information and more pictures.

The consensus is to have the Town Report page size increased to 8 ½ x 11, the majority of reports will be spiral bound (some will be perfect bound to accommodate the statutory mailing by the Town Clerk), eliminate printing the full school and town audits, include the Management Discussion and Response sections of the Audit for the Town, and provide a simplified line item balance sheet for the Town, Elementary School, Spaulding High School, and Supervisory Union. These changes would reduce the number of pages by almost half and larger pages will make reading easier.
DISCUSS SOLAR FARM #2

Background: Novus Energy is asking the Selectboard to approve a second solar farm off Websterville Road (former Pike Industries property). During the December 2nd meeting it was agreed members and staff needed to visit the site to better understand the impact to the Town if the 2nd solar farm site was approved. The visit occurred on Friday, December 5th. Town Engineer Hinrichsen prepared comments for the Board’s review prior to the meeting.

Alex Bravakis was present and informed the Selectboard this project has been placed on hold. Based on a recent ruling by the State it was deemed the siting of the second project at the Websterville property would likely be denied at this time. However, Novus would like to find another site in Barre Town. One land option was within the Wilson Industrial Park. It was agreed the Manager and Mr. Bravakis would meet to determine if there were other Town owned lands that might meet the siting requirements for Novus. They will report back to the Board.

UPDATE: As for Solar Project #1, Mr. Bravakis stated 90% of the panels are in place. However, with the recent snowstorm Green Mountain Power is behind in their schedule. It is anticipated this project will be live before the end of this year.

ERRORS AND OMISSIONS LIST #2 FOR FY 14-15

Background: By state law the Assessor/Listers can change a property assessment mid-year, with Selectboard approval, if an error or omission is discovered. December 31st is the deadline for these corrections. This is the second list for the current fiscal year. It contains 28 items (2 are the same property) and all but 1 is an addition to the Grand List. The net result of the 28 changes is an increase to the Grand List of $181,200.

Assessor Levesque was present and noted there were a few errors in the list which included 1 duplicate item, and several minor number changes.

On a motion by LaClair, seconded by White, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the Errors and Omissions List #2, as amended for Fiscal Year 2014 - 2015.

REVISED CONSENT & ASSIGNMENT FOR SOLAR FARM #1

Background: Attorney Monte has reviewed the “trimmed down version” of the Consent and Agreement for Solar Farm #1 on Websterville Road. He noted there are no substantive changes that negatively affect the Town. The clarification in Section 4.a.ii is actually good for the Town if we did have to go to court.

On a motion by White, seconded by Tessier, the Selectboard voted unanimously to authorize the Town Manager to sign the Consent and Agreement for the Solar Farm #1 located off Websterville Road (former Pike property) as presented.

DECEMBER 30TH SELECTBOARD MEETING

Background: Following past practice the Manager is suggesting the meeting between Christmas and New Years (December 30th) Selectboard meeting.

On a motion by Mitchell, seconded by Tessier, the Selectboard voted unanimously to cancel the Tuesday, December 30, 2014 regular Selectboard meeting.

It was also announced that the Selectboard meeting for next week will be held on Monday, December 22, 2014 instead of the regularly scheduled Tuesday night.
WEEKLY ACCOUNTS PAYABLE WARRANT

On a motion by Tessier, seconded by LaClair, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the accounts payable warrants for December 16, 2014. Blow recused himself from the vote due to an employer conflict.

During the motion discussion Mitchell questioned the Harvest Equipment invoice which included sales tax. Rogers will check into this.

MISCELLANEOUS

On a motion by LaClair, seconded by Tessier, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve and authorize signing a 2015 Second Class Alcohol License for Maplewood Convenience Stores, Inc.

Assistant Manager Dorsett noted the fence at the Lower Graniteville playground was repaired.

The December 17, 2014 Traffic Safety Advisory Committee is canceled.

Dorsett stated today he went to a formal presentation to accept a $24,000 recreation grant. The grant included a match by the Town which had already been budgeted. Proceeds will complete the Websterville Playground renovations. Selectboard member LaClair stated he was at the ceremony this afternoon. He noted the Assistant Town Manager wrote the grant application. It was very competitive and believed the Town was awarded such a large dollar amount was because of the community involvement in the project and that it was shovel ready.

Manager Rogers informed the Board a "balloon test" was completed recently off Fisher Road. A new cell tower is being proposed to be placed on Auto Trek (Thunder Road) land. With the changes in law recently the applicant will apply to the State. The Town will have 45 days to decide whether or not to participate in the application process. He described balloon testing which is used to gauge visibility throughout various spots in Town. He noted visibility would be mainly in Barre City, Quarry Hill Road, Hill Street, Circle Street, and a little on West Hill (near Booth Brothers Dairy).

ROUND THE TABLE

Tessier travels out of town for work. During the recent snow event he was so pleased and proud of our DPW road crew for the fabulous effort that went into keeping our roads passable. Great Job!

Mitchell stated he had a few issues with the Thanksgiving Day Gobble Wobble 5K. Due to the amount of snow runners were consuming one full travel lane on the road. This was not safe for runners or drivers. He would like further discussion on this when it is time to plan for next year's event.

Mitchell stated he thought the VLCT education session for Solid Waste would be good to have someone from the Town attend as they will be discussing Act 148.

Mitchell noted that Wendell Blake, a 41 year veteran part-time police officer is retiring. Mr. Blake began working for the Town in 1974. He will be missed.

Mitchell inquired as to when the Selectboard would be receiving their pay. Rogers stated it will be this week.....Merry Christmas!

White stated he really liked Jack's Christmas tie.....wow!
EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion by Tessier, seconded by White, the Selectboard voted unanimously to find the need to go into executive session to discuss contracts whereby premature knowledge would put the Town at a disadvantage and to enter executive session at 8:53 p.m. to discuss personnel and real estate.

On a motion by Tessier, seconded by White, the Selectboard voted unanimously to come out of executive session at 9:22 p.m.

ADJOURN

On a motion by Tessier, seconded by Mitchell, the Selectboard voted unanimously to adjourn at 9:22 p.m.

______________________________  ______________________________
Donna J. Kelty, Town Clerk-Treasurer  Selectboard Chair

______________________________
Barre Town Selectboard