BARRE TOWN SELECTBOARD AGENDA
August 11, 2015

P.I.O.T. Site visit to top of Quarry Hill regarding Class 4 Patch Road 6:30 p.m.
1. Call to order 7:00 p.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Consider approving agenda.
5. Announcements
6. Receive guests (for non-agenda items).
7. Presentation by the Town Assessor regarding Errors & Omissions - List #1.
8. Consider and discuss road salt purchase prices for 2016.
10. Authorize signing of VT Sewer Capital Improvement Investment/Finance Policy.
12. Award contracts for the flood damage repair work to Cummings Road and the Plainfield Brook Road.
13. Discuss Bridge Street sidewalk project alternatives.
14. Consider and discuss Town Dog Licensing fee increase.
15. Consider approving weekly accounts payable warrants.
16. Miscellaneous, including licenses and permits, if any.
17. "Round the table"
18. Executive session: (real estate, labor negotiations, personnel)
19. Adjourn.

BARRE TOWN SELECTBOARD MINUTES
August 11, 2015

The duly warned meeting of the Barre Town Selectboard of August 11, 2015 was held at the Barre Town Municipal Building, Selectboard Room, in Lower Websterville at 7:15 p.m.

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

Attendance for the regular meeting included: Town Manager Carl R. Rogers, Assistant Manager Andrew Dorsett, Town Clerk-Treasurer Donna J. Kelty, Assessor Joseph Levesque, Times Argus Reporter Eric Blaisdell, and Town Engineer Harry Hinrichsen.

CALL TO ORDER - The meeting was called to order at 7:15 p.m.

The PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE was recited by those present.

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

On a motion by White, seconded by Tessier, the Selectboard voted to add agenda item #14A for the purpose taking action on the refinance and lease purchase of Town equipment.

MINUTES

On a motion by White, seconded by Tessier, the Selectboard voted to approve the Selectboard Meeting minutes of July 28, 2015 with the following correction:

1. Page 2, Guests, first paragraph, first line, delete the words "Route 302" and insert word the: and
Selectboard Minutes of August 11, 2015 continued:

2. Page 3, Public Hearing, 4th paragraph, second sentence, change the spelling of Milone’s to Malone’s; and

3. Page 6, Round the Table, under Mitchell, 2nd arrow, fourth line, delete the word “buy” and insert the word but.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Tax and Sewer bills have been mailed in the same envelope. Owners that forward their property tax bill to their mortgage/escrow company need to remove the sewer bill from the envelope. The first installment of property tax and sewer use charge is due Monday, August 17, 2015.

- The Town is looking for a non-profit organization that would volunteer labor at the September 19th Bulk Trash Collection. In exchange for volunteering to unload users’ vehicles, the non-profit organization will receive donations from the users. In the past organization received $400 - $500. Volunteer hours are 7:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Eight volunteers would be sufficient, but more volunteers could split the day. For more information contact Town Manager Carl Rogers at 479-9331.

GUESTS - None

ERRORS & OMISSIONS - LIST #1

Background: State law provides that when real or personal property is omitted from the Grand List, by mistake or an obvious error is found, the Assessor (Lister), with Selectboard approval on or before December 31st can add the omission or correction. The list was submitted to the Board for review prior to the meeting.

The Assessor gave a thumbnail for each of the 6 changes being requested.

On a motion by LaClair, seconded by White, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the Error & Omissions List #1 as presented.

2016 ROAD SALT PRICING AND PURCHASES

Background: The average tonnage for salt purchases over the past ten years has been 2,289 tons. For fiscal year 2015-2016 we budgeted for 2,400 tons at $64/ton based on removing the highest and lowest use years. The State Office of Purchasing and Contracting has renewed its existing contracts for highway salt. The District 7 quote is $80.56/ton. Cargill is the only company that offered fixed prices through the State contract available to municipalities. Last season the Town paid $75.52/ton to Cargill and $76.76 to American Rock Salt. If the Town were to go with Cargill this year, purchasing 2,400 tons we would be $39,744 over budget.

The State is suggesting municipalities be aware that salt suppliers inventories are unknown and suggest that municipalities consider taking delivery early to reduce the risk of seasonal shortages.

Manager Rogers informed the Board that American Rock Salt would not be releasing their quotes for another week or two. Pricing variations between the AOT districts was briefly noted. The Budget Committee had asked the DPW to test some alternative road deicing treatments last winter but it was too late in the season. The Selectboard asked that the alternatives be factored into this year’s salt purchase.

The consensus of the Board is to wait until American Rock Salt releases their pricing and hopefully have enough information to make an informed decision at the next meeting (in two weeks).
Selectboard Minutes of August 11, 2015 continued:

TRAFFIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Background: During the July 2015 meeting the Traffic Safety Advisory Committee (TSAC) unanimously recommended some actions for Sterling Hill Road and High Street. TSAC is requesting the Selectboard approve their requests.

A. Sterling Hill Road - The TSAC reviewed the issue of overweight truck traffic turning right on Sterling Hill Road at the intersection of South Barre Road. The TSAC recommended placing a jersey barrier longitudinally on the center line of Sterling Hill Road at Route 14 to restrict the turning radius of tractor trailer units, with a “No Outlet” sign mounted on top and reflective signing at the west end of the barrier. This effort is considered as a trial or temporary method to determine if it is successful. The barrier should be removed before winter.

On a motion by Tessier, seconded by LaClair, the Selectboard voted to follow the Traffic Safety Advisory Committee recommendation and place a jersey barrier longitudinally on the center line of Sterling Hill Road at Route 14 to restrict the turning radius of tractor trailer units, with a “No Outlet” sign mounted on top and reflective signing at the west end of the barrier. This effort is considered as a trial or temporary method to determine if it is successful. The barrier should be removed before winter.

B. High Street - The TSAC was asked to consider a request for traffic calming for High, Garden, and/or Summer Streets. Issues in the area are speed, failure to obey stop signs and commercial vehicle traffic. The recommendation was to increase law enforcement presence on these streets and use the speed cart, post the streets at 24,000 lbs. and confirm the 25 MPH speed limit is posted on all streets. The Manager informed the Board he would not be participating in the discussion as he is a resident of High Street.

On a motion by LaClair, Seconded by Tessier, the Selectboard voted unanimously to follow the Traffic Safety Advisory Committee recommendation and confirm there are 25 mph speed limit signs on High Street, Garden Street, and Summer Street; and to post the streets at 24,000 lbs.

C. North side of High and Summer Streets - Post a "No Outlet" sign to be determined by the Town Engineer. The Manager informed the Board he would not be participating in the discussion as he is a resident of High Street.

On a motion by Tessier, seconded by Mitchell, the Selectboard voted unanimously to follow the Traffic Safety Advisory Committee recommendation to post a "No Outlet" sign north of High and Summer Streets with placement to be determined by the Town Engineer.

SIGNING OF SCIF INVESTEMENT/FINANCE POLICY

Background: At the last Selectboard meeting the Board approved the Sewer Capital Improvement Fund Investment/Finance Policy. No action is needed - only Board signatures are needed.

SIGNING OF THE WATER CUSTOMER COMPLAINT PROCEDURE

Background: On July 28th the Selectboard adopted the Water Customer Complaint Procedure. No action is needed - only Board signatures are needed.

FLOOD DAMAGE CONTRACTS

Background: Bid specification copies of the Cummings Road and Plainfield Brook Road were provided to the Board. Cummings Road work is to repair storm damage at the Gunner
Brook culvert crossing. The Plainfield Brook Road repairs include a 3 step process. **Part A** is construction of a rip-rap embankment to repair stream bank and road slope erosion about 500' upstream from the culvert crossing. **Part B** is clearing the stream bed in front of the rip-rap embankment (Part A). **Part C** is finishing woody debris removal, structure header construction, rip-rap stream bank construction and backfilling the large hole. The bid opening was Monday, August 10th at 10:30 a.m. It was noted that by separate contract, the large pile of woody debris over the culvert inlet was removed just as this Request for Bid was completed.

Bid results were distributed to members. Discussion focused on Extreme Excavating's (Orange, VT) low bid. Blow expressed concern the bid was way too low. The Town Engineer stated the company subcontracts for some things like hauling on big projects. The equipment list for Extreme Excavating was also provided. During the floods of 2007 and 2001 they did reconstruction work for us in the north corner of town (Mekkelsen Hill Road, Gun Club Road, LePage Road, etc.) without issue. Even though the company is small they have also done work for the State. Other points of discussion included oversight of work in the area (by Town and State); the need to prioritize Plainfield Brook Road repairs due to the school bus traffic (school opens August 25th).

*On a motion by LaClair, seconded by Tessier, the Selectboard voted unanimously to award the road repair contracts for Cummings Road and Plainfield Brook Road to Extreme Excavating, Orange, Vermont in the amount of their bid prices dated August 10, 2015. Blow voted no.*

**DISCUSS BRIDGE STREET SIDEWALK ALTERNATIVES**

**Background:** The VTrans Enhancement Grant STP EH11(a) awarded in 2011 requires the Town to hold a public presentation of alternative options for the sidewalk project. This presentation is to demonstrate the pros and cons of each alternative, to describe why the town selected the particular location and to allow the public to provide their input.

One of the grant requirements is to present information to the public regarding the project. The Asst. Town Manager read the following.

**Purpose and Need Statement**

The purpose of the project is to create a sidewalk along Bridge Street from the Route 14 intersection to the Barre City bike path located in Barre Town, Vermont. Currently Bridge Street has limited space outside of the travel lane to accommodate pedestrians or bicycle traffic.

The need for the project is to facilitate the safe movement of bicycles and pedestrians between the existing bike path and the South Barre area of Barre Town. Long term this project is a critical section to eventually connecting Barre City Bike path with the existing Barre Town bike path as was prioritized by the Town with the completion of the CVRPC study in 2011.

**Brief History**

At a Public Hearing on July 27, 2010 the Town held a Local Concerns meeting and received public comment on the proposed Bridge Street Sidewalk project and grant application. The project was presented as a 735 linear feet of curbed sidewalk 5' wide on the North side of Bridge Street connecting Route 14 to the Bridge Street Bridge. All present at the public hearing, while concerned about the loss of front lawn were in favor of the project. In June of 2011 the State awarded the Town $131,520 to design and build the sidewalk.

In 2013 Bridge Street's new bridge was installed with a sidewalk running the entire length on the bridge's north side. This new bridge and sidewalk now connects the South Barre
Bike Path to the Bridge. On 2/2/2015 the Town published a request for proposals to hire an engineering firm to consult on this project. After receiving the bids, a selection committee formed of Town staff, VTrans staff and Regional Planning Commission staff to evaluate the engineering proposals for technical review and a separate cost review. Following the selection committee's recommendation the Town awarded an engineering contract on 3/16/2015 to Dufresne Group Consulting Engineers. A Kickoff meeting was held on 4/7/2015 with the Town, VTrans and Dufresne Group. The first draft of the engineered conceptual plan was submitted to the VTrans on 6/26/2015.

Today we are holding an Alternatives Presentation to have a public discussion on the alternatives that were considered and discuss why the northern side of Bridge Street was selected for this project and to take any public input about these alternatives.

The next step in the process is to contact the abutters and invite them a public hearing for comment.

DISCUSS INCREASING DOG LICENSE FEE

Background: During the last Legislative session Act 57 amended language in 20 VSA §3581 to increase the animal license fee surcharge for the dog, cat, and wolf-hybrid spaying and neutering program from $3.00 to $4.00 effective July 1, 2015. The Town is responsible for collecting the surcharge at the same time as the municipal dog license fee. Surcharges are remitted to the State in January, May, and September each year.

Current Barre Town license fees are: $9.00 for a fixed dog (Town keeps $6, $3 to the State) and $13.00 (Town keeps $10, $3 to State) for an open dog. The average number of dog licenses issued per year is 1150 which equates to the Town sending an additional $1,150 to the State each year. To avoid losing revenue the Treasurer is asking the Selectboard to increase the dog license fees to $10 (if fixed) and $14 (if open).

On a motion by Mitchell, seconded by White, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the request of the Treasurer and increase the Barre Town Dog License fees to $10 for a fixed dog and $14 for an open dog effective immediately.

REFINANCING/FINANCING FOR TOWN EQUIPMENT

Background: This item is listed in the event we receive the documents for refinancing two fire trucks and financing for the purchase of DPW truck and vibratory roll. The interest rate will be 2.49% and will save the Town money.

On a motion by Tessier, seconded by White, the Selectboard voted to authorize and have the Town Staff and Treasurer sign the documents as needed, for the refinancing of two (2) Barre Town Firetrucks, the purchase of a Lo-Pro dump truck, and the purchase of a vibratory roll with US Bancorp Government Leasing & Finance Inc.

WEEKLY ACCOUNTS PAYABLE WARRANT

On a motion by LaClair, seconded by White, the Selectboard voted to approve the accounts payable warrant for August 4, 2015 and August 11, 2015.

MISCELLANEOUS

Dorsett informed the Selectboard that the Recreation Board will be hosting a work bee at the Softball Field (Barre Town Recreation area beside the school) on September 26, 2015. Feel free to come and help!

Along those lines he also noted that on October 17th Barre Town will be holding its First Annual Barre Town Fall Festival. More details will be coming.
Selectboard Minutes of August 11, 2015 continued:

The Town sends a big thank you to all those individuals who made the Websterville Playground Grand Opening this past Saturday a big success.

On a personal note Mr. Dorsett stated he was traveling down Sterling Hill Road (gravel section) with his family when he unexpectedly was greeted by a car coming up (very illegal). The license plate number was taken and reported to the Police Department. So whoever you are take note that you will be issued a ticket.

Rogers informed the viewers that tonight this would be Asst. Town Manager Dorsett’s last Selectboard meeting. He has taken a job as the Town Manager for Littleton, New Hampshire. Rogers stated Mr. Dorsett has been extremely involved with the municipal phone system, writing and receiving recreation grants, the new copier/printer/fax/scan system, as well as many other tasks.

The Board thanked Mr. Dorsett for his efforts. Mr. Dorsett stated that Barre Town has great management and leadership. The guidance and experience gained here will be invaluable in his new position.

‘ROUND THE TABLE

Mitchell noted the following:
• Stated that while he was excited and glad for Mr. Dorsett’s new job he is very sad to see him go.
• With the events of recent things have taken an emotional toll on him this week. As a result he will not be attending executive session.

Tessier noted the following:
• The guardrails on the uphill section of Quarry Hill Road (near the bottom) are jutting out into the traveled road and need to be repaired.
• He echoed the statements made during the evening with regards to Asst. Manager Dorsett’s change of employment.

LaClair noted the following:
• Thanked Mr. Dorsett for his many contributions.
• On a Legislative note he will be at Police Academy next week inspecting a building to determine its value (renovation versus demolition). He is also working on a committee to draft a bill regarding the permit process of overweight trucks coming from out-of-state.

Blow noted the following:
• Reiterated thanks to Mr. Dorsett and stated the Town made a wise decision in hiring him.
• He attended the Websterville Playground grand opening this past week and had a chance to speak with the children using the equipment. The Recreation Board and Websterville residents (especially Tracy Wright and Shelly Weeks) did a fabulous job of transforming this playground in just 2 years. The Recreation Board now has their sights on the Trow Hill playground. They are looking for volunteers to help with this project. Contact the Town Manager’s Office if you would like to be involved with this great community rehabilitation.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion by Mitchell, seconded by White, the Selectboard voted unanimously to find the need to go into executive session citing premature general knowledge would put the Town at a substantial disadvantage.
On a motion by Mitchell, seconded by White, the Selectboard voted unanimously to go into executive session at 8:48 p.m. to discuss real estate, labor negotiations, personnel, and legal. Mitchell was excused from executive session.

On a motion by Tessier, seconded by White the Selectboard voted unanimously to come out of executive session at 10:20 p.m. Mitchell was not present for the vote.

ADJOURN

On a motion by Tessier, seconded by White, the Selectboard voted to adjourn at 10:20 p.m. Mitchell was not present for the vote.

Donna J. Kelty, Town Clerk-Treasurer  
Selectboard Chair

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Barre Town Selectboard