BARRE TOWN SELECTBOARD AGENDA
February 3, 2015

P.I.L.O.T.  Budget Committee-  Aldrich Public Library Trustees, Water, Sewer, and Cemetery Fund 6:30 p.m.

1. Call to order 8:00 p.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Announce changes to agenda.
5. Announcements
6. Receive guests (for non-agenda items).
7. Discuss AT&T Mobility and American Towers application for a new wireless communications facility off Fisher Road.
8. Discuss possibility of including other Town wood lots in with the RFP for the consulting forester contract.
9. Consider raising Graniteville Fire District’s water rate.
10. Consider approving weekly accounts payable warrants.
11. Miscellaneous, including permits, licenses, and legislative report (if any).
12. "Round the table"
13. Executive Session - labor contract negotiations and real estate

BARRE TOWN SELECTBOARD MINUTES
February 3, 2015

The duly warned meeting of the Barre Town Selectboard of February 3, 2015 was held at the Barre Town Municipal Building, Selectboard Room, Lower Websterville at 8:31 p.m.

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

Attendance for the regular meeting included: Town Manager Carl Rogers, Assistant Town Manager Andrew Dorsett, Town Clerk-Treasurer Donna J. Kelty, Sasha Dejan (VTC student), and Paul McGinley

CALL TO ORDER - The meeting was called to order at 8:31 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA - None

MINUTES

On a motion by White, seconded by Tessier, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the Selectboard Meeting Minutes of January 27, 2015.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

• Barre Town’s Budget Committee meets every Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. in the lower level conference room (Municipal Building) through March 31st. The public is encouraged to attend. Budgets will be available on the website as they are completed. And remember, while the Budget Committee is active the Selectboard meetings will begin at 8:00 p.m.
Selectboard Minutes of February 3, 2015 continued:

- Please make note property tax and sewer payments are due TUESDAY, February 17th. The Town Clerk will be open 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. on tax day to accommodate the taxpayers.

- On February 21st the Town will host its annual Budget Tour. Join your neighbors, friends, and town staff for this community event. The tour is at no charge and includes coffee, juice, doughnuts, and great conversation. An engaging question and answer session will grow your understanding of Town operations and their relationship to budget requests. All ages are welcome! Tour bus starts rolling at 8:00 a.m. For more information call the Town Manager’s office at 479-9331.

- The VT DMV is notifying the public that registration stickers must be affixed to the lower right hand corner of your license plate. If placed anywhere else on the plate you may be ticketed.

- With the recent snow accumulating around the homes and on roofs, please remember to keep furnace vents, air intakes, and chimneys free of snow and ice in order to keep the heat on and prevent carbon monoxide poisoning.

- The Barre Town Thunder Chickens Snowmobile Club will be holding their annual Travis Mercy Skatepark fundraiser. There will be a pulled pork dinner and poker run on February 15, 2015. For more information contact Linda Mercy (479-3405) or Dave Rouleau (496-1279).

GUESTS

Sasha Dejan, a Vermont Technical College student was present. As part of his coursework he is required to attend a Selectboard meeting. Mr. Dejan was invited to sit at the head table to get a first-hand glimpse of the proceedings and to be able to review the packet materials.

AT&T MOBILITY AND AMERICAN TOWERS APPLICATION FOR NEW WIRELESS COMMUNICATION FACILITY

Background: AT&T has been planning for a site along the Route 14 corridor for some time. Last spring they said they would be submitting an application soon but it did not happen. On December 19th, last year, they notified us of the balloon test, which was successful.

V.S.A. 30 § 248 has changed the law regarding how cell towers are permitted. The Town can no longer deny an application under our communications facilities ordinance. However, the Town will have 45 days to submit comment on the project to the Public Service Board if we desire.

The Town Planning Commission also has an invitation to submit comment(s). The attorney for AT&T (Kane Smart) offered to attend a meeting but would prefer to meet with the Selectboard and Planning Commission at the same time. General project information includes: tower height is 120'; tower is a monopole; tower will support AT&T’s 4G network; tower will be located on land owned by Auto Trek Limited (gravel pit); and comments are due to the Public Service Board by March 16.

The Selectboard will be deciding whether or not to have a joint meeting with the Planning Commission. If so, with the budget work will it be on a different night other than Tuesday. Will/does the Selectboard require outside help? Does the Selectboard want to request the Public Service Board send someone to a meeting?

The Board discussed the antenna size, changes to the permit process, viewed the photos of the balloon test, and noted that abutters (4) had been notified. The consensus
Selectboard Minutes of February 3, 2015 continued:

is to hold a joint Public Hearing with the Planning Commission on Wednesday, February 18, 2015.

TOWN WOOD LOTS - DISCUSS INCLUDING WITH TOWN FORESTER DUTIES

Background: The Town Forest Management Plan has a lengthy section about managing the timber. That part of the Plan was written by former Washington County Forester, Russ Barrett. The Plan calls for certain actions in certain time periods. It is time (or past time) to implement the first of the suggestions - to hire a Town Forester. A draft RFP for this position was given to the Selectboard for review prior to the meeting.

In addition to the Town Forest, we also own about 70 parcels of land. Of those parcels, seven (totaling roughly 125 acres) are mostly wooded. The parcel locations are: 1) water well site of Route 14 in Williamstown; 2) Holden Road lawn waste site; 3) Waterman Street water storage tank lot; 4) new DPW outdoor storage area (former Pike land); 5) Ledge Drive; 6) section of prime ag soil set aside off of Bolster Road; and 7) side hill below Wilson Industrial Park.

The question for discussion: Does the Selectboard want to expand the scope of services in the RFP for a Town Forester to include the wooded town-owned properties (noted above) which are not in the Town Forest?

Asst. Manager Dorsett briefly reviewed the draft RFP and noted the high standards the Forester would be held to. The consensus of the Selectboard is to include the other town-owned wood lots noted above in the RFP.

GRANITEVILLE FIRE DISTRICT WATER RATES

Background: The Town usually buys water from the Graniteville Fire District (GFD). When the Fire District’s springs run low it must buy water from the Town. The Town well does not produce enough water for our needs and the Fire District. So, when the Fire District purchases water from the Town we in turn purchase their needs from Barre City. The additional City water purchase is delivered to the GFD through the Town system. Barre City bills the Town for all the water and we in turn bill the GFD. Barre City’s water current water rate is $4.06 per 100 cubic feet. The rate we charge the GFD is $3.78 (Barre City’s former rate plus $.25).

The Manager noted the extra $.25 is to cover the cost of things like pumping, valves, line maintenance, etc. Currently the Town pays more to the City than we charge the Fire District.

Discussion focused on the Fire District’s annual budget and the impact to its customers at this time. It was noted the Town does not like getting water rate increases from the City in the middle of its fiscal year.

Resident Paul McGinley briefly spoke about the Websterville Fire District and the consequences of the Town taking over their system at some point in time.

On a motion by Mitchell, seconded by Tessier, the Selectboard voted unanimously to ask the Town Manager send a letter to the Graniteville Fire District stating we are contemplating a rate increase, to ask if there are concerns for doing it at this time, and to respond by a date certain to be set by the Manager.

WEEKLY ACCOUNTS PAYABLE WARRANT

On a motion by Tessier, seconded by LaClair, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the accounts payable warrant for February 3, 2015.
LaClair gave a brief Legislative Update. There have been around 800 bills submitted for consideration this session but only about 200 will be passed this year. Big topic items include: the state budget deficit; being an organ donor (automatically one versus right to choose to be one); and background checks for gun control.

Tessier stated he will be attending the special site visit meeting on February 20, 2015 which is to visit the various ancient road locations. He asked where to meet. Rogers stated the visit will begin at Kelly Road (just up from the Municipal Building) at 9:30 a.m. If you plan on attending come to the Municipal or be at the first site. Mitchell will also attend and Blow is tentative at this time. The special site visit session has been warned.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion by White, seconded by Tessier, the Selectboard voted unanimously to go into executive session to discuss labor contract negotiations, personnel, and real estate at 9:12 p.m. stating that premature public knowledge would put the Town at a disadvantage.

On a motion by Tessier, seconded by Blow, the Selectboard voted unanimously to come out of executive session at 10:08 p.m.

ADJOURN

On a motion by LaClair, seconded by Tessier, the Selectboard voted unanimously to adjourn at 10:08 p.m.