BARRE TOWN SELECTBOARD AGENDA
December 22, 2015

P.I.O.T. - Early budget presentation: Crescent Lane drainage project  6:30 p.m.

1. Call to order  7:00 p.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Consider approving agenda.
4. Consider approving minutes from December 15, 2015 meeting.
5. Announcements
6. Receive guests (for non-agenda items).
7. Consider request from Barre Town Fire Department Auxiliary.
8. Consider Fire Departments:
   a) Authorization to use consultant for writing Assistance to Firefighters grant application.
   b) Authorization to order pick-up truck using Firemen's Club money.
9. Discuss allowing employees to use town vehicles to commute to work.
11. Consider approving 5-Year Paved Road Plan.
12. Consider approving weekly accounts payable warrants.
13. Miscellaneous- including any licenses and permits.
14. "Round the table"
15. Executive session: legal (action expected).

BARRE TOWN SELECTBOARD MINUTES
December 22, 2015

The duly warned meeting of the Barre Town Selectboard of December 22, 2015 was scheduled to be held at the Barre Town Municipal Building, Selectboard Room, in Lower Websterville at 7:00 p.m.

The following members were in attendance: Jeff Blow, Rolland Tessier, Tom White, and Rob LaClaire. W. John "Jack" Mitchell was absent.

Others attending were: Town Manager Carl Rogers, Town Clerk-Treasurer Donna J. Kelty, Fire Chief Christopher Violette, Police Chief Michael Stevens, Police Sgt. William Dodge accompanied by Barre Town Police Dog Huey, Brent Putney, Linda Leu, Michele LaPerle, Chris Sanborn, Mike Kelley, Brad Morris, and Josh Martineau.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m.

The PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE was recited by those present.

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

On a motion by Tessier seconded by White, the Selectboard voted to approve the agenda. Mitchell was not present for the vote.

MINUTES

On a motion by White, seconded by Tessier the Selectboard voted to approve the Selectboard meeting minutes of December 15, 2015. Mitchell was not present for the vote.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. The December 29, 2015 Selectboard meeting has been canceled. Our next meeting will be on January 5, 2016.
2. The Department of Public Works collects Christmas trees placed out by the road or street. Please remove the stand, all lights, other wires, garland and bulbs. The collection schedule is: north and east of Route 302, including Richardson Road, Trow Hill, and East Hill, during the week of January 4 – 8, and south and west of Route 302, including West Hill, South Barre, and East Barre during the week of January 11 - 15. Snow and ice storms may delay collection times.

3. The Recreation Board is once again offering Pickleball for adults! The activity will be in the Barre Town School gymnasium from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. On January 10 and 24 an instructor will be present to conduct a clinic. On January 17 and January 31 – March 20 there will be open Pickleball play. This activity is free to all who wish to play.

4. Regardless of a current rash of thefts from cars, garages or house, it is always a prudent practice to lock your car, shed, garage, and house doors at night and when you are not home. A little proactive action will greatly protect your property and your family. You can also help by reporting any suspicious activity to the Police Department 24/7. At least one officer is always on duty. Do not hesitate to call the Police if you suspect something is not right.

GUESTS

Sargent William Dodge and his dog Huey were present. He felt it was a good time to catch up on what has been happening before budget season begins. Board members were presented with a written report. However, for the viewing audience Sgt. Dodge gave a brief history on his and Huey's accomplishments this past year.

Other information included the ongoing trainings, alerts on vehicles which have resulted in drug busts, public demonstrations to schools/groups, mutual aid to other departments. Sgt. Dodge noted the Department was awarded a grant to purchase a bullet proof vest for Huey, a valued member of the Barre Town Police force.

BARRE TOWN FIRE DEPARTMENT AUXILIARY REQUEST

Background: Linda Leu, East Barre resident, decided to restart the Fire Department Auxiliary. Their job will be to support the firefighters at calls which last several hours. To get things rolling a fundraiser event has been planned in conjunction with Barre Partnership. On Saturday, February 13, 2016 participating downtown Barre City merchants will donate a percentage of the day's receipts and the Auxiliary will conduct a coin drop. Because the event is in the City part of this money raised will go to the Barre City Fire Department. Other events on that day include a bake sale, performance by the Spaulding High School Chorus, hopefully a sledding party in Barre Town, and fireworks. More details are to come.

However, as a Fire Department event the Auxiliary is selling tee-shirts (Support VT Firefighters). The cost is $20 for adults and $15 for youth. For more information contact the Barre Town Fire Department or Ms. Leu.

Fire Chief Violette thanked Ms. Leu for her efforts.

FIRE DEPARTMENT ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTER GRANT + PICK-UP TRUCK PURCHASE

Background: The Federal Assistance to Firefighters Grant was just released in early December. Applications are due on or before January 15, 2016. In the past Barre Town has been very successful, but have not applied in some time. This is a very highly competitive grant with no match is there is a wide range of items to apply for.
The Fire Chief would like to submit an application for an entire breathing air system: cascade (bottle filling) system, bottles and self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA). A ballpark figure for replacing everything the Town owns now is $250,000. Board members were provided with more detailed information on the pieces needed. Given the large dollar amount and competition the Fire Chief would like assistance with the grant writing. He has been in touch with a company from California which offers this service. The estimated fee for writing the grant would be $1,800. The funding would come from the money being set aside for SCBA replacement.

It was noted for the record that it could take as long as 1 year before a grant award is announced.

On a motion by LaClair, seconded by White, the Selectboard voted to authorize spending $1,875 to hire Fire Grants Help (San Francisco, CA.) to write the grant application for the Assistance to Firefighters Grant due January 15, 2016 in the amount of $256,883. Mitchell was not present for the vote.

Background for ¾ ton pickup truck. The Fireman's Club has been raising money (mainly through the gun raffle) and now has enough to purchase a new 4 door, 4wd, pickup truck. While the truck will be purchased by the Club ownership will be turned over the Town which would be responsible for maintenance and repairs.

This truck will be for the South Barre station, replacing the Hummer, for wildland fire, personnel transportation, emergency response, and general fire department functions. Unfortunately, the Hummer has proven to be unreliable, difficult, and expensive to repair. At some point the Town will need to discuss selling the Hummer.

On a motion by White, seconded by Tessier, the Selectboard voted to authorize the purchase of a ¾ ton pick-up truck using proceeds from the Fireman's Club "52 Gun Raffle fundraiser." Mitchell was not present for the vote.

USE OF TOWN VEHICLES BY TOWN EMPLOYEES FOR COMMUTE PURPOSES

Background: Chair Blow asked for this item to be placed on the agenda. Several Department Heads take town-owned vehicles home and use them for the commute to and from home. They include: Town Manager, Police Chief, Sargent Dodge (K-9 Unit), Public Works Superintendent, and Town Engineer. There have been some recent I.R.S. rule changes. This topic is for discussion.

Blow stated the bigger issues for him are the costs (wear & tear/fuel/repairs) associated with town vehicles being taken home. With the recent I.R.S. rule change (regarding the miles traveled with a business vehicle to and from work) he thought it would a good idea to revisit the issue.

The Police Chief informed the Board that he gets the hand-me-down police vehicle. His commute time is minimal (Barre Town to/from Barre City). The Board discussed the frequency he is called out during the night, the number of weekends he is on call, the amount of “town police business” that is conducted during the commute times, having a second police vehicle being visible to the public, the convenience of being available to staff – saving time having to come to the DPW garage to pick up a vehicle, and his out-of-pocket expense (insurance) should he use his personal vehicle which should have certain necessary police equipment in it. Sargent Dodge also noted that when officers are not available the Chief will do transports and does coverage from his home directly to an incident – saving valuable time.
Selectboard Minutes of December 22, 2015 continued:

The DPW Superintendent stated that when he was hired having a town truck was part of the "job package." He explained his role in covering for the night crew during the winter, the advantages of being able to go directly to departmental mutual aid event(s), such as an emergency (flooding, wind, ice, etc.), and being available for his crew(s) any time of the day or night. The Fire Chief noted that having the DPW Superintendent and Police Chief with town-owned vehicles have made a real difference in many of the "late night" recent emergencies. He is in favor of their using the town vehicles even though he does not have one.

The Town Engineer will receive a new 4-wheel drive pickup every 7 years. He does not put on as many miles as other departments.

Blow noted the policy of using town owned vehicles has been in existence for a long time. Furthermore, he does recognize that it is prudent for the Town Manager to have a vehicle and that reluctantly he will agree that the Sargent (because of the special K-9 equipment) should also have a vehicle. He still has issues with the other department heads using town owned vehicles. In his opinion this topic needs to be discussed and decisions made at a later time – the date to be determined.

5-YEAR EQUIPMENT PURCHASE PLAN

Background: Another annual plan which is crucial in preparing the Fiscal Year 2016 - 2017 budget. Per discussion changes have been made to include: altering the replacement schedule for the large backhoe and ambulances; some pricing adjustments in Year 1; adding more funds to Miscellaneous to incorporate the Police Department computers and laptops; updating the inventory page, and adding a Year 5.

On a motion by Tessier, seconded by LaClair, the Selectboard voted to approve the 5 Year Equipment Plan for Fiscal Year 2017 - Fiscal Year 2021. Mitchell was not present for the vote.

5-YEAR PAVED ROAD PLAN

Background: One more annual plan for preparing next fiscal year’s budget. This plan impacts several departments and is very complex. There were a few minor adjustments to years 1 and 2. The more significant changes start in year 3 because of the work on Farwell Street. The Manager did bring to the Boards attention a "new" paving acronym BWC - Bonded Wearing Course. This is the equivalent of Nova Chip.

On a motion by White, seconded by Tessier, the Selectboard voted to approve the 5 Year Paved Road Plan for Fiscal Year 2017 - Fiscal Year 2021. Mitchell was not present for the vote.

WEEKLY ACCOUNTS PAYABLE WARRANT

On a motion by Tessier, seconded by White, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the accounts payable warrant for December 22, 2015 with the exception of CVTV check for $100 as the company has not posted Selectboard meeting videos to their site since December 1st. Mitchell was not present for the vote.

MISCELLANEOUS

The Town Manager wished everyone a safe and happy holiday season.

ROUND THE TABLE

Tessier, White, and Blow echoed the Manager’s comment.
Tessier wished Blow an early birthday – 29 again?

Blow and Mitchell attended the Planning Commission Meeting with Sun Common regarding their solar project on Cummings Road. He stated there was very good resident interaction. The issue of Town's not having a major role in solar farm siting is still a concern.

Blow stated he was very disappointed to read that the Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District made an offer to purchase land after all the concerns raised during a recent Selectboard meeting. Costs were a big factor here. The Town is currently paying dues of $8,000 a year, next year will be $16,000 and then possibly increase the following year to $24,000 if the bond is approved. He believes the bond vote could be as early as November 2016.

He further noted that Williamstown was interested in possibly pulling out of the District and do something with the Town. Tessier and the Town Manager will set up a meeting with Williamstown after the first of the year.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion by White, seconded by Tessier, the Selectboard voted to find that premature general public knowledge would place the Town at a substantial disadvantage with regards to legal and personnel matters. Mitchell was not present for the vote.

On a motion by White, seconded by Tessier, the Selectboard voted to go into executive session for legal and personnel matters at 9:45 p.m. Mitchell was not present for the vote.

On a motion by Tessier, seconded by LaClair, the Selectboard voted to come out of executive session at 10:50 p.m. Mitchell was not present for the vote.

SB ELECTRONICS LOAN AMENDMENT

On a motion by White, seconded by Tessier, the Selectboard voted to approve the request of S.B. Electronics to defer principal loan payments for one year commencing January 1, 2016 and to authorize the Town Manager to sign any necessary documentation associated with the change. Mitchell was not present for the vote.

ADJOURN

On a motion by Mitchell, seconded by LaClair, the Selectboard voted to adjourn at 10:50 p.m. Mitchell was not present for the vote.

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Donna J. Kelty – Town Clerk-Treasurer   Selectboard Chair

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Barre Town Selectboard