BARRE TOWN SELECTBOARD AGENDA
October 6, 2015

P.I.L.O.T. Department Head Visits - EMS, Fire and Planning and Zoning 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 September 29, 2015 meeting.
5. Announcements
6. Receive guests (for non-agenda items).
7. Consider CVRPC's offer to study the Gunner Brook using Ecosystem Restoration Program grant.
8. Consider approving assessor's Errors and Omissions List #2.
9. Weigh options for front end loader scales.
10. Consider authorization to sign the Town Highway Emergency Fund program Grant Agreement.
11. Consider approving weekly accounts payable warrants.
12. Miscellaneous- including any licenses and permits.
13. "Round the table"
15. Adjourn.

BARRE TOWN SELECTBOARD MINUTES
October 6, 2015

The duly warned meeting of the Barre Town Selectboard of October 6, 2015 was held at the Barre Town Municipal Building, Selectboard Room, in Lower Websterville at 7:35 p.m.

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

Attendance for the regular meeting included: Town Manager Carl R. Rogers, Assistant Town Clerk Deborah Lefebvre, Assessor Joe Levesque and Z&P/Fire Chief Chris Violette.

CALL TO ORDER - The meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m.

The PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE was recited by those present.

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA MINUTES

On a motion by Tessier, seconded by White the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the agenda without any changes.

MINUTES

On a motion by Tessier, seconded by White, the Selectboard unanimously voted to approve the minutes from the September 29, 2015 meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. The lawn waste site hours are Wednesday 3-6 pm; Thursday 9 am-noon; and Saturday 8 am-noon. The weekends of October 10-11, 17-18; and 24-25 the
hours will be Saturday 8am-4pm and Sunday 4 pm-noon. Leaf season is coming right up. Please unload leaves in the designated area. Take plastic bags and boxes home. The public’s cooperation in keeping the site clean is appreciated.

2. The Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District (CVSWMD) is offering a household hazardous waste collection on Saturday, October 10th at the Vermont Department of Labor parking lot. The Department of Labor is in Montpelier near the high school. Hours are 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The fee is $15 per car. This is the last household hazardous waste collection for the year. Round up your cleaners, solvents, oil based paints, and insecticides that need disposing and make your home a little safer and healthier. For more information visit their website (www.cvswmd.org).

3. Carrying out recommendations in the Town Forest Management Plan, we are arranging to have some managed logging done in the Town Forest. Forest users will see some trees marked with blue paint and surveyor's plastic ribbon tied to some trees in the corner of the forest near the Littlejohn Road and Donahue Road intersection and in the area between Littlejohn Road and East Barre. The period of time logging would be allowed is December 15th to March 15th.

4. The Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food, and Markets is encouraging poultry owners, producers, and enthusiasts to prepare for the Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI), which is expected to impact the East Coast in the fall of this year or spring 2016. A letter from the Ag Agency is posted on our Town website. All poultry owners should read this letter and the precautions stated therein.

5. Mr. Mitchell noted that two town residents had been found to serve on the committee for the CVSWMD discussion about recycling.

GUESTS

Fire Chief Chris Violette introduced Barre Town Firefighter John Leu. John along with Rick Hutchinson recently passed the tests and received their Firefighter One certification. This is a national certification and requires 250+ hours of training and work. Chris wanted to make this introduction and announcement because this is a lot of work and a very big accomplishment.

John said he was drawn to the Fire Department because of the brotherhood and the opportunity to help his community.

Chris also took this opportunity to talk about the Fire Department briefly. There are two stations; East Barre and South Barre. They are manned by +/-15 per station. They are always looking for recruits. You must be at least 17 and it is a very big commitment. There are plenty of jobs to be done besides running into burning buildings. There is something for everyone.

He also mentioned that the 52 Gun Raffle is going on now. Tickets are $50 and that gets you in the drawing every week for 52 weeks.

CVRPC Grant Offer

Background: The Ecosystem Restoration Program (ERP) is the same grant program the Friends of the Winooski River will apply to for a grant to study the Quarry Hill Watershed. This matter with the Gunner Brook started early in 2014 when the state announced it received a federal grant to fund a study under a program the state called VERI- Vermont Economic Resiliency Initiative.
Selectboard Minutes of October 6, 2015 continued:

Chris Violette clarified that this grant would not apply just to Gunner Brook, but the entire Town of Barre watershed. It is a competitive grant and the same grant the Friends of the Winooski River will be applying for. Chris thinks it is possible that there could be funding available for both.

There was concern expressed that they didn’t want the Town to open itself up to having the state come in and tell them what and how they were to do these projects. Carl noted that much of what would probably be done the town is already doing as part of their regular inspections, maintenance and improvements.

Mitchell acknowledged that there is a problem everywhere with storm water runoff issues and he feels it makes no sense to spend money doing these studies and leave them on a shelf to collect dust.

On a motion by Mitchell, seconded by Tessier the Selectboard unanimously voted to draft a letter in support of participating in the Ecosystem Restoration Project grant program.

On a motion by Mitchell, seconded by LaClair the Selectboard voted unanimously to acknowledge the Friends of the Winooski is willing to change the Sterling Hill study area to include the Graniteville Road area.

ERRORS AND OMISSIONS- LIST #2

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.

Joe reviewed the three properties on this list and each was addressed individually.

Item#1- On a motion by LaClair seconded by Tessier the Selectboard unanimously voted to accept the change in assessment on a property known as 009/116.00 and is located at 115 Windy Wood Road.

Item #2- This regards personal property on leased land located at 229 Websterville Road. The tax payer had sent an appeal to Joe via Fed Ex, to the BCA for reducing their property value. They submitted their own value with supporting data which Joe accepted as a reasonable value for their personal property. At some point during the winter the state signed up with a company known as PVValue. This is the program the state says must be used to value this type of property. It will result in a reduction of the total appraised value to about a quarter of the value I had assessed.

There was a great deal of discussion on how this was mandated to be used, whether is fair to value one type of property by one set of rules and others by other rules. If the request to accept this change in valuation is not approved, the tax payer already has a grievance before the BCA.

A motion was made LaClair, seconded by Tessier, to accept the change in assessment on personal property known as 006/050.05 at 229 Websterville Road. The motion was defeated. The vote was not unanimous.

Item#3- On a motion by Mitchell, seconded by Tessier the Selectboard unanimously voted to accept the change in assessment on a property known as Map23 lot44 at 51 Brook Street.

WEIGH OPTIONS FOR FRONT END LOADER SCALES

This item was passed over.

TOWN HIGHWAY EMERGENCY FUND PROGRAM GRANT AGREEMENT

Background: This agreement is for the state’s Town Highway Emergency Fund Program grant, which will reimburse 90% of our July 19 flood repair expenses.
Selectboard Minutes of October 6, 2015 continued:

On a motion by White, seconded by Tessier the Selectboard voted unanimously to authorize signing Grant Agreement #EM0132 for the Town Highway Emergency Fund Grant, offered to the Town because of the July 19 flood repairs.

WEEKLY ACCOUNTS PAYABLE WARRANT

On a motion by Tessier, seconded by White, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the accounts payable warrant for October 6, 2015.

MISCELLANEOUS

None

'ROUND THE TABLE

Carl noted that the Forrester is arranging a site visit for October 16 at 9:00am. It will be posted in local papers.

Mitchell noted that the town had lost an employee and asked if the town was doing something. Carl said yes.

White agrees that the Selectboard and planning commission should work together to formulate a statement of the town's position with regard to solar farm development in the town.

LaClair says he will be researching the origins of the states rules for assessing solar farms.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion by Mitchell, seconded by White the Selectboard unanimously voted whereby premature general public knowledge would place the Town at a substantial disadvantage with regards to legal, real estate and labor contract negotiations.

On a motion by Tessier, seconded by White, the Selectboard unanimously voted to go into executive session for legal, real estate and labor contract negotiations at 8:50 p.m.

On a motion by Tessier, seconded by Mitchell, the Selectboard unanimously voted to come out of executive session at 9:20 p.m.

ADJOURN

On a motion by Tessier, seconded by Mitchell, the Selectboard unanimously voted to adjourn at 9:20 p.m.

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Deborah Lefebvre- Assistant Town Clerk  Selectboard Chair

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Barre Town Selectboard