P.I.O.T. Budget report review

1. Call to order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Consider approving agenda.
4. Consider approving minutes from November 3, 2015 meeting.
5. Announcements
6. Receive guests (for non-agenda items).
7. Consider awarding contract for logging two sections of the Town Forest.
8. Discussion with water engineer Lance Phelps.
9. Consider final action (third reading) of an ordinance clarifying hours parks are closed.
10. Consider approving transfer of excess solar generated electricity credits to Barre Town Middle & Elementary School.
11. Consider award of contract for new police radios.
12. Consider authorizing purchase of front-end loader weighing system.
13. Consider approving weekly accounts payable warrants.
14. Miscellaneous: including any licenses and permits.
15. “Round the table”
16. Executive session: (labor contract negotiations and labor relations) if needed.
17. Adjourn.

BARRE TOWN SELECTBOARD MINUTES
November 10, 2015

The duly warned meeting of the Barre Town Selectboard of November 10, 2015 was held at the Barre Town Municipal Building, Selectboard Room, in Lower Websterville at 7:07 p.m.

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

Attendance for the regular meeting included: Town Manager Carl R. Rogers, Town Clerk-Treasurer Donna J. Kelty, Jeff Smith (Forester), and Douglas Farnham

CALL TO ORDER - The meeting was called to order at 7:07 p.m.

The PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE was recited by those present.

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA MINUTES

On a motion by White, seconded by Tessier, the Selectboard voted to amend the agenda as follows:
1. Delete item #8 - postponed to a future meeting;
2. Item 16, add legal as a reason for entering executive session.

MINUTES

On a motion by White, seconded by Tessier, the Selectboard unanimously voted to approve the minutes from the November 3, 2015 meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Property tax payments are due on Monday, November 16th. Over the weekend of November 14-15 payments can be made using the secure drop box at the front of the municipal building. Payment by credit card is possible, too. Visit the Town
Selectboard Minutes of November 10, 2015 continued:

website homepage and use the link for credit card payments. The Clerk-Treasurer’s office will be open until 4:30 p.m. on Monday.

2. The lawn waste site will be open Saturday, November 14, 2015. The hours are 8:00 a.m. to Noon.

3. The Barre Congregational Church will hold its 5K Gobble Wobble Walk/Run on Thanksgiving morning. Registration starts at 8:00 a.m. in the Municipal Building, Selectboard meeting room. The race begins at 9:30 a.m. from Bolster Road, next to the Municipal Building. The course uses Websterville Road from our building to the cemeteries and follows Graniteville Road from the cemeteries to Rock of Ages. Between 9:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Thanksgiving morning drivers might want to take an alternative route to avoid the race activity in Lower Websterville. Race information can be found on the Church’s website: www.barrecongregational.org.

4. November 17th, during our meeting, the Planning Commission and Selectboard will hold a public hearing. We want to hear town residents, opinions and questions about the solar farm approval process. The input will be used to prepare a letter to the State’s Solar Siting Task Force. The hearing is about the State’s approval process NOT any particular solar farm. The Task Force is considering the approval process for larger, commercial solar projects, not solar panels installed at a single family home or at a business. Look for more information on our website homepage.

5. Tonight the Selectboard will consider awarding a contract for logging two (2) areas in the Town Forest. The areas are: first, between Littlejohn Road and East Barre; second, the corner of the forest nearest to the Littlejohn Road - Donahue Road intersection. Trees to be cut are marked with blue paint. The contract period is December 15, 2015 through March 15, 2016.

GUESTS

Doug Farnham, Recreation Board Chair, was present. He recently attended a Summit meeting regarding our Town Forest. He noted the Board will be coming before the Selectboard for their regular visit and wanted to provide information for members to think about prior to that meeting. He would like the Board to consider separating the Parks and Recreation. The vision is to enable the Parks Board to act in a similar capacity to the Cemetery Commission. This would allow them to raise funds which would be directly used for operation of this section as opposed to things like logging of the Town Forest going directly to the General Fund with no designated purpose.

Logging Contract for Town Forest

Background: Forester Jeff Smith will review the contract and process for logging. He indicated to the Town Manager he has not worked with the high bidder but knows of him and recommends Mr. deNagy.

Discussion centered on the RFP content; type and volume of lumber expected (80% of this contract is low grade wood); the high bidder did attend the site visit; a contract provision regarding dispute arbitration; the role of Mr. Smith, especially monitoring the contractor’s work; addressing the issue of not completing the work by the deadline; and the Selectboard will approve the final contract before signing.

On a motion by LaClair, seconded by White, the Selectboard voted unanimously to award a timber sale contract to the logger recommended by Jeff Smith (Forester for Barre Town).
WATER ENGINEER DISCUSSION - POSTPONED

PUBLIC HEARING (THIRD READING)
CLARIFYING PARK AND PLAYGROUND HOURS

Background: The Recreation Board in their last report noticed the ordinance about closing times for parks and playgrounds needs to be re-written. The specific issue is the existing language stating all facilities are closed dusk to dawn. However, the Town provides lights for after dark play at the Barre Town Recreation Area. The Board is being asked to consider a first reading of an ordinance amendment to clarify the hours of operation.

It is noted for the record the proposed amendment will be Chapter 3.5, Conduct of the Barre Town Code of Ordinances, Sections 1, 2, and 3.

On a motion by Mitchell, seconded by White, the Selectboard voted unanimously to read by title only "An Ordinance of the Town of Barre Clarifying Hours Town parks and Playgrounds are Open to the Public."

A brief synopsis of the change was given.

On a motion by White, seconded by Tessier, the Selectboard voted unanimously to adopt "An Ordinance of the Town of Barre Clarifying Hours Town parks and Playgrounds are Open to the Public."

TRANSFER OF EXCESS SOLAR ELECTRICITY TO SCHOOL

Background: Green Mountain Power (GMP) has reached out to the various Group New Metering Systems and are asking that they designate a single account to receive excess credits, after all account(s) on the Net Metering stacking allocation have been zeroed. Currently the Town has excess credits valued at $12,745.76.

The Selectboard is considering giving the Barre Town Middle & Elementary School the credits. During discussion it was noted that all Town accounts would be paid first. Then only the excess credits, when available, would be given to the School.

On a motion by Tessier, seconded by LaClair, the Selectboard voted unanimously to assign the excess credits, valued at $12,745.76 to the Barre Town Middle & Elementary School Green Mountain Power account #498710000.

PURCHASE OF POLICE RADIOS

Background: Several weeks ago the Police Chief informed the Selectboard the Police Department was awarded a $41,000 grant for the purchase of new digital radios (6 mobile –car and 15 portables). The grant award was made based on the low quote from Pikcomm. The grant agreement has been signed and the Department is ready to move ahead with purchasing the radios.

The Town has a purchasing policy setting the bidding limit to $7,500. Since this purchase is well over the threshold, even though the grant award was based on the low Pikcomm bid, the Manager is seeking Selectboard approval of the purchase. The Town would order the radios from Kenwood Communication Corporation directly and Pikcomm will install them.

On a motion by Mitchell, seconded by Tessier, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the purchase of 6 mobile and 15 portable digital radios, with accessories, for a of $41,270 and change; said radios will be purchased from Kenwood communication Corporation.
SELECTBOARD MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 10, 2015

PURCHASE OF FRONT-END LOADER WEIGHING SYSTEM

Background: In an effort to ensure the Town is using its winter road salt effectively and efficiently, the Board has been exploring options. The consensus was to use a loader weighing system. During the last meeting the Board had narrowed the vendor to Loup Electronics. However, Board Member LaClair, who is doing the research, still had a few questions to answer.

The system being looked at would include a small computer screen in the loader cab, hardware, the weighing system attached to the bucket hydraulics; and a router for connectivity and data management. The three components would cost approximately $9,000 (hardware and weighing system = $6985; router package = $2,000). This system is mostly a plug and play system; it will take our mechanic will take 1 day to install; training is available by phone; tech service is available; with an antennae the data transmit range is 3 miles away; information can also be captured using a flash drive.

On a motion by LaClair, seconded by Tessier, the Selectboard voted unanimously to purchase the Loup Electronics Weighlog Vue System ($6985) and the ISOSYNC Connectivity and Data Management package (approximately $1950) for a total cost not to exceed $9,000.

Mitchell raised a concern during the motion discussion that the Board had discussed the possibility of adding monitoring systems to the purchase of new DPW trucks. Perhaps this needs to happen prior to budget. The consensus of the Board is that this weighing package would eliminate the need for individual truck systems.

WEEKLY ACCOUNTS PAYABLE WARRANT

On a motion by Tessier, seconded by White, the Selectboard voted to approve the accounts payable warrant for November 10, 2015.

MISCELLANEOUS - None

‘ROUND THE TABLE

Mitchell inquired if there was an update available for the reinforcement of the Maintenance Facility roof. Rogers stated there was not.

Mitchell stated he is expecting a turnout for public hearing next week and wanted to make sure we “dust off” our procedures. Blow reminded residents the public hearing next week is to take public comment about factors or consideration for solar siting decision-making. This is not about a single solar farm nor does it include home-type installations.

White stated he may not be attending the meeting next week. It will be based on his hunting results. (No attendance – not good; Attends - bragging rights.)

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion by Mitchell, seconded by Tessier, the Selectboard voted to find that premature general public knowledge would place the Town at a substantial disadvantage with regards to personnel and labor contract negotiations.

On a motion by LaClair, seconded by White, the Selectboard voted to go into executive session for labor relations, legal, and labor contract negotiations at 8:22 p.m.

On a motion by LaClair, seconded by Tessier, the Selectboard voted to come out of executive session at 9:44 p.m.
LOAN APPROVAL LETTER

On a motion by White, seconded by Tessier, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the VCLF Loan Commitment Letter dated October 19, 2015.

POLICE UNION CONTRACT APPROVAL

On a motion by White, seconded by Tessier, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the new 3-year Police Department Labor Contract for the period July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2018.

ADJOURN

On a motion by Tessier, seconded by White, the Selectboard unanimously voted to adjourn at 9:45 p.m.

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Donna J. Kelty, Town Clerk-Treasurer        Selectboard Chair

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Barre Town Selectboard