BARRE TOWN SELECTBOARD AGENDA
December 8, 2015

6:30 p.m.

1. Call to order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Consider approving agenda.
4. Consider approving minutes from December 1, 2015 meeting.
5. Announcements
6. Receive guests (for non-agenda items).
7. Discuss CVSWMD plans for a possible new facility and rate change.
8. Route 63 left turn arrow signal on Middle Road.
9. Award of tire chain contract.
10. Consider approving weekly accounts payable warrants.
11. Miscellaneous- including any licenses and permits.
12. "Round the table”
13. Executive session: (if needed).

BARRE TOWN SELECTBOARD MINUTES
December 8, 2015

The duly warned meeting of the Barre Town Selectboard of December 8, 2015 was 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, W. John "Jack" Mitchell, Tom White, and Rob LaClair.

Attendance for the regular meeting included: Town Manager Carl Rogers, Town Clerk-Treasurer Donna J. Kelty, Town Engineer Harry Hinrichsen, Brian Bailey (McLeods), and Lance Phelps (Phelps Engineering).

CALL TO ORDER - The meeting was called to order at 7:00 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 to approve the agenda with the following changes:
1. Item #7, CVSWMD will be removed and insert Lance Phelps, Phelps Engineering;
2. Add an item 9A - To discuss the Town Forest logging contract;
3. Item 11, Miscellaneous - add the request for a fireworks permit approval;
4. Item 13, Executive Session - for personnel.

MINUTES

On a motion by White, seconded by Tessier the Selectboard voted to approve the Selectboard meeting minutes of November 24, 2015.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. The steep gravel section of Sterling Hill Road is closed to through traffic for the winter. A sign has been posted at the intersection of Sterling Hill and Quarry Hill Roads.
2. Speaking of winter, the winter overnight on-street parking ban went into effect November 1st and will last until April 1st. Motor vehicles and other conveyances may not be parked within the right-of-way of town roads or state highways between the hours of 11:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. EVEN IF THERE IS NO SNOW. Violators may be fined $15 and towed. If you do not know the limit of the right-of-way, contact the Town Engineer, Harry, at 479-2595.

3. The days are short now. More people are walking or running in the dark before or after their work day. We recommend all pedestrians use a flashlight and reflective vest/jacket if walking or running in the dark. Pedestrians should be on the left side of the road.

4. Another road safety note…….drivers use your headlights, even during the day. It is difficult for other drivers to see oncoming traffic when looking into the bright sun sitting low in the sky. Your headlights can help other drivers see you.

5. We are accepting letters of interest from South Barre residents interested in serving on the Phoenix House Community Relations Working Group, in other words, Committee. The Working Group meets quarterly for about an hour. Other people attending the meetings are the Police Chief, Town Manager, a Selectman, Phoenix House staff, and a state employee. Contact the Town Manager's office (479-9331) or one of us if interested or with questions.

6. The Town Selectboard is seeking registered voters to serve on the Barre Town Budget Committee between the last Tuesday of January through the last Tuesday of March. The Budget Committee reviews the entire budget for Barre Town, including the General Fund, Ambulance Fund, and Highway Fund. Serving on the Budget Committee gives you a say in all fiscal year 2016-2017 budgets, and is a great way to learn about town operations and budgets. If interested please send your letter of interest by 4:30 p.m., December 30th, to the Town Manager's office. More information about the responsibilities of the Budget Committee is in the Barre Town newsletter that just went out. If you have questions please contact the Town Manager at 479-9331 or one of the Selectboard members.

GUESTS- None

CVSWMD PLANS FOR A POSSIBLE NEW FACILITY & RATE INCREASE
(Removed from the agenda.)

PHELPS ENGINEERING, INC.

Background: Phelps Engineering, Inc. has been the Town's water engineering firm for about 35 years. Lance Phelps is retiring and closing the business. However, he will continue to operate for a while longer in an effort to complete some of the ongoing projects. He will be providing the Board with an update on the Mill Street Water main project; ask for an amendment to this project agreement; and to discuss selecting a new engineering firm.

Mr. Phelps noted that overall planning of the project is complete. There are three phases: 1. Install a section of 8-inch water main under Route 302 - this was completed when the round-a-bout was installed; 2. Extend the water line from Route 302 to East Cobble Hill Road/Hillside Avenue - this will be completed by the Town in 2016; and 3. To connect the water main from Mill Street/Cross Jail Branch and connect to existing line on Route 302 - to be done in 2017.

Tonight, in order for the project to proceed, the Board needs to decide how the water line will cross the Jail Branch. It was deemed boring underneath the Jail Branch
Selectboard Minutes of December 8, 2015 continued:

was too expensive. The two options presented were: 1. A steel truss structure with the pipe hanging underneath or setting on the bottom crossbars ($25,000); or 2. Constructing a pedestrian bridge ($75,000) whereby the water line would be affixed and hidden beneath the decking. Discussion focused safety issues, connecting to existing sidewalk, additional cost to project and other items which might be needed (lighting), benefits to the State having a pedestrian bridge in place when replacing the existing roadway bridge; and possible grant funding opportunities to pay for a pedestrian bridge. The consensus of the Board is to proceed with the pedestrian bridge.

Mr. Phelps is requesting an amendment to the Engineering Agreement for this project in the amount of $2,500. He cited the need for a wetland delineation/application if needed, one easement sketch, the pedestrian bridge concept planning, and merging all into the final plan.

On a motion by White, seconded by Mitchell, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve an amendment #1 to the Mill Street Water Main Project contract with Phelps Engineering Inc. which will increase the amount $2,500.

Phelps Engineering began their relationship with Barre Town approximately 35 years ago. Mr. Phelps applauded the Town for seeing the benefits of maintaining this relationship. The company has assisted the Town with a variety of issues while growing it's water system. He, the Town Manager, and Town Engineer met to review various firms and have narrowed them down to a short list. They will be presented to the Board and encourages members to do an informal "meet and greet" before making a decision. He also noted that whatever firm is selected he will provide copies of his various files, maps, etc. to provide the necessary historical information to make sound decisions.

The Board took the opportunity to thank Mr. Phelps for his service to Barre Town. Rogers noted it has been a pleasure working with Phelps Engineering. He and his staff were extremely helpful and have been involved in so many changes to our water system - takeover of the Wells Lamson water system, East Barre Fire District merger, and variety of issues related to our growing system and complying with the every evolving rules and regulations.

TIRE CHAIN CONTRACT

Background: Annually the Town put out bid specifications for winter chains for the Town trucks. This year there were two parties who submitted bids (Reeds Supply Company and McLeods Spring & Glass). The Town has used both entities. It was noted that McLeod’s bid included 4000 hooks of which only 2000 are needed. Therefore, after making the adjustment for this the bids are: Reeds Supply Company at $15,107.00 and McLeods at $14,038.50.

Mitchell questioned the fairness of the adjusted bid price for McLeods. Rogers stated there is a provision within the bid specification that allows for this change.

On a motion by LaClair, seconded by Tessier, the Selectboard voted unanimously to award the tire chain contract to McLeods Spring & Glass at their bid price of $14,038.50.

MIDDLE ROAD – LEFT TURN ARROW DISCUSSION

Background: The Selectboard at a recent meeting expressed interest in a left turn arrow on Middle Road. AOT Project Manager (Route 63 project), Jonathan Harrington informed the Town Manager the turn signal was unwarranted. Amy Gamble, AOT Traffic Operations was invited to this meeting to provide a more detailed explanation as to why it is not warranted.
Selectboard Minutes of December 8, 2015 continued:

The Manager provided the Selectboard with a copy of an email from Ms. Gamble. It stated that the turning volume of traffic does not meet the criteria for a protected left turn phase at this time, nor can the existing signal span wire handle the signal heads required for adding a left arrow at Middle Road. She noted that at such time when the poles and span wires are replaced then AOT can re-visit the signal head configuration.

Mitchell noted that it seems to be a “constant run-a-round” dealing with AOT on road issues, especially when we drive these roads every day. Volume of traffic does not necessarily mean there isn’t a need for the left turn arrow on Middle Road.

The Manager noted that with regards to the Route 63/Miller Road intersection he has requested the Police Department pull together accident information prior to the “AOT fix” and after to see if there is a difference.

Blow also noted that construction of the Bridge Street/Route 14 intersection is slated for the 2017 construction season. When complete the Board should have a discussion on allowing trucks to use Bridge Street. This would alleviate some of the truck traffic at the Route 63/Miller Road intersection.

TOWN LOGGING CONTRACT

During last week’s meeting a draft of the Town Forest logging contract was reviewed. There were several questions and a few changes to be made. The Town Manager provided the Selectboard with answers and revisions to the contract.

On a motion by White, seconded by Tessier, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the Town Forest Logging contract and authorize the Town Manager to sign the document.

WEEKLY ACCOUNTS PAYABLE WARRANT

On a motion by Tessier, seconded by White, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the accounts payable warrant for December 8, 2015. Blow abstained from the vote due to an employer conflict.

MISCELLANEOUS

On a motion by White, seconded by Tessier, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the fireworks permit of Anthony Campos, 311 Cutler Corner Road for a display to be held on December 26, 2015.

ROUND THE TABLE

Mitchel commented on the DPW monthly report. His first question was regarding the chlorine residuals in the water system at the Millstone tank – too many days at zero, is it working okay? The second item was the generator at the EMS building. The gas line issue has been on for several months. This is not a big fix so why has it not been completed. Rogers noted the Gas Company needs to take care of this.

Rogers informed the Selectboard that next Wednesday, December 16th, the Planning Commission is meeting at 7:00 p.m. Sun Common will be presenting information on their new 150kw solar farm to be sited on Cummings Road. Blow and Mitchell will attend the meeting. To eliminate warning a special Selectboard meeting the other Board members opted not to attend, but will expect a report from Blow and Mitchell.
EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion by Mitchell, seconded by White, the Selectboard voted to find that premature general public knowledge would place the Town at a substantial disadvantage with regards to personnel matters.

On a motion by White, seconded by Mitchell, the Selectboard voted to go into executive session for personnel matters at 8:45 p.m. Kelty was excused from the session.

On a motion by Mitchell, seconded by Tessier, the Selectboard voted to come out of executive session at 9:37 p.m.

ADJOURN

On a motion by Mitchell, seconded by Tessier, the Selectboard voted to adjourn at 9:37 p.m.

Donna J. Kelty - Town Clerk-Treasurer  
Selectboard Chair

______________________________  ______________________________
   Barre Town Selectboard