BARRE TOWN SELECTBOARD AGENDA
April 5, 2016

P.I.O.T. - Department head visits 6:30 p.m.

1. Call to order 8:00 p.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Consider approving agenda.
4. Consider approving March 29, 2016 meeting minutes.
5. Announcements
6. Receive guests (for non-agenda items).
7. Consider approving new ambulance service billing rates.
8. Consider approving non-emergent transfer fees for Berlin Health & Rehabilitation.
10. Consider approving weekly accounts payable warrants.
11. Miscellaneous (including licenses and permits).
12. "Round the table"
13. Executive session: legal, real estate

BARRE TOWN SELECTBOARD MINUTES
April 5, 2016

The duly warned meeting of the Barré Town Selectboard of April 5, 2016 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, Rob LaClair, Rolland Tessier, W. John "Jack" Mitchell and Tom White.

Others attending were: Town Manager Carl Rogers, Town Clerk-Treasurer Donna J. Kelty, Assistant Town Manager Elaine Wang, Eric Blaisdell (Times Argus reporter), Town Engineer Harry Hinrichsen, Police Chief Michael Stevens, Sargent William Dodge & Huey, Sargent Paul Thayer, Patrol Officer Jacob Frey, and Town Attorney Michael Monte.

CALL TO ORDER - The meeting was called to order at 7:08 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 amend the agenda, item #11 to add the approval of a 2016 Liquor Licenses for Rickie's Shell & Deli Inc. and Quarry Hill Quick Stop; to add the approval of purchasing Trow Hill playground equipment; too have the Barre Town Police Department added to Guests; and under "Round the Table discuss briefly how to proceed with the discussion on whether or not the "not-for-profit" agencies should remain as line items in the General Fund budget.

MINUTES

On a motion by Tessier, seconded by White, the Selectboard voted to approve the Selectboard meeting minutes of March 29, 2016.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Every Vermont homeowner must file the Homestead Declaration form HS-122 every year, even if you are not filing a state income tax return. The deadline to file the HS-122 with the Vermont Department of Taxes is April 15. If you or a family member owned and occupied a Vermont homes as of April 1st this year, you
must file the HS-122 to avoid a penalty. The form is available on the state’s website (www.tax.vermont.gov). Filing this form, even late, ensures that as a homeowner your taxes reflect this year’s Barre Town resident rate rather than the higher non-residential rate.

2. Green Up Day is Saturday, May 7th. Individual businesses, scout troops, clubs, church organizations, families, and neighborhoods can volunteer any amount of time during the day. To register and pick an area of the Town, call or visit the Town Manager’s office, or go to the town website (www.barretown.org). Supplies will be available for pickup at the Town Manager’s office, including Green Up Day bags, latex gloves, and tickets to the free BBQ lunch. For more information about donating to the BBQ or Green Up Day effort, call Green Up Coordinator Brenda LaFiria at 461-5806.

3. The Barre Town summary page for the different fund budgets for fiscal year 2016-2016 is now available on the Town website, under Government Information. Take a look to review how the town proposes to allocate taxes to public services like EMS, road paving, and sewer infrastructure in the coming fiscal year.

4. The town Clerk’s Office is holding several sets of lost keys found at Town meetings and at the Polling Place during the March election. Call 479-9391 or go to the Clerk’s Office, Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. to claim your keys.

5. It won’t be long before the lawn waste site opens. Volunteers monitor the site during the week. If you appreciate the service of having a place to dispose of branches, leaves, and grass, consider volunteering to open and watch the site for 3 hours during the week. The volunteer is not there to unload users’ cars and trucks – unless they want to. The volunteer is there to open and close the two gates and to watch that the site is used as intended. To volunteer or for more information contact the Town Manager’s office at (802) 479-9331.

GUESTS

Barre Town Police Chief Michael Stevens, Sargent William Dodge & Huey, Sargent Paul Thayer, and Officer Jacob Frey were present on an invitation from the Selectboard Chair. The Board wished to recognize the Department for an executed search warrant a few days ago which netted 273 bags of heroin and 30 grams of crack cocaine.

The Department had been aware of issues at a property in East Barre. Their big break came during a traffic stop in which the police dog, Huey, indicated there were drugs in the car. When drugs were found the driver stated where he had received them which lead to the court ordered search warrant.

The Board thanked the officers for their due diligence and ongoing service to the residents of Barre Town.

NEW AMBULANCE SERVICE BILLING RATES

Background: Annually, the town reviews the billing rates for our ambulance service. Selectboard members received a proposed Fee Schedule containing the new rates and the current and prior year rates. This new Fee Schedule would implement the rates as discussed during the Budget Committee meetings. It was noted that the federal government sequestered Medicare funding and decreased allowable rates slightly. As a result the proposed 2016 rate is slightly lower than 2015.

On a motion by Tessier, seconded by White, the Selectboard voted to approve the 2016 Barre Town Ambulance Fee Schedule effective April 15, 2016.
Selectboard Minutes of April 5, 2016 continued:

**AMBULANCE NON-EMERGENT TRANSFER FEES FOR BERLIN HEALTH & REHAB**

Background: Medicare and Medicaid pay for ambulance service when there is a medical necessity to be transported by ambulance. Some nursing home and rehabilitation center patients do not require an ambulance, out of medical necessity, to go to a doctor’s appointment or to have a test done. Sometimes, though, these patients have no means (no family) to transport them. The nursing home/rehab center bears the cost for this transportation.

The EMS Director has prepared a Non-Emergent transfer fee schedule which he is asking the Selectboard to adopt prior to speaking with Berlin Health & Rehabilitation Center. It is estimated there are at least one of these transfers every week to one every other week. The proposed fee schedule was given to the Board for review prior to the meeting. In essence the fees are based on “normal business hours” and “premium hours (hours of 5:00 p.m. - 8:00 a.m.).” The premium hour rate was more as it would very likely have higher payroll costs to perform the transfer.

*On a motion by LaClair, seconded by White, the Selectboard voted to approve the Non-emergent Transfer Fee Schedule with Berlin Health and Rehabilitation Center.*

**TSAC RECOMMENDATION – ROAD LINE MARKINGS REQUEST**

Background: In the past few years both West and Cutler Corner Roads have been paved. The Traffic Safety Advisory Committee (TSAC) has received at least one public request/comment for painting side lines on West Road. This is a class 2 road. Therefore, the state is painting the yellow center line. TSAC’s public request mentioned road edge definition and improvement for pedestrians and bicycles. Their meeting minutes also noted Osborne Road, which leads into Cutler Corner Road, has both center and white edge lines. The Committee’s request is to recommend white edge lines on both roads and a center line on Cutler Corner.

The Manager stated when a road has lines it creates the feeling of driving on a highway. This may give the impression it is okay to drive faster. Not every paved road needs road lines. The Town Engineer states that white lines can be a traffic calming method if those edge lines are moved in 6” – 1’. Drivers believe the road is much narrower and reduce their speed.

Other topics discussed were connecting roads, the timeframe in which the road went from gravel to paved, accident rate since paving, and driver habits.

*A motion was made by Tessier, seconded by Mitchell, to table action on the recommendation of the Traffic Safety Advisory Committee’s to paint white edge lines on West and Cutler Corner Roads and to paint the center line on Cutler Corner Road until the Board receives information back from the Committee regarding the possible speed limit change on Cutler Corner Road.*

**WEEKLY ACCOUNTS PAYABLE WARRANT**

*On a motion by Tessier, seconded by White, the Selectboard voted to approve the Accounts Payable warrant for the week of April 5, 2016. Blow abstained from the vote due to an employer conflict.*

**MISCELLANEOUS**

*On a motion by White seconded by Tessier, the Selectboard voted to approve and authorize the signing of the following 2016 Liquor Licenses:*

1. Second Class Liquor License for Rickie’s Shell & Deli Inc.; and
2. Second Class Liquor License for Scott & Cheryl McCarthy, LLC, d.b.a. Quarry Hill Quick Stop.

PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT PURCHASE

On a motion by White, seconded by Tessier, the Selectboard voted to approve the purchase of a Play Structure in the amount of $7,927 and a Tire Swing in the amount of $2,568 from UltiPlay to be used at the Trow Hill Playground.

During discussion Asst. Town Manager Wang informed the Board of other cost savings (there are no shipping fees associated with the equipment purchase, the pathway will use recycled asphalt, and Pike Industries has donated the stone for the parking lot).

Volunteers are still need for the Community Build Weekend, May 21st and 22nd, time to be determined. For more information or to volunteer contact Elaine Wang at 802-479-9391 or email ewang@barretown.org.

ROUND THE TABLE

Mitchell stated he will be unable to attend the April 6th Fire District meeting.

Mitchell informed the Board that Kreigh Pinkham, Washington County Youth Service Bureau had contacted him. Mr. Pinkham wants to extend a thank you to the Barre Town Selectboard for the respectful way he was treated; noting how rare and nice it was to have a Board participate actively in learning more about the services offered.

LaClair stated it had been a busy week in Legislature. Testimony was taken on marijuana and today was a floor debate/vote to raise the legal smoking age from 18 to 21 (through a graduated process). Next on the radar is the solar siting bill.

Tessier, on behalf of Hannaford’s Market, thanked the Town Manager for responding so quickly to the trash issue at the South Barre ball field.

The Selectboard Chair and Town Manager formally announced that Elaine Wang has been hired as the Assistant Town Manager. Congratulations Elaine – no more being referred to as “#1”.

Blow stated he would like the Board to think about whether or not not-for-profit agencies should be included as a line item in the General Fund budget. Mitchell stated that before any discussion takes place the Board should have some history on why a prior Board(s) made a decision to include them in a budget. It was agreed the information is needed and the topic will be placed on the agenda.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion by Mitchell, seconded by Tessier, the Selectboard found that premature general knowledge would put the Town a substantial disadvantage with regard to real estate and legal matters.

On a motion by LaClair, seconded by Tessier, the Selectboard voted to go into executive session at 8:12 p.m. and to invite Assistant Town Manager Elaine Wang and Town Attorney Michael Monte.

On a motion by Mitchell, seconded by Tessier, the Selectboard voted to come out of executive session at 8:45 pm.
ADJOURN

On a motion by Mitchell, seconded by White, the Selectboard voted to adjourn at 8:45 p.m.

Donna J. Kelty, Town Clerk-Treasurer  Selectboard Chair

Barre Town Selectboard