BARRE TOWN SELECTBOARD AGENDA
February 7, 2017

1. Call to order 8:00 p.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Consider approving agenda.
5. Announcements.
6. Receive guests (for non-agenda items).
7. Barre Promise Community presentation of grant proposals
8. Presentation by Joel Schwartz, Executive Director of Barre Area Development.
11. Consider approving motor vehicle accident response policy.
12. Consider authorizing purchase of police car via state contract.
13. Consider approving weekly accounts payable warrants.
14. Miscellaneous, including licenses and permits, if any
15. Round the table
16. Executive session (contract).
17. Adjourn.

BARRE TOWN SELECTBOARD MINUTES
February 7, 2017

The duly warned meeting of the Barre Town Selectboard of February 7, 2017 was scheduled and held at the Barre Town Municipal Building, Selectboard Room, in Lower Websterville at 8:30 p.m.

The following members were in attendance: Rob LaClair, Rolland Tessier, Tom White, and Paul White. The following member was absent: W. John “Jack” Mitchell.

Others attending were: Town Manager Carl Rogers, Town Clerk-Treasurer Donna J. Kelty, Assistant Town Manager Elaine Wang, Sandra Martin, Kristen Martin, Greg Lord, Bob Nelson, and George Clain.

CALL TO ORDER – The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

The PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE was recited by those present.

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

On a motion by Tessier, seconded by Paul White, the Selectboard voted to approve the agenda with the following amendments:

A. Item 14 - Miscellaneous - add item for approval of hiring a tax sale attorney and comments on survey in packet;

B. Item 16 - Executive session add real estate.

Mitchell was not present for the vote.

MINUTES

On a motion by Tessier, seconded by Paul White, the Selectboard voted to approve the Selectboard meeting minutes of January 31, 2017. Mitchell was not present for the vote.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Quarterly property taxes are due on February 15th. You can choose the payment method most convenient for you: by check in the regular mail, in person at the Clerk’s office, online, from your mobile device, or via direct debit. See the
barretown.org homepage announcement item for instructions for each payment method.

2. If you do not have a house number prominently showing at your driveway, and if you were to need emergency services at your house, emergency personnel might not find you as quickly as they would with a house number on your mailbox post. The Town makes it easy by selling house number signs for just $10. To order yours, contact Tina at 479-9331, or visit barretown.org and search for “order house number.”

3. Barre Town budget meetings continue every Tuesday from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. through March. The public is welcome to attend to learn about Town operations in detail. Another way to understand, in overview, how your taxpayer dollars are used to improve the town, is to attend the citizen budget tour. This half-day tour visits with department heads at the major town facilities, and shows you recently completed or proposed projects around the community paid for by the Barre Town municipal budget. The citizen budget tour will be held Saturday, February 25th. Meet at the Municipal offices at 7:30 a.m. for a light breakfast. Bus transportation is provided.

4. Do you have cabin fever? Winter recreation options abound in Barre Town! These include:

   • Indoor pickle ball every Sunday, 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. in the Barre Town School gym and is hosted by the Barre Town Recreation Board. They provide three courts, instruction, and play equipment. Bring a water bottle.
   • A sledding party on Sunday, February 12th, 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m., behind the Barre Town Municipal Building at 149 Websterville Road, also hosted by the Barre Town Recreation Board. Bring your own sleds.
   • And finally, guided snowshoe tours of the Barre Town Forest hosted by a volunteer will be held. The next one is Saturday, February 25th from 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Bring your own snowshoes and flashlight or headlamp, and dress for the weather. Please, no pets allowed.

GUESTS

Greg Lord, a Sierra Lavin Road resident, came before the Board to express his frustration with an ongoing drainage issue. Selectboard members were provided with a GIS ortho photo of the area, and photos from 2014, 2015, 2016 depicting the issue of an under-road drainage pipe which is acting like culvert. It is continually pouring water onto his lawn and will, if not already, compromised the foundation of his garage (which sits below the road). Mr. Lord stated he has spoken with the Engineer on several occasions and was under the impression the drain was to be capped, but has not. He further noted the ledge in the area which impacts the road ditching (not having the ditching deep enough). He is requesting the Board assist with taking care of the road water runoff issue.

Board members informed Mr. Lord they will need a little time to ask the Town Engineer for input on the situation and provide possible solutions. They will be in touch with Mr. Lord.

BARRE PROMISE COMMUNITY

Background: Barre City and Barre Town were selected to be Promise Communities. A group was formed to administer a $200,000 grant. This group sought proposals from not for profits who would use the funds to further the Promise Community mission of helping
Selectboard Minutes of February 7, 2017 continued:

children birth to age 6. Six proposals were received. The Promise Community group is considering four of the proposals and is seeking community feedback on these proposals. For more information on the proposals residents can go online (http://www.gmunitedway.org/barre-promise-community-finalists) or read paper copies available at the Aldrich Public Library and Capstone Community Action.

Members of the group, Sandra Cameron and Kristen Martin were present to answer Board questions. Items of discussion included: the vote on proposals is scheduled for February 14, 2017; reiterated the grants were for children ages birth to age 6; and there was no proposal addressing daycare needs (one of the priority needs of the community). It was noted that one of the proposal being considered is The Family Center of Washington County which does have a service which matches parents to daycare providers.

BARRE AREA DEVELOPMENT REPORT

The item was passed over as the expected guest was not present.

APPROVE TOWN PLAN AMENDMENTS

Background: The Selectboard, after the last public hearing on the Town Plan amendments, had requested a little time to consider options. Tonight, the Board will be considering how to proceed - change the amendments or approve the amendments as presented.

On a motion by Tessier, seconded by LaClair, the Selectboard voted to approve the Town Plan Amendments as presented in the memo from the Planning Commission as presented and to forward said approved plan to the Regional Planning Commission for final approval. Mitchell was not present for the vote.

SALE OF 1997 HUMMER

Background: The 1997 Hummer was used as a South Barre Fire Department Station utility truck (with a small pump). The fire fighters club donated a new utility pickup truck last summer which made the Hummer expendable. Fire Chief Violette, with the help of representatives, listed the vehicle on an on-line auction website for municipal equipment (govdeals.com). With the help of the DPW the minimum amount desired was $30,000. Bidding closed last Wednesday with a high bid of $25,500. The buyer pays all the commissions to govdeals.com. The Town does have the option of accepting the high bid.

The Town paid $40,000 for this piece of equipment which is 20 years old. A recommendation has been made to the Selectboard to accept the bidder price of $25,500. Proceeds from the sale will go to the Equipment Fund.

On a motion by Tessier, seconded by Paul White, the Selectboard authorized the staff to sell the 1997 Hummer to the govdeals.com high bidder at a price of $25,500. Mitchell was not present for the vote.

MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENT RESPONSE POLICY

Background: The Chiefs of the three (3) emergency services asked to have a conversation about updating the Town's Motor Vehicle Accident Policy. Board members were provided a version with amended language.

During discussion Paul White noted that the word "accident" is no longer standard and should be changed to "crash or collision" as not all crashes/collisions are accidents.

On a motion by Paul White, seconded by Tessier, the Selectboard voted to approve the amended “Town of Barre Motor Vehicle Crash/Collision Response Policy” noting that
the amendments included changing the word accident with the words crash or collision where applicable. Mitchell was not present for the vote.

PURCHASE OF POLICE CAR VIA STATE CONTRACT

Background: The current fiscal year (16-17) $30,000 has been budgeted to buy a new police car (sedan) which will replace the 2014 Taurus. The state contract for Ford police cars (through Formula Ford) became available this week. The price for the 2017 sedan is $23,657. This year the options cost $3,816 for a total of $27,473, leaving $2,527 for fit-up. A new light bar which cost $1,672 last year will be needed.

There was a brief conversation on SUV versus sedan and the total purchase price would be within budget. Paul White noted that if the Police Department has any uncommitted funds the money they earned through the Governor Highway Safety Program would pay for up to 50% of the cost of the light bar.

On a motion by LaClair, seconded by Tessier, the Selectboard voted to authorize the purchase of 2017 Ford police sedan from Formula Ford through the State contract #28240 at a price of $27,473. Mitchell was not present for the vote.

WEEKLY ACCOUNTS PAYABLE WARRANT

On a motion by Paul White, seconded by LaClair, the Selectboard voted to approve the Accounts Payable warrant for the week of February 7, 2017. Mitchell was not present for the vote.

MISCELLANEOUS

Rogers stated the Town is ready to proceed with a tax sale. However, Town Attorney Michael Monte has a conflict of interest and cannot participate. Attorney James Barlow has consented to do the sale and provided a letter of agreement. Rogers is seeking Selectboard approval to use Mr. Barlow for this sale.

On a motion by Tessier, seconded by Paul White, the Selectboard voted to approve the letter of engagement with Attorney James Barlow and to authorize the Town Manager to sign said letter. Mitchell was not present for the vote.

The Town recently had some land surveyed and everything looks good. The surveyor would like to proceed with filing the plans and the Town needs to provide the owner using a portion of the land with conditions. Through consensus it is okay to proceed with the filing of the plan and to invite the resident to a meeting.

Assistant Manager Wang has been working on updating the personnel policy (covers non-union and part-time employees). It will require a legal review but will take about 4 to 5 sessions of work before completing. She hopes to have it complete prior to Barre Town’s annual meeting in May.

‘ROUND THE TABLE

Paul White apologized in that he will not be able to attend the next two (2) meetings as he will be out of state.

LaClair stated the House has been busy with the Orange-1 recount issue. He also noted there is a bill H5 regarding Town Cemetery Investments which may increase income opportunity. Other noteworthy bills include the plastic bag fee, Berlin Pond use, and gun control.
EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion by Paul White, seconded by Tessier, the Selectboard found that premature general knowledge would put the Town at a substantial disadvantage with regards to real estate and contracts. Mitchell was not present for the vote.

On a motion by Tessier, seconded by Paul White, the Selectboard voted to go into executive session to discuss real estate and contracts at 9:25 p.m. Mitchell was not present for the vote.

On a motion by Paul White, seconded by Tessier, the Selectboard voted to come out of executive session at 9:56 p.m. Mitchell was not present for the vote.

ADJOURN

On a motion by LaClair, seconded by Mitchell, the Selectboard voted to adjourn at 9:56 p.m.

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Donna J. Kelty, Town Clerk-Treasurer    Selectboard Chair

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Barre Town Selectboard