BARRE TOWN SELECTBOARD AGENDA
January 10, 2017

1. Call to order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Consider approving agenda
4. Consider approving January 3, 2017 meeting minutes
5. Announcements
6. Receive guests (for non-agenda items)
7. Department Head visits - Police Chief and EMS Director
8. Discussion with Aldrich Public Library
9. Consider approving 5-Year Paved Road Plan
10. Discuss funding requests from not-for-profit groups and from Barre Town Fire Department Auxiliary.
11. Consider authorizing Town Manager to sign a deed for the discontinued section of the John Hood Road.
12. Discuss questionnaire for Police Department employees’ input regarding new Chief.
13. Consider cancelling January 24, 2017 meeting.
14. Consider approving weekly accounts payable warrants.
15. Miscellaneous, including licenses and permits, if any.
16. Executive session: personnel (if needed).
17. Adjourn.

BARRE TOWN SELECTBOARD MINUTES
January 10, 2017

The duly warned meeting of the Barre Town Selectboard was scheduled and held on January 10, 2017 at the Barre Town Municipal Building, Selectboard Room, in Lower Websterville at 6:30 p.m.

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

Others attending were: Town Manager Carl Rogers, Asst. Town Manager Elaine Wang, Town Clerk-Treasurer Donna J. Kelty, Police Chief Michael Stevens, EMS Director Chris Lamonda, Aldrich Library representatives Sarah Costa and Marianne Kotch, Fire Department Auxiliary members Linda Leu and Kim Whitcomb, and Times Argus reporter Eric Blaisdell.

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 changes: add an action item for Item 15, to approve a People’s United Bank Resolution to change bank account signers.

MINUTES

On a motion by Paul White, seconded by Tessier, the Selectboard voted to approve the Selectboard meeting minutes from January 3, 2017 with the minor grammatical and spelling corrections.

ANNOUNCEMENTS
Selectboard Minutes of January 10, 2017 continued:

1. The Act 46 School Merger reconsideration vote, regarding whether Barre Town and Barre City school boards should merge, will be held on Tuesday, January 31, 2017. A joint committee of Barre City and Barre Town residents studied whether they should merge and released a report. To inform your vote, read the report which is available on the Town's website homepage (www.barretonw.org).

2. The second of two public hearings on proposed amendments to the Town Plan will be held on January 17, 2017 during the Selectboard's regular meeting starting at 6:30 p.m. This hearing will be held at the Municipal Building on Websterville Road. A copy of the amendments is available on the town website (www.barretown.org).

3. A public hearing on speed limits for Morrison Road, Cutler Corner Road, and Osborne Road will be held on January 25th during the Barre Town Traffic Safety Advisory Committee meeting which begins at 7:00 p.m. The hearing will be held at the Municipal Building.

4. Sledding parties, hosted by the Barre Town Recreation Board behind the Municipal Building will be the thing to do on Saturday, January 14th and Sunday, February 12, 2017 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Park at the Town offices (149 Websterville Road). The parties are free. Fire rings, hot cocoa, and demo recreation equipment will be available. Bring your own sleds!

5. The Recreation Board is once again helping you beat cabin fever by hosting Indoor Pickle Ball on Sundays this winter from January 15th through March 19th, 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. in the Barre Town School gym. Pickleball veterans and newbies alike are welcome. The Recreation Board is proving three courts and rackets. Wear comfortable clothing and sneakers, and bring a water bottle.

6. Snowshoers and low-key cross country skiers take note! This winter the Millstone Trails Association is grooming the Millstone Hill West bike path, (the one by the Barre Town School), and an easy loop through the soccer field in the Barre Town Recreation area. Go check it out!

GUESTS - None

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Police Department: Police Chief Michael Stevens reviewed the Department happenings this past quarter: public records request training (through VLCT), participation in the Highway Safety DUI program, speed wagon programming issue, new hire progress and staffing hurdles, burglaries are down due in part to recent arrests, and a recent accident resulting in a fatality in Barre Town.

Board discussion items were: collection rate on ACO tickets issued, upcoming budgeting and having a detective position, certification for part-time officers, including staff in the budget preparation, and police academy slot availability.

EMS: Director Chris Lamonda provided his quarterly updates: Pat Doyle's retirement resolution was read at the Christmas Party and was very much appreciated, issues with January scheduling due to staff family emergency, transport calls were up 300 over last year (topping at 3800+) - there has been an increase of 700 calls in 4 years, rotation of ambulances, and he distributed of a worksheet outlining a possible change in the way ambulances are purchased.

Board discussion items were: ambulance rotation schedule, new tax on revenue (not yet calculated), keeping a spare ambulance in the fleet, and the generator block-heater.
Selectboard Minutes of January 10, 2017 continued:

Chair White noted, even though the CVTV cameras were not filming, that action was taken at the last meeting approving a new per-diem pay wage schedule.

ALDRICH PUBLIC LIBRARY

Background: Tom White, the Selectboard representative on the Aldrich Public Library Board, relayed the message that representatives wanted to meet with the Board to give an update on activities, services and projects, and to make a request for next year's funding.

Sarah Costa and Marianne Kotch were present. A power point presentation, paper version, was given to the Board. The presentation included detailed budget information (how funds were spent, investment portfolio items, detailed fundraising efforts to include generous donor list for this year). The staffing wages, use of internships (equivalent to almost 2 full-time employees), significant increase in patron use of the facility, and their profit and loss statement for the past five years were of great interest.

With the increase in funding from the Town and City most large major capital improvements have been completed which include refinishing the floors. Any future improvements have been put on hold as the Library needs to reconfigure the building interior layout. Many areas (teen room, children room) have outgrown their space. A donor has volunteered to assist with the new interior design.

As for next fiscal year budget Ms. Costa stated she believes the City is increasing their appropriation by 5%. The Library budget is very tight and would be most appreciative if the Selectboard would opt out of having a separate ballot question this year and just keep things status quo - a single budget line item. It was the Library Board understanding the first separate ballot article was to gauge the public support for the large increase. The last two years, the separate article has overwhelming passed, thus this request for everything in one line item.

Tessier stated while he was vacationing out of state he was charged a nominal fee for use of Library internet services as he was not a member. This could be an additional revenue stream. Rogers recommended the Library contact Barre City to see if they could piggyback on their heating oil contract which could produce cost savings. Ms. Costa stated she will check on both items.

FUNDING REQUESTS FROM NOT-FOR-PROFIT GROUPS

Background: During the November 15th meeting the Board discussed the not-for-profit funding request policy and asked that it be placed on the agenda later. In the meantime, three new requests have been received. A letter was sent to two of them advising of the need to submit a petition. The third request was from the Barre Town Fire Department Auxiliary. Since the Auxiliary is affiliated with the Fire Department and the Board was having this discussion they were invited to participate in this discussion.

Fire Chief Chris Violette stated the Auxiliary has helped the Department at two major fires during 2016. They bought food and drinks with their funds to support firefighters at the scene.

Linda Leu and Kim Whitcomb were present. The Board was informed the Auxiliary is not a not-for-profit organization, but an arm of the Fire Department. Details of their fundraising and services provided to firefighters (all towns at an event) were given. Currently there are 54 members which provide a lot of services (bakers, servers at events, working the front lines, etc.).
On a motion by Mitchel, seconded by Tessier, the Selectboard voted to direct the Fire Chief to add a line item for the Fire Department Auxiliary in the FY 17-18 budget for $500 citing the group is an arm of the Fire Department.

5-YEAR PAVED ROAD PLAN

Background: This is another of the many Town Plans which assist with the preparation of the upcoming budget session (proposed for fiscal year 2017-2018). Year one of the Plan assists with preparing the summer construction and retreatment sections of the Highway Fund. The Board was given a rough draft of years 1 - 3 with years 4 and 5 being distributed at the meeting.

The usual steps were followed beginning with reviewing every paved road, evaluating and scoring it. The plan per unit cost table (for the various paving types) was updated and roads in years 1 and 2 were re-measured for accuracy. A new priority score for roads (under the current plan) was reviewed for roads that seemed to be out of order.

On a motion by Tessier, seconded by Mitchell, the Selectboard voted to adopt the 5-Year Paved Road Plan, Fiscal Year 2017-18 through 2021-2022 as presented.

DISCONTINUANCE OF SECTION OF JOHN HOOD ROAD

Background: In 2015 the Selectboard cleared the ancient road and other road matters. A section of the John Hood Road was discontinued (February 24, 2015 meeting). The discontinued section ran through property owned by Henri and Pat Dessureau. Although by state law it is not necessary to issue a deed for a discontinued section of the road, Mr. Dessureau has requested a deed to make it clear his field was not encumbered. Town Attorney Mike Monte has prepared a deed.

On a motion by Mitchell, seconded by Paul White, the Selectboard voted to authorize the Town Manager to sign a deed granting the section of John Hood Road discontinued on February 24, 2015 to Henri and Patricia Dessureau.

EMPLOYEE INPUT FOR HIRING OF NEW POLICE CHIEF

Background: The Town Manager is seeking Selectboard input on the deadline for the Police Department employees’ responses and discussion on the questionnaire regarding the hiring of a new Police Chief.

The Board by consensus agreed to provide the employee questionnaire in a word document as a measure to ensure “those completing the document” were doing it anonymously. The deadline for submitting the questionnaire is January 26th. Results will be given to the Board members for review. It would also be helpful if the Police Chief completed a similar questionnaire.

REQUEST TO CANCEL MEETING OF JANUARY 24, 2017

Background: With the beginning of Budget Committee meetings fast approaching the Manager still has a lot of work to complete. Since there are no major items on the calendar for January 24th, the Manager is requesting the Selectboard cancel the meeting to free up time so he can work on the preparation and review of department budgets for the upcoming fiscal year.

On a motion by Mitchell, seconded by Tessier, the Selectboard voted to cancel the Selectboard meeting on Tuesday, January 24, 2017.
Selectboard Minutes of January 10, 2017 continued:

WEEKLY ACCOUNTS PAYABLE WARRANT

On a motion by Tessier, seconded by Mitchell, the Selectboard voted to approve the accounts payable warrants for the week of January 10, 2017.

MISCELLANEOUS

Asst. Town Clerk/Treasurer William Crowther retired on December 31, 2016. His name has been removed as a signer on all Town bank accounts. His position has been filled with Town employee Deborah Lefebvre. The Treasurer is completing the necessary paperwork required to add her as a signer to the Town accounts. There are three banks involved, Community National, Merchants Bank, and People's United Bank. Merchants Bank is complete. However, People's United Bank is requiring the legislative body to "acknowledge" this change by having the chair sign an account resolution.

On a motion by Tessier, seconded by Mitchell, the Selectboard of the Town of Barre, Vermont approved and authorized the Chair to sign a Business Deposit Account Resolution to change signers on the cash accounts which are on deposit with People's United Bank.

Asst. Manager Wang gave an update on the East Barre sidewalk right-of-way acquisition(s).

'ROUND THE TABLE

Paul White stated he will not be attending the Selectboard meeting on January 31, 2017. Tessier stated he would not be attending the Selectboard meeting on January 17th.

There was brief discussion regarding recruitment of volunteers for the budget committee.

Mitchell inquired if the land survey for the Recreation Field area had been completed. Rogers stated no

Mitchell was sorry to hear that longtime DPW employee Gary Munson was having some medical issues.

LaClair stated the legislative session has begun - there were 20 bills introduced. The big issue is the budget which has a $70 million gap. He informed the Board his committee appointment is on the House Government Ops.

EXECUTIVE SESSION - None

ADJOURN

On a motion by Mitchell, seconded by Tessier, the Selectboard voted to adjourn at 9:25 pm.

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Donna J. Kelty - Town Clerk-Treasurer  Selectboard Chair

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Barre Town Selectboard