BARRE TOWN SELECTBOARD AGENDA
January 17, 2017

1. Call to order 6:30 p.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Consider approving agenda
4. Consider approving January 10, 2017 meeting minutes
5. Announcements
6. Receive guests (for non-agenda items)
7. Department Head visits - Fire Chief, Planning & Zoning Director
8. Public hearing for proposed amendments to Town Plan.
9. Consider awarding contract for purchase of truck cab and chassis (sewer vactor).
10. Consider appointing voting delegate to VLCT special membership meeting.
11. Discuss selling 22 Buick Street.
12. Consider approving weekly accounts payable warrants.
13. Miscellaneous, including licenses and permits, if any.
14. Executive session: two real estate matters
15. Adjourn.

BARRE TOWN SELECTBOARD MINUTES
January 17, 2017

The duly warned meeting of the Barre Town Selectboard was scheduled and held on January 17, 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, Robert LaClair, Tom White, and W. John "Jack" Mitchell. Rolland Tessier was not present.

Others attending were: Town Manager Carl Rogers, Asst. Town Manager Elaine Wang, Town Clerk-Treasurer Donna J. Kelty, Planning & Zoning Administrator Christopher Violette, 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 Paul White, seconded by Mitchell, the Selectboard voted to approve the agenda. Tessier was not present for the vote.

MINUTES

On a motion by Mitchell, seconded by Paul White, the Selectboard voted to approve the Selectboard meeting minutes from January 10, 2017 with the minor grammatical and spelling corrections. Tessier was not present for the vote.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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. 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.
Selectboard Minutes of January 17, 2017 continued:

3. As you may recall, last year’s logging of the Barre Town Forest, consistent with the Town Forest Management Plan and overseen by an independent, certified forester, was stopped early due to a mild winter. Conditions are now favorable and logging resumed this week. Forest users: For everyone’s safety, please keep clear of the northeast corner of the forest, that is, near the intersection of Donahue and LittleJohn Roads, until logging is finished, which will be announced here, on the Town website, and on Front Porch Forum.

4. 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.

5. 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!

6. As you may have noticed, the Recreation Board organizes all kinds of fund, and helps our community be healthy and connected throughout the year. If you want to join in this rewarding service, you are in luck because there is a vacancy on the Recreation Board. The Board meets the first Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m. If you are interested, submit your name by February 10th to the Town Manager’s office at offices@barretown.or or by calling 802-479-9331.

GUESTS - None

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Christopher Violette is the Fire Chief and Zoning & Planning Administrator. He presented the following quarterly reports for each department.

Planning & Zoning: The past quarter has been quiet with regards to zoning permits – only 26 issued. However, there was quite a bit of sewer permit fees due to Fecteau Homes and Windy Wood Housing LLC developments. A new office person was hired, Emily Marineau and she will begin work on February 6, 2017.

The Development Review Board had 4 applications (one was a variance). They approved the Recreation Board Town Forest parking area sign which will look similar to State Park forest signs.

The Planning Commission has been working steadily on the Town Plan amendments. He noted the Regional Planning Commission has selected Barre Town to receive assistance with help on writing the “Energy Plan Standards” which will be incorporated into the Town Plan.

Fire Department: The past quarter there have been 50 calls which is about average. However, of those 4 were to the Town of Orange. Orange pays the Department a retainer plus a per call basis. He noted 2 significant house fires.

The Annual 52 Gun raffle sold out once again this year. We currently have two sets which are 15 -25 years old. One set will not pass the required pressure testing. The thought is to use the raffle profit to purchase of a new Jaws of Life. A big thank you to all those who have supported this fundraiser over the years.

Other ongoing Department items:
Selectboard Minutes of January 17, 2017 continued:

- Finished the flooring in the East Barre station which involved asbestos removal.
- The South Barre lighting project is in the works and he hopes to have it complete by the Budget Tour.
- A firefighter, at no charge, has been installing the security cameras - this has been a slow process but the free labor makes it worthwhile. There was a brief discussion on the policy involving access to data stored on the secured DVR.
- Ongoing training included working with Williamstown on the use of their ladder truck.
- NIMS (National Incident Management System) training must be completed if the Town wants to be eligible for federal funding. Thus, some of the pickup trucks have been issued a new label - utility #1 and utility #2.

TOWN PLAN AMENDMENTS - SECOND PUBLIC HEARING

Background: This is the second of two required public hearings for amendments to the Town Plan.

On a motion by Mitchell, seconded by LaClair, the Selectboard voted to open a public hearing at 7:07 p.m. to take public comment on the proposed Town Plan amendments. Tessier was not present for the vote.

The Zoning Administrator gave a brief overview of the amendment changes.

Resident Howard Regan (one of the family owners of the Paquet Farm) stated the Plan did not support projects such as theirs. They have 150 acres and attempting to use 5 to preserve the other 145. They don’t want to sell of the land to a developer but keep it open and used for agricultural purposes. She provided information regarding a recent Times Argus article regarding a Supreme Court ruling on “aesthetics” which she believes is the issue regarding their solar project. Ms. Regan stated the good thing about this project is that it will provide income to keep the farm going for 30 years, then the land can be reclaimed, will have rested, and can be farmed. The proposed location was across the road from the main house.

George Clain, speaking as a resident, stated we need to look at what is best for the entire town. He spoke to the philosophy of farm income and taxpayer subsidies.

Zoning Administrator Violette noted there are different solar siting requirements for non-net metering projects. The Town Plan does not outlaw solar farms but attempts to control where they are sited a little more.

During discussion, it was noted that at this time there was no new/pending legislation which could change Act 46 and impact this document. The process at this point is for the Selectboard to approve the document, send it to the Regional Planning Commission for their approval and then it will be considered complete.

Paul White expressed his concern that the property owner is not able to use his/her/their property the way the want to. He would like time to think about this. Consensus is to wait until February 7th, in the hopes of having a full board.

On a motion by Mitchell, seconded by Paul White, the Selectboard voted to close the public hearing at 7:47 p.m. Tessier was not present for the vote.

PURCHASE OF TRUCK CAB AND CHASSIS (SEWER VACTOR)

Background: This item is for the purchase of a cab and chassis for the sewer vactor. Bidding specifications were sent to six (6) companies. The Town was expecting
Selectboard Minutes of January 17, 2017 continued:

bids to between $100,000 and $110,000. One of the companies helped the Town prepare specifications that will work with the sewer vactor unit. The bid is for a Freightliner (we own several). Staff had no concerns to not buy from R & R Charlebois.

Charlebois offered 9 warranty options. Hopefully, the Town will own the truck a long time and put few miles on it. The shop foreman asked for other engine warranty options with a long term but for fewer miles. Results were provided to the Board for review. The Board will need to determine whether the extended warranty is needed.

On a motion by Mitchell, seconded by LaClair, the Selectboard voted to award the purchase contract for a new 60,000 GVWR, 6 x 4 truck cab and chassis to R & R Charlebois at the price of $109,950.50. Tessier was not present for the vote.

On a motion by Mitchell, seconded by LaClair, the Selectboard voted to purchase the extended 7-year engine warranty, with 100,000 miles in the amount of $6,170.00. Tessier was not present for the vote.

On a motion by Mitchell, seconded by LaClair, the Selectboard voted to purchase a 5-year towing warranty for $800.00. Tessier was not present for the vote.

VOTING DELEGATE TO VLCT SPECIAL MEETING

Background: The Vermont League of Cities and Towns (VLCT) is holding a special membership meeting and wants all members to designate their voting delegate - same as for the Annual Meeting held at the Town Fair. The special meeting is on February 15, which is VLCT’s Local Government Day, when many cities and towns will have representatives in Montpelier for the event.

On a motion by LaClair, seconded by Mitchell, the Selectboard voted to appoint Town Clerk-Treasurer Donna Kelty as the Barre Town voting delegate to the VLCT special meeting on February 15, 2017. Tessier was not present for the vote.

DISCUSS SELLING 22 BUICK STREET

Background: The Town acquired 22 Buick Street through tax sale. Many things have been done to improve conditions (removing buildings and brush clearing). The lot is served by a well but the water cannot be thoroughly tested until a working pump is installed. A sewer force main connects to the Town sewer system and we believe the connection has been located. However, the DPW does not know for sure which one of the force mains showing in the manhole belongs to this lot. Even if it was known which pipe it is there is no way to trace the pipe back to the lot in hopes of finding the grinder pump and testing it.

The Manager and staff are recommending the lot be put up for sale as is. Methods for selling could be listing it with a local realtor; trying to sell it ourselves and contact some local developers. This item is for discussion purposes.

After discussing various selling points (to include status of utilities) and possible valuation, the Board directed the Manager to obtain information on the costs associated with placing the lot for sale using a realtor (lot valuation and commission fees).

WEEKLY ACCOUNTS PAYABLE WARRANT

On a motion by Mitchell, seconded by Paul White, the Selectboard voted to approve the accounts payable warrants for the week of January 17, 2017. Tessier was not present for the vote.
LaClair stated he had been contacted by John Woodward, VT Conservation Youth Corp inquiring if Barre Town had any summer work projects for his crew. The works for eight weeks in the summer. A crew would consist of 8 individuals and would cost the Town approximately $11,000 per week. During Board discussion, the Manager was asked to see if there were any projects (perhaps Recreation) and if so money could be put into next fiscal year ballots.

Manager Rogers informed the Board the two (2) additional Budget Committee members have been appointed: John Hamiline and Gerry Parrott.

In other news Rogers confirmed that at the end of this fiscal year Barre Town School will no longer operate a bus system. This will mean an adjustment to the Town budget and possibly DPW mechanic staffing.

‘ROUND THE TABLE

Paul White stated when Department Heads made their quarterly visits he would like their monthly reports to align with those visits.

LaClair stated this is the third week in legislature and bills are coming in fast. However, not a lot of testimony has taken place. This week the big item will be the Orange 1 contested race and all the recounts which took place. It was also noted that it is estimated to cost around $2 billion over 20 years to cleanup Lake Champlain which raised the funding of said cleanup.

Mitchell read an “ode to the snowplow driver” which was in the recent issue of the Green Mountain Trading Post.

Mitchell inquired if the Selectboard or Budget Committee will be deciding the Aldrich Library request to have their funding allocation as one line item in the budget versus a partial line item with separate article? This is to be determined.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion by Mitchell, seconded by Paul White, the Selectboard voted to find that when discussing real estate premature general knowledge would put the Town at a substantial disadvantage. Tessier was not present for the vote.

On a motion by Mitchell, seconded by Paul white, the Selectboard voted to go into executive session at 8:54 p.m. to discuss real estate. Tessier was not present for the vote.

On a motion by Mitchell, seconded by Paul White, the Selectboard voted to come out of executive session at 9:25 p.m. Tessier was not present for the vote.

ADJOURN

On a motion by Mitchell, seconded by LaClair, the Selectboard voted to adjourn at 9:25 pm. Tessier was not present for the vote.

Donna J. Kelty - Town Clerk-Treasurer
Selectboard Chair

______________________________
______________________________
Barre Town Selectboard