BARRE TOWN SELECTBOARD AGENDA
January 31, 2017

1. Call to order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Consider approving agenda
4. Consider approving January 17, 2017 meeting minutes
5. Announcements
6. Receive guests (for non-agenda items)
7. Discuss possible Town Charter amendments
8. Consider authorizing limiting zero-turn mower bids to John Deere
9. Discuss Solid Waste District organic hauling exemption meeting
10. Discuss plans for recruiting, screening new police chief
11. Consider approving weekly accounts payable warrants.
12. Miscellaneous, including licenses and permits, if any.
13. Round the table
14. Executive session: (personnel)
15. Adjourn.

BARRE TOWN SELECTBOARD MINUTES
January 31, 2017

The duly warned meeting of the Barre Town Selectboard was scheduled and held on January 31, 2017 at the Barre Town Municipal Building, Selectboard Room, in Lower Websterville at 8pm.

The following members were in attendance: Robert LaClair, Tom White, W. John “Jack” Mitchell and Rolland Tessier. Paul White was not present.

Others attending were: Town Manager Carl Rogers, Asst. Town Manager Elaine Wang, and Assistant Town Clerk-Treasurer Deborah Lefebvre.

CALL TO ORDER – The meeting was called to order at 8:05 p.m.

The PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE was recited by those present.

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

On a motion by Tessier, seconded by LaClair, the Selectboard voted to approve the agenda with the addition of Liquor license applications from the VFW, Hannaford Food & Drug and Maplewood Convenience Stores and an item to authorize the Town Manager to sign the EMS contract with the town of Topsham. Paul White was not present for the vote.

MINUTES

On a motion by Mitchell, seconded by LaClair, the Selectboard voted to approve the Selectboard meeting minutes from January 17, 2017 with corrections. Paul White was not present for the vote.

a. Bottom of page 2 – “We currently have two sets of Jaws of Life...”
b. Top of page three, last bullet item. Just to clarify that the Town is compliant with NIMS.
c. Last sentence of first paragraph. “Staff had no concerns with rewards to buying from R&R Charlebois.”
d. Other spelling and grammatical corrections as noted by the clerk.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Quarterly property tax and sewer fees are due on February 15. The Clerk's office closes at 4:30pm, but payments put in the drop box by midnight that night will still be considered on time.
Selectboard Minutes of January 31, 2017 continued:

2. The February newsletter is in the mail. Read it to learn about the three days this spring when you should vote on local issues, the many recreation opportunities available to you this winter right here in Barre Town, and the status of a possible Barre Town dog park.

3. Barre Town budget meetings started today. The Budget Committee will meet every Tuesday from 6:30pm to 8pm through March. They may meet on additional evenings depending on how the discussions go. Anyone is welcome to attend. You will learn a lot about Town operations that affect all of us whether we’re aware of it or not. Please note that from today through March, Selectboard meetings will begin at 8pm to accommodate the Budget Committee meetings. For more information on the proposed budget, see page 5 of the February newsletter.

4. Hopefully we will have plenty of snow by Sunday February 12th, because the Recreation Board is hosting a sledding party behind the Town of Barre municipal building that day from 1pm to 3pm. Fire rings, hot cocoa, and demo equipment will be available. Bring your own sleds! The party is free. Park at the Town offices at 149 Websterville Road.

5. Also this Saturday February 4th is the 17th annual Poker Run, Pulled Pork and Chicken Dinner fundraiser to maintain and improve the Barre Town Travis Mercy Skate Park. If there is snow, snowmobilers will start at the Maplewood Vermont Travel Center in Berlin and end at the Barre Town elementary school. If there is not snow or you aren’t snowmobiling, go to the Barre Town elementary school around noon for the silent auction, quilt raffle and of course the food!

6. Thanks to a volunteer, there will be guided snowshoe tours in the Town Forest on three Saturdays this winter. The first tour will be February 4th from 1pm to 3pm. Bring your own snowshoes and dress for the weather, but no pets please.

7. Property owners in Barre Town are again reminded to make sure street numbers are visibly posted for the property. If there is an emergency, first responders need to be able to quickly and easily find the location of the emergency. The reflective number signs may be ordered at the Town Manager’s office for $10.00 each.

8. Saturday March 4th is the Friends of the Library Winter Banquet/Auction at the Barre Elks. For reservations call 476-7550 or stop by the Library.

GUESTS - None

TOWN CHARTER AMENDMENTS

Background: The Town charter is not in-line with the state voter registration statutes now that the state’s same-day voter registration is enacted. At the Town Clerk’s request, The Town Attorney studied the new law and the Charter. He recommends two (2) sections of the Charter (6b and 6e) are amended.

The Town Attorney also points out 6e could be amended (separate question from the voter registration detail) in regards to Board of Civil Authority meeting quorum. This change is not required; he merely is pointing it out as a possibility.

If the Selectboard is interested in proposing these Charter amendments, each would be listed as an Article on the Town Meeting ballot. The timeline would be:

March 7- Selectboard approves proposed amendment language
March 11- Copy of changes available in Clerk’s Office for inspection
March 21- First public hearing
March 28- Second public hearing, and Selectboard votes to approve Town Meeting Warning, with or without Charter Articles

A letter from the Town Attorney containing the proposed amendments was reviewed. At the recent BCA meeting there was discussion of this topic and it was the consensus of the BCA to support the proposed charter amendments but not the change to the quorum requirements at this time.
On a motion by Mitchell, seconded by Tessier, the Selectboard voted to accept the BCA’s recommendations to move forward with the suggested charter amendments as proposed by Mike Monte to bring the Town Charter in alignment with the new same day voter registration statute. This would not include changing the quorum requirements for BCA meetings but would include the wording suggested by the BCA regarding quorum for making additions to the checklist. Paul White was not present for the vote.

ZERO-TURN MOWER BIDS

Background: The 2016–2017 Equipment Fund budget includes money to buy a mower. This purchase is for a zero-turn mower used at the recreation area. The new zero-turn would replace a zero-turn the town has now. Both Mike Martel and Dwight Coffrin would like to buy a John Deere Model 930 zero-turn. The cemetery and recreation crews have only John Deere mowers. In the past the Selectboard usually (not every time) has authorized staff to limit the bidding to a John Deere.

The request is to limit the bidding to a Model 930 John Deere. There are several John Deere dealers in Vermont that could submit a bid.

Rob LaClair questioned that limiting the bidding to only one Brand would bypass the spirit of the bidding process. It was also asked what the reason for the desire for only John Deere mowers stemmed from. It was noted that it was primarily for ease of service and parts.

On a motion by Mitchell, seconded by LaClair, the Selectboard voted to authorize staff to seek bids only for a Model 930 John Deere zero-turn mower. Paul White was not present for the vote.

SOLID WASTE DISTRICT ORGANIC HAULING EXEMPTION

Background: The state’s Universal Recycling Law (Act 148) requires solid waste haulers to offer residential customers collection of leaf and yard waste and food scraps. These organics would be kept separate (out of waste stream) from the household solid waste. This requirement starts July 1, 2017. Some areas can be exempted from the requirement. The solid waste districts have a role in determining what towns will be exempted. Our lawn waste site might fulfill the requirement for leaf and yard waste disposal. Maybe backyard composting could satisfy the food scraps disposal requirement. The exemption could be for just part of a town. Some areas are not eligible for exemption due to residential density. Edges of Barre Town along the Barre City border might be ineligible for exemption.

The Town Manager explained that he only received the guidelines for exemptions late on Friday. There are very specific requirements including data from the municipality that demonstrates the area meets the per capita municipal solid waste (MSW) disposal rate goal in the Vermont Materials Management Plan (MMP) of 2.69 pounds per person, per day or less.

After some discussion it was agreed that it should be put on the agenda soon, to have a representative from the Solid Waste District come and offer more input on the subject.

RECRUITING AND SCREENING NEW POLICE CHIEF

Background: Some questions or points to be discussed decided or directed:
1. Does the board want to hire a consultant? (Possibly could add time to timeline. Would add expense.)
Selectboard Minutes of January 31, 2017 continued:

2. Does the board want to use a committee to screen applications and interview candidates?

3. The job description should be reviewed and updated. Staff could do this with Chief Stevens and then present revised description for board input.

4. What credentials or minimum qualifications would you require? What other traits, characteristics would you include in the vacancy announcement?

5. How wide of a net do you wish to cast? Where would you have us advertise - VCJTC website, VT Newspapers, VLCT newsletter, New England states municipal association newsletters?

Possible timeline:
- February - advertising and deadline for applications
- Late February, early March - Screen applications
- March - Interviews
- April 1- Top choice selected, begin reference checks
- April 15 - Conditional offer; background check, medical exam
- May 1 - Next chief hired
- June - Start work (one month with Chief Stevens)

Jack Mitchell would like to see VLCT used as a resource. He likes the idea of a committee (5-7 people) to screen and review. He would not reach outside New England.

Elaine Wang noted that VLTC has suggested having a good/reputable chief and/or a manager who has hired a good/reputable chief on the selection committee. They also have provided some possible names.

Rob LaClair would like to see the discussion go in a different direction first (though recognizes the tight time frame). He would like to look at the future of the PD as a whole, particularly because it is harder and harder to find candidates in the law enforcement field.

Rolland Tessier would like to see the search start from within the department. He believes that promoting from within, if possible would show there are opportunities for growth in the department. This lack of room for advancement may be why we are losing officers.

Tom White does not want to hire a consultant. He would like to see a committee of 5 people made up of a mix of Selectboard, police department, staff and community. He thinks a review of the job description is a good idea.

WEEKLY ACCOUNTS PAYABLE WARRANT

On a motion by LaClair, seconded by Tessier, the Selectboard voted to approve the accounts payable warrants for the weeks of January 24 and 31, 2017. Paul White was not present for the vote.

MISCELLANEOUS

On a motion by LaClair, seconded by Mitchell the Selectboard voted to approve the following liquor license applications:
- Hannaford Food & Drug - second class
- Veterans of Foreign Wars MacKenzie-Webster Post - first class
- Maplewood Convenience Stores, Inc. - second class

Paul White was not present for the vote and Rolland Tessier abstained from the vote.

On a motion by Mitchell, seconded by Tessier the Selectboard voted to authorize the Town Manager to sign the 3 year EMS contract with the Town of Topsham. Paul White was not present for the vote.
ROUND THE TABLE

Rob LaClair reports that the Governor’s budget address has made things very busy and with lots of discussion.

He also noted that there is a resolution to have another recount in the contested Orange County race. He voted against the legislature doing a recount.

Rolland Tessier asked if we will be able to meet the deadline for the Town Report. The Town Manager says they are working toward that goal.

Tom White shared the election results from the Town Website for the School Re-vote that occurred today. 482-Yes 1159-No

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

On a motion by Tessier, seconded by Mitchell, the Selectboard voted to go into executive session at 9:10 p.m. to discuss personnel. Paul White was not present for the vote.

On a motion by Mitchell, seconded by Tessier, the Selectboard voted to come out of executive session at 10:10 p.m. Paul White was not present for the vote.

ADJOURN

On a motion by Mitchell, seconded by Tessier, the Selectboard voted to adjourn at 10:11 pm. Paul White was not present for the vote.

______________________________  ________________________________
Deborah Lefebvre Asst. Town Clerk-Treasurer  Selectboard Chair

______________________________  ________________________________
______________________________  ________________________________

Barre Town Selectboard