1. Call to order 8:00 p.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Consider approving agenda.
4. Consider approving February 7, 2017 meeting minutes.
5. Announcements.
6. Receive guests (for non-agenda items).
7. Presentation by Joel Schwartz, Executive Director of Barre Area Development.
8. Discussion with Dottye Ricks about political (campaign) signs.
9. Discuss emergency dispatch proposals.
10. Consider approving Assessor's certificate of no suit pending.
11. Discuss answering CVRPC's municipal energy survey.
12. Consider approving CVSWMD's request to use the public works yard for a household hazardous waste collection.
13. Discuss police chief's job description.
14. Consider approving weekly accounts payable warrants.
15. Miscellaneous, including licenses and permits, if any
16. Round the table
17. Executive session (contract).
18. Adjourn.

BARRE TOWN SELECTBOARD MINUTES
February 14, 2017

The duly warned meeting of the Barre Town Selectboard of February 14, 2017 was scheduled and held at the Barre Town Municipal Building, Selectboard Room, in Lower Websterville at 8:10 p.m.

The following members were in attendance: Rob LaClair, Rolland Tessier, Tom White, and Paul White. The following member was absent: Paul White.

Others attending were: Town Manager Carl Rogers, Town Clerk-Treasurer Donna J. Kelty, Assistant Town Manger Elaine Wang, BAD Director Joel Schwartz, Dottye Ricks, Norma Malone, Kevin Cushman, Ryan DeCoursey, and Times Argus reporter Eric Blaisdell.

CALL TO ORDER - The meeting was called to order at 8:10 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 following amendments:
A. Item 15 - Miscellaneous - add item for of EMS service contract with Town of Washington:
B. Item 15 - Miscellaneous - add item for discussion on VLCT special meeting - Bylaw change and how delegate should vote;
C. Item 17 - Delete contracts under executive session- no items

Paul White was not present for the vote.

MINUTES

On a motion by Tessier, seconded by LaClair, the Selectboard voted to approve the Selectboard meeting minutes of February 7, 2017. Paul White was not present for the vote.
ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. The public is invited 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 that are paid for by your taxpayer dollars. 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.

2. The 19th Annual Freezing Fun for Families (FFF) softball tournament will be held February 24 – 26 at the Barre Town Recreation area. Registration is limited to the first 68 paid teams, at the cost of $300 per team. They often fill up, so don't delay! Each year, FFF raises over $20,000 to help Vermont families that have a child facing a serious illness. This year's beneficiaries are Jaelyn Huckins (age 10) of Barre, who is fighting Osteosarcoma, and Carissa Francis (age 3) of Colchester and Fletcher, who is battling a Stage IV Metastatic Wilms Tumor. If you are not up for playing winter softball, you can still help; come to watch the games and purchase concessions; buy a $25 seat to their dinner and silent auction of rare sports, music, and pop culture memorabilia to be held on Saturday, February 18th at the Barre Elks Lodge; or by joining their growing 500 club by giving $500 or more. For more information visit their website at www.freezingfunforfamilies.com.

3. The deadline has been extended for applicants for one vacancy on the Barre Town Recreation Board. The Barre Town Recreation Board helps keep our community active and connected year-round. They meet the first Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m. For more information, call the Town Manager's Office at 479-9331. If you are interested in serving on this fund board, please submit your name by Friday, February 24th to the town Manager's Office by calling 479-9331 or emailing offices@barretown.org.

GUESTS - None

BARRE AREA DEVELOPMENT REPORT

Background: The Executive Director of Barre Area Development is to provide the Board with a brief overview of activities.

Joel Schwartz (Director) was present and noted that he has been working with several businesses in the Wilson Industrial Park (permitting, purchases, leasing, etc.). He stated that Northern Power is renting some of its building space to TENCO. There was a brief discussion regarding Wilson Industrial Park covenants which the Town will need to review. The Schwans building has been sold and he believes the new owner will be moving his overhead door business there. Marketing of the town's industrial park lots and the possible sale of lots off Quarry Hill Road were reviewed.

POLITICAL SIGNS DISCUSSION

Background: Some years ago, the Board of Civil Authority and Selectboard looked at and were not interested in adopting a policy about signs on town property. As a result of that discussion the Manager has followed a policy of not allowing signs on town owned land (fire stations, playground, picnic areas, public works land, etc.). Dotty Ricks, Barre Town resident, wants to discuss the placement of political sign stating there is a State law that says towns can prohibit signs if an ordinance has been adopted.
Selectboard Minutes of February 14, 2017 continued:

Ms. Ricks was present and provided the Selectboard with a copy of a document regarding sign placement titled “Candidate and Municipal Officials Guide to Placement of Political Campaign Signs” which is on the Vermont Secretary of State website. She referred to items #4 and #6 during her discussion, noting the Board needs to be careful not to deny free speech.

Item #4 states “On town highways temporary campaign signs may be displayed for a period of not more than two weeks within the highway right-of-way because they are exempt from the state sign law under 10 VSA section 494 (9). Enforcement on town highways is the responsibility of the Selectboard.” Ms. Ricks noted that signs should be allowed in the median at the bottom of Websterville Road and at the triangular median located at the intersection of Middle and Graniteville Roads.

Item #6 of that document states: “If the board has not adopted a rule or a policy, then each candidate must ask the board for permission to place a sign. We strongly suggest that it will be easier for all involved, if the local boards will adopt a clear policy....”

Ms. Ricks would like the Selectboard to formally adopt some type of policy or prepare an ordinance as not all parties are respecting the rules. This policy/ordinance should address not only town owned land but town road rights-of-way. When the Board discusses this topic on a future agenda she requested to be part of the conversation and further thanked the Town Manager for being helpful in gathering information.

EMERGENCY DISPATCH PROPOSALS

Background: The chiefs of the three emergency services departments and the Town manager visited the Montpelier Police Department and received a 3-year cost proposal. They also spoke with the Chief Tony Facos and head dispatcher Fred Cummins.

Our dispatch service (Lamoille County Sheriff Department) cost proposal for Fiscal Year 17-18 is $231,212, which is 3% more than the current fiscal year. Montpelier’s 3-year cost proposal is: FY 17-18 = $200,000, FY 18-19 = $209,600, and FY 19-20 = $219,600. The increases for years 2 and 3 are 4.8%.

The following are items of importance for the Emergency Services Departments:

- Before switching to our current dispatch the Town worked on the project for at least 18 months. Staff does not believe 4 months is enough time to make a switch.
- The more we hurry to switch over the less we will understand about other costs. For instance, the Montpelier staff talked about linking our radios on Mt. Pleasant via phone line.
- The staff is extremely happy with the current dispatch service and has no concerns or issues with the service.
- The two dispatching facilities are very different. The Lamoille dispatch facility has been described as “state of the art.” The dispatchers sole job is to take 911 calls and dispatch the appropriate services. Montpelier’s dispatcher greets the public for the police department, hey help officers. The police squad room is next door, whereas the Lamoille dispatch center is off by itself.
- Lamoille Dispatch is also a PSAP and is designated to receive 911 calls from Barre Town. The call taker talking with the person who made the 911 call also is dispatching our fire, EMS, and/or police. Staff feel this is a significant advantage.

Board discussion focused on:

- unanswered questions (such as phone line outages and impact to dispatch, use of our current dedicated radio channels, additional hardware needs);
- 3-year savings by contracting with Montpelier (recognize there may be some additional one-time costs to change service);
Selectboard Minutes of February 14, 2017 continued:

- The cost savings without service - what value does this have?
- Montpelier assured Barre Town they would not eventually become part of the Regional Public Safety.
- Concern with what Montpelier may have for budget increases after year 3. Lamoille has never been more than 3%.

Keith Cushman stated that both agencies serve many communities. However, there is value in streamlining dispatch. He would like to remind the Board that the comparison should be between Montpelier and Lamoille and should therefore, not be compared with service received when the Town was dispatched by Barre City.

Ryan Decoursey stated he has concerns with regards to delays in dispatching for mutual aid.

Consensus of Board members is they need more information to many of the unanswered questions. Mitchell stated that perhaps both agencies should be invited to participate in the conversation.

ASSESSOR’S CERTIFICATE OF NO SUIT PENDING

Background: By state law, when the Grand List is closed for the year, and there are no outstanding valuation appeals a certificate of no suit pending is to be submitted to the Selectboard for approval. Once this action has been taken the Grand List is said to be final with no valuation changes allowed for the remainder of the fiscal year. The Assessor is presenting the certificate for the Fiscal Year 2016-2017 Grand List.

On a motion by Mitchell, seconded by LaClair, the Selectboard voted to approve the Certificate of No Appeal or Suit Pending for the April 1, 2016 Grand List. Paul White was not present for the vote.

MUNICIPAL ENERGY SURVEY

Background: The Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission (CVRPC) requests the Selectboard and Planning Commission to complete the Municipal Energy Survey. This survey is one step the CVRPC is taking before drafting a comprehensive regional energy plan. The purpose of this agenda item is to ask how the Board wants to answer the survey. Do they want to meet with the Planning Commission and submit a unified response or do it alone? The deadline for submitting the survey is March 6, 2017.

Board consensus is to have the Planning Commission complete their survey, let the Selectboard review their responses (as a guide), and then complete the Selectboard survey.

CVSWMD REQUEST TO USE DPW YARD FOR HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION EVENT

Background: The Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District (CVSWMD) is asking permission to use the DPW yard for household hazardous waste collection on Saturday, April 29, 2017, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. The District staff and its contract will use the yard from 7:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. They have used our facility for many years with no issues.

On a motion by LaClair, seconded by Tessier, the Selectboard voted to approve the Central Vermont Solid Waste Management’s request to use the Department of Public Works yard on Saturday, April 29, 2017 from 7:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. to hold a household hazardous waste collection. Paul White was not present for the vote.
DISCUSS POLICE CHIEF JOB DESCRIPTION

Background: The Manager provided Board members with a copy of the Police Chief job description which contained notes for suggested changes. This item is for discussion only.

Focus was on the following items: qualifications and additional certifications, technology, and updating terminology. Manager Rogers stated a clean copy draft would be presented for the Board to review again. Mitchell inquired if the VLCT had a sample job description which might help address some of the discussion topics. Once the job description is complete the Board will need to outline the process for recruitment to include interviewing.

WEEKLY ACCOUNTS PAYABLE WARRANT

On a motion by Tessier, seconded by Mitchell, the Selectboard voted to approve the Accounts Payable warrant for the week of February 14, 2017. Paul White was not present for the vote.

MISCELLANEOUS

On a motion by Tessier, seconded by Mitchell, the following 2017 Second Class Liquor Licenses were approved for:
1. CoCo Mart Inc, dba Jiffy Mart; and
2. Graniteville General Store LLC.
Paul White was not present for the vote.

The Town Clerk reminded the Board they had appointed her as the voting delegate for the special VLCT meeting tomorrow and requested direction/comment on the proposed by law amendment. The amendment will allow for special meetings (other than annual meeting) to make amendments to the legislative policy and changes the requirements for passage of such policies to the majority of those present. By consensus all were in favor of the changes.

Manager Rogers stated the Town of Washington has approved the ambulance contract. He is seeking board approval of said contract and authorization to sign.

On a motion by LaClair, seconded by Mitchell, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the Town of Washington’s contract with Barre Town for EMS services and to authorize the Town Manager to sign said contract and return a signed copy to Washington. Paul White was not present for the vote.

ROUND THE TABLE

Mitchell noted that a red car (snow covered) has been at the East Barre Fire parking lot for some time and wondered what the Town was doing about removal. Rogers stated the car was donated to the Fire Department for training purposes.

LaClair stated a citizen had contacted him regarding the Town Reports for FY 14-15 and FY 15-16. Rogers stated the Town Reports for FY 14-15 have been at the printer for about a month. The FY 15-16 Town Report is close to being done.

LaClair noted the Orange - 1 recount will begin on February 22/23 with 23 to 25 members participating. It will be conducted in accordance with the State election laws. Other legislative matters were school financing and budget.

EXECUTIVE SESSION - None
ADJOURN

On a motion by Mitchell, seconded by LaClair, the Selectboard voted to adjourn at 9:52 p.m. Paul White was not present for the vote.

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Donna J. Kelty, Town Clerk-Treasurer  Selectboard Chair

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Barre Town Selectboard