BARRE TOWN SELECTBOARD AGENDA
April 4, 2017

1. Call to order 6:30 p.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Consider approving agenda.
5. Announcements.
6. Receive guests (for non-agenda items).
7. Consider adopting Resolution No. 1-17 in appreciation of Bryan Brown's service on the occasion of his retirement.
8. Consider approving a 2-year extension to the snow plowing contracts.
9. Discussion with town attorney about selling tax sale acquired properties.
10. Consider appointments to the C.V. Regional Planning Commission.
11. Consider designating group to help at spring bulk trash collection.
12. Consider authorizing closing of Quarry Hill Road and Fisher Road for special occasion.
13. Consider approving weekly accounts payable warrants.
14. Miscellaneous, including licenses and permits, if any
15. Round the table
16. Executive session (personnel and contracts (2))
17. Adjourn.

BARRE TOWN SELECTBOARD MINUTES
April 4, 2017

The duly warned meeting of the Barre Town Selectboard of April 4, 2017 was scheduled and held at the Barre Town Municipal Building, Selectboard Room, in Lower Websterville at 6:30 p.m.

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

Others attending were: Town Manager Carl Rogers, Town Clerk-Treasurer Donna J. Kelty, Assistant Town Manager Elaine Wang, DPW Superintendent Richard Tetreault, Shop Foreman Michael Martel, DPW staff Jay Hrubovcak and Michael Metivier, Bryan Brown, Jenn Hoare, William Crowther, and Times Argus Reporter Eric Blaisdell. Attorney Michael Monte arrived at 6:43 p.m.

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 LaClair, seconded by Paul White, the Selectboard voted to approve the agenda with the following amendments:
B. Add Item 9A - Amend an agreement for the Lannon Boundary line approved by the Selectboard a couple of weeks ago.

MINUTES

On a motion by Paul White, seconded by Tessier, the Selectboard voted to approve the Selectboard meeting minutes of March 28, 2017 with the grammatical changes already made by the Town Clerk.
ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Attention parents with kids aged 3 to 10 years! The Annual Egg Hunt will be held Saturday April 15th at Barre City's Rotary Park at 10:00 a.m. Get there on time because the thousands of eggs go fast! See the flyer on the Barre Town homepage (www.barretown.org).

2. Are you going to pay too much in taxes next year? One way to avoid that is to file your Homestead Declaration form. If you file early, before the due date of April 18, it will ensure your first property tax bill in the coming fiscal year is correct. Filing early also helps out the Assessor's Office. If you have any questions about filing your Homestead Declaration form, Joyce in the Assessor's Office will be happy to help you. Call her at 479-2595.

3. Do you have containers of leftover household bleach, drain openers, pesticides, or used motor oil? Don't throw that in the trash! The next Household Hazardous Waste Collection organized by Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District on Saturday, April 29th, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. right here in Barre Town at the Public Works yard at 129 Websterville Road. The fee is $20 per car load. For more information, see the town homepage under Timely Announcements, or the forthcoming April Newsletter.

4. The Town is seeking volunteers to monitor the lawn waste site for about 3 hours during the week. Volunteers are needed to open and close the two gates and to watch that the site is used as intended. They are not required to unload vehicles. To volunteer or for more information contact the Town Manager's office at 479-9331.

5. Green Up Day will be Saturday, May 6th this year. Start thinking now about what area you would like to do. Stay tuned for how to sign up for your area of choice to avoid duplication of effort.

UPDATE TO PROPOSED FY 2017-2018 BUDGET

Chair White provided the following information to the public:

- **General Fund** has a 1.09% decrease or a **decrease of 2/10 of 1¢ on the tax rate**.
- **Highway Fund** has a 5.65% increase or an **increase of 1.56¢ on the tax rate**.
- **Sewer Fund** has a 2.53% increase with the per unit rate of $316.00 unchanged.
- **Water Fund** has a decrease of 0.39% with the base rate increasing $1.00 and the per 100 cubic feet usage charge increase to $6.70.

GUESTS - None

RESOLUTION No. 1-17 FOR BRYAN BROWN

**Background:** Bryan Brown has worked for the Town of Barre for 30 years. The last 26 years he has been a mechanic (including working on school buses). Mr. Brown transferred to the DPW about 27 years ago but continued his affiliation with the Police Department and continues as a part-time office to date. In his off-hours he was a town firefighter (rising to Asst. Chief in East Barre) and was also the Fire Warden for many years. His last work day will be Friday, April 7, 2017 but his retirement date is May 19, 2017. A Resolution has been prepared in his honor.
Selectboard Minutes of April 4, 2017 continued:

On a motion by Mitchell, seconded by Tessier, the Selectboard voted unanimously to adopt Vermont Resolution #1 - 17, A Resolution Of The Town Of Barre, Vermont In Appreciation Of Bryan Brown's Service To The Town Of Barre.

Mitchell read the resolution. Mr. Brown was presented the framed resolution and a “memorial plaque” containing the following mounted items: various matchbox vehicles (fire truck, ambulance, police cars for the various pieces of equipment he worked on), a wrench (probably from his toolbox), and an inscription commemorating his time at Barre Town DPW. Immediately following the presentation guests provided unforgettable stories and volumes of thank you from those present.

**DISCUSS EXTENSION OF SNOW PLOW CONTRACT**

Background: Barre Town contracts with Cheney Trucking for snow plowing (two contracts) and said contracts expire in April. The Manager received a letter from the company offering to plow the next two (2) winters at the same price per call out as this year. In fact, Cheney has been charging $634 for one route since 2010 and $695 for the second route since 2014-2015. Before that winter they charged $701.

One contract is for town building parking lots and short streets. The second contract is for village streets (such as Lower Graniteville). No complaints about their plowing were received by the Manager this winter. The DPW Superintendent would support the extension of the contract.

On a motion by LaClair, seconded by Tessier, the Selectboard voted to extend both Cheney Trucking’s snow plowing contracts at the same price, $634.00 and $695.99 per call out, through the winter 2018-2019.

During discussion it was noted the original contract was awarded through a bid process (Cheney was the only bidder), the DPW Superintendent has received more compliments on the contracted plowing this year than any other, and the Superintendent will determine when the company is called for plowing.

**LANNON BOUNDARY AGREEMENT AMENDMENT**

Background: On March 24, 2017 the Selectboard approved the Lannon Boundary Agreement, said property located at 24 Barclay Quarry Road. The new purchaser’s lender requested the boundary/easement agreement. Information from the original agreement (seller) was copied verbatim into the new agreement, except for name. However, during the review a minor change was never made: the recording information of the original agreement. This request is to amend the March 24, 2017 agreement to insert the recording information of the original agreement.

By consensus the Selectboard agreed to amend the Lannon Boundary Agreement approved on March 24, 2017 to insert the original agreement recording information. No motion is necessary.

**SALE OF TAX SALE PROPERTIES DISCUSSION**

Background: During the Assistant Town Manager’s research into selling 22 Buick Street (acquired through tax sale) it was discovered there is an appeal period even after the one (1) year redemption period. The owner of the property may challenge the tax sale up to 4 years from the date of the tax sale.

Attorney Monte was present and informed the Selectboard that a tax sale can cloud the title of the property even if it is done correctly. The majority of title insurance companies will not issue title insurance (protection on the chain of title) during the 4 year
Selectboard Minutes of April 4, 2017

continued:

period stated above. This creates a problem when selling as most banks will not lend without title insurance.

The Board discussed the need for legislative change and Town should contact VLCT, selling the property on a cash basis so no title insurance would be needed; and town cannot profit on sale of property - any excess goes to original owner.

Consensus of the Board is that Attorney Monte should prepare a white paper on this topic and the Board will discuss the upcoming tax sales in executive session at another meeting.

**APPOINTMENTS TO CVRPC**

**Background:** Very soon the Town will be receiving the paperwork to appoint representatives to the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission (CVRPC). Our current representative Byron Atwood and alternate Mark Nicholson are willing to serve again.

On a motion by Paul White, seconded by Rolland Tessier, the Selectboard voted to appoint Byron Atwood as representative and Mark Nicholson as the alternate representative to the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission, said term to expire April 2018.

**DESIGNATE DONATION GROUP FOR SPRING BULK TRASH**

**Background:** Annually, on the second Saturday in May, the Town holds the Spring Bulk Collection. For several years Spaulding High School Project Graduation has been volunteering and receiving the donations. They are once again asking to be the volunteer group.

On a motion by LaClair, seconded by Tessier, the Selectboard voted to designate Spaulding High School Project Graduation as the 2017 Spring Bulk Trash volunteer group.

**CLOSE QUARRY HILL AND FISHER ROAD FOR SPECIAL EVENT**

**Background:** Thunder Road is holding its’ pre-season race car show on Saturday, April 29, 2017. As in the past, at noon, the race cars will be “paraded” up to the race track via Quarry Hill Road and Fisher Road. State law allows for the Selectboard to close roads for special events such as parades. Our Police Department will assist along the parade route. It is noted that race cars can only travel on the roads if they are closed.

On a motion by LaClair, seconded by Tessier, the Selectboard voted to close Quarry Hill Road (from the City line) to Fisher Road, and Fisher Road be closed as well on Saturday, April 29, 2017, from approximately 12:15 p.m. - 12:45 p.m. for the annual Thunder Road Race Car parade and that public notice of the closings be issued.

**WEEKLY ACCOUNTS PAYABLE WARRANT**

On a motion by Tessier, seconded by Paul White, the Selectboard voted to approve the Accounts Payable warrant for the week of April 4, 2017.

**MISCELLANEOUS**

On a motion by Mitchell, seconded by Paul White, the Selectboard voted to approve and sign a Second Class Liquor License for Trow Hill Grocery.

Asst. Manager Wang informed the Board that the Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District did not take action regarding the haulers being exempt from collecting food scraps.
Selectboard Minutes of April 4, 2017continued:

Asst. Manager Wang, as instructed, is reminding the Board to look into the possibility of integrating the Cemetery Fund into the General Fund. This will be on a future agenda.

ROUND THE TABLE

LaClair gave a legislative update. Topics generating the most interest include the use of Berlin Pond/Montpelier Charter changes and the passage of the State budget by the House (no new taxes or fees).

Mitchell asked for an update on disposing of the trailers confiscated by the Town during a Route 302 cleanup.

Mitchell inquired on the status of funding for the Green Mountain Youth Conservation Corp. A few months ago LaClair was contacted and asked if the Town had any work projects for the Corp to do (fee for service type). Rogers stated he exchanged initial emails with the Director but was unable to connect. So there will be nothing for the upcoming summer.

Chair White stated part of the Town Report for the year ending June 30, 2016 is at the printer. The missing piece is the annual audit which should be available soon.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion by Mitchell, seconded by Tessier, the Selectboard found that premature general knowledge would put the Town at a substantial disadvantage with regards to personnel and contracts.

On a motion by Mitchell, seconded by Tessier, the Selectboard voted to go into executive session to discuss personnel and contracts at 7:50 p.m.

On a motion by Tessier, seconded by Paul White, the Selectboard voted to come out of executive session at 10:06 p.m.

BROOKFIELD AMBULANCE CONTRACT

On a motion by Tessier, seconded by Paul White, the Selectboard voted to enter a two-year contact with the Town of Brookfield, effective July 1, 2017 for ambulance service.

ADJOURN

On a motion by Mitchell, seconded by LaClair, the Selectboard voted to adjourn at 10:08 p.m.

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Donna J. Kelty, Town Clerk-Treasurer  Selectboard Chair

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Barre Town Selectboard