1. Call to order 5:30 p.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Consider approving agenda.
5. Consider setting the fiscal year 2017-2018 property tax rate.
7. Adjourn.

BARRE TOWN SELECTBOARD MINUTES
July 5, 2017

The duly warned meeting of the Barre Town Selectboard of July 5, 2017 was held at the Barre Town Municipal Building, Selectboard Room, Lower Websterville at 5:30:00 p.m.

The following members were in attendance: Tom White, Paul White, Bob Nelson and Rolland Tessier. W. John "Jack" Mitchell was not present.

Attendance for the regular meeting included: Town Manager Carl Rogers, Assistant Town Manager Elaine Wang, Town Clerk-Treasurer Donna J. Kelty.

CALL TO ORDER - The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - Those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVE THE AGENDA

On a motion by Tessier, seconded by Paul White, the Selectboard voted to approve the agenda.

MINUTES

On a motion by Nelson, seconded by Tessier, the Selectboard voted to approve the Selectboard Meeting Minutes of June 27, 2017 with the minor grammatical and spelling changes. Mitchell was not present for the vote.

TAX RATES FOR 2017-2018

Background: Due to the summer meeting schedule and need to have the tax bills in the mail 30 days prior to the first due date (August 15, 2017) this special meeting is being held to set the tax rate.

The Selectboard will set 5 tax rates: 1) Education Homestead (set by the State), 2) Education Non-residential (set by the State), 3) Highway Fund, 4) General Fund, and 5) Local Agreement Rate.

Manager Rogers distributed worksheets at the meeting detailing how the rates for items 3 through 5 were calculated. The Manager's proposed tax rate(s) uses $150,000 of fund balance.

The voter approved donations are $109,450 this year ($1,000 less than a year ago), the final 2017-2018 General Fund budget called for a .2¢ tax decrease while the Highway Fund budget called for a 2.07¢ increase.

The Local Agreement rate raises revenue to replace the education tax revenue that municipalities forgive through tax stabilization contracts, disabled veterans, or voter-approved non-profit organization exemptions. Voters, years ago, increased the disabled
Selectboard Minutes of July 5, 2017 continued:

veteran's exemption from $10,000 (the State amount) to $40,000 the maximum allowed by law. This year there are 51 claims (down from 52 last year) so this exemption costs taxpayers $21,150.

Board members debated the issue of using fund balance to lower the tax rate. The thought is to possibly apply the monies toward other big one-time purchases (storm water project, bike path from the school to South Barre, Fire Department SCBA equipment). Rogers noted in FY 16-17 there were a couple of large delinquent tax collections so the income should be put toward the tax rate. However, the actual fund balance will not be available until sometime in September in preparation for the annual audit. It is possible there may be additional fund balance which could be placed in reserve and the Town should know by then whether the Fire Department will receive the big equipment grant.

On a motion by Nelson, seconded by Paul White, the Selectboard voted to set the 2017 - 2018 property tax rates as follows:

1. Education homestead rate $1.3824
2. Education non-residential rate $1.7304
3. Highway Fund rate $ .4278
4. General Fund rate $ .5021
5. Local Agreement rate $ .0033.

Mitchell was not present for the vote:

WEEKLY ACCOUNTS PAYABLE WARRANT

On a motion by Jack Mitchell, seconded by Tessier, the Selectboard voted to approve the weekly accounts payable warrant for July 5, 2017. Mitchell was not present for the vote.

ADJOURN

On a motion by Nelson, seconded by Paul White, the Selectboard voted to adjourn at 6:17 p.m. Mitchell was not present for the vote.

Donna J. Kelty, Town Clerk-Treasurer

Selectboard Chair

Barre Town Selectboard