BARRE TOWN SELECTBOARD AGENDA
February 2, 2016

P.I.L.O.T. - Budget Committee 6:30 p.m.

1. Call to order 8:00 p.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Consider approving agenda.
4. Consider approving minutes from January 26, 2016 meeting.
5. Announcements
6. Receive guests (for non-agenda items).
7. Consider position on proposed legislation about solar farm siting.
8. Discuss alternative for fulfilling solid waste management planning and solid waste services requirements.
9. Discuss renewal of Washington County Mental Health’s MOU for payment in lieu of taxes.
11. Consider approving weekly accounts payable warrants.
12. Miscellaneous - including any licenses and permits.
13. “Round the table”
14. Executive session: personnel and contracts.
15. Adjourn.

BARRE TOWN SELECTBOARD MINUTES
February 2, 2016

The duly warned meeting of the Barre Town Selectboard of February 2, 2016 was scheduled to be held at the Barre Town Municipal Building, Selectboard Room, in Lower Websterville at 8:00 p.m.

The following members were in attendance: Jeff Blow, Tom White, Rob LaClair, and John “Jack” Mitchell. Rolland Tessier was not present for the meeting.

Others attending were: Town Manager Carl Rogers, Town Clerk-Treasurer Donna J. Kelty, and Times Argus Reporter Eric Blaisdell.

CALL TO ORDER - The meeting was called to order at 8:08 p.m.

The PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE was recited by those present.

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

On a motion by White, seconded by Mitchell, the Selectboard voted to amend the agenda:

1. Add to item 12, Miscellaneous - action to approve a 2016 Liquor License for Martin Foods of South Burlington (Hannaford’s Supermarket). Tessier was not present for the vote.

MINUTES

On a motion by White, seconded by Mitchell, the Selectboard voted to approve the Selectboard meeting minutes of January 26, 2016. Tessier was not present for the vote.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Barre Town budget meetings began last week. The public is welcome to attend to learn about Town operations. Meetings take place every Tuesday night, 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. through the end of March.
Selectboard Minutes of February 2, 2016 continued:

2. Adults are invited to join the Barre Town Recreation Commission for open Pickleball play, which is held on Sundays from 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. at the Barre Town School gymnasium. All equipment is provided.

3. The annual School District Election and Presidential Primary Elections will be held on Tuesday, March 1, 2016. The deadline to register to vote is Wednesday, February 24th.

4. The quarterly property tax installment and semi-annual sewer use fee payments are due Tuesday, February 16th.

5. The Citizen Budget Tour will be on Saturday, February 20th. Citizens are invited to join the Budget Committee on a tour of town facilities where they will talk with department heads. Meet at the town office building between 7:30 a.m. - 8:00 a.m. Bus transportation is provided. The tour will end between 12:00 p.m. - 12:30 p.m. For more information call the Town Manager's office at 479-9331.

6. Logging of the Barre Town Forest is underway, consistent with the Town Forest Management Plan. Learn about logging from our Town Forester during a free workshop and tour on Saturday, February 27th. Meet at the Waterman Street water storage tank at 10:00 a.m. Dress to walk in the woods along the trails and skid roads. The tour should end about 12:30 p.m. For more information call the Town Manager's office at 479-9331.

7. The Annual Freezing Fun for Families softball tournament will take place Friday, March 4, 2016 through Sunday March 6, 2016 at the Barre Town recreation fields. Games start Friday evening and run until about midnight. Play restarts Saturday morning at 8:00 a.m. and goes until 9:00 p.m. The final championship day starts on Sunday at 8:00 a.m. There is a cap of 8-teams this year so sign up early if you want to play. Each year the Freezing Fun for Families softball tournament raises thousands of dollars from team registrations, concessions, and sponsorships to benefit Vermont families with a critically ill child. This year's beneficiaries are 22 month old Ryland House of East Middlebury, Vermont, who is battling Neuroblastoma and 11 year old Garrett Peace of East Montpelier, Vermont who is fighting Leukemia. To support these children, register a team or come watch the softball games and purchase concessions March 4th - 6th.

8. If you like to snowmobile, bid in silent auctions, enter quilt raffles, or eat good food, there's something for you at the 16th Annual Fundraiser for Barre town's Travis Mercy Skatepark on Saturday, February 6, 2016, hosted by the Barre Town Thunder Chickens and the Mercy family. Snowmobile poker run starts at 9:00 a.m at Maplewood Convenience Store in Berlin and ends at Barre Town School. Roast pork and chicken will be served at the Barre Town School starting at 12:30 p.m. For more information call Linda Mercy at 479-3405 or see their ad in The World.

GUESTS - None

PROPOSED LEGISLATION FOR SOLAR FARM SITING

Background: There are four (4) House bills relating to Solar Farm siting being proposed. Board members received information on each (H.596, H.597, H.598, and H.599). Zoning Administrator Chris Violette has been following the actions/discussion in Legislature and recently testified at the House and Senate Committee meetings. The Board will be discussing whether or not they want to take a position on these bills and notify our Senators and Town Representatives.
LaClair noted that Violette’s testimony on the solar siting issues was very well presented and received.

The Board asked that LaClair find out the status on these bills to determine what time frame is needed to respond. Consensus is that a joint statement (Planning Commission and Selectboard) would be best. Rogers will work on arranging a joint meeting with the Planning Commission to define our positions on these bills.

During the discussion it was noted that each bill has merits.

**SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLANNING AND SERVICES**

**Background:** This item was placed on the agenda per Chair Jeff Blow. The Town was recently contacted by Williamstown asking if we would be interested in withdrawing from the Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District (CVSWMD). The Board was provided a copy of the correspondence with Williamstown and information on the process for withdrawing from CVSWMD.

It was noted that currently the CVSWMD assessment is $1/capita. Barre Town’s population is 7,925 +. If the District doubles the assessment our fee would be $15,850. The question for discussion is whether Barre Town can fulfill its solid waste obligations for less than $15,850.

Blow stated he is very concerned that the fees will continue to rise and the CVSWMD is heading (fiscally) down the wrong path.

Rogers stated that it is very unlikely that the Town could join the Mountain Alliance as it would increase their costs significantly. Options, should the Town withdraw from the CVSWMD, are: 1) Barre Town stand alone; or 2) Barre Town and Williamstown do something together.

Further topics noted are: the pending CVSWMD bond vote in November 2016, the procedures for withdrawing from CVSWMD (public vote needed), for the Town to hold a special meeting in conjunction with the State Primary the warning would need to be signed no later than June 27, 2016, and concern the Manager has way too many things to do this time of the year which will not allow for enough time to make a good decision.

After an enthusiastic conversation it was agreed the Town has an “obligation to due diligence” to ensure the taxpayers are receiving a good service at a reasonable price. This item will be on the agenda again soon. The process steps will be for the Manager to get a list of the tasks for operating a solid waste district, and then perhaps get parties (Northfield, Williamstown, our CVSWMD representative Fred Thumm, and Casella Waste Management) together for a very frank conversation.

**WASHINGTON COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

**Background:** Washington County Mental Health (WCMH) owns the C.H.O.I.C.E. Academy located in the former Formula Ford building. They also own the property at 885 South Barre Road which serves as administrative headquarters. Both buildings were purchased in 2012.

Since WCMH is exempt from property tax per state law they have a policy of offering a payment in lieu of taxes. The Town entered into a “Memorandum of Understanding” (MOU) with WCMH in March 2012; said agreement will expire June 30, 2016. According to this agreement it states that WCMH will work on a successor agreement prior to the expiration. In preparing budgets for next fiscal year it would be a benefit to both parties if the Town could reach an agreement in the next two months.
In his background notes the Manager informed the Board that the current MOU states that WCMH intends to pay an amount equal to the municipal portion of the property tax bill. Since this MOU was approved in 2012, both buildings have been overhauled and in the case of the Academy (School), expanded. The current assessed value, municipal portion of a tax bill and current payment in lieu of tax was given to the Board for review (see the table).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>579 So. Barre Rd (School)</th>
<th>885 So. Barre Rd - Admin</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Current Assessment</td>
<td>$4,575,350</td>
<td>$1,981,310</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P.I.L.O.T. on this value</td>
<td>$ 41,626</td>
<td>$ 18,025</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current P.I.L.O.T payment</td>
<td>$ 10,011</td>
<td>$  7,457</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Difference in payments</td>
<td>$ 31,615</td>
<td>$ 10,568</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Manager is asking the Board for direction on how to proceed in talking about this with WCMH.

Rogers has met a couple of times with WCMH. He noted they are experiencing the same as our ambulance service; reduced Medicare/Medicaid reimbursements and cuts to the state funding.

Since this is a contract and involves monetary issues the Board agreed further discussion should occur in executive session. The agenda states executive session is for contracts so it can be discussed later tonight.

**BARCLAY ROAD SIGN**

Background: During the November 2015 meeting, the Traffic Safety Advisory Committee recommended that a "No Outlet" advisory sign be installed north of the intersection of Barclay Road with Sunset and Phelps Road.

On a motion by White, seconded by LaClair, the Selectboard voted to support the Traffic Safety Advisory recommendation and approve the installation of a "No Outlet" sign on Barclay Road, just north of the Phelps/Sunset Roads intersection. Tessier was not present for the vote.

**MISCELLANEOUS**

On a motion by White, seconded by Mitchell, the Selectboard voted to approve a 2016 Second Class Liquor License for Martin Foods of South Burlington (Hannaford's Market in South Barre). Tessier was not present for the vote.

**ROUND THE TABLE**

LaClair gave a brief update on Act 46 (School Consolidation). He noted that the Senate version was very different from the House. The Senate version (S.233) passed this past Saturday which unfortunately increased the School tax rate 2¢.

White congratulated the recent individuals completing the ICS-200 course which included himself and Jack Mitchell.

Mitchell noted in the packet this week was a letter of intent for a solar farm on Osborne Road. He inquired if this was the same one Violette had referred to in his Department Head visit a few weeks ago. The Manager stated it was.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

On a motion by Mitchell, seconded by LaClair, the Selectboard voted to find that premature general public knowledge would place the Town at a substantial disadvantage with regards to contracts and personnel. Tessier was not present for the vote.
Selectboard Minutes of February 2, 2016 continued:

On a motion by White, seconded by Mitchell, the Selectboard voted to go into executive session for contracts and personnel at 8:57 p.m. and action is expected. Tessier was not present for the vote.

On a motion by Mitchell, seconded by White, the Selectboard voted to come out of executive session at 9:52 p.m. Tessier was not present for the vote.

OFFICE STAFF CONTACT APPROVED

On a motion by Mitchell, seconded by White, the Selectboard voted to approve the office staff labor contract with the United Steel Workers for the period July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2019. Tessier was not present for the vote.

WEEKLY ACCOUNTS PAYABLE WARRANT

On a motion by White, seconded by LaClair, the Selectboard voted to approve the accounts payable warrant for February 2, 2016. Tessier was not present for the vote and Blow abstained due to an employer conflict.

ADJOURN

On a motion by Mitchell, seconded by White, the Selectboard voted to adjourn at 10:12 p.m. Tessier 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