



Town of Barre VERMONT

BARRE TOWN BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING PROPOSED BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022-2023

Tuesday, March 8, 2022

AGENDA

1. Call to order.....6:00 p.m.
2. Consider approving agenda.
3. Consider approving February 22, 2022 meeting minutes.
4. Acknowledge guests.
5. Questions about material received and reviewed to date.
6. Presentations by Aldrich Public Library.
7. Continue review of Ambulance Fund budget and begin review of General Fund budget.
8. Public comment, if any.....7:45 p.m.
9. Adjourn.....7:50 p.m.

MINUTES

The duly warned meeting of the Barre Town Budget Review Committee for the proposed 2022-2023 fiscal year budget was held on Tuesday, March 8, 2022 at the Barre Town Municipal Building, Selectboard Meeting Room, Websterville, VT.

Budget Committee Members Present: Norma Malone, Paul White, Justin Bolduc, W. John “Jack” Mitchell, Alan Garceau, Tony Amaral, Mike Gilbar (arrived at 6:20 p.m.), Chris Neddo, and Phil Cecchini.

Budget Committee Members Absent: Bob Nelson.

Staff Members Present: Town Manager Carl Rogers, Assistant Town Manager Elaine Wang, Town Clerk Tina Lunt, Finance Director Katelyn Kran, and Fire Chief Chris Violette.

Others Present: Aldrich Public Library Director Loren Polk and Aldrich Public Library Board Chair Nancy Pope.

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

APPROVE THE AGENDA:

On a motion by Phil Cecchini, seconded by Paul White, the Budget Committee voted unanimously to approve the agenda as presented.

APPROVE THE MINUTES:

On a motion by Phil Cecchini, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Budget Committee voted unanimously to approve the March 1, 2022 meeting minutes with minor spelling and grammatical correction.

QUESTIONS ON MATERIAL: None.

PRESENTATION BY THE ALDRICH PUBLIC LIBRARY:

Aldrich Public Library Director Loren Polk and Board Chair Nancy Pope were present.

Mrs. Polk gave a presentation that focused on the value of literacy and the Aldrich Public Library.

Highlights included:

- Benefit of reading
- Value of libraries
- A collection of over 60,000 titles
- 78 subscriptions to magazines and newspapers
- More than 37,000 ebook and eAudoook titles available
- 50 databases
- Access to 20 public computers and other technology needs
- Staff produce over 240 programs annually
- Asset for Barre
- 4th largest library in state by building size
- 7th largest library by district

Mrs. Polk reviewed the libraries budget noting the details around the line items. She noted FY21 did look different due to the impact of the pandemic and the library not being able to fundraise.

Mrs. Polk shared the library received a donation from the estate of Donald Allen, a lifelong Barre resident and patron of the library. Mr. Allen's estate gifted over \$1.5 million to the library. Mrs. Polk noted it is unclear how the money can be used as it does contain restrictions. The Aldrich Board of Directors with support of the legal counsel are working together to determine how to use the funds to best support the library operations.

Committee members asked questions regarding the recent repair work and capital improvement projects that are on the horizon for the library. Mrs. Polk noted the library could possibly be looking at roof replacement, controls, and elevator work in the future.

Mr. Mitchell inquired about the East Barre Library. Mrs. Polk shared COVID impacted the decision of opening earlier this year and they are now looking at reopening in April or May.

CONTINUATION OF AMBULANCE FUND:

Budget review began with the continuation of the Ambulance Fund. Town Manager Carl Rogers gave an overview of the expenses.

Expenses: Dues/training, contracts with other towns, EMS Billing, insurances, employee benefits, uniforms, VT EMS assessment, miscellaneous (ferry fee, easy pass).

Town Manager Carl Rogers noted a PCORI fee was added into the budget. Mr. Rogers explained these funds have been added in for the American Care Act (ACA) penalty due to the average hours worked for

Budget Committee Meeting of March 8, 2022 Continued:

EMT workers. He noted the Town is preparing they will have to pay the US Treasury this fee due to the hours the EMT staff worked during the pandemic.

GENERAL FUND:

Review began with the Fire Department.

The Fire Department are paid on-call and have no full-time staff. They are paid for training attendance, and emergency, non-emergency, and special events. The department has two stations.

Highlights:

- Request for annual firefighter hourly pay; proposal for \$1.00/hour increase
- Equipment batteries (for battery operated equipment)
- Request to upgrade motion lights at East Barre station
- Request to repair overhead door at South Barre station
- 2.5” hose replacement

Expenses: wages/salaries, training, equipment/tools (town radio charges, second signal, active 911 app, batteries), small equipment purchases, supplies (grease/oil, gasoline, flares, paint, cleaning supplies, flags, absorbent), utilities (telephone, internet at stations, mobile data service), professional services/contracts (East Barre station sidewalk maintenance, stitching and gear repair), employee benefits (3-year plan to replace helmets, other gear, accident insurance premium, gear replacement reserve).

Mr. Rogers noted that small equipment purchases are increased this year. Mr. Violette shared additional information regarding the 2.5” hose request, explaining that this would finish the replacement of the hose. Discussion continued around the super vac battery op ventilation fan. Mr. Violette added this would be year one of a two-year project, as one would be added to each station.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, March 15, 2022, 6:00 p.m.

ADJOURN:

On a motion by Mike Gilbar, seconded by Phil Cecchini, the Budget Committee meeting adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

APPROVED MINUTES

Barre Town Budget Committee

Filed in the Barre Town Clerk’s Office on this _____ day of _____, 2022.

Budget Committee Meeting of March 8, 2022 Continued:

ATTEST: _____, Barre Town Clerk.