



Town of Barre VERMONT

BARRE TOWN BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING PROPOSED BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024

Tuesday, February 21, 2023

AGENDA

1. Call to order6:00 p.m.
2. Consider approving agenda.
3. Consider approving February 14 meeting minutes
4. Acknowledge guests, if any
5. Questions about material received and reviewed to date
6. Discuss budget request information received to date
7. Continue review of Water Fund, begin review of Highway Fund
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 2023-2024 fiscal year budget was held on Tuesday, February 21, 2023 at the Barre Town Municipal Building, Emergency Operation Center, Websterville, VT.

Budget Committee Members Present: Norma Malone, Paul White, W. John “Jack” Mitchell, Mike Gilbar (arrived at 7:01), Chris Neddo, Todd Provencher, Jamie Cushman, and Josh Howard. Those present virtually: Justin Bolduc.

Budget Committee Members Absent: Bob Nelson.

Staff Members Present: Town Manager Carl Rogers, Assistant Town Manager Chris Violette, Town Clerk Tina Lunt, Finance Director Katelyn Kran, and Town Engineer Josh Martineau. Those present virtually: DPW Supervisor Richard Tetreault and Assistant Town Manager Chris Violette.

Others Present: None.

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

APPROVE THE AGENDA:

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

APPROVE THE MINUTES:

On a motion by Josh Howard, seconded by Paul White, the Budget Committee voted unanimously to approve the February 14, 2023 meeting minutes with minor spelling and grammatical corrections as presented to the clerk.

GUESTS: None.

QUESTIONS ON MATERIAL:

Town Manager Carl Rogers stated the requested Building Fund information is not complete. Mr. Rogers noted he is still gathering prior years information. Additionally, Mr. Rogers shared that the Ethics Law applies only to State employees.

Mr. Bolduc shared that he researched the average amount of fuel used at the DPW garage. The average is 3,630 gallons per year, and this lines up with the reading that Shop Foreman Mike Martel provided to the Committee last week.

Mr. Provencher noted he would like to revisit the Sewer Capital Improvement Fund. He would like to see if these funds could be utilized in other ways such as incentive funding within the Wilson Industrial Park. This item was added to the white board for further discussion.

BUDGET REQUEST INFORMATION:

Members received budget request information from BADC, Aldrich Library, and Green Mountain Transit by email prior to the meeting to review. Mr. Rogers shared that a fourth request was received from Barre Partnership and passed this information out to Committee members for review.

Chair Malone asked what the Committee's preference is for the groups. By consensus The Aldrich Library, Barre Area Development, and Barre Partnership will be the organizations attending a future meeting to present to the Budget Committee. Members have agreed to accept the amount requested from Green Mountain Transit as the request is minimal, and prior to this year they have not asked for an increase.

The groups will have 10 minutes for a presentation and then the Committee will allow time for questions and answers.

CONTINUATION OF WATER FUND:

Budget review began with the continuation of the Water Fund.

Mr. Rogers shared there are funds in the proposed FY '23-'24 Water Fund budget for the new requirements around the Lead and Copper Rule testing work that needs to be completed. These funds will cover step 1 of the project. Town Engineer Josh Martineau explained the timeline for the project could take 5-7 years. Mr. Provencher asked if the Housing Rehab Loan funding could be used for this purpose. Mr. Roger's stated this is a possibility to keep in mind if the Town decides to charge residents for the work. Additionally, the Town will rely on grant funding.

Expenses: postage for line service work notices, engineering upgrade, meter reading support, employee benefits, debt service payments, permits, small equipment purchases, contracted services (scuba expenses), water distribution, pager & alert services, purchase of water, contracted services, Barre City water surcharge.

Mr. Martineau is requesting a Hach DR900 multiparameter colorimeter for \$1500, along with additional testing supplies. This meter was recommended by the State chemist. This piece of equipment measures the dissolved oxygen level in water and will help with the Town's concerns with the discolored water problem.

HIGHWAY FUND:

The proposed budget has an increase of \$342,485 (10.15%).

Overall, the Highway Fund budget is seeing significant increases in paving costs, permit fees, equipment charges, road salt, and health insurance.

Mr. Rogers noted the grand list is growing and the tax rate would increase 3.53 cents or 10.50%.

Budget Highlights:

- Per ton paving cost increase 13.9% compared to the FY '22-'23 budget
- \$34,145 in stormwater permits are due in FY '23-'24
- \$22,430 for health insurance as all Highway Fund employees are now using Town health insurance
- \$7,000 for hand line painter
- \$17,800 Increase in contracted services
- \$9,100 Town's share of grant funded project to line W. Skylark Terrace culvert

Revenues: The Highway fund is funded 90% by property taxes. Additional revenues include the State Aid Highway Grant, Grant in Aid, permits, and street number sign sales.

Expenses: wages & salaries, equipment & tools, advertising (job opening positions), training registrations, computer software, permits & licenses, equipment rentals, small equipment purchase (hand line painter).

Mr. Rogers explained that the Town has been having a difficult time finding contractors to help with the miscellaneous pavement markings. Town Engineer Josh Martineau and DPW Supervisor Richard Tetreault

Budget Committee Meeting of February 21, 2023 Continued:

have proposed purchasing a hand line painter and stencils to complete this work themselves. Currently, this work can cost up to \$16, 0000 when contracted out. This would allow the Town flexibility of when the work is completed.

Additionally, Town Engineer Josh Martineau explained he is requesting an annual fee of \$1,225 be added into the FY '23-'24 budget for converting map data into the Axis GIS editor application. This will be beneficial for the Town to have access to data when they are working on the Lead & Copper Rule project.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

ADJOURN:

On a motion by Paul White, seconded by Josh Howard, the Budget Committee meeting adjourned at 7:51 p.m.

APPROVED MINUTES

Barre Town Budget Committee

Filed in the Barre Town Clerk's Office on this _____ day of _____, 2023.

ATTEST: _____, Barre Town Clerk.