



Town of Barre VERMONT

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

Tuesday, March 21, 2023

AGENDA

1. Call to order.....6:00 p.m.
2. Consider approving agenda.
3. Consider approving March 14, 2023 and March 16, 2023 meeting minutes
4. Acknowledge guests, if any
5. Questions about material received and reviewed to date
6. Review General Fund police, fire, and recreation department budgets
7. Public comment, if any.....7:45 p.m.
8. Recess.....7:50 p.m.
9. Reconvene.....8:20 p.m.
10. Continue review of budgets
11. Adjourn

MINUTES

The duly warned meeting of the Barre Town Budget Review Committee for the proposed 2023-2024 fiscal year budget was held on Tuesday, March 21, 2023 at the Barre Town Municipal Building, Emergency Operation Center, Websterville, VT.

Budget Committee Members Present: Norma Malone, Paul White, Bob Nelson, Justin Bolduc, W. John “Jack” Mitchell, Mike Gilbar, Chris Neddo, Todd Provencher, Jamie Cushman, and Josh Howard

Budget Committee Members Absent: None.

Staff Members Present: Town Manager Carl Rogers and Assistant Town Clerk Brandon Garbacik, Police Chief William Dodge, Fire Chief Andrew Lange, and Recreation Director Johnny Crossley. Those attending virtually: Finance Director Katelyn Kran.

Others Present: Recreation Board Chair Doug Farnham. Those attending virtually: 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 Bob Nelson, seconded by Mike Gilbar, the Budget Committee voted unanimously to approve the agenda as presented.

APPROVE THE MINUTES:

On a motion by Paul White, seconded by Mike Gilbar, the Budget Committee voted unanimously to approve the March 14, 2023 meeting minutes and the March 16, 2023 meeting minutes with minor spelling and grammatical corrections as presented to the Clerk.

GUESTS: None.

QUESTIONS ON MATERIAL:

Mrs. Malone summarized the discussion regarding funding for Barre Area Development Corporation at the previous meeting. This was done to inform Mr. Mitchell, who was absent at the prior meeting, of these discussions and to clarify that all Committee members are on the same page.

Mr. Gilbar asked Town Manager Carl Rogers if there had been any updates regarding costs of the maintenance and service contracts. Aldrich Public Library Board Chair Nancy Pope was in attendance and noted that Aldrich Public Library Director Loren Polk had sent a memo via e-mail to Mr. Rogers on March 10th which included these costs. It was discovered at this time that this memo had not been distributed to the Budget Committee members. Mr. Rogers said he would check his e-mail for the memo.

Mrs. Malone mentioned that the Aldrich Public Library in years past had presented a strategic plan, and she asked Mrs. Pope what the status of the library's strategic plan was. Mrs. Pope expressed the Library's current strategic plan is stale. Chair Pope stated the Library has not engaged in a process to revise the plan due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but she mentioned that there are plans to re-engage talks of a strategic plan within the next year.

CONTINUATION OF GENERAL FUND:

Budget review began with the continuation of the General Fund.

Police Department (421):

Chief William Dodge was present. Currently, the Police Department has 5 full-time permanent officers, one full-time officer currently on a leave of absence, and a dispatcher clerk. There is a vacant position for an additional full-time officer. Town Manager Carl Rogers noted the decrease in the department budget is due to the elimination of an extra full-time officer included in last year's budget.

Expenses: wages/salaries, training pay (including K9), Taser/Axon body cam video storage, replacement tasers, breaching tools, replacement lightbar, ammunition, K9 training conference, computer software maintenance, dispatch, uniforms, replacement vests, K9 food/medication

Animal Control Officer (452):

The Animal Control Officer position has been vacant for some time. Currently, the Barre Town Police Officers handle the calls on an on-call service. The Town contracts with Random Rescue for their Kennel Services.

Expenses: mileage, traps/poles, postage/printing, kennel services, rabies vaccination

Fire Department (422):

Chief Andrew Lange was present, as was former Chief Chris Violette. The Fire Department are paid when on-call, and they have no full-time staff. They are paid for training attendance as well as emergency and special events. The department has two stations, one in South Barre and one in East Barre. Included in this budget is a note to begin upgrading the battery-powered jaws of life, with one to be upgraded this year and another upgraded each of the next two years. Also included in this budget is an increase in the reserve account for replacement of SCBA with a 10-year life cycle to account for inflation. Plus, there are ten lengths of 2.5” hoses included in this budget that the Fire Department were unable to get last year due to lack of availability.

Expenses: wages/salaries, training, mileage, equipment/tools (Town radio charges, second signal, active 911 app, batteries, hoses), jaws of life replacement, supplies (grease/oil, gasoline, flares, paint, cleaning supplies, absorbent), utilities (phone/Internet, heat, and grounds supplies for both stations), contracts/services, employee benefits

Culture (461):

There is one account in this fund, which is the contribution to the Aldrich Public Library. Aldrich Public Library Board Chair Nancy Pope attended virtually.

The library had requested an 8% increase from last year’s budget, while Town Manager Carl Rogers had budgeted for a 5% increase. Chair Malone argued that in years past, the municipal funding for the library has been at about a 55-45 split, with about 55% of funding coming from Barre City and about 45% of funding coming from Barre Town. She stated that a 4% increase from last year’s budget would maintain these trends. She supported the 4% increase to reflect that the library and its resources are used more by Barre City residents than Barre Town residents.

Mrs. Pope explained that the library had requested the 8% increase from last year’s budget so that Barre Town’s contributions to the library’s budget would be on par with Barre City’s contributions per capita.

On a motion by Justin Bolduc, seconded by Josh Howard, the Budget Committee recessed the meeting at 7:51 p.m.

The Budget Committee reconvened the meeting at 8:25 p.m.

Upon a brief discussion, it was decided that a motion be made pertaining to the Library’s budget.

On a motion by Mike Gilbar, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Budget Committee voted 8-2 to amend the proposed FY 2023-24 budget for the Aldrich Public Library from \$202,045 to \$200,122. Todd Provencher and Josh Howard voted nay.

Recreation (462):

Recreation Director Johnny Crossley and Recreation Board Chair Doug Farnham were present. The wages/salary has gone up and the advertising has gone down from last year’s budget due to the hiring of Mr. Crossley as Recreation Director. Under Capital Improvements, Mr. Rogers confirmed that the \$100,000 in the budget to install lights at the Major League baseball field could be covered with ARPA funds. With the freed-up funds, two items added to the budget were fencing around the Little League baseball field and a 20% match toward building a parking lot along Littlejohn Road (as it is a requirement for grant funding).

Budget Committee Meeting of March 21, 2023 Continued:

Expenses: wages/salaries, equipment (mowers, skid steer, truck, DPW equipment), supplies (wood chips, signs, weed/bug spray, trimmer line, drag teeth, basketball nets/rims), program expenses (winter trail grooming, egg hunt, sports tournaments), landscaping and grass cutting, portalets (six total), rubbish removal

WHITE BOARD ITEMS:

Committee members reviewed the white board items and added positive/negative dollar values to each item, depending on whether they were to be added or removed from the budget. These items will be discussed at next week's meeting in order to proceed to the final approval of the budget.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, March 28, 2023, 6:00 p.m.

ADJOURN:

On a motion by Bob Nelson, seconded by Mike Gilbar, the Budget Committee meeting adjourned at 9:37 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.