



Town of Barre VERMONT

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

Tuesday, March 28, 2023

AGENDA

1. Call to order.....6:00 p.m.
2. Consider approving agenda.
3. Consider approving March 21, 2023 meeting minutes
4. Acknowledge guests, if any
5. Public comment
6. Questions about material received and reviewed to date
7. Consider approving budgets:

a. Building Fund	b. Cemetery Fund
c. Ambulance Fund	d. Equipment Fund
e. Water Fund	f. Sewer Capital Improvement Fund
g. Sewer Fund	h. Highway Fund
i. Records Restoration Fund	j. General Fund
8. Discuss budget presentation
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, March 28, 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, Town Clerk Tina Lunt, Assistant Town Manager Chris Violette, Finance Director Katelyn Kran.

Others Present: Times Argus Reporter Eric Blaisdell. Those present virtually: Loren Polk.

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 Bob Nelson, seconded by Josh Howard, the Budget Committee voted unanimously to approve the March 21, 2023 meeting minutes with minor spelling and grammatical corrections as presented to the Clerk.

GUESTS: None.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

QUESTIONS ON MATERIAL:

Mr. Nelson pointed out a minor grammatical correction, noting a spelling error starting on page 11 of the General Fund Budget. The word “Government” is spelled incorrectly throughout the budget book pages. Board consensus is to not reprint solely for this purpose.

Mr. White explained what “Bob’s List” is to the new Budget Committee members. For a number of years, the Selectboard has used the undesignated audited fund balance to buy down the tax rate. Mr. White stated the last few years the Selectboard has identified one-time large ticket items and purchases that the fund balance could be used for. Chair Malone noted the last few years the dollar amount has been in the \$200,000-\$300,000 range. Mr. White stated the reasoning of the list being named “Bob’s List” is because Mr. Nelson is the one that agreed to keep a tally of the items that are included on the list.

APPROVAL OF THE FY 23-24 BUDGET:

On a motion by Todd Provencher, seconded by Josh Howard, the Budget Committee voted unanimously to approve the proposed Barre Town Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Building Fund Budget in the amount of \$66,970.

On a motion by Justin Bolduc, seconded by Mike Gilbar, the Budget Committee voted unanimously to approve the proposed Barre Town Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Ambulance Fund Budget in the amount of \$2,891,655.

Mr. Provencher asked that the Town look at the per capita fee outside of the Budget Committee to look at options for capturing lost revenues.

On a motion by Bob Nelson, seconded by Mike Gilbar, the Budget Committee voted unanimously to approve the proposed Barre Town Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Water Fund Budget in the amount of \$579,635.

On a motion by Josh Howard, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Budget Committee voted unanimously to approve the proposed Barre Town Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Sewer Fund Budget in the amount of \$1,154,355.

On a motion by Todd Provencher, seconded by Bob Nelson, the Budget Committee voted unanimously to approve the proposed Barre Town Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Records Restoration Fund Budget in the amount of \$19,200.

On a motion by Bob Nelson, seconded by Chris Neddo, the Budget Committee voted unanimously to approve the proposed Barre Town Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Cemetery Fund Budget in the amount of \$80,750.

On a motion by Josh Howard, seconded by Chris Neddo, the Budget Committee voted unanimously to approve the proposed Barre Town Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Sewer Capital Improvement Fund Budget as presented.

On a motion by Justin Bolduc, seconded by Mike Gilbar, the Budget Committee voted unanimously to approve the proposed Barre Town Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Highway Fund Budget in the amount of \$3,715,340.

Mr. Mitchell presented the Committee with information regarding the woodchipper. The woodchipper was an item that was listed on the white board for further discussion. Committee members discussed the pros and cons of this piece of equipment. Members considered this item as they provided their feedback and concerns and whether it would be a beneficial purchase for the Town. Mr. Provencher suggested the idea of renting a chipper for the purposes of a PILOT program before deciding to purchase one.

On a motion by Jack Mitchell, seconded by Bob Nelson, the Budget Committee voted unanimously to approve an increase of \$38,575 to the Equipment Fund Budget for the purchase of a woodchipper.

Noted for the record the proposed Barre Town Fiscal year 2023-2024 Equipment Fund Budget was approved in the amount of \$1,735,755.

General Fund:

Committee members reviewed the white board items for point of discussion. It was decided that the \$100,000 for the baseball field light would be moved out of the FY '23-'24 budget and that ARPA funds would be used for this purchase. Additionally, Board consensus was to approve the amounts per the Manager's proposed changes.

On a motion by Bob Nelson, seconded by Justin Bolduc, the Budget Committee voted unanimously to approve the proposed Barre Town Fiscal Year 2023-2024 General Fund Budget in the amount of \$4,614,511.

BUDGET PRESENTATION:

Committee members discussed the different ways of executing the budget presentation information. The use of Front Porch Forum, YouTube, Department Facebook pages, and the Town website are all platforms for helping to get this resource out to residents. CVTV will record the presentation. In the past this has been done during the last week of April. Chair Malone suggested completing the presentation sooner rather than later, due to the increase in early voter participation. Board consensus is to create a simplified version of the Budget Presentation to share with the community. Staff will work with Committee members over the next couple weeks to complete.

Chair Malone declared recognition of Mr. Mitchell as "Budget Member Emeritus" as this is his last Budget Committee meeting. Additionally, she expressed her sincere gratitude for Mr. Rogers for the tremendous amount of time he spends preparing the Budget, noting the details he puts into it. His institutional knowledge will be missed by all.

Budget Committee Meeting of March 28, 2023 Continued:

Mr. Mitchell extended his appreciation to Mrs. Malone for chairing the Budget Committee meetings these last couple years. He said he appreciated her knowledge and detail she put into the meetings.

In closing, Chair Malone expressed her gratitude as she thanked the citizen members that took part in the '23-'24 FY Budget Committee.

ADJOURN:

On a motion by Justin Bolduc, seconded by Mike Gilbar, the Budget Committee meeting adjourned at 7:31 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.