



Town of Barre VERMONT

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

Tuesday, March 7, 2023

AGENDA

1. Call to order.....6:00 p.m.
2. Consider approving agenda.
3. Consider approving February 28 meeting minutes
4. Acknowledge guests, if any
5. Presentation by and discussion with organizations included in the Town General Fund budget:
 - a. Barre Partnership.....6:00 p.m.
 - b. Aldrich Public Library.....6:25 p.m.
 - c. Barre Area Development Corp.....6:50 p.m.
 - d. Central Vermont Economic Development Corp.....7:15 p.m.
6. Questions about material received and reviewed to date.....7:30 p.m.
7. Begin review of Ambulance 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 2023-2024 fiscal year budget was held on Tuesday, March 7, 2023 at the Barre Town Municipal Building, Emergency Operation Center, Websterville, VT.

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

Budget Committee Members Absent: None.

Staff Members Present: Town Manager Carl Rogers, Assistant Town Clerk Jennifer Bushway, and Assistant Town Manager Chris Violette.

Others Present: Tracie Lewis, Loren Polk, Aimee Green, Bob Lord, Robert Hutchins, Al Flory, Shannon Alexander, Mathew Polk, Nancy Pope and Melissa Bounty. Those attending virtually: David Sitchel

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m.

APPROVE THE AGENDA:

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

APPROVE THE MINUTES:

On a motion by Josh Howard, seconded by Mike Gilbar, the Budget Committee voted unanimously to approve the February 28, 2023 meeting minutes.

GUESTS: None.

PRESENTATIONS FROM NON-PROFITS IN THE GENERAL FUND BUDGET:

Barre Partnership:

Executive Director Tracie Lewis was present. Ms. Lewis shared a presentation with the Board. A summary of the presentation included:

- Barre Partnership's Barre Town Businesses and Organizations
- Board members
- Work based learning students from Spaulding High School
- Events (Barre Heritage, Holiday House Decorating Contest)
- Welcome to Barre packet
- Social media insights (5892 Facebook followers)

Board members asked questions regarding the welcome packet, inquiries outside of social media, the budget request amount, and Barre Partnership's work with the not-for-profit organizations.

Aldrich Public Library:

Those in attendance: Loren Polk, Nancy Pope, and David Sichel

Loren Polk, Director of the Aldrich Library shared a presentation with the Board. A summary of the presentation included:

- 2020 shutdown due to pandemic
- '22-'23 the Library saw 50,000 visits since doors reopened
- FY '23 the Library has seen 43,510 visits so far
- Hybrid programs
- Barre Town had over 15,700 circulations in FY '22
- Online reading has increased
- Forest walks
- Story time participation
- Online programs
- Staffing: current staff is 12
- Programs: Full Steam Ahead, Summer Reading Program, Winter and Spring Break Programs, Cooking series, and Senior Day
- 20 computers available through two buildings for access: increased over last year
- Online database use: spike in Worldbook site
- Cardholders: 2, 474 Barre Town card users
- Fundraising update: Light up the Library
- Oral histories of Barre City and Barre Town

Budget Committee Meeting of March 7, 2023 Continued:

The Aldrich Library is open Monday thru Friday 11:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m. and Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The York Library is open Tuesday and Thursday 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Ms. Polk stated the budget request funds will be used to continue to offer collections both online and in person and will continue to offer programming for all ages and interests. Additionally, they wish to continue to offer partnering opportunities and provide access to computers, printers, and meeting and gathering spaces to the public.

Ms. Polk noted the Vermont Department of Libraries is offering two grants that the Aldrich Library will be applying for capital needs. They are currently completing an assessment survey and are looking to seek additional grants in the future. Capital needs include air filtration, boiler replacement, and roofing.

The library is looking at changing the non-resident fee to be more competitive with other area libraries.

Barre Area Development Corp.

Those in attendance: Executive Director Aimee Green, Barre Area Development President Bob Lord, and member Al Flory.

Executive Director Aimee Green shared a PowerPoint Presentation with Committee members. A highlight of the presentation includes:

- Benefits to the Barre Community
 - Implement economic development
 - Providing marketing for business recruitment
 - To act as a point of contact for information and support economic development in the municipalities
- FY '24 goals
- Housing Strategy & Investments
- Business Development Strategy & Investments
- Marketing Strategies & Investments

BADC's request in funding will help continue the support of the Marketing Director Shannon Alexander. Additionally, \$28,566 is being requested to support the Marketing Coordinator position and Executive Director.

Mrs. Malone inquired about the Prospect Heights project. She asked about the 100 housing unit plans and if they are for single family or multi-family homes. Ms. Green noted it will be a mix of both and the spectrum will be from affordable to market rate.

Central Vermont Economic Development Corp.

Executive Director Melissa Bounty was present. Ms. Bounty has a background in children book publishing and attended Johnson State College. Ms. Bounty received on-site training for over a year for her current position.

QUESTIONS ON MATERIAL: None.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

Budget Committee Meeting of March 7, 2023 Continued:

ADJOURN:

On a motion by Mike Gilbar, seconded by Chris Neddo, the Budget Committee meeting adjourned at 7:55p.m.

APPROVED MINUTES

Barre Town Budget Committee

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

ATTEST: _____, Barre Town Clerk.