

**BARRE TOWN BUDGET REVIEW
FOR THE PROPOSED BUDGET 2014-2015**

February 4, 2014

BUDGET COMMITTEE MINUTES

February 4, 2014

The duly warned meeting of the Barre Town Budget Review Committee for the proposed 2014-2015 fiscal year budget was held February 4, 2014 at the Barre Town Municipal Building, Emergency Operation Center, Lower Websterville at 6:30 p.m.

The following members were in attendance: Jeff Blow, Rob LaClair, JP Isabelle, Chris Day, Rolland Tessier, Jay Perkins, and Jeff Newton (arrived at 6:47 p.m.). Members not present included: William Wolfe, W. John "Jack" Mitchell, and Greg Donahue.

Also in attendance were: Town Manager Carl Rogers, Town Clerk-Treasurer Donna J. Kelty, DPW Superintendent Richard Tetreault, and Dave Delcore (Times Argus reporter).

CALL TO ORDER

Town Manager Rogers called the meeting to order at 6:38 p.m.

REVIEW OF ADDITIONAL APPENDICES

Rogers began with the review of Appendix F (Debt Service). He noted those items which are no longer included due to payment in full (Aldrich Library bond and lease/purchase of one dump truck) as well as the new ones added to list.

Appendix G is a listing of all the Tax Stabilization Contracts with Barre Town. Included in the report is an itemization of how these contracts will impact the Grand List as they near their respective maturity dates.

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

An inquiry was made as to how the Town was dealing with the new health care laws. Rogers noted that because of size we will remain status quo until 2016.

BUILDING FUND

The Building Fund is used for various capital improvement projects for the many buildings. Each Fund which owns a building contributes annually. There have been no increases since the Fund came into existence. The budget will decrease by 1.35% even with the proposed increase due to the type of projects being proposed.

The projects included in the proposed FY 14-15 are the EMS Roof (1/2 - the other 1/2 in FY 15-16) and the Websterville Playground.

CEMETERY FUND

Continuation of this budget review begins with the expenses. The major points to note are how the Cemetery Sexton salary (this position is also in charge of the Recreation Department. Thus the salary is divided between the Cemetery and General Fund), the various insurances (to include the experience discount the Town receives in workmans comp), the increase in columbarium services, and an increase in the amount given to the Flags for Veterans for purchase of flags to be placed on graves.

WATER FUND

A decrease of 5.96% is proposed for the Water Fund. This is due in part to the Green Mountain View water line project being completed and a reduction in Equipment charges associated with that project. The bottom line is the Manager is not proposing any rate increases. Revenues are projected to exceed expenses. However, should there be very dry conditions this summer the Town may have to purchase more water from the City.

BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING OF February 4, 2014 continued:

Once again the division of salaries between the various funds was noted as well as the various insurance expenses. A big part of the water budget is the purchase of water. The Town typically buys water from the Graniteville Fire District (helps our residents and is less expensive than Barre City). However, there are times in the year where the Town must buy water from Barre City.

SEWER FUND

The Manager stated that in preparing this budget he noted that treatment charges overall are steady. No rate increase is expected and it is anticipated it will cover a rise in treatment costs. B.O.D. billing rate will increase to 42¢ per pound. Until costs are re-examined, this would be the last increase in B.O.D. billing. Currently 3 businesses receive this excess charge (Hood Dairy, Vermont Butter & Cheese, and the Village Cannery). B.O.D. is the solids in the wastewater. The higher the B.O.D. content the more it costs to treat. The disposal of the sludge is also very costly.

Revenues come from the per equivalent unit charge (\$310 per unit). Williamstown has several homes on Cogswell Street which are connected to our line. An agreement has been made whereby we bill Williamstown for these units and they collect from their residents.

Expense discussions included B.O.D. sampling at the four stations, new fee associated with software expenses for credit card payments, insurances, overtime, outside services (meter calibration, root control, etc.), and treatment costs.

ALDRICH PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Library has asked if the Budget Tour will be stopping at the East Barre Branch. This year they are requesting a \$150,000 donation. Our current donation is \$103,000 (for the past five years).

Consensus of those present was yes they would like to visit the East Barre Branch but keep the visit to around 5 - 10 minutes.

HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENT

Next week the Committee will review of the Equipment Fund. Be prepared to discuss them at the meeting next Tuesday. If you have questions prior to the meeting feel free to call (479-9331) or email (crogers@barretown.org) the Town Manager.

Should you be unable to attend a meeting or will be late, contact the Town Manager as soon as possible. He will also be available if you want a one-on-one session to catch up on the information you missed. The Budget Committee meetings are audio taped and will be another resource available to you. All meeting minutes are posted on the website (www.barretown.org). From the homepage, look under the Boards/Commission button, and click on Budget Committee.

MINUTE APPROVAL

On a motion by JP Isabelle, seconded by Rob LaClair, the Budget Committee unanimously approved the minutes of January 28, 2014. Perkins, Donahue, and Mitchell were not present for the vote.

NEXT MEETING

The Budget Committee meeting will reconvene on Tuesday, February 4, 2014, 6:30 p.m. at the Emergency Operation Center, Municipal Building in Lower Websterville.

BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING OF February 4, 2014 continued:

RECESS

The meeting recessed at 7:55 p.m.

Donna J. Kelty, Town Clerk-Treasurer

Barre Town Budget Committee

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Committee Chair

x _____

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