

Barre Town Budget Committee Meeting
Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2017 - 2018

March 20, 2017

1. Call to order.....6:30 p.m.
2. Consider approving agenda
3. Questions about material covered so far.
4. Review General Fund: Revenues, Police, Fire, Recreation & Employee Benefits
5. Begin final review of all funds
6. Recess this meeting

Minutes for March 20, 2017

The duly warned meeting of the Barre Town Budget Review Committee for the proposed 2017-2018 fiscal year budget was held March 20, 2017 at the Barre Town Municipal Building, Emergency Operation Center, Lower Websterville at 6:37 p.m.

The following members were in attendance: Tom White, Rolland Tessier, W. John "Jack" Mitchell, Rob LaClair, Bob Nelson, Norma Malone, John Hameline (arrived at 7:08 p.m.) and Jerry Parrot. Paul White and Justin Bolduc were absent.

Also in attendance were: Town Manager Carl Rogers, Asst. Town Manager Elaine Wang, Town Clerk-Treasurer Donna J. Kelty, Police Chief Michael Stevens, Fire Chief Christopher Violette, Fire Lt. Brad Morris, and Jeff Blow.

RECONVENE

Chair White called the meeting to order (reconvened) at 6:37 p.m.

APPROVE AGENDA

On a motion by Bob Nelson, seconded by Tessier, the Budget Committee voted to approve the agenda. Paul White, Justin Bolduc, and John Hameline were not present for the vote.

QUESTIONS ON MATERIAL COVERED - None

GENERAL FUND EXPENSE REVIEW CONTINUED

The Manager distributed the complete General Fund Summary, What's In - Not page, revenues, and full expense budget.

Rogers informed the Committee with his proposed budget the General Fund increased \$83,385 (2.38%). He noted the What In-What Not sheet for the departments not reviewed which included the Police, Fire, Recreation and Benefits.

Expense review began with the Police Department. Highlights included information regarding the purchase of a trailer (use to transport material needed daily and to move items when offering other community programs), training materials, the firing range, and staff attendance at the police academy.

Fire Department line items of interest were: Fire Warden stipend, training, jaws of life reserve fund, repair maintenance of concrete floors of the East Barre station, and notification services. The SCBA funding was discussed at great length (keeping the number of units of SCBA at 16 and only purchasing one filling station). Should the Town be successful with the firefighter grant (will be awarded after completion of this budget) the budgeted funds will be used to purchase a second filling station. Our current filling station and tanks are 2 versions older than current NFPA standards which raises many safety issues (equipment failure, inability to repair equipment due to obsolescence, etc.). Other discussion focused on reserve funds for

BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING OF March 20, 2017 continued:

high ticket items such as turnout gear, jaws of life, and the need to begin setting aside monies for replacing the new cascade system which has a life span of 20 to 30 years.

The Department Budget increased over \$101,000. A big part of the increase is due to bringing the 52 Gun Raffle money and expenses (\$50,000 annually which 25,000 reserved for equipment and the other \$25,000 to purchase guns) into the General Fund at the request of the Auditors (The Fire Department is using the Town EIN.). Questions arose as to why this was not going through the Club. It was noted the Fireman's Club was not incorporated but the Auxiliary is. The consensus is that perhaps the raffle could run through the Auxiliary EIN and when the Department is ready they can "donate" a piece of equipment or portion of funding for a piece of equipment. The next item to be purchased is the "jaws of life."

Emergency Management is a small department. Funding was not included for generator purchases. The goal is to have Barre Town School become a certified shelter which requires a generator. Director Jack Mitchell informed the Committee he has been speaking with Paul Belisle at the School. They are attempting to schedule a meeting between School representatives/consultant Scribner/CAT representative/Town representative to discuss realistic options of making this happen. More is forthcoming. The Town use to have St. Sylvester as a shelter but the old generator gave out and this is no longer an option. The current shelters are the Fire Stations.

Mitchell left the meeting at 8:40 p.m.

Recreation Board has been busy and has a full budget which increased by \$110 from the current year. Many of the expense items are listed in Appendix I - their 5-year repair plan. Expense items discussed include: tennis court resurfacing, building a new Skatepark structure (using a portion of the donated fundraising monies), softball field light project prep work, tree removal (Lower Graniteville - too large for DPW crew to take down), and payment to the Forester.

Prior to the Police Chief leaving the meeting he stated that he would prefer the Town contract with Random Rescue for Animal Control Services and confirmed that Ms. Russell no longer wanted to do that work.

Rogers reviewed the benefit expenses noted there was only a 1 ½% overall increase which is very reasonable. There were a lot of variables this year (premium cost increases/decreases, employee coverage changes, and the charge for part-time workers who we do not provide insurance for).

GENERAL FUND REVENUE REVIEW

Overall there is a 1/4¢ decrease to the balanced general fund budget. With the 2.14¢ increase in the Highway Fund budget this equates to a less than 2¢ tax rate increase.

Highlights included payment in lieu of taxes, land record recording, fire department gun raffle income, rent from 22 Wilson Street, logging income (from Town Forest), and use of picnic shelter fees.

ON THE BOARD TO REVIEW

Items on the Board to begin reviewing tomorrow night include:

- Sewer charges from Barre City - Rogers received an email from City Manager late today and may have additional information on this tomorrow night.
- Wood Chipper
- Road Salt - can budget be cut given quantity on hand
- Aldrich Library, Barre Partnership, and not-for-profit questions
- Fire Dept. raffle money - any liability for the Town holding a "gun" raffle and can the Auxiliary be the keeper of this fundraiser
- EMS - CPR program

BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING OF March 20, 2017 continued:

- DPW Management structure - loss of 1 employee and bus repair can we restructure save money. Should this be a Selectboard issue first?

Jerry inquired if the Town should do a reappraisal anytime soon as we haven't had one since 2003-2004. Rogers stated even though the money is set aside there does not appear to be any great benefit to doing a reappraisal now.

NEXT MEETING

The Budget Committee meeting will reconvene on Tuesday, March 21, 2017, 6:30 p.m. at the Emergency Operation Center, Municipal Building in Lower Websterville to begin the final review of the board items.

RECESS

On a motion by Malone, seconded by LaClair, the Budget Committee recessed at 9:40 p.m.

The minutes as taken by:

Donna J. Kelty, Town Clerk-Treasurer

DRAFT