

Barre Town Budget Committee Meeting
Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2018 - 2019
March 26, 2018

Meeting Agenda

1. Call to order - reconvene 6:00 p.m.
2. Consider approving agenda
3. Questions about material covered to date.
4. Public Comment.
5. Review General Fund budgets: a) Police, b) Recreation, c) Employee Benefits, and d) Revenues.
6. Discuss budget items members placed on hold.
7. Recess.

Minutes for March 26, 2018

The reconvened Barre Town Budget Review Committee meeting for the proposed 2018-2019 fiscal year budget was held Monday, March 26, 2018 at the Barre Town Municipal Building, Emergency Operation Center, Lower Websterville, and was warned to begin at 6:00 p.m.

The following members were in attendance: Tom White, Norma Malone, Cedric Sanborn, Kevin Delude, W. John "Jack" Mitchell, Paul White, Bob Nelson, Justin Bolduc, and Rolland Tessier. Those not present include: Rob LaClair.

Also in attendance were: Town Manager Carl Rogers, Assistant Town Manager Elaine Wang, Town Clerk-Treasurer Donna J. Kelty, Police Chief William Dodge, Fire Chief Christopher Violette, Recreation Board members (Chair Doug Farnham and Vice Chair Dave Rouleau), and DPW Shop Foreman Mike Martel.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Malone reconvened the Budget Committee meeting at 6:01 p.m.

APPROVE THE AGENDA

On a motion by Paul White, seconded by Sanborn, the Budget Committee approved the agenda as presented. LaClair was not present for the vote.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Emergency Management: Mitchell noted that in the current fiscal year budget is money (\$400) for the purchase of a portable command center unit. However, he erred in pricing and it should have been \$849. He would like the Committee to consider amending the Emergency Management Department line item 011-423-480 and add \$500 to the proposed FY 18-19 budget so he can purchase the item. The item was placed on the white board for discussion tomorrow night.

Fire Department: At the last meeting the Fire Chief was asked to obtain more information on a washing machine for fire gear. Violette informed the Committee the current unit is 18 to 19 years old. A Ready Rack Extractor Washer (comparable to what we have) is around \$4,000. (This company the hose dryers were purchased from.) However, additional funding is needed for electrical (\$600 - \$700) and plumbing. He estimates the total cost at \$5,000 (without warranty). Warranties are available in a variety of ranges up to 25 years (life expectancy) - all to be investigated. The unit could be purchased through Reynolds and Sons.

PUBLIC COMMENT - None

BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING OF March 26, 2018 continued:

GENERAL FUND DEPARTMENTS

Police Department (011-421): Chief William Dodge was present. Manager Rogers noted the Department has eight (8) full-time officers including the Chief, a full-time Clerk-Dispatcher, and part-time staffing. The proposed FY 18-19 Department budget is increasing \$28,275.

Topics of discussion included: wages - the need for overtime and part-time employee (account 100's), equipment purchases (account 200's) - evidence locker and additional camera for holding cell area, the storage shed at the DPW (need to assess the condition), training, K-9 unit expenses, and the department benefits.

Chief Dodge noted the following items can be removed from the department budget: Alco sensor gas expense (\$200) in line item 011-421-320 and Town ID cards (\$192) in line item 011-421-370. However, the Travel & Lodging (011-421-530) seemed a little on the light side given the number of out-of-state and overnight stays required for training. The thought is to add the \$392 to the Travel & Lodging line item. The item is to be put on the white board.

Chief Dodge informed the Committee that in Legislature there is a bill proposing the "licensing of police officers" through the Office of Professional Regulation. The additional expense to the Town would be \$200 per officer (including part-timers) every two years and become effective July 1, 2018.

Recreation Department (011-462): The proposed department budget is increasing \$16,970. Rogers stated between the Department Head and Recreation Board requests the Department had asked for a \$51,000 + increase. He noted the various items he cut from the items requested (Baseball Field Backstop rebuild, railings for bleachers, security camera, work on the EB bikepath, volleyball sand, reduced fencing account, level funded wood chips for playgrounds, and restroom door replacement on softball field). Recreation Board Chair Doug Farnham and Vice Chair Dave Rouleau were present.

General Ledger discussion items included: wages (need for some overtime), the bleacher top and side railings (requested by VLCT insurance), need for security cameras (picnic shelter and skatepark area in particular), and the various outside fundraising that done for various projects and events (dog park - fully funded by volunteers and donations, pickleball was self-funded this year, and the ice cream socials).

Consensus of the Board is the bleacher top and side railings (011-462-480) should be placed on the white board for further discussion.

Benefits (011-486): This is the last section of the expense budget to be completed. The Department increase is \$8,685. A quick review of workman compensation and employee insurance buyouts have helped contain insurance costs.

GENERAL FUND REVENUES

Rogers noted that 82% of all General Fund revenue comes from property taxes. Discussion centered on delinquent revenue, fees and licensing, Police Department Grant funding, Thunder Road billings, miscellaneous revenue (school payment for the revote), donations, and restricted/designated funds.

The General Fund is unbalanced this year. While the expenses are increasing \$157,515, \$56,000 (SCBA) has already been raised and is being held as restricted funds (specified purchase). If you deduct the \$56,000 from the expense total the net is \$101,515 budget increase or the equivalent of 2.86%. Based on the estimated Grand List this would equal a 1.6¢ increase in the tax rate.

BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING OF March 26, 2018 continued:

NEXT MEETING

The Budget Committee will hold the next meeting on Tuesday, March 27, 2018, 6:00 p.m. at the Emergency Operation Center, Municipal Building in Lower Websterville. Rogers informed the Committee they would be approving the individual funds. The Funds requiring more discussion (based on the white board items) are Ambulance, Equipment, Highway, and General Fund.

ADJOURN

On a motion by Tom White, seconded by Bolduc, the meeting adjourned at 8:27 p.m. LaClair was not present for the vote.

Respectfully submitted:

Donna J. Kelty, Town Clerk-Treasurer

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