

Barre Town Budget Committee Meeting
Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2019 - 2020
February 12, 2019
AGENDA

1. Call to order.....6:00 p.m.
2. Consider approving agenda
3. Consider approving February 5, 2019 meeting minutes
4. Consider plans for tour, visits.
5. Questions about material covered at previous meeting.
6. Review Water and Sewer Fund budgets
7. Public Comment 7:50 p.m.
8. Recess 7:55 p.m.

Minutes for February 12, 2019

The duly warned meeting of the Barre Town Budget Review Committee for the proposed 2019-2020 fiscal year budget was held February 12, 2019 at the Barre Town Municipal Building, Emergency Operation Center, Lower Websterville at 6:00 p.m.

The following members were in attendance: W. John “Jack” Mitchell, Tom White, Bob Nelson, Norma Malone, Justin Bolduc, Cedric Sanborn, Andrew McAvoy, Phil Cecchini, and Alan Garceau. Paul White was not present.

Also in attendance were: Town Manager Carl Rogers, Asst. Town Manager Elaine Wang, Town Clerk-Treasurer Donna J. Kelty, Town Engineer Harry Hinrichsen, and DPW Superintendent Richard Tetreault.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Norma Malone called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

APPROVE AGENDA

On a motion by Bob Nelson, and duly seconded, the Budget Committee voted to approve the agenda as amended: Item 8, change Recess to “Adjourn to next meeting date.” Paul White was not present for the vote.

MINUTE APPROVAL

On a motion by Bob Nelson, seconded by Jack Mitchell, the Budget Committee voted to approve the meeting minutes of February 5, 2019 with minor spelling and grammatical corrections. Paul White was not present for the vote.

BUDGET TOUR UPDATE

By consensus, after discussion, the Committee decided to do a condensed version of the Budget Tour for Committee members benefit. However, the meeting will be noticed and the public can attend if they choose. It will be held on Saturday, March 16th (snow/rain date of March 23), 8:30 a.m. – 10:00/10:30 p.m. Places to tour will be the new water treatment plant in Websterville, the Fire/EMS stations, and the DPW shop.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Asst. Manager Wang stated she did research on the Municipal Building heating/cooling system zones. The Baseboard heating system has two (2) zones (the old section and the new section). The air handling system has more zones. Upon speaking with Efficiency Vermont they had stated the best and most economical route was to do the heating/cooling system renovations as opposed to building/creating new zones.

BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING OF February 12, 2019 continued:

Rogers provided the Committee with several updated documents (Debt Service, Tax Stabilizations, Gravel Road Plan, and Housing Loans).

The Committee also discussed the large backhoe life span. Annual hours of use for the 2003 piece of equipment are: YR 16 – 682 hours, YR 17 – 496 hours, and YR 18 – 350.5 hrs. It was noted that during Year 18 the machine was down for repairs for about a month which is why the hours are a little low.

Garceau inquired when the Town Reappraisal may begin. Rogers stated it could begin as soon as the end of 2019.

WATER FUND

Rogers noted the 2019-2020 Water Fund budget calls for no rate increase. However expenses are up due to the Websterville Treatment Plant improvements. Some of the significant increases are the new water meter reader (600-447-283) and the increase to the purchase of water 600-447-340). Other changes include the new wage split for the water operator.

Our meter reader is almost 10 +/- years old and has died. The life expectancy is around 7 years max. Currently EJ Prescott is allowing the Town to use a borrowed one. The cost of the reader is \$9,485.

During the review of revenue it was noted the base rate is \$56.00 not \$48.00. This means revenues should be \$19,136 more. However, information was received today on the cost of changing the filter material at the plant. \$6,000 was budgeted but that cost should be closer to \$12,000 and the sand material to be removed is considered hazardous waste and disposal is estimated to be \$4,000 (if we do part of it ourselves) to \$10,000. The budget will be revised to reflect these new costs, but basically the additional cost will consume most of the revenue found.

Manager Rogers reviewed the various water projects including the holdup for the pedestrian bridge/water line crossing the Jail Branch to connect to Route 302.

During the purchase of water discussion it was noted the Town is not “inter-connected” with the Websterville water treatment plant at this time. This will be a future project. The Barre City ready to serve charge (600-447-670), the water agreement with Barre City, and rate increases to this line were also noted.

SEWER FUND

The bottom line for the proposed Sewer Fund is a 0.21% increase. The \$316 per year equivalent unit charge (single family house) will not change. There is an increase for camera rental to inspect more sewer line to help with the inflow and infiltration (I&I).

Rogers noted there were renovations done to the Barre City Treatment Plan in 2008/2009. We received a bill (\$235,000) but it included invoices the Town had already paid so it was sent back to the City for review/revision. It is estimated the Town may owe around \$215,000. He will ask the City for a status.

Other conversation points were: out of 50 miles of sewer line approximately 1/3 are still clay pipe, noting that some of the large equipment purchases are capitalized by the Auditors resulting in the expense line item being zeroed out, there are no personnel changes, this will be the last year for the Water Fund Transfer (paying Sewer Fund back for monies borrowed on the Green Mountain View line project) and several of the recent improvements to the sewer pump stations.

HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENT

Rogers distributed the Highway Fund budget. Next week Richard Tetreault (DPW Superintendent) and Harry Hinrichsen (Town Engineer) will be present.

BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING OF February 12, 2019 continued:

Reminder: If you have questions on anything discussed during this meeting or on what you review that cannot wait until the next meeting be sure to contact the Town Manager.

PUBLIC COMMENT

The Town Clerk-Treasurer will not be present at the next meeting due to a school election. Her Assistant, Wendy Moore will take the minutes.

NEXT MEETING

The Budget Committee meeting will reconvene on Tuesday, February 19, 2019, 6:00 p.m. at the Emergency Operation Center, Municipal Building in Lower Websterville which will be a double meeting.

ADJOURN TO NEXT MEETING

On a motion by Tom White, seconded by Jack Mitchell, the Budget Committee meeting adjourned at 7:56 p.m. to the next meeting which will be February 19, 2019. Paul White was not present for the vote.

Town Clerk-Treasurer – Donna J. Kelty