

**Barre Town Budget Committee Meeting**  
**Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2019 - 2020**  
**March 19, 2019**  
**AGENDA**

1. Call to order.....6:00 p.m.
2. Consider approving agenda
3. Consider approving March 19, 2019 meeting minutes
4. Presentation by GMT
5. Questions about budgets covered so far.
6. Handouts – General Fund department budgets (excluding Ambulance)
7. Review General Fund budgets. Recreation, Administration, and Finance Depts.
8. Public Comment 7:50 p.m.
9. Recess. 7:55 p.m.
- 10.Reconvene 8:20 p.m.
- 11.Continue review of General Fund budgets
- 12.Adjourn

**Minutes for March 19, 2019**

The duly warned meeting of the Barre Town Budget Review Committee for the proposed 2019-2020 fiscal year budget was held March 19, 2019 at the Barre Town Municipal Building, Emergency Operation Center, Lower Websterville at 6:00 p.m.

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

Also in attendance were: Town Manager Carl Rogers, Asst. Town Manager Elaine Wang, Town Clerk Donna J. Kelty, Mark Sousa (GMT), Recreation Board members – Doug Farnham, Dave Rouleau, Mike Gilbar, and Terry Smith.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Norma Malone called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**APPROVE AGENDA**

*On a motion by Bob Nelson, and seconded by Paul White, the Budget Committee voted to approve the agenda. W. John “Jack” Mitchell was not present for the vote.*

**MINUTE APPROVAL**

*On a motion by Bob Nelson, and duly seconded, the Budget Committee voted unanimously to approve the March 12, 2019 meeting minutes with minor spelling and grammatical corrections. W. John “Jack” Mitchell was not present for the vote.*

**PRESENTATION OF GMT**

Green Mountain Transit (GMT): Mark Sousa informed the Committee that many changes are/will be taking place. Some changes already include the streamlining of administration, changing fleet vehicles to accommodate mini vans, and the need to review the future rates being charged (this depends on the services/insurances/federal and state funding). He noted that some urban areas (Chittenden), by GMT charter, can be assessed charges.

The Statement of Assets, Budget to Actual for year ending December 31, 2018 were presented Barre Town and the number of riders versus number of trips was noted. State reduction to funding and options to replace said funding are being discussed in Legislature. The service covers five counties.

**BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING OF March 19, 2019 continued:**

**QUESTIONS**

Items discussed were reclassification of bank charges (011-411-310), Police Department Salaries do not include a School Resource Officer (there are still 2 regular vacancies) and no K-9 expenses at this time.

**GENERAL FUND CONTINUED**

Recreation Department (011-462): The proposed budget is projecting a 16% increase. This budget will reflect the Town taking ownership of the Barre Recreation Fields located beside the Elementary School.

The Recreation Board is very active with 4 members present for this review. Revenues include use of field fees (not for children's leagues such as BYSA), use of field lights, picnic shelter rental (not-for-profits do not pay), and donations received to help with the maintenance of the Travis Mercy Skatepark.

Department Expenses: insect control products, paint and stains, equipment and hand tool purchases, bleacher and side railings (3 sets) being fixed, softball field light upgrades, the Lower Graniteville playground renovation (\$23,000), the reserve/set-aside for the renovation of the 1980's tennis courts (\$26,000), fencing throughout town properties and contracted services to help treat/remove invasive species in the Town Forest were reviewed. It was brought to the Manager's attention there may be grant monies available from USDA to assist with treating of invasive species in the Town Forest.

Recreation Board members present noted they are volunteers. The Chair and Vice Chair alone have donated over 300 hours this year. Doug Farnham spoke to their future fiscal responsibility of preparing a fencing inventory (size, type, etc.), creating a 5-Year Plan, increased need of fields (baseball, softball, soccer, lacrosse, etc.), tennis court upgrades will include striping for Pickleball (ever growing sport in Barre Town) and rewriting the Memorandum of Understanding with the Dog Park Committee. The Recreation Board distributed a list of the various Recreation properties (Town Forest, dog park, courts, playground, picnic shelter, bathrooms, skate park, ball fields, track, tennis court, etc.).

Other Departments reviewed were Auditing, Town Managers Office, Elections, and Town Clerk's Office which had minimal changes.

**PUBLIC COMMENT – None**

**RECESS AND RECONVENE**

*On a motion by Tom White, seconded by Phil Cecchini, the Budget Committee meeting recessed at 7:56 p.m. to allow for a quick Selectboard meeting. W. John "Jack" Mitchell was not present for the vote.*

*On a motion by Bob Nelson, seconded by Paul White, the Budget Committee meeting reconvened at 8:20 p.m. W. John "Jack" Mitchell was not present for the vote.*

**GENERAL FUND CONTINUED**

With little comment other Departments discussed included Data Processing, Municipal Building, Assessor Office (noted wages), and Emergency Management (generator/shelters). Benefits (011-486) did have some changes: adding the Retirement Group C for the Police Department, changes in employees and their insurance coverage, and a reduction in the Health Insurance buy-out.

The only Department yet to be reviewed is the EMS/Ambulance Department. Without this department budget the General Fund is currently looking at 1% increase. However, based on the preliminary items seen by the Manager in the Ambulance Department (which has some costly items) he is estimating a budget increase of 2.5% +/-.

**BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING OF March 19, 2019 continued:**

**HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENT**

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.

**NEXT MEETING**

The Budget Committee meeting will reconvene on Tuesday, March 26, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. at the Emergency Operation Center, Municipal Building in Lower Websterville. Agenda items will include the review of the EMS/Ambulance Department budget and items on the white board (time permitting).

**ADJOURN TO NEXT MEETING**

*On a motion by Bob Nelson, seconded by Tom White, the Budget Committee voted unanimously to adjourn at 9:54 p.m. to the next meeting on Tuesday, March 26, 2019.*

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*Town Clerk-Treasurer Donna J. Kelty*