

Barre Town Budget Committee Meeting
Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2019 - 2020
March 26, 2019
AGENDA

1. Call to order.....6:00 p.m.
2. Consider approving agenda
3. Consider approving March 19, 2019 meeting minutes
4. Questions about budgets covered so far.
5. Handouts – Ambulance Fund
6. Review Ambulance Fund budget.
7. Discuss schedule for wrapping up budgets.
8. Clarify question(s) about items on white board.
9. Public Comment 7:50 p.m.
10. Adjourn 7:55 p.m.

Minutes for March 26, 2019

The duly warned meeting of the Barre Town Budget Review Committee for the proposed 2019-2020 fiscal year budget was held March 26, 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, W. John “Jack” Mitchell, Norma Malone, Justin Bolduc, Cedric Sanborn, Andrew McAvoy, Phil Cecchini, and Alan Garceau. Bob Nelson was not present.

Also in attendance were: Town Manager Carl Rogers, Asst. Town Manager Elaine Wang, Town Clerk-Treasurer Donna J. Kelty, Recreation Board members – Doug Farnham, Dave Rouleau, and EMS Director Chris Lamonda.

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVE AGENDA

On a motion by Cedric Sanborn, and seconded by Paul White, the Budget Committee voted to approve the agenda. Bob Nelson was not present for the vote.

MINUTE APPROVAL

On a motion by Cedric Sanborn, and duly seconded, the Budget Committee voted to approve the March 19, 2019 meeting minutes with minor spelling and grammatical corrections. Bob Nelson was not present for the vote.

QUESTIONS and ANSWERS

Chair Malone invited the Recreation Chair and Vice Chair (Doug Farnham and Dave Rouleau) to the meeting to clarify some questions which arose regarding the resurfacing of the tennis courts and creating pickleball courts. The \$26,000 in the current budget is being put away toward the full reconstruction of the tennis courts (\$210,000 in 2018 dollars). However, with the demand for outdoor pickleball courts, declining use of existing tennis courts, and condition of current courts the thought was the current monies could be better spent.

AMBULANCE FUND

Barre Town Ambulance serves an additional 5 towns, has 13 full-time employees (Director plus 12 Paramedic/EMTs at various levels), 3 stations, and 5 ambulances. The Manager provided the Committee with an outline of the EMS work schedule.

BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING OF March 26, 2019 continued:

Reviewing the Summary Page, Rogers noted the proposed budget reflects a 5.9% increase and is balanced. He further described the reimbursement revenue for public insurances (Medicare, Medicaid, VA, etc.) and the increase in Employee benefits which is tied to wages.

Some of the bigger changes from the Department Head's budget include:

- not funding a new position - Assistant Director of EMS (\$74,000)
- increase in overtime wages
- a new holiday pay plan per the union contract; and
- the increase in wages for per diem coverage and staffing the Auxiliary Crew.

The primary sources of revenue are town contracts and insurances (public and private). This year Towns contracting with our service will see a 7% increase. Billable ambulance runs versus number of ambulance calls and the need to review rates were noted. The EMS Director is also investigating the possibility of finding a vendor which in addition to billing could also provide collection services.

On the expense side the Manager did spend time outlining wages and insurances. Other topics reviewed were building maintenance, furniture and fixtures (including monies for replacement of items such as appliances) and the Berlin Station rental.

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

Looking quickly at the white board it was noted the following items could be removed from the list: #1 (investment strategy), #2 Utility person allocation (Manager Rogers working on), and #6 Jack's wood chipper. Any questions regarding the remaining white board items or if you may need additional information, be sure to let the Manager know in advance to allow research time.

NEXT MEETING

The next Budget Committee meeting will reconvene on Tuesday, April 2, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. at the Emergency Operation Center, Municipal Building in Lower Websterville. Agenda items will include the review of the items on the white board and approving the various fund budgets.

ADJOURN TO NEXT MEETING

On a motion by Justin Bolduc, seconded by Tom White, the Budget Committee voted unanimously to adjourn at 7:58 p.m. to the next meeting on Tuesday, April 2, 2019.

Town Clerk-Treasurer Donna J. Kelty