

Barre Town Budget Committee Meeting
Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2020 - 2021
February 25, 2020
AGENDA

1. Call to order.....6:00 p.m.
2. Consider approving agenda
3. Consider approving February 18, 2020 minutes
4. Questions about material received to date
5. Review Budgets: Highway Fund, Water Fund and Cemetery Fund
6. Public comment: receive guests, if any 7:50 p.m.
7. Adjourn 7:55 p.m.

Minutes for February 25, 2020

The duly warned meeting of the Barre Town Budget Review Committee for the proposed 2020-2021 fiscal year budget was held February 25, 2020 at the Barre Town Municipal Building, Emergency Operation Center, Lower Websterville at 6:00 p.m.

The following members were in attendance: Bob Nelson, Norma Malone, Justin Bolduc, Cedric Sanborn, Debra Pierce, Mike Gilbar, Alan Garceau, W. John “Jack” Mitchell and Tom White. 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 Josh Martineau, Shop Foreman Mike Martel, and Sewer/Water Operator Jay Hrubovcak.

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVE AGENDA

On a motion by Mike Gilbar, seconded by Tom White, the agenda was approved as presented.

APPROVE MINUTES

Minutes from the February 18, 2020 meeting were distributed. Approval was tabled until the next meeting.

QUESTIONS ON MATERIAL RECEIVED TO DATE

It was confirmed the not-for-profit agencies presenting will be on the March 10, 2020 agenda. Agencies will be allotted a 10 minute presentation. The Manager distributed reports from the Barre Partnership, Barre Area Development Corp., and the additional material requested from the Library.

HIGHWAY FUND

The Highway Fund review continues beginning with Expenses in the Summer Construction Department (012-434). This Department is primarily road work (reconstruction to paving). The 5-Year Plans are used to calculate costs for wages, equipment charges, and project supplies. Manager Rogers spoke to paving (hot mix asphalt and bonded wearing course) and the allocating of funds for the Town’s share of the Quarry Street reconstruction project.

Standard vacation, sick, holiday, etc. bonuses are spelled out in the union contract. It was noted that while workman’s compensation insurance is down retirement rates are up. Health insurance buyouts and boot allowance have changed this year.

Our gravel pit (012-438) operations (including crushing and using additional waste granite), MSHA required training, and screening were discussed briefly.

WATER FUND

The Water Fund has two systems the Barre Town system and the recently acquired Websterville Fire District. Our Town systems consist of Treatment Plant (Websterville), storage, and pump stations. Manager Rogers spoke to the upgrades to the Websterville Fire District prior to Town take-over, the need to replace some of their older lines, to connect this system to the Town system. We are also working on laying a main line across the Jail Branch to connect to an existing main in Route 302.

BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING OF February 25, 2020 continued:

The proposed FY 20-21 Water Fund budget is increasing 12.08% due to a waterline replacement project in the Littlejohn, Gregoire to Sabetto Streets. This is the first of four projects to be done over the next 4 years. This project cost is around \$90,000 and the Selectboard will be asked for an interfund loan (from the General Fund) to finance this project. The outline will be like the Green Mountain View water line financing which borrowed from the Sewer Fund and will be paid off in FY 19-20.

Future needs for this Department are:

- A. Interconnect the former WFD system to the Town system (needs to be designed).
- B. Investigate the increased water consumption from the WFD quarry hole.
- C. Town System – lay the 8” line to the connection on Route 302. Currently waiting for the State bridge project to determine how to proceed.
- D. Look to add additional wells to the system (East Barre area). This impacts private property and will need agreements.
- E. Connect the end of the water line in the Wilson Industrial Park (by SB Electronics) to Bolster Road.

FY 20-21 Summary is a balanced budget. There are three major departments: Administration, Treatment, and Distribution. The Manager noted the bottom lines is the proposed water rates are unchanged, and the Fund will be asking for a loan of \$38,475 over a possible 10 year term.

Revenues come primarily from water charges, and the base rate. Water charges are for the consumption (what comes in the tap) and the base is for the administrative costs. Committee members did raise a concern that there was no “capital improvement” fund for Water.

Manager Rogers highlighted primary expenses (wage breakout, software associated with water billing, current debt service, purchases, specialized services contracted out – diver, and the big cost of water purchase).

Consensus of the Committee is put the water rates (base and per cubic foot cost) on the white board for more discussion.

PUBIC COMMENT AT 7:50 P.M. - None

CEMETERY FUND

There are three act Cemeteries in Barre Town: West Hill (inactive due to poor records – also the oldest), Wilson and Maplewood (both active).

The proposed budget is unbalanced and is seeing an 11.9% increase. A significant change is to add one-time additional monies for survey a new section and to remove and trim trees in Wilson Cemetery. There will be an increase of \$1820 in property tax support and \$5,000 of Fund Balance will be used to balance the proposed budget.

Primary revenue sources are sale of lots/columbarium niches, property tax support, and interest income from the Perpetual Care investment funds.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, March 3, 2020, 6:00 p.m. at the Emergency Operation Center, Municipal Building in Lower Websterville.

ADJOURN

On a motion by Cedric Sanborn, seconded by Mike Gilbar, the Budget Committee meeting adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

Town Clerk-Treasurer – Donna J. Kelty