

Barre Town Budget Committee Meeting
Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2021 - 2022
February 9, 2021
AGENDA

1. Call to order.....6:00 p.m.
2. Consider approving agenda.
3. Consider approving February 2, 2021 minutes.
4. Acknowledge guests, if any.
5. Questions about material received and reviewed to date.
6. Continue review of Budgets: Sewer Fund, Sewer Capital Improvement, Water, and Equipment.
7. Public comment: receive guests, if any 7:50 p.m.
8. Adjourn 7:55 p.m.

Minutes for February 9, 2021

The duly warned meeting of the Barre Town Budget Review Committee for the proposed 2021-2022 fiscal year budget was held February 9, 2021 at the Barre Town Municipal Building, Selectboard Meeting Room, Lower Websterville, Vermont at 6:00 p.m. and remotely using Teams.

The following members were present in the Selectboard meeting room: W. John “Jack” Mitchell, Terry Reil, and Cedric Sanborn. Those attending remotely were Paul White, Norma Malone, Bob Nelson, Justin Bolduc, Phil Cecchini, and Mike Gilbar. Jim West was absent.

Also attending (in the Selectboard meeting room): Town Manager Carl Rogers. Other attending remotely: and Asst. Town Manager Elaine Wang, Town Clerk-Treasurer Donna J. Kelty, Town Engineer Josh Martineau, and DPW Superintendent Richard Tetreault.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Norma Malone called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

APPROVE AGENDA

On a motion by Paul White, seconded by Terry Reil, the agenda was approved as presented. Jim West was not present for the vote.

APPROVE MINUTES

On a motion by Bob Nelson, seconded by Paul White, the Budget Committee voted to approve the February 2, 2021 meeting minutes with minor spelling and grammatical changes. Jim West was not present for the vote.

QUESTIONS ON MATERIAL RECEIVED TO DATE - None

BUDGET REVIEW

Sewer Administration expenses continued: Highlights focused on the various insurances, unions requirements (uniforms, shoes, etc.), and the Debt Service.

Collection Department: The various flushing program (recently started to ensure every 5 – 8 years every line on the system is touched), equipment rentals paid to Equipment Fund (used with various department functions) plus equipment purchases, pump stations (and their needs), and outside services (BOD testing/calibrating and lab testing).

Treatment Department is the largest expense. The City will also be looking to do plant upgrades. Costs associated with the sewage solids is on the rise and the manager is budgeting for an increase. Currently the Town pays roughly 40% of the costs. Discussion focused on the agreement brokered by the State in the mid 1970’s,

SEWER CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND

The Sewer Capital Improvement Fund holds monies for the upgrade/repairs/etc. to the sewer lines in Barre Town. Some of these funds will be used for an upgrade to the Washington Street main trunk line. A portion of the designated funds are invested with Edward Jones. Interest income is used to pay a portion of the debt service (loan to improve the Barre City Wastewater Treatment Plant). Revenue comes from the sewer line extension fees. Due to the Windy Housing LLC and Fecteau Residential new developments revenue is on the rise.

**BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING OF February 9, 2021 continued:
WATER FUND**

The proposed budget calls for 1.99% decrease (\$10,510). Manager Rogers stated that due to the type of planned projects year to year, this budget can have quite a swing in with increases and decreases.

The proposed budget includes a base rate increase (\$62 to \$65) and per 100 cubic feet charge increase to \$7.38 (or 4%). A waterline replacement in Upper Websterville will continue. Revenues come from the sale of water, the base charge, for a few customers a special assessment. For the new members, Manager Rogers stated the former Websterville Fire District #3 residents are still paying the Special Assessment (\$156 per year) to pay off their water line reconstruction projection completed prior to the Town takeover. Monies have also been budgeted for work on the Jail Branch crossing (coordinated with the Route 110 bridge replacement) and funds to work on the plan/design for the Websterville water system to the Town system (Gregoire Street/Websterville Road intersection).

Expenses have three departments: Administration, Treatment (now that we have the water treatment plan in Websterville), and Distribution. Administration includes the wages and benefits. Water treatment includes expenses associated with the treating of the water (chemicals/plant maintenance, etc.) to meet state and federal standards. Distribution includes the pump stations and lines as well as the purchase of water from Barre City and the Graniteville Fire District.

Discussion focused on the purchase of water from the City – recent rate increases, readiness to serve charge (per negotiated agreement), and the need to obtain the most recent financial statements for the Water Department (concern over recent news article on “fund balance” of their water fund).

PUBLIC COMMENT - None

NEXT MEETING

Manager Rogers stated he has received several of the Not-for-Profit reports. The deadline is this Friday. Packet materials for the next meeting will include the Highway Fund. Agenda items will include selecting which Not-for-Profits to invite to a meeting and begin reviewing the Equipment Fund.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, February 16, 2021, 6:00 p.m. at the Selectboard Meeting Room, Municipal Building in Lower Websterville.

Manager Rogers will once again distribute packages using the delivery system currently in place. As always if members have questions contact the Manager via email or phone.

ADJOURN

On a motion by Bob Nelson, seconded by Terry Reil, the Budget Committee meeting adjourned at 7:54 p.m. Jim West was not present for the vote.

Town Clerk-Treasurer – Donna J. Kelty