

Barre Town Budget Committee Meeting
Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2021 - 2022
February 16, 2021
AGENDA

1. Call to order.....6:00 p.m.
2. Consider approving agenda.
3. Consider approving February 9, 2021 minutes.
4. Acknowledge guests, if any.
5. Questions about material received and reviewed to date.
6. Consider which organization(s) to invite to make a presentation on March 9, 2021.
7. Continue review of Budgets: Equipment and Highway Fund.
8. Public comment: receive guests, if any 7:50 p.m.
9. Adjourn 7:55 p.m.

Minutes for February 16, 2021

The duly warned meeting of the Barre Town Budget Review Committee for the proposed 2021-2022 fiscal year budget was held February 16, 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, Jim West, and Terry Reil. Those attending remotely were Paul White, Norma Malone (joined at 6:20 p.m. due to technical issues), Bob Nelson, Justin Bolduc, Cedric Sanborn, Phil Cecchini, and Mike Gilbar.

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

CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Justin Bolduc called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

APPROVE AGENDA

On a motion by Bob Nelson, seconded by Paul White, the agenda was approved as presented. Norma Malone was not present for the vote.

APPROVE MINUTES

On a motion by Paul White, seconded by Cedric Sanborn, the Budget Committee voted to approve the February 9, 2021 meeting minutes with minor spelling and grammatical changes. Norma Malone was not present for the vote.

GUESTS - None

QUESTIONS ON MATERIAL RECEIVED TO DATE

Manager Rogers reported on information regarding the Barre City audited Water Fund balance, or what appears to be a fund balance. City Manager McKenzie state the City Water Fund has a \$2.3 million unrestricted net position. The City is building up the fund to pay for projects in the next 2 to 3 years that will be in the “6 digit” range. They anticipate reviewing and have a 5-to-10-year plan by the end of June 2021. In the fall of 2021 rate adjustments could be made.

ORGANIZATION PRESENTATIONS

The Committee received reports on all the organizations in the budget. Members stated they would like additional information from GMT and the Aldrich Library. By consensus Barre Partnership, Barre Area Development, and the Aldrich Library will be the three organizations attending the meeting on March 9, 2021.

BUDGET REVIEW

Equipment Fund: The proposed budget is decreasing 2% (\$28,165) even with rates being increased 4%. The Equipment Fund owns most of the Town equipment and it is rented by the various funds. Rates vary (hourly, monthly fee, etc.) are based on life expectancy, repair/maintenance/operation of said equipment, amount of use (one department versus several). This is the second year the revenues exceed expenses which will help reduce the Fund’s deficit.

BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING OF February 16, 2021 continued:

Funds included additional funding for the radio system study, painting trim on the truck garage, and purchasing more of the live edge plow blade sections for one truck. Significant changes include an increase in health insurance (employee changes) and for heating, air conditioning repairs and services.

Revenues to note are from the various Funds, the sale of equipment (trucks, vehicles, etc.), and rent from the solar farm located off Websterville Road.

Expenses - Wage distribution for Department Heads was pointed out. Equipment costs, employee benefits, radio Tower rental, Garage items (include heat, mobile data access, and generator fuel), various inspections, and building maintenance (does not qualify to be in Building Fund).

PUBLIC COMMENT - None

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is Tuesday, February 23, 2021. The packet will include the Ambulance Fund. And review will begin with the Highway Fund.

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 Terry Reil, seconded by Paul White, the Budget Committee meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Town Clerk-Treasurer – Donna J. Kelty