

**BARRE TOWN BUDGET REVIEW  
FOR THE PROPOSED BUDGET 2014-2015**

March 18, 2014

**BUDGET COMMITTEE MINUTES**

March 18, 2014

The duly warned meeting of the Barre Town Budget Review Committee for the proposed 2014-2015 fiscal year budget was held March 18, 2014 at the Barre Town Municipal Building, Emergency Operation Center, Lower Websterville at 6:30 p.m.

The following members were in attendance: Jeff Blow, Rob LaClair, William Wolfe, W. John "Jack" Mitchell, Greg Donahue, Jeff Newton (arrived at 6:57 p.m.), Chris Day, JP Isabelle and Rolland Tessier. Jay Perkins was absent.

Also in attendance were: Town Manager Carl Rogers, Town Clerk-Treasurer Donna J. Kelty, Police Chief Michael Stevens, Zoning & Planning Administrator/Fire Chief Chris Violette, and Times Argus reporter Dave Delcore.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Town Manager Rogers called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

**MINUTES APPROVAL**

*On a motion by Donahue, seconded by Wolfe, the Budget Committee Meeting Minutes for March 11, 2014 were approved with the following correction:*

- 1) Last Page, Next meeting section, delete March 11 and insert March 18. Perkins was not present for the vote.*

**GENERAL FUND continued:**

Police Department: The review continued with the Police Department. The Manager informed the Committee the Department budget was up 2.1% or \$17,000. An additional full-time officer has been hired (and was budgeted) for the current fiscal year. However, the current year budget recognized the new officer would not work the entire year. The majority of next fiscal year's increase is for wages and benefits. It is noted that the proposed FY 14-15 overtime salary line item has decreased. The new officer will help to fill the gaps for vacations, sick, court, injury, etc. thus reducing the amount of overtime paid.

Other items of interest included dispatching cost, ammunition needs/training, physical fitness bonus, and Taser supplies. There was much discussion regarding computer software, maintenance, and upgrade fees associated with the various programs used by the department and how these fees compared to Department fees.

Fire Department: The usual line items were summarized (wages, equipment replacement reserve, hose testing, savings in heating bill due to furnace replacement - propane). Other new items included replacement of station locks and new office equipment which will assist, facilitate, and expedite the on-line reporting requirement(s).

Chief Violette informed the Committee there was one item which was not included in the budget and he feels should be included in the Equipment Fund Budget - funding for changing a radio frequency to a repeater. The cost would be around \$2,500. He briefed those present as to the various uses.

**RECESS AND RECONVENE**

At 7:58 p.m. the Budget Committee recessed to allow the Selectboard to hold a brief meeting.

At 8:11 p.m. the March 18, 2014 Budget Committee meeting reconvened.

**BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING OF March 18, 2014 continued:**

**GENERAL FUND continued:**

Insurance and benefits: The Manager began with Insurance and Benefits. He pointed out the VEMRS Group B employer rate increase, changes in insurance premiums due to rate increases and employees change in coverage, and significant increase in disability & life insurance (due to a death payout).

The proposed Managers budget calls for a 1.5¢ tax rate increase. It is estimated 1¢ will raise \$60,500.

**HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENT**

All that remains is to review the discussion points of Committee Members. Lists are due to the Town Manager by March 20<sup>th</sup>. The Manager will comingle the comments and prepare a list (by Fund) to begin reviewing at the next meeting.

If you have questions prior to the meeting feel free to call (479-9331) or email ([crogers@barretown.org](mailto:crogers@barretown.org)) the Town Manager.

Should you be unable to attend a meeting or will be late, contact the Town Manager as soon as possible. He will also be available if you want a one-on-one session to catch up on the information you missed. The Budget Committee meetings are audio taped and will be another resource available to you. All meeting minutes are posted on the website ([www.barretown.org](http://www.barretown.org)). From the homepage, look under the Boards/Commission button, and click on Budget Committee.

**NEXT MEETING**

The Budget Committee meeting will reconvene on Tuesday, March 25, 2014, 6:30 p.m. at the Emergency Operation Center, Municipal Building in Lower Websterville.

**RECESS**

The meeting recessed at 8:33 p.m.

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*Donna J. Kelty, Town Clerk-Treasurer*

***Barre Town Budget Committee***

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*Committee Chair*

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