

# Barre Town Budget Committee Meeting

## Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2015 - 2016

Minutes for February 24, 2015

The duly warned meeting of the Barre Town Budget Review Committee for the proposed 2014-2015 fiscal year budget was held February 24, 2015 at the Barre Town Municipal Building, Emergency Operation Center, Lower Websterville at 6:30 p.m.

The following members were in attendance: Chair Rolland Tessier, Jeff Blow, Rob LaClair (arrived at 6:55 p.m.), Tom White (arrived at 7:52 p.m.), W, John "Jack" Mitchell (arrived at 6:50 p.m.), JP Isabelle, and Paul Malone. Those absent were: Scott Hutchins, Chris Day, and Jaimes Fewer

Also in attendance were: Town Manager Carl Rogers, Town Clerk-Treasurer Donna J. Kelty, Town Engineer Harry Hinrichsen, DPW Superintendent Richard Tetreault, and Town Engineer Harry Hinrichsen (arrived at 6:45 p.m.).

### CALL TO ORDER

Town Manager Rogers called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.

### MINUTES

*On a motion by Malone, seconded by JP Isabelle, the Budget Committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes of February 17, 2015. LaClair, Mitchell, Hutchins, Fewer, Day and White were not present for the vote.*

### QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

It was noted the tour booklet was very informative and a useful guide.

The DPW metal roof project and insulation work (just above ceiling tiles) were elaborated on by the Town Manager.

### HIGHWAY FUND

The Manager's proposed budget is increasing 3.82% (\$99,805). Unfortunately, this would a 1.32¢ tax rate increase. Two sections for paved road projects are \$85,420 greater than current years. The current year is a little less than usual because the Budget Committee budgeted only the local share of the West Road paving and hoped to get a grant.

Other changes included not budgeting for the purchase of a wood chipper (\$33,200) and increasing the estimated number of times the contractor is called out to plow the two routes and the sidewalks. There has also been a decrease in the street lighting expense (\$3,705) as a result of the LED conversion project.

Approximately 92% of the highway fund revenue comes from taxes, 7% comes from State highway aid, and the other 1% comes from miscellaneous items such off road permits, gross load permits, and our street number sign sales.

Expense items of interest were the wage allocations, the annual stormwater permit inspections and the new laws with regards to the fees, inspection, and reporting to the State, winter maintenance overtime (plowing), outside services (line painting, dust control, etc.), and the purchase of wood chipper was not funded. The Manager stated that an item was omitted from the Large Equipment Purchase line item (012-432-281, page 10). The Highway Fund is to pay a share of the purchase of a push camera which will be \$3,100.

**BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING OF February 24, 2015 continued:**

DPW Superintendent Tetreault provided the Board with details on the need and frequency of use. One suggestion is to do a three-year lease finance for the purchase. This is a wall item for future discussion.

The remainder of the meeting was spent reviewing the Salt and Sand proposed budget. Current cost per ton, average usage versus actual usage, and total dollars budgeted were the speaking points.

**HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENT**

Next week the Committee will begin their review with the Highway (salt budget) and then the Ambulance Fund budgets. 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.

Reminder: 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)).

**NEXT MEETING**

The Budget Committee meeting will reconvene on Tuesday, March 3, 2015, 6:30 p.m. at the Emergency Operation Center, Municipal Building in Lower Websterville.

**RECESS**

*On a motion by JP Isabelle, seconded by LaClair, the Budget Committee recessed the meeting at 7:58 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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