

# Barre Town Budget Committee Meeting

## Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2015 - 2016

Minutes for March 24, 2015

The duly warned meeting of the Barre Town Budget Review Committee for the proposed 2015-2016 fiscal year budget was held March 24, 2015 at the Barre Town Municipal Building, Emergency Operation Center, and Lower Websterville at 6:30 p.m.

The following members were in attendance: Chair Rolland Tessier, Jeff Blow, Rob LaClair (arrived at 6:59 p.m.), Tom White, Jaimes Fewer, W. John "Jack" Mitchell, Paul Malone, Scott Hutchins, and JP Isabelle. Absent members include: Chris Day.

Also in attendance were: Town Manager Carl Rogers, Town Clerk-Treasurer Donna J. Kelty, Assistant Town Manager Andrew Dorsett, Nancy Pope, Rob Spring, and Times Argus Reporter Dave Delcore.

### CALL TO ORDER

Tessier called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

### MINUTES

*On a motion by Malone, seconded by Isabelle, the Budget Committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes of March 17, 2015. Day was not present for the vote.*

### BUDGET WRAP-UP

The Manager distributed a list by fund of items which still need to be discussed and the requested information on locking in fuel costs.

Equipment Fund: Based on the pricing received for diesel and gasoline pricing the Manager proposed reducing the gasoline line item \$15,695, reducing the diesel line item \$52,645 and increasing the supplies by \$4,000 (for the winter additive) plus \$3,150 for the broker fees regarding locking in the fuel price.

*On a motion by Malone, seconded by White, the Budget Committee voted unanimously to lock in the prices for gasoline and diesel fuel as stated by the Manager and to increase the necessary line items for the fuel additive (\$4,000) plus the broker fee (approximately \$3,150). Day was not present for the vote.*

The next item was the addition of \$2,600 for a rolling jack (to be used with the lift) which was not funded in the Manager's budget. Mitchell stated having this piece of equipment will increase productivity. Blow stated the crew could use the \$1800 floor jack which was recently purchased.

*On a motion by Mitchell, seconded by Fewer, the Budget Committee voted to add \$2,600 to the Equipment Fund line item 400-475-282 for the purchase of a rolling jack for the lift. Blow voted no and Day was not present for the vote.*

Since the last meeting there was more news on the vibratory roll repair. The issue is with the hydraulic pump. The roll has been returned to the DPW garage; the pump removed and sent for repair. LaClair was thinking that with all the repairs there are not many major components that could go wrong with it. Perhaps we should keep it for a few more years.

The proposed budget includes payment 1 of 3 for the purchase of new roll. There was discussion of making repairs on the 25 year old piece of equipment, what the resale/trade-in value might be once the pump is repaired, and lack of availability if the town was to rent instead of buying.

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

*On a motion by White, seconded by Mitchell, the Budget Committee voted to support the Managers budget and keep the purchase of new vibratory roll in the Equipment Fund Budget. LaClair voted no and Day was not present for the vote.*

Aldrich Library: The current fiscal year Library allocation is \$115,000. Blow had put forth an idea to level fund the Library and place a separate article on the ballot for the Managers proposed increase (\$45,000) as he does not want to allocate such a large increase without voter input.

*On a motion by Blow, seconded by Mitchell (for discussion), a motion was made to level fund the Aldrich Library allotment of \$115,000 and to place a separate article on the Town Meeting warning for \$45,000. When the vote was called the motion failed with Blow voting yes. Day was not present for the vote.*

The motion discussion focused on: never fully supporting the Library's request; many Libraries are municipally owned; members liked the idea of a line item in the budget to ensure support; the role of the Library is changing; the Town should not pay the same as the City since we do not own the property nor has it been proven that Barre Town residents use it as much as City residents; that if the separate article passes it will give a clear indication the voters are willing to support the Library even given the large increase this year. Mr. Spring noted that should the Library have to spend down its endowments there will come a point in the near future where it can no longer operate.

*On a motion by Fewer, seconded by White, the Budget Committee voted to decrease the Manager's line item for the Aldrich Library to \$120,000 (\$5,000 over the current fiscal year) and to place a separate article on the Town Meeting ballot for an additional \$55,000 appropriation. The motion passed with Isabelle and Mitchell voting no. Day was not present for the vote.*

During the motion discussion it was noted that should the budget and article pass the Library would receive \$175,000 which is more than the Manager currently requested (\$160,000).

Recreation increase - Malone stated the night the Recreation Board was present they stated they would like to see another \$16,000 in the budget. This would take care of the fence repairs for 15-16 that was in their power point presentation. The Assistant Town Manager presented a plan which would reduce that need slightly.

1. In the current fiscal year there was money in the Building Fund (050-462-450) for the Upper Websterville Playground picnic shelter. Due to donations, etc. not all the funding (\$14,000) will be used. Therefore the plan is request the Selectboard to repurpose the funds so they can be used this current fiscal year (14-15) to do the majority of work.
2. If item 1 is completed then that would leave 2,000 needed in FY 15-16 to complete the fencing projects. The Manager's budget proposed \$5,000 for fencing (011-462-680) which would be reduced by \$3,000.
3. The \$3,000 from item #2 plus an additional allocation of \$7,000 (for a total of \$10,000) would then be added to 011-462-450 for upgrading the Trow Hill Playground.

*On a motion by White, and duly seconded, the Budget Committee voted unanimously to increase the Recreation Department by \$7,000 through the method as noted above in items, 1, 2, and 3. Day was not present for the vote.*

Mitchell expressed concern for not really addressing staffing at this time. Rogers noted that the Recreation Department needs to come up with a plan and present it next year. This is

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

not being addressed to allow for the hiring of new Cemetery/Recreation Supervisor and allow him/her to get up to speed.

Sewer Fund - An addition of \$7,500 for the GPS manhole program. At the time the budget was prepared the information as to the cost of the program was not available. This program will locate and assign a GPS location to each manhole which will be put into an overlay town map. In the future the Town can add to the program to include items such as pipe type, age, length, etc. For the FY 15-16 budget sewer revenues are expected to exceed expenses. This cost increase would have no impact on sewer rates.

*On a motion by Mitchell, seconded by Isabelle, the Budget Committee voted unanimously to add \$7,500 to the Manager's proposed Fiscal Year 2015-2016 Sewer Fund Budget for the purchase of GPS Manhole program. Day was not present for the vote.*

Sewer vacuum truck - The Manager stated he has not been able to gather very good information in time for this meeting. There are a couple of vendors which sell units (Vactor & Vac-Con- which we currently have). The Vac-Con dealer stated he would advise against buying a used machine unless you know the party well (like we did when buying from Montpelier). The guestimate for selling our vactor as is would be \$50,000 - \$65,000.

During discussion it was noted the proposed sewer fund budget is anticipated to be in the black and the thought was those monies should be designated and held for the purchase of new vactor. This fiscal year it appears as though the City Sewer bills will be less than budgeted as well. The Selectboard, if it chooses, could also designate revenue which exceeds expenses be placed in reserve for the future purchase as well. It was also noted that the Highway Department uses the vactor to clean manholes. Perhaps a portion of funding could come from that Department.

*On a motion by Malone, seconded by Isabelle, the Budget Committee voted unanimously to designate a portion of the revenue which exceeds expenses in the FY 15-16 sewer fund for the purchase of a new sewer vactor, said amount to be determined by the Selectboard, but not to exceed \$150,000. Day was not present for the vote.*

**BUDGET (BY FUND) APPROVALS**

*On a motion by Malone, seconded by Isabelle, the Budget Committee voted unanimously to set the Fiscal Year 2015 - 2016 Building Fund budget at \$55,000. Day was not present for the vote.*

*On a motion by Isabelle, seconded by Mitchell, the Budget Committee voted unanimously to set the Fiscal Year 2015 - 2016 Ambulance Fund budget at \$1,813,430. Day was not present for the vote.*

*On a motion by Mitchell, seconded by Isabelle, the Budget Committee voted unanimously to set the Fiscal Year 2015 - 2016 Cemetery Fund budget at \$62,820. Day was not present for the vote.*

*On a motion by Blow, seconded by Mitchell, the Budget Committee voted unanimously to set the Fiscal Year 2015 - 2016 Equipment Fund budget at \$1,365,065. Day was not present for the vote.*

*On a motion by Mitchell, seconded by Isabelle, the Budget Committee voted unanimously to set the Fiscal Year 2015 - 2016 Water Fund budget at \$342,990. Day was not present for the vote.*

*On a motion by Isabelle, seconded by Mitchell, the Budget Committee voted unanimously to set the Fiscal Year 2015 - 2016 Sewer Capital Improvement Fund budget at \$18,125. Day was not present for the vote.*

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

*On a motion by Mitchell, seconded by White, the Budget Committee voted unanimously to set the Fiscal Year 2015 - 2016 Sewer Fund budget at \$920,660. Day was not present for the vote.*

*On a motion by Mitchell, seconded by White, the Budget Committee voted unanimously to set the Fiscal Year 2015 - 2016 Highway Fund budget at \$2,712,220. Day was not present for the vote.*

*On a motion by Malone, seconded by Mitchell, the Budget Committee voted to set the Fiscal Year 2015 - 2016 General Fund budget at \$3,349,961. The motion passed with Isabelle voting no. Day was not present for the vote.*

Blow thanked all the residents who gave their time for this task.

**ADJOURN**

*On a motion by Isabelle, seconded by White, the Budget Committee voted unanimously to adjourn the Fiscal Year 2015 -2016 Budget Committee meeting at 8:10 p.m. Day was not present for the vote.*

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Donna J. Kelty, Town Clerk-Treasurer

***Barre Town Budget Committee***

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*Committee Chair*

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