

Barre Town Budget Committee Meeting

Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2016 - 2017

Meeting Agenda for February 16, 2016

1. Call to order 6:30 p.m.
2. Consider approving agenda
3. Aldrich Library presentation.
4. Consider approving February 9, 2016 meeting minutes
5. Questions about material covered to date.
6. Review
 - a. Finish Sewer Fund
 - b. Equipment Fund
7. Adjourn

Minutes for February 16, 2016

The duly warned meeting of the Barre Town Budget Review Committee for the proposed 2016-2017 fiscal year budget was held February 16, 2016 at the Barre Town Municipal Building, Emergency Operation Center, Lower Websterville at 6:30 p.m.

The following members were in attendance: Rob LaClair, Tom White, Jeff Blow, William Wolfe, Val Vallerand, Paul White, Bob Nelson, Rolland Tessier, Joanne Cyr and W. John "Jack" Mitchell.

Also in attendance were: Town Manager Carl Rogers, Town Clerk-Treasurer Donna J. Kelty, Department Heads Richard Tetreault, DPW Shop Foreman Mike Martel, and Harry Hinrichsen, Special Projects Assistant Elaine Wang, Aldrich Library Representatives, Nancy Pope, Sara Costa, and Rob Spring.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Tom White called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

APPROVE AGENDA

On a motion by Nelson and duly seconded the Budget Committee approved the agenda.

ALDRICH PUBLIC LIBRARY FUNDING REQUEST

Ms. Pope informed the Committee that they were very grateful to the voters of Barre Town for the additional ballot funding. However, as stated last year they are back again requesting another increase, (noting that for 5 years the Town level funded).

Library Director Sara Costa gave a brief power point presentation noting what other libraries (our size) receive from municipalities; how the library programs and hours compare to other libraries our size; the need for additional capital improvements; and staff wages (lowest in the state). Use of the facility (no longer just a book lending institution), programs offered, diversity of users (all ages toddler to elders), and much more were spoke of. The Library was recently awarded a new grant for an after school program for 4th and 5th graders and continues to work with the local schools to enhance their library capabilities.

Finances were discussed. Last year's appropriation increase kept the Library's "head above the water." Blow stated he would like to have the interest income earned on investments and the amount invested. The budget allows for just the basic operations. Fundraising continues to be a big part of survival. This year alone the Library will need to raise \$123,000.

BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING OF February 16, 2016 continued:

APPROVE MEETING MINUTES

On a motion by Tessier, and duly seconded, the Budget Committee approved the meeting minutes of February 9, 2016.

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Chair White asked if the Committee would like to have Barre Area Development come in for a presentation. The consensus was to allow the report but with the understanding they could have 15 minutes.

Rogers stated that he did a little more research on the Richardson Road flow meter. Bottom line is it saved about \$375 per quarter. Based on the cost of the meter and payback time (around 10 years to break even) he stated the Town should take these kind of facts into consideration before installing another metering station

BUDGET REVIEW CONTINUATION - SEWER FUND EXPENSES.

DPW Superintendent Richard Tetreault and Town Engineer Harry Hinrichsen were present.

Equipment charges, outside services, and the City treatment costs were the primary topics.

EQUIPMENT FUND

The Manager's proposed budget would be increasing 2.76%. Some of the increase is due to the purchase of new computer server (\$11,800), the purchase of a pavement grinder attachment for the Bobcat (\$8,000), and an increase in pre-audit financial work (\$2,300). However, there were other reductions (health insurance due to an employee change in policy - \$15,145; removal of one-time purchases, \$3,800, debt service interest expense - \$1,620).

Revenues: This year equipment rates were increased by 3%. The majority of revenue comes from the other funds (General, Highway, Cemetery, Sewer, Water, and Ambulance) paying rent for the equipment. This rent covers the replacement, repair, and operation of the equipment. Other revenue comes from the sale of equipment/junk, diesel fuel (to the school for buses), solar farm land rent (Websterville Road project), and from the school for maintaining their school bus fleet.

Expense items noted were the equipment maintenance contracts (copiers), a new line item for the printing of forms, and heat. One item that should be added is \$200 for gate fencing.

Due to the time the Committee stopped and will begin their review on page 13 of the Equipment Fund expenses at their next meeting.

HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENT

The Manager distributed the Highway Fund. Next meeting the Committee will finish the Equipment Fund and continue with the Highway Fund.

Reminder: If you have questions on anything discussed during this meeting or on what you review that cannot wait until the next meeting be sure to contact the Town Manager.

NEXT MEETING

The Budget Committee meeting will reconvene on Tuesday, February 23, 2016, 6:30 p.m. at the Emergency Operation Center, Municipal Building in Lower Websterville.

RECESS

On a motion by LaClair, seconded by Tessier, the meeting recessed at 8:00 p.m.

Donna J. Kelty, Town Clerk-Treasurer

Barre Town Budget Committee

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Committee Chair

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