

Barre Town Budget Committee Meeting

Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2016 - 2017

Meeting Agenda

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

Minutes for February 9, 2016

The duly warned meeting of the Barre Town Budget Review Committee for the proposed 2016-2017 fiscal year budget was held February 9, 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 (arrived 7:23 p.m.), Tom White, Jeff Blow, William Wolfe, Val Vallerand, Paul White, Bob Nelson, Rolland Tessier, and Joanne Cyr. Those absent included: W. John "Jack" Mitchell.

Also in attendance were: Town Manager Carl Rogers, Town Clerk-Treasurer Donna J. Kelty, Department Heads Richard Tetreault and Harry Hinrichsen, and Special Projects Assistant Elaine Wang.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Tom White called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

APPROVE AGENDA

On a motion by Wolfe, seconded by Paul White, the Budget Committee approved the agenda. Mitchell and LaClair were not present for the vote.

APPROVE MEETING MINUTES

On a motion by Nelson, seconded by Tessier, the Budget Committee approved the meeting minutes of February 2, 2016. Mitchell and LaClair were not present for the vote.

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Chair White inquired if the Board would like a presentation from the Barre Partnership. Mr. Nelson will reach out to the organization to find out if there is a special request this year. If not then a presentation will not be necessary.

Rogers stated he contacted the Granite Industries of Vermont regarding construction costs of another cemetery columbarium. The price is up \$3,000 from the original cost. Currently \$520 is set aside from each niche purchase. This may mean a need to reallocate existing sales revenue or raising prices to meet the new cost. The Budget Committee asked the Manager to get this message to the Cemetery Commission so they can address the issue.

The Aldrich Library Board will come to the February 16th meeting; hearing time is scheduled for 6:30 p.m.

The Manager has asked the Town Attorney to obtain a legal opinion on the consensus versus official action issue. There has been no response to date.

The question regarding the impact of the Richardson Road meter station (sewage flow) was answered by the Town Engineer. His best guesstimate is that for this area it may have

BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING OF February 9, 2016 continued:

saved around 10 to 15% on the bill. Other sewer topics were the possible location for the next metering station, defining B.O.D., and the inflow and infiltration from the Williamstown section of sewer line.

BUDGET REVIEW CONTINUATION

The Manager distributed the Equipment Fund Budget.

WATER FUND

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

The proposed budget projects a 3.57% increase. One of the biggest reasons is the purchase of water. Customarily the Town purchases additional water from the Graniteville Fire District. However, this year the Town has been purchasing more from the City. It is also noted that the Fire District is raising their rates 46%. Another big item is the next phase of water line extension to connect East Barre area north of Route 302 to the East Barre village with an 8" line.

Revenue notes: An increase of \$.09 per 100 cubic foot charge is being proposed. Expenses: Postage (which is tracked by Department) in several funds is being reduced due to the projected remaining balance on the meter as of June 30, 2016.

The chlorine booster station re-wiring (1/2 the cost - \$10,763) was not funded. Many of the committee requested this item be placed on the list for future discussion.

SEWER FUND

The Sewer Fund summary page noted there is a decrease of 1.88% in the proposed budget. Revenues are budgeted for more than expenses. In prior years the Selectboard has been designating some of the excess revenue to be used toward the purchase of a new sewer vactor. B.O.D. rates will remain at \$.38 per pound and the base charge will not be increased and remain at \$316.00 per equivalent unit.

The past year all sewer manholes were mapped with GPS. The proposed budget calls for the second phase of the project (GIS portion) which will provide details on the manholes and include line data information. To facilitate the project a second engineering helper will be hired.

The What's In - What's Not page and revenues were also reviewed.

HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENT

Next week review will begin with the Sewer Fund expenses and continue on with the Equipment Fund. The Manager expects to handout 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 16, 2016, 6:30 p.m. at the Emergency Operation Center, Municipal Building in Lower Websterville.

RECESS

BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING OF February 9, 2016 continued:

On a motion by Paul White, seconded by Wolfe, the meeting recessed at 7:58 p.m. Mitchell was not present for the vote.

Donna J. Kelty, Town Clerk-Treasurer

Barre Town Budget Committee

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Committee Chair

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DRAFT