

Barre Town Budget Committee Meeting
Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2017 - 2018
February 28, 2017

1. Call to order.....6:30 p.m.
2. Consider approving agenda
3. Consider approving February 14 and 21, 2017 meeting minutes.
4. Presentation by Aldrich Library
5. Presentation by Barre Partnership
6. Questions about material covered so far.
7. Review Highway Fund, some General Fund Departments
8. Recess
9. Resume review of General Fund Departments
10. Recess

Minutes for February 28, 2017

The duly warned meeting of the Barre Town Budget Review Committee for the proposed 2017-2018 fiscal year budget was held February 28, 2017 at the Barre Town Municipal Building, Emergency Operation Center, Lower Websterville at 6:30 p.m.

The following members were in attendance: Tom White, Rolland Tessier, W. John "Jack" Mitchell, Paul White, Bob Nelson, Norma Malone, Justin Bolduc, John Hameline and Jerry Parrot. (Those absent included: Rob LaClair.)

Also in attendance were: Town Manager Carl Rogers, Asst. Town Manager Elaine Wang, Town Clerk-Treasurer Donna Kelty, Town Engineer Harry Hinrichsen (arrived at 7:10 p.m.), Aldrich Public Library Director Sarah Costa, Reverend David Vanderlinde-Abernathy, Jeff Blow, Barre Partnership representatives Joshua Jerome and Emily Pelow Corbett, Lee Walther, and Sheila Walther.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Tom White called the meeting to order (reconvened) at 6:30 p.m.

APPROVE AGENDA

On a motion by Paul White, seconded by Norma Malone the agenda was approved as presented. Rob LaClair was not present for the vote.

Malone asked if the future agenda could reflect "Reconvene the meeting" and in lieu of Adjourn use the word "Recess" until the final meeting.

Mitchell stated that since this is a double meeting he would like the group to recess no later than 9:30 p.m.

ALDRICH LIBRARY PRESENTATION

Sarah Costa was present and had provided members with several documents (profit & loss statement, 5-year revenue & expense statement, and a paper copy of a power point presentation). The Library is requesting funding of \$189,000 and that the full amount be placed in the budget. Last year it was confusing when part of the appropriation was in the budget and part was a separate article on the ballot. She spoke to the fundraising efforts, comparison to other libraries and noted the staff is unionized.

Board questions involved topics such as number of users, fund raising, investments (use of principal), and planning for the future.

BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING OF February 28, 2017 continued:

Resident Reverend David Vanderlinde-Abernathy, a Barre Town resident, spoke to the need of a community library and how it has helped him personally and professionally.

Resident Jeff Blow stated the Library is a not-for-profit just like other that are on the Town ballot as a separate article. He is encouraging the Board to treat it as every other not-for-profit and place the appropriation request as a separate article on the Town meeting ballot.

BARRE PARTNERSHIP PRESENTATION

Joshua Jerome and Emily Pelow Corbett (Vice President) of the Barre Partnership were present. They are requesting level funding for the Heritage Festival (\$4,000) but seeking a \$5,000 increase for the Partnership (new amount is \$6,000). The Partnership is currently a line item in the budget while the Heritage Festival request is a separate ballot article.

Mr. Jerome spoke to the change in their Mission Statement, how they consider Barre on community with two governments, and the various functions to bring recognition to Barre City and Barre Town business/recreational assets. Revenues are generated through membership fees, vendor fees, sponsorships, and government support.

Budget Committee member Bob Nelson email the Manager and stated that he was in support of the Partnership increase and supports the library funding as a separate article.

Committee member Malone stated there seemed to be a lot of not-for-profits with regards to community development that are crossovers. The Manager noted there are three community development type agencies: Barre Area Development which is for the promotion of development; Central Vermont Economic Development which is for financing and being in the know on state programs, and Barre Partnership which is working on promoting downtown. All the agencies do collaborate with each other.

BUDGET TOUR FEEDBACK

The Manager asked for input from the Committee on the Budget Tour. New members Bolduc and Malone stated they found the tour of great help. All members agreed the booklet was extremely useful and wished it had been available prior to the tour for studying. Rogers shared Department Head input with regards to changing hours (later start with lunch provided), reducing time on the bus, possibly renaming the event and speaking to service clubs to attract more citizen interest.

RECESS AND RECONVENE

On a motion by Tessier, seconded by Paul White the Budget Committee recessed at 8:07 p.m. for a brief Selectboard meeting. LaClair was not present for the vote.

The consensus of the group is to reconvene the Budget Committee meeting at 8:40 p.m.

HIGHWAY FUND

The Manager continued with the Highway Fund expenses review, Winter Maintenance with overtime (associated with snowplowing), equipment charges (annual minimum amount), purchase of road salt, and the outside contracts for small road plow routes and the sidewalks (put out to bid).

Summer Construction has to do with road paving. Points of interest were equipment charges, supplies for the paving work, and outside paving costs and road milling, retreatment costs, and our local share of grant projects (drainage and sidewalk).

BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING OF February 28, 2017 continued:

Benefits including comp time and wellness, workman's comp insurance rates, and protective gear (shoes, eyewear, boots, etc.) and streetlight (all converted to LED) electric bill were noted.

The Town owns a gravel pit (located in Williamstown, just over the town border line) which has saved a great deal of money over the years when it comes rebuilding roads. However, this also requires that staff to annual receive the MHSA training.

GENERAL FUND

The Manager distributed those parts of the General Fund which are complete. Review began with Administration & Finance. The departments reviewed were Selectboard, Auditing, Town manager, Elections, and Town Clerks office. There were no major items of concern.

NEXT MEETING

The Budget Committee meeting will reconvene on Tuesday, March 7, 2017, 6:30 p.m. at the Emergency Operation Center, Municipal Building in Lower Websterville. Review will begin with the General Fund, Planning & Zoning (011-417).

RECESS

On a motion by Malone, seconded by Bolduc, the Budget Committee recessed at 9:46 p.m. LaClair was not present for the vote.

Donna Kelty, Town Clerk-Treasurer