

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

March 28, 2017

1. Call to order.....6:00 p.m.
2. Consider approving agenda
3. Consider approving March 21, 2017 meeting minutes.
4. Consider approving FY 2017-2018 budgets.
5. Recess (if needed for the Selectboard meeting) 8:00 p.m.
6. Continue approving FY 2017-2018 budgets (if needed) 8:40 p.m.
7. Adjourn

Minutes for March 28, 2017

The duly warned meeting of the Barre Town Budget Review Committee for the proposed 2017-2018 fiscal year budget was held March 28, 2017 at the Barre Town Municipal Building, Emergency Operation Center, Lower Websterville at 6:00 p.m.

The following members were in attendance: Tom White, Rolland Tessier, W. John "Jack" Mitchell (arrived at 6:27 p.m.), Paul White, Rob LaClair, Bob Nelson, Norma Malone, John Hameline, Justin Bolduc, and Jerry Parrot.

Also in attendance were: Town Manager Carl Rogers, Asst. Town Manager Elaine Wang (arrived at 6:30 p.m.), Town Clerk-Treasurer Donna J. Kelty, Jeff Blow, Nancy Pope, Sarah Costa, and Times Argus Reporter Eric Blaisdell.

RECONVENE

Chair White called the meeting to order (reconvened) at 6:00 p.m.

APPROVE AGENDA

On a motion by Malone, seconded by Tessier, the Budget Committee voted to approve the agenda. Mitchell was not present for the vote.

APPROVE MEETING MINUTES

On a motion by Nelson, seconded by Tessier, the Budget Committee voted to approve the meeting minutes of March 21, 2017 with the changes made prior to the start of the meeting. Mitchell was not present for the vote.

FINAL REVIEW OF BUDGETS

Member Malone asked that the Board deal with the Library issue now so the Committee could focus on the budget for the remainder of time. Those present agreed.

Ms. Malone provided an outline of the proposal she made at the last meeting with regards to future appropriations for the Library. Also distributed were letters from resident Stephen Martin (supporting library funding) and Aldrich Library Board President Nancy Pope regarding their appropriation. The letter requested the entire funding amount (\$180,000) be placed in the General Fund budget as a line item. Should this Committee decide against the line item option, the Library would prefer the full appropriation be presented to the voters in a separate article to avoid any confusion.

Ms. Malone stated placing the amount entirely in a separate article is a hazardous place to go and concerned the issue will become politicized. For this year, she supports the hybrid question of \$130,000 in the budget and \$50,000 as a separate article (hybrid option). Her hope is the Selectboard will put together a committee or work group to work on a resolution to the Library funding issue prior to next year.

BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING OF March 28, 2017 continued:

Committee members were asked their opinions for funding amount and ballot/budget preference. There was no opposition to the \$180,000 request but there a great deal of discussion of the Malone proposal and how to ask for the appropriation (budget versus hybrid versus separate article).

A motion was made to approve the allocation for FY 17-18 with \$130,000 in the General Fund budget and \$50,000 as a separate article on the ballot; and to recommend to the Selectboard that provisions be made, in order to move forward to come to a solution. A friendly amendment was made (see next motion).

On a motion by Malone, and duly seconded, the Budget Committee voted to recommend to the Selectboard that a work group/committee be formed to follow items #1, #2, #3 in the Malone Proposal as distributed to this Committee to resolve future funding issues regarding the Aldrich Public Library.

On a motion by Malone, seconded by Tessier, the Budget Committee voted to approve the funding request for the Aldrich Public Library of \$180,000 and to use the hybrid version (\$130,000 as a line item in the General Fund budget and \$50,000 as a separate special article on the ballot using the same language as last year). The motion passed with 3 voting no (LaClair, Parrot, and Paul White) and Tom White abstaining.

On a motion by Nelson, seconded by Mitchell, the Budget Committee voted to amend the Managers Fiscal Year 2017-2018 General Fund, Barre Partnership line item (GL #011-463-953-954) to \$2,000 (a \$1,000 increase). The motion passed with two (2) voting no (Malone and Tessier).

Malone noted the Board of Civil Authority does a lot of work and feels the \$4.00 per meeting should be amend to be minimum wage. The Committee recognizes the Selectboard sets the wage rate for the Board reimbursement. Quick calculations were done and the increase to the election wage expense would be approximately \$1,000.

On a motion by Malone, seconded by Mitchell, the Budget Committee voted to amend the Managers Fiscal Year 2017-2018 General Fund, Election Wages (GL #011-414-110) at \$5,515 (an increase of \$1,000) to cover the wage increase for the Board of Civil Authority to minimum wage for all associated work.

Tessier asked that the Animal Control Officer (ACO) discussion item be removed from the Board. Manager Rogers stated that if the current ACO (a new Barre Town Police Officer) resigned this position then the Police Department would handle all calls/complaints. He stated an inquiry has been made to see if Random Rescue would be willing to provide ACO services.

Jerry Parrot noted there may be excess monies at the end of the year for the Sewer fund. has inquired if monies from the sewer fund might be set aside for inflow and infiltration study/corrections. The Committee was informed that for the past few years money has been set aside (designated) to help pay for the sewer vactor. Prior to that time the Town had an issue with Barre City billing the Town in a timely manner for our share of treatment costs which resulted in the Town always playing catch up. Each year the bill would continue to increase so a review of the bill was conducted and reductions were seen. The use charge was not readjusted as the Town was anticipating some large charges associated with the Big Dig project.

The Committee discussed the Fire Dept. Gun Raffle. Tom White asked about removing the revenue and expense for this function and add monies to have the Fire Department hire legal help to create a 501 C3 organization. Liability concerns were the issue at hand.

On a motion by Malone, seconded by Tessier, the Budget Committee voted to decrease the General Fund Revenue (\$50,000) and Expenses (\$50,000) associated with the Fire

BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING OF March 28, 2017 continued:

Department gun raffle and to increase the Fire Department expenses by \$3,000 to cover the costs to establish a separate not-for-profit which the gun raffle will run through.

UPDATES FROM THE MANAGER

Rogers stated he received notification from the City and the Big Dig project bill is \$38,959 which will be paid from the Sewer Capital Improvement Fund.

There was brief discussion regarding the Websterville Fire District water line/plant work (\$150,000 - \$275,000) will be done by the Fire District prior to the Town takeover. The residents of that water district will be making the bond payments.

APPROVAL OF VARIOUS FUNDS

On a motion by Malone, seconded by LaClair, the Budget Committee approved the proposed Fiscal Year 2017-2018 proposed Sewer Capital Improvement Fund budget for \$18,125.

On a motion by Tessier, seconded by Malone, the Budget Committee approved the proposed Fiscal Year 2017-2018 proposed Building Fund budget for \$52,115.

On a motion by Nelson, seconded by Mitchell, the Budget Committee approved the Fiscal Year 2017-2018 proposed Ambulance Fund for \$2,129,795 with the revision of adding \$3,500 to revenue for the fees being charged for the CPR classes.

On a motion by Mitchell, seconded by Nelson, the Budget Committee approved the Fiscal Year 2017-2018 proposed Cemetery Fund budget for \$70,860.

The Committee requested researching moving the Cemetery Fund into the General Fund. The Town Clerk noted the Cemetery Fund has a separate Tax ID number.

On a motion by Mitchell, seconded by Tessier, the Budget Committee approved the Fiscal Year 2017-2018 proposed Equipment Fund budget for \$1,369,760.

The Board discussed the sewer vator noting that being such an expensive specialized piece of equipment and is unlike most other Town equipment (vehicles/trucks).

On a motion by Tessier, seconded by Mitchell, the Budget Committee approved the Fiscal Year 2017-2018 proposed Water Fund budget for \$364,580.

On a motion by Nelson, seconded by Tessier, the Budget Committee approved the Fiscal Year 2017-2018 proposed Sewer Fund budget for \$926,235.

The Committee briefly discussed the possible current year surplus and what the Selectboard would do. Rogers reminded members the Town is still responsible for paying a portion of the City Sewage Treatment plant repairs. It is unclear what the balance will be.

On a motion by Malone, seconded by Nelson, the Budget Committee approved the Fiscal Year 2017-2018 proposed Highway Fund budget for \$3,540,741.

On a motion by Mitchell, seconded by Bolduc, the Budget Committee approved the Fiscal Year 2017-2018 proposed General Fund budget for \$3,505,086 as amended.

OTHER NOTES

The Manager informed the Committee the Town will enter an ambulance service contract with the Town of Brookfield (serving half of Brookfield) starting July 1, 2017.

BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING OF March 28, 2017 continued:

TELEVISED BUDGET PRESENTATION

On Monday, April 24th, the proposed budget presentation will be recorded at Video Vision. A script will be provided, do not wear blue, and if interest let the Town Manager know.

Chair White stated thanked all the members for their above and beyond. Excellent job!

ADJOURN

On a motion by Malone, seconded by Bolduc, the Budget Committee adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

The minutes as taken by:

Donna J. Kelty, Town Clerk-Treasurer

DRAFT