

Town of Barre

**CITIZEN BUDGET
TOUR**



2005 - 2006

Saturday, February 19, 2005

Itinerary for Citizen Budget Tour
Saturday, February 19th, 2005

1. Municipal Building 8:00-9:10 am
2. Websterville Road (Church Hill – Teja)
3. East Barre Park
4. East Barre Fire Station 9:25-9:50 am
5. East Cobble Hill, Taplin, Sunnyside
6. Cobble Hill Meadows detention pond, stormwater
7. EMS Station* 10:20-10:40 am
8. South Barre Fire Station 10:50-11:20 am
9. Hutchins Circle
10. Graniteville Road – pump house and water line, bike path
11. Sterling Hill Road – paving
12. Quarry Hill - water loop
13. Wilson Cemetery
14. Recreation Park – bike path, other
15. Wilson Industrial Park
16. DPW Shop (Adams Granite) 11:40 am – 12:10 pm
17. DPW Garage 12:10-12:30 pm
18. Return to Municipal Building 12:30 pm

* = The EMS station is the projected site of the mid-Tour coffee/doughnut break.
- The underlined facilities indicate stops where participants will get off of the bus.

Municipal Building

The Municipal Building is the heart of government in Barre Town. The building is currently home to six departments, and is the center for the bulk of Town administrative functions.

Built in 1930, the building was first used as a school. When the Barre Town Elementary and Middle School was built in the 1960s, the brick portion of the building became the home for the Town offices. Space began to run short in the 1980s, and voters approved a bond paying for the 1992 addition, which now houses the Police Department and meeting rooms. The work in 1992 also made the building handicap accessible, with the installation of an elevator and other amenities. The debt service for the addition and accessibility work is scheduled to expire in 2007.

The Municipal Building is the location for the majority of duly warned board and committee meetings in Town. The building also doubles as the emergency operations center. Community and other area groups often use the building's meeting spaces, such as the playgroup hosted on Wednesday mornings by Barre Area Success by Six.

The building has its own department in the general fund budget, from which maintenance and everyday needs for the facility are paid for. The building itself, and all of its maintenance requirements, are duties of the Town Engineer. The roof on the brick portion of the building is scheduled for replacement in 2006-07, and a roofing company has quoted that work at \$28,300.

Shelving units constructed by members of the DPW crew in the downstairs storage room have helped provide much needed storage space. Election equipment has been relocated from that room to the DPW Garage. Around the outside of the building, the plan is to trim the two ash trees and six maples to improve their health and appearance. Landscaping work is also planned for the various ornamental beds and shrubs surrounding the building. The parking lot has been lit, thanks to an \$10,079 project completed this past summer. The lot still needs to be sealed, and that may be done as early as the summer of 2005.

Town Manager's Office

Located on the 1st floor, the Town Manager's Office is currently staffed by five employees: the manager, the executive secretary, the bookkeeper, the ambulance billing clerk, and the management intern. The office provides oversight and support for all of the other Town departments as well as the Selectboard, Recreation Board, and Cemetery Commission.

The Town Manager is essentially the CEO and CFO of any community. The manager is responsible for orchestrating the day-to-day operations of Town government, along with providing direction for its employees. The manager must wear any number of hats, serving also as a grants administrator, labor negotiator, project manager, and research analyst (among other things).

The Executive Secretary is a key support position within the manager's office. In addition to providing general administrative support, the executive secretary also assists with insurance, lays out the quarterly newsletter and annual Town Report (which recently won an award for quality), and assists with weekly payroll.

The bookkeeper handles many duties, and is responsible for processing payroll, weekly accounts payable, maintenance of personnel records and equipment records, administering employee benefit programs, and is one of the two administrators of the Town's computer network.

The ambulance clerk is under the management of the Town Manager's office, but is paid by the ambulance fund. The clerk handles the billing for Barre Town's ambulance services, a task that involves more than 3,000 calls annually. Just the past year, she billed for 3,393 calls, and has billed for 1,929 calls through mid-February of 2005. In order to better facilitate the billing process, the town has invested in billing hardware and software components.

The management internship program is now in its fourth year of existence. The opportunity is available to recent graduates of or students in a Master's program for public administration or public policy (policy analysis). The intern, once hired, is considered a full-time, temporary employee for one-year. The intern assists the Town Manager's office directly, as well as providing assistance to all other Town departments. Job announcements have been sent to several graduate programs throughout New England and upstate New York, and a few inquiries have already been received for next year.

Town Clerk's Office

The busiest place in the Municipal Building is the Town Clerk/Treasurer's office. Staffed by the elected Clerk-Treasurer and two-and-a-half employees, the office is responsible for numerous daily, monthly, quarterly, annual, and special tasks.

The office is responsible for all elections, for collecting all monies coming in to the Town, for paying any monies due (for purchases, payroll, etc.), filing and maintaining land and vital records, and dog licensing – to name just a few of the many tasks.

The Clerk has also been the de facto website administrator for the Town. Information about ordinances, meetings, announcements, and job postings (among other things) is updated regularly at www.barretown.org. Other employees will also soon be trained in website administration, as the sites undergo changes and improvements.

The Town Clerk is also the secretary for the Selectboard, recording and transcribing the minutes of their meetings. To better facilitate this task, the Town purchased a digital voice recorder in 2003-04, which came with a software package to assist with the transcription and electronic storage of minutes. Other boards and committees use the recorder to keep an audio record of their meetings as well. Selectboard minutes are eventually posted on the website.

The office recently purchased a new photocopier, and can upgrade the machine's capabilities with the installation of specialized circuitry to become a printer and fax machine.

A proposed expense in the Clerk's budget is \$1,600 for a power point system, which includes a laptop computer, LCD projector, and power point presentation software. The expense is being shared (\$4,800 total) with the Planning and Zoning office and data processing.

On tap for the 2007 fiscal year (July 1, 2006 – June 30, 2007) is a new shelving unit for the vault. The estimated cost is \$14,000, and will help to (temporarily, at least) ease the looming storage constraints as available vault space continues to shrink.

Assessor's Office

This office houses one employee full-time, with that employee's time split between assessment department duties (60%) and other duties (40% - sewer billing, computer network administration, and data entry). The assessor is not a Town employee. The service is contracted, and the contract stipulates that the assessor work 20 hours each week. The length of the contract is usually one year, costing \$35,000 for the current fiscal year.

With the re-appraisal now concluded, the office has become relatively quiet again. All of the information gathered throughout that process, and throughout the years before that, regarding property assessment in Barre Town is stored in this office.

Before the reappraisal began the town paid to digitize (computerize) its taxmaps. This was done using Geographic Information System (GIS) software. Another application called "ProVal" was purchased. ProVal is a database, which assists in calculating the value of the property with information entered. It also links up any visual information (pictures, maps, etc.). It costs the Town approximately \$2,400 to maintain ProVal annually. Because of subdivisions, the tax maps need to be updated annually. The cost (about \$550) is in the Assessing Department budget.

All tax maps have been digitized thanks to the purchase of the aforementioned GIS system. Purchased a couple of years ago for \$28,000 with money from the reappraisal fund, the GIS software's maintenance and training costs will now be absorbed by the Planning and Zoning Department.

Planning and Zoning Office

There are two full-time employees in this office along with a part-time administrative/research assistant. The office is headed by the director of Planning and Zoning, who works with both the Planning Commission and the Zoning Board of Adjustment.

The office handles the processing of all applications for zoning permits, subdivisions, and certificates of occupancy.

In the proposed budget is \$1,100 for a front desk computer. The computer would serve as an electronic "kiosk," allowing the staff, realtors, lawyers, or other parties to research information relevant to any applications and the corresponding GIS maps. A second benefit is that it provides a third computer for the times when the part-time administrative/research assistant is in the office.

The department is also proposing to purchase, along with the Town Clerk, a power point system (\$1,600 for q/3, \$4,800 total) mentioned earlier in the booklet. The power point system (laptop computer, LCD projector, and software) would allow for plats, maps, and plans to be projected at meetings, rather than relying on multiple paper copies throughout the room.

Projected printing costs have doubled, as work on updating the Town Plan and the zoning re-write are expected to reach completion in the next fiscal year. The zoning re-write committee meets one to two times each month, and is currently working on a draft of the re-written zoning ordinance. One major change that has been proposed is the move from a Zoning Board of Adjustment to the more comprehensive site plan review process with a Development Review Board.

In recent years, the use of GIS and permit tracking software has been in budgets and featured on the tour. With both of those systems installed and in use, the costs associated with those departments have dropped. Regular maintenance fees for both, along with the GIS website support, total \$2,255.

Engineer's Office

The engineer's office is funded with money from the highway fund, one of the two funds placed before voters for possible approval in May. The office includes the town engineer, an employee shared with the Town Clerk (1/2-time each), and a summer helper (usually a college engineering student who comes back to the area in the summer).

The engineer's duties include reviewing all subdivision plans, inspecting, planning, and helping to manage roads and their maintenance, maintenance of town buildings and their internal systems (heating, cooling, plumbing, etc.), and inspection and issuance of sewer permits. The engineer also issues all permits for work in a Town right-of-way, which are generally driveway permits.

This year's proposed Equipment Fund budget includes money to replace the specialty copier used by that office. The engineering copier differs from standard photocopiers because of the sizes and quality of the items being reproduced. The replacement copier is in the upcoming year (2005-06) of the Town's 5-year equipment fund, and is projected to cost \$6,500. Replacement is necessary due to the age of the copier currently in service (parts can no longer be ordered for its repair and/or maintenance).

The engineer has discussed the purchase, in future years, of a copier that will do significantly more than a normal engineering copier. With diminishing storage space a concern,

many of the newer and more expensive copiers can also assist with the digitization of plat maps – essentially making an electronic copy with or instead of a paper copy.

Two other items in the highway fund budget for the engineer's office are a \$25,000 engineering assessment for Sterling Hill Road and \$4,200 costs associated with the first phase of the Websterville and Graniteville sidewalk project. Both are covered in more detail later in this booklet.

Police Department

The Town's full-time Police Department is now fully staffed, thanks to the addition of a new officer. Counting the chief, the 24-hour-a-day/7-days-a-week department has 8 full-time officers. Officers generally work four 10-hour shifts per week, with Thursdays being "double-up days." On Thursdays at least two officers are on duty all day. The department also has a clerk, who works from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

The Chief is assisted with his administrative functions by the Sergeant, who also makes up the K-9 unit along with his fellow officer Tinzer, a three-year-old German Shepherd.

Each year, as set out by the 5-year equipment plan, the Town purchases a new police cruiser. This year the cruiser is projected to cost \$24,000. A 2005 Ford Crown Victoria was recently purchased for \$22,784. The Town has five marked cruisers, along with a 4WD Jeep purchased two years ago.

Two proposals from the Chief that are not included in the FY 2006 proposed budget at this time are the addition of one full-time officer and a new electronic storage and digitization system.

The chief has asked the budget committee to consider adding a new officer in the next fiscal year, and then again in the following fiscal year. His concerns are about the level of staffing and per capita statistics showing Barre Town at or near the bottom in terms of per capita police staffing. With salary, training, and benefits (health, dental, retirement, etc.) all included, an additional officer would cost approximately \$49,000.

The electronic storage proposal is more complex than adding another full-time officer. With physical storage space disappearing rapidly in the police department, the issue of storing materials becomes more of a concern. Searching through boxes for information on a case or accident in years past has also strained efficiency efforts. The proposal is to purchase a \$35,000 system that would electronically store all documents, audio and video files (from interviews), and photographs without ever running out of space – or at least not anytime soon. The price tag includes significant pieces of hardware (such as a computer server for this alone), software, and even training.

Websterville Road

Pulling out of the Municipal Building, the tour will head toward East Barre along Websterville Road. As we near Church Hill Road and Teja Road, we can see where the road was paved this past summer. The project, totaling 3,240' in length, was completed by Pike Industries for \$15,120 (who did the milling) and ST Paving of Waterbury, VT (who did the paving for \$73,359).

The project involved milling (grinding off a few inches of pavement, creating a grooved surface) 3" of the road, and then paving 3" of asphalt after. The work on Websterville Road continues in 2006-07, with the milling and paving of the 3,030' section from Church Hill Road to the Municipal Building (projected at \$67,851) and the reclamation and paving of 1,830' from the Barre Town Elementary and Middle School to the intersection with Graniteville and Sterling Hill Roads (projected at \$70,490).

East Barre Park

The East Barre Park has a basketball court, a playground and an open area (used often for youth soccer and baseball). The park has been the subject of discussion lately for a variety of reasons (field upgrades, a possible site for a roller hockey rink, and so on).

In the Recreation Department (covered later) budget is a proposal to spend \$15,000 on new playground equipment and \$3,400 for wood chips (to cushion the impact zones). Playgrounds are subject to certain safety standards, and wood chips are the cushioning agent of choice by the entities that regulate them. Many of the newer playgrounds are made from synthetic materials and metals and are designed to minimize safety hazards.

East Barre Fire Station

The East Barre Fire Station is one of the two Fire Department buildings offering volunteer fire protection coverage to Barre Town. Unified as one department, East Barre and South Barre work together more closely than ever before. At the East Barre station there are 16 active firefighters, with a number of other individuals still on the roster. The station also doubles as one of the Town's emergency shelters.

The building itself is due for a minor makeover with the installation of five overhead doors (\$6,500) planned for the current fiscal year (2004-05). A new compressor is planned for the proposed 2005-06 budget, with the \$3,000 item replacing an aging compressor that is creating moisture issues with the trucks.

The East Barre Fire Station houses two pumper trucks, two tanker trucks, a 4WD truck for wildland fires, and a rescue extrication vehicle. The station used to have two of the extrication vehicles, but gave one to the South Barre Fire Station. The extrication vehicle at East Barre has the larger set of Jaws (Jaws-of-Life) and also doubles as a mobile command post. That truck, known as R-1 (Rescue-1), was purchased in the 2001-02 fiscal year for \$169,000. The cost has been financed over 10 years.

Thanks to a combination of grant money and a donation from local snowmobile clubs, the Town operates a Snow Rescue unit from the East Barre Fire Station. One snowmobile and one rescue sled allow the department to conduct winter rescue operations along the network of trails and in other remote areas of Town.

East Cobble Hill Road, Taplin Road, and Sunnyside Drive

These three roads have been, and will continue to be, included in summer road construction projects into the coming fiscal year.

East Cobble Hill Road was paved this past summer from the intersection with Route 302 up to the intersection with Sunnyside Drive. The 2,900' project involved the reclamation and paving of the road, and cost \$70,105. Subsequent sections of East Cobble Hill Road are scheduled for paving and other improvements (drainage) in the coming fiscal year (2005-06), and the one after that. The next section, Sunnyside Drive to the old gravel pit is estimated at \$48,568, with the third section, Bedard's to Clark's Pit, estimated at \$43,585.

Work began on Taplin Road in the fall of '04, with a portion of the road (near Sunnyside) shaved down a few feet, and reconstruction continuing toward East Cobble Hill Road. The section from just beyond Sunnyside (2,500 +/-) will be toppedressed this summer, and another section further up towards the intersection with Lyman Road will be topcoated in the summer following with new gravel material.

Sunnyside is scheduled for removal of the remaining pavement and gravel subgrade before the entire 1,030' is re-paved. The road requires work due to the Deep Rock Fire District's upgrade of its water system. The estimated cost for the project is \$21,672. That figure does not include an estimated \$10,000 for labor and drainage materials to install a series of catch basins, which will be located primarily on the north side of the street.

Cobble Hill Meadows – detention pond, stormwater

With changes in the state stormwater management rules, the amount of money spent on the subject has increased, with \$750 added to the highway fund for annual inspection and certification and another \$750 added for permitting.

A certified stormwater engineer needs to inspect the Town's stormwater plan and its components, and the Cobble Hill Meadows detention pond is the biggest individual piece of the stormwater management plan along the tour route. Once the stormwater engineer has inspected everything, an operational permit can be obtained from the state.

Barre Town EMS Station/EMS Department

The EMS department is staffed by 12 full-time EMTs and the director. The director's position is shared with Williamstown in an 80/20 split. The department contracts its services to Orange, Washington, Topsham, Plainfield, East Montpelier, Berlin, and Calais, with those

contracts extending through 2009. Those towns are charged a per capita rate of \$22.50 in 2004, and other revenue is obtained through billable calls.

The Barre Town EMS Department also contracts with Spaulding High School to provide emergency services personnel for their athletic events.

In addition to the main station on McLaughlin Road in East Barre, a crew is also stationed at the Berlin Fire Department building. At least two crews are on duty at all hours, with the crews comprised of a pair of certified EMTs.

The department has been successful in recent years in obtaining grant money to purchase expensive pieces of equipment. Two of the three defibrillators owned by the Town have been purchased with grant funds. A defibrillator costs a little more than \$19,000. A rapid response trailer (\$13,900) was also purchased in 2004-05 with money from a Homeland Security grant.

The director has already submitted a Homeland Security grant for the coming fiscal year, with the intent to purchase 6 UHF/VHF dual-band mobile radios for \$25,565. The radios will be installed in all of the ambulances and will improve the department's ability to communicate with other public safety agencies. The grant application also requests \$19,315 for the purchase of three C-PAP respirators.

For the ambulance fleet, A-3 is in the equipment plan to be re-mounted in the coming fiscal year (\$70,000), and A-4 is scheduled for replacement (\$30,000 per year for a three-year lease) in 2006-07. The ambulance fleet replacement and repair schedule is up for a proposed change for the coming fiscal year.

The director would like to switch from a schedule where a single ambulance is replaced or remounted annually to a schedule that would replace all of the ambulances at once. In the proposal five ambulances would be purchased new every five years, and financed throughout the course of the five-year period. The proposal is aimed at improving the condition of the fleet, improving the level of service, and improving vehicle reliability. The director's plan may cost roughly the same amount annually as is allocated in the equipment fund now.

The parking lot around the station is scheduled for a rehabilitation and extension of the paved area, at \$14,300. A propane gas furnace is on tap for the year following (\$7,600), and a roof in two years (\$10,900).

South Barre Fire Station

The South Barre Station is home to the other half of the Barre Town Fire Department. With 15 active firefighters (with others on the roster), this station works with its East Barre counterpart to provide fire protection to Barre Town and mutual aid assistance to neighboring communities.

The station itself has been the recipient of much needed interior and exterior work in recent years. An addition was built in 2000-01, and around the same time \$47,000 was set aside to finish and re-vamp the inside.

In the proposed budget is a Porta-tank tanker for Tanker 4. The tank was purchased this year, and the portable tank will expand the capabilities for on-site water storage. It looks like an above-ground swimming pool and costs \$500.

In the budget for both fire stations are automatic chain systems for at least one engine in each location and each station's rescue truck. The total cost for chains is estimated at \$4,000. Vermont winters offer a variety of road conditions, often on the same day or night. The fire department has had to decide to put chains on the vehicles (or not to) when main road conditions are passable but back roads and long driveways are not.

Hutchins Circle

This street is one of a number of smaller Barre Town streets that were paved with a process called Nova Chip paving. Hutchins Circle was done in 2004 by All States Asphalt of Sunderland, MA. The 1,210' long, 22' wide job was completed for \$13,754.70. The total Nova Chip contract called for paving 17 streets and cost the Town \$116,008.80. A number of streets in the Graniteville area were included, with a smattering of other streets spread across town.

Nova Chip paving is a process where a larger paving crew and machine lays down both the emulsion and the hot mix asphalt. The process, which uses a thin layer of aggregate (the asphalt material), creates a durable bond between the emulsion and the material leaving a surface coat of asphalt that is designed to last. A roller follows the crew, and within a short period of time the new road material can be re-opened for traffic. The shallow depth of the Nova Chip paving eliminates the need for expensive driveway and shoulder/lawn adjustments.

Graniteville Road – Bikepath, water line, and pump house

The pump house on Graniteville Road (near the new Rock of Ages visitor center) is also the point of connection between the water system operated by the town and the system operated by the Graniteville Fire District. The metering of water flowing between the two systems is done here, and determines who bought or sold water to the other (and how much).

The bike path will exit from the woods and run behind the pump house, as it makes its way across the Rock of Ages property. After crossing the small brook near Rock of Ages' driveway, the path follows Graniteville Road to the Quarry Hill Apartments property line. The path will cut behind the Quarry Hill Senior Housing property in order to connect with Compo Street in the village of Lower Graniteville.

The funding for the project is split between the Town and the state. The state is funding 90-percent of the project, with the town picking up the remaining 10-percent. After a number of issues dealing with the Act 250 permitting process, the project is ready to proceed towards

construction. Work may begin towards the end of the summer of 2005. At a distance of just under two miles, the path is projected to cost \$848,600.

Sterling Hill Road

In the proposed Highway Fund budget is \$25,000 to conduct an engineering assessment of Sterling Hill Road. The middle section of the road, which in total runs between Graniteville Road and Route 14, is a gravel seasonal connector. The gravel section is open only to traffic traveling down hill from late spring until the first week of November.

Accidents and maintenance issues led to the seasonal closure more than a decade ago, and continue to be a concern, along with erosion control. Erosion along both sides of the road is prevalent, particularly on the southern side of the road. A brook runs parallel to the road on its southern side, and is cutting away at both the bank and the road. There is no shoulder on either side.

The engineering assessment will provide information and options on how to proceed into the future in addressing the various drainage, structural, and safety issues.

Quarry Hill water loop

The water service in this area extends from the Conti Circle development down Quarry Hill Road to the intersection with Cherrywood Drive. Other lines in Barre View Street and Cherrywood are tied together at the intersection. For an estimated total of \$3,700, the water line gap between Quarry Hill Road and Cherrywood Drive could be closed.

The loop would allow water service to continue for residents on Quarry Hill Road, in Conti Circle, and on Barre View Street, Cherrywood Drive, and Green Mountain View should a break occur, or maintenance be needed at or near one of the intersections.

The loop closure is not included in the proposed budget for the 2005-06 fiscal year, but it is expected to be included in the near future.

Wilson Cemetery/Cemetery Division

With three cemeteries owned by the town, the cemetery sexton and his crew of two-and-a-half employees can be found mowing, trimming, or attending to burial services full-time from May through the end of October. The sexton doubles as the supervisor of the Recreation Department, and is joined at the Recreation Department by the "half" employee (the employee splits time evenly between cemetery and parks duties).

Wilson Cemetery is the largest of the three municipal cemeteries, with Maplewood Cemetery on Farwell Street and the retired West Hill Cemetery on Perry Road.

The Cemetery Commissioners, a board of five appointed by the Selectboard, provide oversight and administration for the division. They have focused at their meetings throughout the

last year on improving their long-term planning. As a result, they have placed landscaping and the survey of another section at the Wilson Cemetery as their two top priorities for this coming fiscal year. They have asked for \$1,500 for hedge shrubbery (plus one tree), and for \$3,000 in order to survey and lay out a new section at the Wilson Cemetery. Paving several of the roads within the Wilson Cemetery is planned (preliminarily) for the near future.

It is anticipated that interest from investments will meet or exceed expectations for the 2005 fiscal year (the current fiscal year). After adopting a new investment policy, revenue from this source has been stable with slight annual increases. In the past three years, income from investment interest should have experienced a growth of about 2%, from \$7,485 to \$7,605 (projected).

The Cemetery Fund, in the proposed budget, is slated to receive \$25,960 from the tax monies acquired for the General Fund. The estimated cemetery revenue, which comes from burials, foundations for monuments, and other services, will add another \$22,265 to the division coffers.

Barre Town Recreation Facility/Parks and Recreation Division

The Recreation Facility has grown in popularity and reputation throughout central Vermont in recent years. Easily the Town's largest park, the facility features a number of athletic and leisure amenities: a sand volleyball court, four tennis courts, a basketball court, a running track, a full-size soccer field, a full-size baseball field, a full-size softball field, an all-purpose/Little League field, a pair of picnic shelters, the skate park, and a nature/walking trail. In the winter the facility also hosts an ice rink that is lit at night.

The facility is cared for by the Recreation Department supervisor and his crew of two-and-a-half employees. The "half" employee splits his/her time with the Cemetery Department 50/50. This crew prepares the fields for the various league and high school contests, maintains playground equipment and facilities, and cuts some grass. The neighborhood parks have been mowed by a contracted landscaper for the past few years. For a complete list of parks, see the facilities page at the end of this booklet.

In the current budget is \$25,000 to help pay for the construction of a new restroom building closer to the soccer field and picnic shelter. Staff has been pricing various options for the facility, and a final design has not yet been selected. Grant funding is also still an option/possibility.

In November the Barre Town Recreation Facility played host to the state Division II boys and girls soccer championships again. Four teams squared off from around the state in an event that has been quite successful to date. It appears that the site has quickly become a favorite of the Vermont Principals Association, which selects facilities for championship games.

There is also \$5,000 in the proposed budget for another new set of bleachers. If purchased, this set would be the third in the last three years, joining the set purchased last year (\$4,500) and received in time for the soccer championships mentioned above.

Wilson Industrial Park

The Wilson Industrial Park, which first opened in 1995, is the site where three entities have focused a great deal of time and energy for the larger cause of economic development in the Barre area.

The Town, Barre Area Development (BAD), and the Central Vermont Economic Development Corporation (CVEDC) all play a vital role in enhancing, attracting, and retaining the economic foundations formed by the industrial park's inhabitants. At this time all but one of the buildings in the park are, in part, occupied. Northern Power of Waitsfield, VT has begun operating out of a portion of the previously vacant Bombardier building and is one of the newer businesses to move in to Barre Town.

The General Fund has a department set aside for development. The contribution to CVEDC in the proposed budget is the same as the current budget at \$3,000. The proposed contribution to BAD is down slightly, from \$29,320 in the current budget to \$28,740 in the proposed budget. The bulk of that expenditure in the proposed budget, \$21,000, is to split the cost of an economic development coordinator with Barre City. The figure is 50-percent of the coordinator's expenses.

Parker Road, from the intersection with Pitman Road to the cul-de-sac, is scheduled for chipsealing. Chipsealing involves laying a thin layer of asphalt over the existing pavement, and this section is projected to cost \$2,205.

Department of Public Works

In February or March of 2005, the DPW will welcome back one of its employees who has been deployed as an active duty soldier in the conflict in Iraq.

The Selectboard decided that it also wanted to keep the employee hired as a long-term fill-in because a retirement is expected in the near future. The department will start the 2005-06 fiscal year with 18 employees. There are 13 public works employees, a shop clerk, two mechanics, the assistant superintendent, and the superintendent. Two employees spend the winter months (from mid-November through mid-April) working a night shift instead. One DPW employee functions primarily as a utilities (water and sewer) operator.

DPW employees perform a variety of tasks throughout the year, such as: maintaining winter roads, working on summer road and maintenance projects, working in the gravel pit, testing and maintaining the water and sewer systems, and maintaining and repairing equipment and buses.

Each fall, the DPW Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent meet with the Town Manager and Town Engineer to lay out five-year plans for both paved road and gravel road work. The plans are approved by the Selectboard, and the costs subsequently incorporated into the highway fund budget.

A few examples of projects scheduled for FY 06 for paved roads include:

- Chipseal on Pelouin Road, Farwell Street (City line to Pine Hill), Sunset Road (Camp to Windywood), Parker Road (Pitman to cul-de-sac), and Allen Street (Town line to driveway at #212). Total = \$46,165
- Shim and overlay on Plainfield Brook Road, from Route 14 to the Camire end of previous hot-mix paving). Total = \$45,626.
- Remove pavement and repave Wark Street. Total = \$15,565.
- Remove old pavement and repave all of Sunnyside. Total = \$21,672.
- Total for all paved road work in plan for FY 06 = \$636,258

A few examples of projects scheduled for the 2006 fiscal year for gravel roads include:

- Reconstruct sections of Sunset Road, Partridge Road, and Curtis Road.
- Top dressing on a number of roads, such as Breer Road, West Road, Taplin Road, and Clark Road.
- Topcoating sections of Phelps Road and Taplin Road with 4"-6" of new aggregate.

In addition to the utilities operator, five other DPW employees are qualified to operate the town's water system, while the sewer system requires no certification. Sewer tasks include flushing lines, inspecting backups and trouble spots, and manhole adjustments (all combined at an estimated \$27,860 in labor costs in the 2006 proposed budget). The water system is more involved, requiring regular testing along with the normal maintenance of lines and facilities (such as the pump houses).

Adams Granite building – “The DPW Shop”

The DPW has settled into its new home at the Adams Granite building, and the renovations to the old shop have been completed as well. The facility is known as the “shop”, while the old DPW building is known as the “garage”. The debt service assumed by the Town when it purchased the building will last for 20 years, and is split between the Equipment and Bus funds. The shop is home to the offices of the Superintendent, the Assistant Superintendent, the shop clerk, the utilities operator, and the two mechanics.

The mechanic's bay is quite large, and provides space for them to work on the various pieces of town equipment, ranging from police cars to graders, ambulances to dump trucks, and even school buses. A storage area is available for keeping parts, and an inventory is kept by the shop clerk electronically.

Paving the parking lot in front of the shop has been discussed. Paving the lot would eliminate a number of headaches associated with the mud and grime produced by the gravel lot that is there now. The area in front of the mechanic's overhead doors and the office door will be paved in the next fiscal year.

The DPW “garage”

This had been the home of the DPW until the spring of 2004, when the bulk of the administrative functions were moved to the Adams building. The facility is far from idle, serving as the site to store equipment (trucks, construction equipment, school buses, etc.), to fuel up, to use the wash bay, to pick up other tools and materials (cones, barricades, hand tools, signs, etc.), and it is home to the salt and sand shed.

The renovation of the garage was included with the purchase and remodeling of the shop, and the debt service for that work is all rolled together into 20 years of payments. Some of the renovations completed include upgrading plumbing and electrical capabilities, revamping the old bathroom, installing a new break room and locker room, and creating the wash bay.

In the budget proposed for the 2006 fiscal year is paving work for the garage. The pavement around the fuel island needs to be finished, and the driveway off of Websterville Road are combined for \$26,700 worth of paving improvements.

All departments in the general fund and highway fund budgets contribute money to the equipment fund. DPW purchases the bulk of the larger, more expensive pieces of equipment. In addition to payments being paid on leases for the gravel screen and a large backhoe, the Town will also pay off the debt on one of its large dump trucks in the coming fiscal year. The other large dump truck in the plan is in the first year of its lease schedule. DPW equipment in year 1 (2005-06) of the five year equipment plan represents approximately 45-percent of the costs (DPW equipment totals \$133,665).

Included in the proposed highway fund budget is money for training. The Town Engineer and DPW Superintendent have both enrolled in the Vermont Local Roads Management Academy; the Assistant is currently enrolled in a management academy operated by the Associated General Contractors of Vermont. Seven employees have already finished their certification as Local Roads Scholars, with the remaining employees all working towards that goal. The proposed budget for FY 2006 includes \$2,525 for training.

The town also operates its own gravel pit, located just over the South Barre line in Williamstown. Employees are shuffled around in the fall to work in the pit, with one-and-a-half employees stationed there for two weeks with loaders. All employees must receive mine safety training before being allowed in the pit.

The gravel pit is also adjacent to the site of Pike Industries proposed gravel extraction and crushing project. Currently the subject of extensive Act 250 proceedings, the proposed quarry would actually be located up the hill behind the two municipal operations (Williamstown operates from this pit as well). The quarry proposal is subject to a number of review criteria, such as water quality/water resource effects and traffic factors.

Conclusion

The proposed budget for the 2006 fiscal year is available at the Municipal Building for citizens to come in and take a longer, deeper look at the spending plan. Questions can be directed to Town staff at any time, should a section pique enough interest for a follow-up.

The general fund and highway fund budgets will go before voters on the second Tuesday in May – May 10th to be exact. The remaining budgets – water fund, sewer fund, sewer capital improvement fund, cemetery fund, building fund, bus fund, and ambulance fund – will be approved by the Selectboard in June.

Thanks for spending Saturday morning with us.

OTHER FACILITIES

South Barre Sewer Pump Station
Orchard Terrace Sewer Pump Station
Numerous sewer flumes and meter points
300,000 gallon water tank – Websterville
250,000 gallon water tank with well – Waterman Street
Wilson Street Water Pump Station
Old Route 302 Water Pump Station
Fire Department's Smoke Training Facility
Upper Websterville Playground
Upper Graniteville Playground
East Barre Commuter Park-n-Ride Lot

~ BUDGET FACTS ~

TAX RATES

<u>Tax Year</u>	<u>Town Rate</u>	<u>Education Homestead Rate</u>	<u>Education Non-Homestead</u>
2004-05	0.7264	0.9909	1.2967
		<u>Education Tax Rate</u>	
2003-04	1.0816		1.7984
2002-03	1.02749		1.75251
2001-02	1.05047		1.70953
2000-01	1.0024		1.5376
1999-00	0.97		1.47
1998-99	0.98		1.46
		<u>BTEMS Rate</u>	<u>SUHS Rate</u>
1997-98	0.98	0.946	0.714
1996-97	1.00	0.99	0.75
1995-96	0.93	0.91	0.68
1994-95	0.92	0.96	0.68

- 1 ¢ on tax rate =

- \$ 10.00 taxes due for property assessed at \$100,000;
- \$ 12.50 taxes due for property assessed at \$125,000;
- \$ 15.00 taxes due for property assessed at \$150,000;
- \$ 20.00 taxes due for property assessed at \$200,000;
- \$ 30.00 taxes due for property assessed at \$300,000;

- At the present tax rate the tax bill for residential properties are:

Property Value	Tax Bill
\$90,000	\$1,545
\$115,000	\$1,974
\$135,000	\$2,318
\$160,000	\$2,747
\$200,000	\$3,434
\$300,000	\$5,151

- 1 ¢ on the tax rate this year generates \$55,102 of property tax revenue.

Grand List Growth

2004.....	\$5,510,289
2003.....	\$3,478,808
2002.....	\$3,339,717
2001.....	\$3,288,143
2000.....	\$3,201,052
1999.....	\$3,145,500
1998.....	\$3,019,000
1997.....	\$3,019,000
1996.....	\$2,912,200
1995.....	\$2,926,304

94.56 miles of Class 2 & 3 roads (+ 11.48 state roads)
31.8 square miles of territory

7,602 population (2000 Census)
53 full-time employees