

**BARRE TOWN BUDGET REVIEW
FOR THE PROPOSED BUDGET 2010-2011**

**BUDGET COMMITTEE MINUTES
March 2, 2010**

The duly warned meeting of the Barre Town Budget Review Committee for the proposed 2010-2011 fiscal year budget was held March 2, 2010 at the Barre Town Municipal Building, Emergency Operation Center, Lower Websterville at 6:30p.m.

The following members were in attendance: Jeff Newton, Jeff Gagne, Marion Fish, William Wolfe, Tracy Delude, Rolland Tessier, Val Vallerand, and Paul Malone. Also in attendance were: Town Manager Carl Rogers, Town Management Intern Kelly Houston (7:33 p.m.), Paul McGinley resident, Amy White Barre Partnership President, Executive Director, Bob Sager of Bob's Camera, Paul Heller Historical Society Representative, Carol Day retired Barre Merchant, Julianne Monty downtown merchant, and Michael Waggoner Nassau Broadcasting.

CALL TO ORDER

Town Manager Rogers called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

QUESTION & ANSWER

Inquiries were made on two different items within the Municipal Building department of the General Fund: possibility of purchasing a carpet shampooer rather than renting one and looking at using Kilowatt energy auditing firm to seek energy savings.

HANDOUT

Expenditure summary and general government departments within the General Fund were distributed. This section of the General Fund is proposed to increase .38%.

GENERAL FUND

Starting with the Selectboard, the Town Manager is proposing cutting this account by 8.39% or reducing expenditures from \$21,025 to \$19,260. 011.411.350 is being reduced from \$2,575 to \$1,785, Selectboard meeting packets will be mailed electronically. Items within 011.411.990 worth mentioning include: the Christmas luncheon (\$575), volunteer appreciation (\$200), and unspecified or pauper funerals (\$500).

Next auditing is proposed to increase 7.25%. Within this account printing the Town Report (\$2,250) and independent auditing and accounting contract (\$26,000) are listed.

BARRE PARTNERSHIP PRESENTATION (6:50 p.m.)

President of Barre Partnership, Executive Director, and board members were in attendance to present arguments for funding. Items of notable mention included: concerts in the park, parades, Project Graduation, and “We Dig Barre” reconstruction marketing campaign. Partnership representatives underscored the importance economic vitality, associating Barre City’s Main Street with other area communities. Parallels were drawn between the Barre Partnership and a vibrant downtown. The Executive Director noted that he has been busy putting together a grant application for the USDA Rural Development Rural Enterprise Grant to launch a comprehensive marketing strategy to help ease disruptions created by the Main Street Reconstruction project. The organization is asking for \$30,000 for marketing, signage, and events to maintain and increase economic development opportunities.

GENERAL FUND

The *data processing* account is proposed to be reduced 17.43%. This reduction is explained by personnel coding. In this proposal 20% of the Planning & Zoning’s Administrative Assistant’s pay allotted, which was not the case in past year. The noticeable shift is due to pay differentials. There is little change in *Planning & Zoning* expenditures. The *Assessor/Reappraisal* department is summed up by personnel costs and software updates. The *Municipal Building* expenditures are comprised of supplies, maintenance, and utility costs. Of reviewed expenses: equipment rentals, electricity, fire extinguishers, and wreaths and flags were of interest to budget committee members.

There was some discussion about truck purchases and Highway Fund expenditures. These topics will be revisited at a later meeting.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be Tuesday, March 9, 2010, 6:30 p.m. at the Emergency Operation Center, Municipal Building in Lower Websterville. The Committee will review public safety departments.

RECESS

The meeting recessed at 8:00 p.m.

Minutes as taken by

Kelly Murphy, Management Intern