

Barre Town Budget Committee Meeting

Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2016 - 2017

Meeting Agenda for March 15, 2016

1. Call to order 6:30 p.m.
2. Consider approving agenda
3. Consider approving March 1, 2016 meeting minutes
4. Questions about material covered so far?
5. Answers, responses to committee questions
6. Review
 - a. Police Department and Animal Control Division
 - b. General Fund from Health Office (.451) to end
 - c. Ambulance Fund
7. Plan meetings to complete budget work
8. Adjourn

Minutes for March 15, 2016

The duly warned meeting of the Barre Town Budget Review Committee for the proposed 2016-2017 fiscal year budget was held March 15, 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, Jeff Blow, Paul White, Bob Nelson, Rolland Tessier, Joanne Cyr and W. John "Jack" Mitchell, Tom White, Val Vallerand, and William Wolfe.

Also in attendance were: Town Manager Carl Rogers, Town Clerk-Treasurer Donna J. Kelty, Police Chief Michael Stevens, Sargent William Dodge & Hughey, and EMS Director Chris Lamonda.

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

APPROVE AGENDA

On a motion by Robert Nelson, seconded by Paul White, the Budget Committee approved the agenda as presented.

APPROVE MEETING MINUTES

On a motion by Joanne Cyr, seconded by Rolland Tessier, the Budget Committee approved the meeting minutes of March 8, 2016 with the following corrections:

1. *Throughout the minutes change the spelling of "Roland" to Rolland for Tessier;*
2. *Page 2, Paragraph 5, first line delete the words "/Jaw";*
3. *Page 2, Paragraph 5, third sentence, delete the words "should really";*
4. *Page 2, Next Meeting, first sentence change the next meeting date to March 15 and delete March 8.*

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

There were no questions and no information from the Manager.

BUDGET REVIEW CONTINUATION - GENERAL FUND

Police Department: This department budget wage account is changing slightly due to union contract items (CTO will now include vacation, sick, and time off), overtime, and benefits. Other notable items included Thunder Road wage reimbursement, vehicle rotation (associated with purchases), technology/data processing items, dispatching services, and training requirements.

BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING OF March 15, 2016 continued:

Animal Control: The change to the wage account - the Town is no longer contracting with other municipalities for animal control services. This also impacts the mileage and supplies item. Each Town/City has the option to contact directly with the Animal Control Officer.

Culture/Development/Transportation/Debt Service: The Culture department contains the Aldrich Library appropriation (to be discussed at a later date). Development includes functions such as the Wilson Industrial Park (sign cleaning/landscaping), Central VT Economic Dev. Corp, BAD, CVRPC, and GMTA. As for debt service, this will be the final payment for the Town Forest. The Incubator Building bond payments are reimbursed from Barre Area Development.

Other items: The Manager also pointed out property taxes paid to Williamstown and the Washington County tax (built into our budget and paid to the County), as well as the VLCT per capita fee (\$1.10)

AMBULANCE FUND

The Manager's proposed budget has a projected 13% increase. The majority of this due to the wage account. Per union contract the EMS will be changing their work schedule (currently a 24 hours on/48 hours off). This will go to 2 - 24 hours days with 40 hours at straight time and 8 hours at overtime. The new work schedule, if costing the Town too much, can be eliminated after nine (9) months; returning to the 24/48 hour schedule. The reallocation of time for the Manager and Town Clerk/Treasurer also impacted the wage account.

The per capita rates for contracted Towns have all been evenly distributed with the per capita rate being calculated at \$56.60. Increases for other Town were noted.

RECESS/RECONVENE MEETING

On a motion by Rolland Tessier, seconded by Paul White, the Budget Committee voted to recess at 8:01 p.m. to allow the Selectboard to hold a brief meeting.

William Wolfe had to leave the meeting for work related issues.

On a motion by Paul White, and duly seconded, the Budget Committee voted to reconvene at 8:52 p.m.

AMBULANCE FUND REVIEW CONTINUED

Discussion of changing/increased training requirements, the new "Active 911 pagers license" program, cost of a power cot/stretchers system versus the load & mount system for ambulances (will impact future purchase costs), Toughbook purchase for ambulance to replace an outdated used item, varying supplies (to include consumables and small equipment), and insurances.

EMS Director Lamonda stated what was not put into the budget but is desperately needed are 5 NARC boxes (special boxes for ambulances to house narcotics) which cost about \$700 each. One item not funded was a replacement desktop computer for the EMS Director (currently using his personal laptop). The proposed budget this year does replace his workstation which is much needed (assessed through VLCT health check).

Board discussion item: Chair White stated he would like to add a "Vactor Sinking Fund" to the list of items on the Board. This very expensive equipment has been on the Budget Committee/Selectboard radar for several years.

HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENT

The deadline for the Selectboard to approve the Town Meeting warning is Tuesday, March 29, 2016. Rogers is hoping to wrap up the budget review at next week's meeting.

BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING OF March 15, 2016 continued:

NEXT MEETING

The Budget Committee meeting will reconvene on Tuesday, March 22, 2016, 6:30 p.m. at the Emergency Operation Center, Municipal Building in Lower Websterville. **NOTE:** Consensus of those present is to have the next meeting be a double session if needed.

RECESS

On a motion by Rob LaClair, seconded by Tom White, the meeting recessed at 9:56 p.m. William Wolfe was not present for the vote.

Donna J. Kelty, Town Clerk-Treasurer

Barre Town Budget Committee

X _____
Committee Chair

x _____

