

Barre Town Budget Committee Meeting
Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2017 - 2018
March 7, 2017

1. Call to order.....6:30 p.m.
2. Consider approving agenda
3. Consider approving February 28, 2017 meeting minutes.
4. Questions about material covered so far.
5. Review Ambulance Fund, or some General Fund Departments
6. Recess

Minutes for March 7, 2017

The duly warned meeting of the Barre Town Budget Review Committee for the proposed 2017-2018 fiscal year budget was held March 7, 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, Rob LaClair, Bob Nelson, Norma Malone, Justin Bolduc, John Hameline and Jerry Parrot.

Also in attendance were: Town Manager Carl Rogers, Asst. Town Manager Elaine Wang, Assistant Town Clerk-Treasurer Deborah Lefebvre, EMS Director Chris Lamonda (arrived at 7:30).

RECONVENE

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

APPROVE AGENDA

On a motion by Rolland Tessier, seconded by Bob Nelson the agenda was approved as presented.

Many of the committee members had not yet received the meeting packets in the mail. Most were agreeable to have them sent as an email attachment in the future.

APPROVE MEETING MINUTES

On a motion by John Hameline, seconded by Paul White the meeting minutes for February 28, 2017 were approved with the following corrections:

- *Top of page 2, strike the word resident prior to Reverend (repeated later in sentence).*
- *Under Barre Partnership Presentation, first sentence, strike Vice. Emily Pelow Corbett is the President, not Vice President.*
- *Same section, third paragraph, change email to emailed.*

QUESTIONS ON MATERIAL COVERED

The committee would like to have additional discussion on the topic of Library funding being in the General Fund or as a Special item as well as the dollar amount.

Add Road Salt to the board to revisit. Take another look at salt inventory before the end of the budget review.

Also, add Barre Partnership and the dollar amount to the board to revisit.

After discussion on a possible date to revisit these items (particularly the Library and Barre Partnership) it was agreed to have a special meeting on March 16 at 6:30pm.

AMBULANCE FUND

BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING OF March 7, 2017 continued:

The review of the Ambulance budget was begun. Revenue increases were noted in relation to increasing call volumes. Of major note under expenses, was the \$45,000 + increase under Miscellaneous. That figure is due to a new state tax on ambulance revenues. The tax of 3.3% is on all patient billing revenue where the patient is picked up and delivered in Vermont. The purpose is a way to increase state revenue to hopefully get more matching Federal funds which could then increase Medicaid reimbursements.

There was discussion about the various per capita rates for contract towns and Barre Town. The towns of Orange, Topsham and Washington are currently at \$42.70, Barre Town at \$56.13 and Berlin at \$31.58. The lower rate for Berlin is related to the volume of calls and the location of the hospital and nursing homes there.

Of note for items included in the proposed budget were \$3,500 for community CPR training instructor plus \$500 for the CPR training manikins. \$18,000 was also included for replacement of a transport ventilator. The hope would be to offer CPR training at least once per year to the towns of Orange, Washington and Topsham and several times in Berlin (at the Mall).

Of note for items not in the budget were \$62,000 for an assistant director and \$47,000 for 3 auto pulse CPR devices.

Significant changes were reviewed. Several of these are related to changes in scheduling brought about by the new EMS contract. All full timers will work a rotating 24hr on-48hr off schedule (40 hours straight time & 8 hours OT). Auxiliary crew working per diem will round out the schedule. This scheduling change (proposed by the EMT's) will significantly reduce overtime costs. There was an increase of \$20590 for health insurance due to one EMT switching from buy-out to family coverage.

While reviewing revenue sources, there was discussion about the intercept charges to other EMT services. Should the town be charging a fee when the intercept call is canceled and the crew has already been dispatched. It was suggested that might be a conversation for a Selectboard meeting rather than Budget meeting.

NEXT MEETING

The Budget Committee meeting will reconvene on Tuesday, March 14, 2017, 6:30 p.m. at the Emergency Operation Center, Municipal Building in Lower Websterville. Review will continue with the Ambulance Fund.

RECESS

On a motion by Malone, seconded by Bolduc, the Budget Committee recessed at 8:15 p.m.

*Deborah Lefebvre, Assistant Town Clerk-
Treasurer*