

Barre Town Budget Committee Meeting
Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2020 - 2021
March 10, 2020
AGENDA

1. Call to order.....6:00 p.m.
2. Consider approving agenda
3. Consider approving March 3, 2020 minutes
4. Presentations:
 - a. Barre Partnership 6:05 p.m.
 - b. Barre Area Development 6:15 p.m.
 - c. Aldrich Library 6:25 p.m.
5. Review Budgets: General Fund – Municipal Building & Recreation Department and possibly others.
6. Questions about material received and reviewed to date.
7. Public comment: receive guests, if any 7:50 p.m.
8. Adjourn 7:55 p.m.

Minutes for March 10, 2020

The duly warned meeting of the Barre Town Budget Review Committee for the proposed 2020-2021 fiscal year budget was held March 10, 2020 at the Barre Town Municipal Building, Emergency Operation Center, Lower Websterville at 6:00 p.m.

The following members were in attendance: Bob Nelson, Norma Malone, Justin Bolduc, Cedric Sanborn, Debra Pierce, Mike Gilbar, Alan Garceau, W. John “Jack” Mitchell and Paul White. Tom White was absent

Also, in attendance were: Town Manager Carl Rogers, Asst. Town Manager Elaine Wang, Town Clerk-Treasurer Donna J. Kely, Nancy Pope, Loren Polk, Al Flory, Bob Lord, Sarah Field, Doug Farnham, David Rouleau, Tracie Lewis and Rich Morey.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Norma Malone called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

APPROVE AGENDA

On a motion by Mike Gilbar, seconded by Alan Garceau, the agenda was approved as presented. Tom White was not present for the vote.

APPROVE MINUTES

On a motion by Bob Nelson, seconded by Mike Gilbar, the Budget Committee voted to approve the March 3, 2020 meeting minutes with minor spelling and grammatical changes. Tom White was not present for the vote.

PRESENTATIONS BY NOT-FOR-PROFITS IN BUDGET

Barre Partnership has requested \$10,000 this year an increase of \$5,000 from last. Handouts were provided to the Committee. The Partnership was formed in 1999 and is governed by a Board of Directors comprised of community members and a Director (Tracie Lewis) who oversees day to day operations.

Their mission statement is *“To stimulate and sustain economic development in Barre’s historic downtown, ensuring a vibrant community that is the social, cultural and economic hub of the greater Barre area.”*

Ms. Lewis did an overview of the various events produced during the year, the growth for these over the years, and their increasing social media presence. Some of their events include the Heritage Festival, Holiday House Decorating Contest, Concerts in Currier Park, and many more. The Partnership also works with area businesses and local governments to provide information and facilitate disseminating said information. To learn more visit their website (thebarrepartnership.com).

During the question/answer period the Committee requested a financial statement.

Barre Area Development Corp. (BADC) is an organization that promotes economic development in Barre City and Barre Town. They focus primarily on industrial, commercial, and retail development. Board of Director representatives Sarah Field and Bob Lord were present. Prior to the meeting a very large booklet was distributed via email which gives detail on the history of BADC. A list of talking points was distributed.

BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING OF March 10, 2020 continued:

Their request this year is \$51,744. The current fiscal year appropriation is \$45,000. There will also be an additional ballot item asking for an additional \$40,000 which will be used solely for the Rock Solid marketing program.

BADC Board Chair Sarah Field reviewed the Budget spreadsheet noting a couple of one-time expenditures which are not in the proposed budget (recruiting a new Executive Director, and Rock Solid advertising expenses).

Discussion centered on public initiatives, contracting with a recruiter to hire a new Director, and the new website. For more information on BADC visit their site www.BADC.com.

Aldrich Public Library representatives, Nancy Pope and Loren Polk were present. Ms. Polk distributed a handout speaking to capital projects, maintenance, services, and the Library’s future. She spoke to the ever increasing needs, rising costs, and the need to put monies aside for capital projects. The Library also announced that the East Barre Branch has additional hours which means the Library is now open 7 days a week.

The proposed budget provided earlier has not changed. Representatives spoke to staffing, ever evolving changes (high tech down to paper), program offerings, and when a group is charged to rent their space. The City of Barre has approved a FY 20-21 appropriation of \$230,000, the Town is being asked to contribute \$189,000. The current FY appropriation is \$180,000. This item will be added to the white board for further discussion.

During questioning the Committee noted the Library has been asked in the past to come up with some type of formula on funding – has this task been addressed. Ms. Polk noted it had not but she will attempt to do so over the next year.

GENERAL FUND CONTINUED

Review continued with the Municipal Building Department – Heat line item (011-419-440). It was noted “supplies” had been split to better track costs. Proposed work includes cleaning the air ducts and replacing/repairing gutters on the Rear Annex and over the back Police Department door.

Manager Rogers, in his notes to the Committee, stated the Recreation Department Budget is the fifth largest General Fund department budget. Overall this budget has a small decrease due to no repeat of capital improvement (\$40,815).

Board members Doug Farnham (Chair) and Dave Rouleau (Vice Chair) were present. They provided additional information regarding the “not funded” line item for an additional laborer. Given the size of the facility the Recreation Chair stated there is a need for weekend staffing given the amount of field use. After much discussion the Committee decided to put the item on the white board for further discussion.

PUBLIC COMMENT AT 7:50 P.M. - None

Rogers continued reviewing the changes which are in the proposed budget (purchase new lights for the softball field), painting the 22 Wilson Street building (rented), providing ADA compliant portalets at the Trow Hill and Lower Graniteville Playgrounds, and field soil testing for the Little League field.

Items not funded include the additional laborer, disc golf expenses, and monies for a water fountain/bottle filling station at the recreation field.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, March 17, 2020, 6:00 p.m. at the Emergency Operation Center, Municipal Building in Lower Websterville. Since the Committee is a little behind it will meet on Thursday, March 19, 2020 as well.

ADJOURN

On a motion by Cedric Sanborn, seconded by Paul White, the Budget Committee meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m. Tom White was not present for the vote.

Town Clerk-Treasurer Donna J. Kelty