

To be approved at 06-19-12 Barre City Council Meeting

**Special Meeting of the Barre City Council
Held June 16, 2012**

The Special Meeting of the Barre City Council was called to order at 8:10 AM by Mayor Thomas Lauzon. In attendance were: From Ward I, Councilor Paul Poirier; and from Ward II, Councilor Michael Boutin. Also in attendance were Manager Steven Mackenzie and Clerk Carolyn Dawes. Others in attendance included Jim Goss, attorney for Northeast Materials, and Reg Abare, Barre City Engineer.

There was no quorum at the beginning of the meeting.

Mayor Lauzon said this meeting was to discuss the City's response to Northeast Materials' Act 250 permit related to its proposed plant located in Barre Town, and the increased truck traffic expected on Quarry Street.

Mr. Goss reviewed the traffic study conducted for the proposed project and said the study indicates a maximum of eight trucks added to the street network traffic per day with no additional delays added to the Quarry Street/South Main Street intersection. Mr. Goss said Northeast Materials (NM) is prepared to offer a permit condition that if VTRANS has not started the proposed upgrades to the intersection by the opening of the NM plant, NM will improve the intersection by providing materials and \$10,000 towards labor and expenses. Mr. Goss said he expects the plant will be operational within 60-90 days after approval of the Act 250 permit. Manager Mackenzie said VTRANS does not expect to complete the intersection project until 2015.

Mayor Lauzon said he appreciated Northeast Materials' willingness to step up to the plate, and he would like to make sure NM covers all the costs for materials and labor so that the citizens of Barre City do not bear any of the financial burden for the improvement of the intersection. The Mayor said the next step would be to get a contractor's estimate of the costs for the improvements. Councilor Poirier said the intersection was indicated as a possible future issue in past Act 250 permits related to other development in Barre Town, and the Town has dragged its feet when it comes to lobbying the legislature to push VTRANS to move the intersection improvements up on the schedule. He said it's a Town problem, and the Town needs to take the lead.

Councilor Herring arrived at 8:25 AM, making a quorum.

Resident and former Act 250 specialist Ed Stanak arrived at 8:25 AM.

There was discussion about the level of service at the intersection, and continued review of the traffic study.

Councilor Chadderton arrived at 8:29 AM.

Barre Granite Association executive director Ed Larson arrived at 8:30 AM.

Councilor Poirier said there needs to be a commitment that the improvements to the intersection won't be a financial burden to the citizens of Barre City. He said the City needs a commitment from Barre Town with regards to lobbying the legislature and VTRANS to move the project forward. Councilor Poirier said he doesn't feel Barre Town has made a strong case as to why it won't change its policy regarding truck traffic on Middle Road, and if a solution can't be found, he wanted to be on record as opposing truck traffic down Quarry Street.

Mayor Lauzon said NM has offered a fair trade off for the increased truck traffic. The Mayor said the City can close Quarry Street to truck traffic until VTRANS moves forward with the intersection improvement project. The Mayor said the next step is to get a contractor's estimate of the improvements being proposed by Northeast Materials and get VTRANS on board by the close of business on Monday, June 18, 2012.

Councilor Herring said he has heard from residents of Knoll Drive, which runs parallel to Quarry Street, and that

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they are concerned about increased noise and decreased air quality related to the improvements to the intersection. Mr. Goss said the ACT 250 permit would address noise and air quality.

Mayor Lauzon said the City should hold VTRANS to its 2015 schedule, and the Council could vote to close Quarry Street to truck traffic should VTRANS push off the scheduled date beyond 2015.

Manager Mackenzie asked Council to give him direction as he crafts the City's response, which is due to the hearing board on Monday, June 18, 2012. The hearing is scheduled to begin on Tuesday, June 19th at 5:00 PM. Mayor Lauzon said the City can ask for an extension. Mr. Goss said he will recommend to the hearing board that the issue of traffic be left open until the City's response is finalized. He said he will let the hearing board know the City and Northeast Materials are in negotiations. Mayor Lauzon said Council can review and approve its response at the beginning of its meeting on Tuesday, June 19th, and then dispatch Manager Mackenzie to the hearing with the response.

Councilor Poirier said he would like Council to consider as a condition of the permit that the Town has the primary responsibility to try and move the VTRANS project date to an earlier date than 2015. He said the Town would need to forward to the commission its reasonable efforts to move the project forward. He said he would like to have a record of the Town's attempts if the City comes to 2015 and needs to close Quarry Street to truck traffic.

Mr. Goss said he would like a day or so to respond regarding the Barre Town conditions. He said he will stipulate to keeping the traffic discussion and testimony open until Barre City has time to respond.

Mr. Larson said Barre Granite Association (BGA) members need access through the Quarry Street intersection and asked what the BGA can do to help. Mayor Lauzon said BGA members can encourage Barre Town to lobby for the VTRANS project.

Councilor Poirier left at 9:00 AM.

Council went into executive session at 9:00 AM to discuss contracts on motion of Councilor Boutin, seconded by Councilor Chadderton. **Motion carried.** Manager Mackenzie was invited to attend the executive session.

Council came out of executive session at 9:30 AM on motion of councilor Boutin, seconded by Councilor Herring. **Motion carried.**

Council adjourned at 9:30 AM on motion of Councilor Boutin, seconded by Councilor Herring. **Motion carried.**

An audio transcript of the meeting is available through the Clerk's Office. Audio transcripts are kept on file for two years, as per state statute.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn S. Dawes, City Clerk