

**Special Meeting of the Barre City Council
Held January 19, 2013**

The Special Meeting of the Barre City Council was called to order at 7:39 AM by Mayor Thomas Lauzon. In attendance were: From Ward I, Councilor Charles Dindo; Ward II, Councilors Michael Boutin and Michael Smith; and from Ward III, Councilor Lucas Herring. Also in attendance were City Manager Steven Mackenzie, members of the Citizens' Budget Committee: John Hannigan, Jeffrey Friot and Justin Johnson, and Clerk/Treasurer Carolyn Dawes.

Mayor Lauzon thanked the Citizens' Budget Committee for their work on the FY13 budget. Manager Mackenzie gave a quick overview of the latest draft of the FY13 budget. Mayor Lauzon said the preliminary FY12 audit shows a surplus of approximately \$90,000, and there are transfers that have yet to be made from the capital fund, which will increase the surplus.

Mayor Lauzon said FEMA reimbursements from the flooding that occurred in May 2011 have to be reconciled, and he will work with Clerk Dawes to get that work done.

The Council and Committee members discussed the following:

- Different types of health insurance, including HSA's and HRA's.
- Increasing the stipend paid to those who elect to move their health insurance coverage to a spouse's plan.
- Additional police officers.
- Assistance in the manager's office.
- Use of the Semprebon Annual (annuity) Fund to partially offset costs associated with assistance in the manager's office, perhaps on a short-term basis.
- Scheduling vacations and managing overtime.
- Costs to the city related to parolees and furloughees that are housed here.
- Combination of the Facilities/Cemeteries & Parks/Recreation Departments.
- Putting additional police officers on the ballot for voter approval.
- Putting an assistant city manager on the ballot for voter approval.
- Crime rates in Barre City as compared to other municipalities.

Mayor Lauzon left the meeting at 9:03 AM. Acting Mayor Smith assumed the chair.

The Council and Committee members continued discussion of the following:

- Contracting for an independent management review of operations in City Hall.
- Review of specific line items, including:
 - Copier budget in police department.
 - Shifting police cruisers and new ambulance payments to the capital fund budget.
 - Budgeting for IT tech support.
 - Pool maintenance needs, and water usage.
- Goal for budget is to keep expense increase under 5%.
- Barre City has an aging workforce, which is both a problem and an opportunity.
- Creating tools to help explain the budget to the voters.
- Offsetting some of the police department overtime expenses by hiring two additional officers.
- Review of streetlights and the costs.
- Funding for Barre Partnership and Barre Area Development Corporation.
- Create a chart showing the payoff schedules for all debt service items. (Clerk will do).
- Explore phone service options.

To be approved at 01-29-13 Barre City Council Meeting

Council went into executive session at 11:39 AM to deliberate on the John Clark/No Rent Order appeal on motion of Councilor Boutin, seconded by Councilor Herring. **Motion carried.**

Clerk Dawes was invited into the executive session.

Council came out of executive session at 12:01 PM on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Dindo. **Motion carried.**

Councilor Boutin made the motion to uphold the No Rent Order and deny the appeal, with a written decision being provided to Mr. Clark within the 15 days as is provided in City ordinance. The motion was seconded by Councilor Herring. **Motion carried.**

Council adjourned at 12:03 PM on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Boutin. **Motion carried.**

There is no audio recording of this meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn S. Dawes, City Clerk