

**Special Meeting of the Barre City Council
Held March 22, 2014**

The Special Meeting of the Barre City Council was called to order by Mayor Thomas Lauzon at 8:07 AM at Barre City Hall. In attendance were: From Ward I, Councilors Charles Dindo and Paul Poirier; from Ward II, Councilor Michael Boutin; from Ward III, Councilor Lucas Herring; City Manager Steven Mackenzie and clerk/treasurer Carolyn Dawes. Also in attendance were the following members of the Citizens Budget Committee:

- Justin Johnson, chair
- John Hannigan
- Linda Couture

Mayor Lauzon announced that City Engineer Reg Abare has tendered his letter of resignation, effective July 11, 2014. There was a brief discussion on filling the position. Manager Mackenzie said he will present a transition plan to the Council in the near future.

Manager Mackenzie said he met yesterday with representatives of the City's four labor unions to discuss possible reductions in compensation. The Manager said the representatives are taking the discussion back to their members.

Members of the Council and Budget Committee discussed possible changes to the proposed FY15 budget in preparation for the May 13th re-vote, including the following:

- Complaints about overtime – Manager Mackenzie said there is a detailed explanation in the annual report.
- Department heads made suggestions for budget revisions, which were reviewed.
- Additional cuts would lead to reduction of services.
- The Budget Committee's work led to intensive scrutiny of the budget. Work of the committee is to be respected.
- Discussion of paying for BOR mold remediation and purchase of expenses related to the asbestos clean-up at the fire station, and possible amortization over time to reduce the impact on the FY15 budget.
- The proposed FY15 budget includes estimates for union contracts that will be renegotiated in the near future and increases for health insurance costs.
- Councilors will work on developing handouts in support of the budget, and will talk with voters in their wards.

Council informally agreed to send the budget back to the Citizens Budget Committee, and asked them to report back to the Council at the April 15th meeting. Clerk Dawes asked that the warning for the re-vote be approved by April 22nd to allow adequate time to print and mail absentee ballots.

The meeting adjourned at 8:53 PM on motion of Councilor Poirier, seconded by Councilor Dindo.

Motion carried.

There is no audio recording of the Special Council Meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn S. Dawes, City Clerk/Treasurer