

To be approved at 01-27-15 Barre City Council Meeting

**Special Meeting of the Barre City Council
Held January 22, 2015**

The Special Meeting of the Barre City Council was called to order by Mayor Thomas Lauzon at 5:40 PM at Barre City Hall. In attendance were: From Ward I, Councilor Charles Dindo; and from Ward II, Councilors Michael Boutin and Michael Smith. Also in attendance were City Manager Steven Mackenzie; City Clerk/Treasurer Carolyn Dawes; members of the Budget & Finance Committee: Linda Couture, Mary Ellen Boisvert, and Alex Pastor; members of the Aldrich Library Board of Trustees Nancy Pope and Robert Spring.

Absent: From Ward I, Councilor Paul Poirier; from Ward II Councilors Anita Chadderton and Lucas Herring.

It was noted this is a legally warned meeting of the Budget & Finance Committee. Clerk Dawes said due to miscommunication, the meeting had not been legally warned. Mayor Lauzon said Council would not be taking any action during the meeting.

Budget Workshop:

Mayor Lauzon reviewed the latest FY16 draft budget, including the following recent changes:

- Removing TIF numbers from General Fund budget. The TIF numbers will be used on the tax calculation sheet, but after conferring with the City auditors, it was agreed those figures should not appear in the GF budget.
- 15% reduction in heating fuel expenses, totaling \$29,700
- No new vehicle fuel reductions

Discussion between those in attendance included:

- The library's work to help encourage voters to support the budget
- The value of bringing back some form of the lawn waste disposal program

The following changes were discussed:

- Councilor Smith said he has been working with Green Mountain Power to understand the street lighting retrofit program and projected savings, and recommended the streetlight power budget line be reduced to \$110,000.
- Councilor Smith said he would like to see the Police Department summer bike patrol line item restored to full funding of \$25,000, and the bike maintenance line item restored to \$2,000.

The Budget & Finance Committee and Council concurred on the changes without formal action.

Ms. Couture said she wanted it on the record that she is having a hard time with the increase to the library's appropriation while cutting City staff positions.

Ms. Pastor said she is satisfied with where the budget arrived.

There was a brief discussion about the possibility of placing an item on the ballot that would allow the City to utilize additional funding options for the TIF bond. There was no support for such an article on the March ballot.

The Budget & Finance Committee went on record as supporting the budget as presented and adjusted this evening.

Mayor Lauzon adjourned the meeting at 6:40 PM

There is no audio recording of this meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn S. Dawes, City Clerk