

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

**Special Meeting of the Barre City Council  
Held January 26, 2013**

The Special Meeting of the Barre City Council was called to order at 7:30 AM by Mayor Thomas Lauzon. In attendance were: From Ward I, Councilors Charles Dindo and Paul Poirier; 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, Justin Johnson, Aimee Pope and Linda Couture, Public Safety Chief Tim Bombardier, Deputy Police Chief Andy Marceau, and Clerk/Treasurer Carolyn Dawes.

Manager Mackenzie distributed a memo outlining costs associated with a variety of options for staffing level changes in the police department. Chief Bombardier reviewed police department shifts, coverage, proposed staffing changes, school resource officers (SROs), summer coverage and the cost split formula between Barre City and the schools.

Those in attendance discussed the following:

- More community policing
- Review of the SRO split with the schools
- Pros and cons of the different options outlined in the manager's memo on staffing changes in the police department

Mayor Lauzon requested that Council Herring, who is chair of the City school board, call a meeting of the board to discuss the assistant principal position included in the board's proposed budget.

Mayor Lauzon said a Vermont Mayors Coalition has recently formed, and will be seeking \$1 million in state funding to be divided between those communities that are above the state average for the number of people under DOC supervision housed in those communities. The Mayor said based on the formula being developed for the funding, the City would receive approximately \$160,000.

Those in attendance continued discussion on the following:

- Future COPS grants opportunities
- Exploring the option of 1 additional officer rather than 2
- Explore option of 1 SRO split between the 2 schools
- Staffing needs in other departments, including the Manager's office
- Goal of under 5% for budget increase
- Changes in staffing due to retirements
- Skills needed in the Manager's office: receptionist, financial capabilities, human resources
- Look to the Semprebon Fund for financial support in administrative position in Manager's office
- Future tax rate relief through adjustments in the capital and paving ballot line items

The Budget Committee will finalize a recommended budget at its meeting on Monday, to be presented to the Council at its Tuesday meeting. Mayor Lauzon said he will accept the committee's recommendation, and approval of the 2013 Annual (Town) Meeting warning will be on the agenda for Tuesday evening's meeting.

The meeting adjourned without formal vote at 9:53 AM.

There is no audio recording of this meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn S. Dawes, City Clerk