

**Special Meeting of the Barre City Council  
Held January 23, 2016**

The Special Meeting of the Barre City Council was called to order by Mayor Thomas Lauzon at 8:08 AM at Barre City Hall. In attendance were: From Ward I, Councilors Charles Dindo and Paul Poirier; from Ward II, Councilor Michael Boutin; and from Ward III, Councilor Lucas Herring. Also present were City Manager Steven Mackenzie, Clerk/Treasurer Carolyn Dawes, Police/Fire Chief Tom Bombardier, and the following members of the Budget & Finance Committee: Linda Couture, Mary Ellen Boisvert and Alex Pastor.

**Absent:** From Ward II, Councilor Michael Smith; and from Ward III, Councilor Anita Chadderton

Mayor Lauzon distributed his format for the FY17 draft budget and said it shows an increase of approximately 1% on the total tax rate, including the proposed school budgets. The Mayor said there was also money included for flood mitigation and streets & capital, however, the numbers don't reconcile with Manager Mackenzie's version of the budget as presented last week.

The Mayor said he has discussed the FY15 fund balance surplus with the state treasurer and is confident it is available for use in the FY17 budget. He also said the surplus can be used to offset the OIG settlement associated with ambulance billing, which would be a prior year adjustment to be booked in FY15.

The Mayor distributed a chart comparing the two versions of the budget, and said the revenue sections essentially agree. He reviewed expenses and said there are significant differences in the public safety departments.

There was discussion on:

- Police Department salaries and recently settled union contract
- The need to control growth of the public safety departments' budgets
- Increases in Fire Department training expenses due to changes in requirements
- Differences in the budgets due to variances in calculating salaries
- Capping the tax rate increase at 1.5%
- Necessary adjustments due to no FY15 surplus available to offset amount to be raised by taxes
- Differences in calculating savings associated with health insurance changes
- Appropriation for the Aldrich Library

There was discussion about the Local Options Tax ballot item. The Budget Committee said it is in support of adding it to the Annual (Town) Meeting warning. Councilors also voiced support of placing it on the ballot.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 AM 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