

**Special Meeting of the Barre City Council
Held March 24, 2012**

The Special Meeting of the Barre City Council was called to order at 8:03 AM by Mayor Thomas Lauzon. In attendance were: From Ward I, Councilor Etl; from Ward II, Councilors Michael Boutin and Michael Smith; and from Ward III, Councilor Anita Chadderton. Also in attendance were Manager Steven Mackenzie and Clerk/Treasurer Carolyn Dawes.

Mayor Lauzon said he will re-arrange the Tuesday, March 27, 2012 Council meeting agenda to discuss the Semprebon Fund Committee and the Council will give clear direction to the Committee for going forward with its work.

Mayor Lauzon distributed a memo outlining his thoughts on revenue and expense issues related to the municipal budget. Specific discussion included the following topics:

- Parking fees
- Dispatch services
- Managing overtime, vacations and sick time
- Options for alternative shifts in public safety
- Department head practice and contracts
- Co-location of Public Works/Building/Planning Departments

Berlin Street resident John Dufresne addressed the Council, and said he has concerns about overtime in the Fire Department, Fire Department call-out and shift coverage, and Fire Department equipment rolling. Mayor Lauzon said if the Fire Department considers management of risk in its call responses. Councilor Etl said he would like to see a breakdown of fire calls by type and a policy on when people are called in. Mayor Lauzon said he would like to hear from the shift captains and a thorough explanation regarding rolling equipment and call-ins. Mr. Dufresne said he also has concerns about maintenance and upkeep expenses for public safety equipment.

Other points of discussion included:

- City-wide capital improvement plan as a management tool
- Assistant city manager position and ways to show a return on the investment in the position
- Overtime and offsetting revenues
- Merger of the Cemeteries, Parks, Recreations and Facilities Departments.

Clerk Dawes said today is the deadline for filing any proposed charter change language with the Clerk's office, and if Council is interested in including any of the charter changes on the budget re-vote ballot, the language needs to be filed today. The Clerk said there will be opportunities to revise the proposed charter language before setting the warning. Council approved filing the charter revisions with the Clerk as voted on March 6, 2012 on motion of Councilor Etl, seconded by Councilor Chadderton. **Motion carried.**

Mayor Lauzon adjourned the meeting at 9:50 AM without motion.

There is no audio file of the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn S. Dawes, City Clerk