

**Special Meeting of the Barre City Council  
Held March 31, 2012**

The Special Meeting of the Barre City Council was called to order at 6:00 PM by Acting Mayor Thomas Michael Smith. In attendance were: From Ward I, Councilors Dominic Etli and Paul Poirier; from Ward II, Councilor Michael Boutin; and from Ward III, Councilors Anita Chadderton and Lucas Herring. Also in attendance were Manager Steven Mackenzie and Clerk/Treasurer Carolyn Dawes.

There was discussion about the following items related to the FY 2013 budget:

- Councilor Poirier said \$200,000 needs to be cut from the proposed budget.
- Manager Mackenzie said his recommendation is to cut \$50,000 from the proposed budget.
- Councilor Poirier said he won't support anything that doesn't reduce the tax increase by 6 cents.
- There was discussion about:
  - Overtime
  - Opening up contracts
  - Opening up positions
  - Upcoming negotiations on the Fire union contract
  - Correlation between overtime expenses and revenue in the Fire/Ambulance Department

Councilor voted to go into executive session at 6:10 PM to discuss personnel and contracts on motion of Councilor Etli, seconded by Councilor Boutin. **Motion carried.**

On consensus, Council immediately came out of executive session to allow members of the public to speak. Resident John Hannigan said he had ideas to share about removal of department heads, duplication of work, combining job functions and trying to recruit other communities to contract with the City for dispatching services.

Council went into executive session at 6:22 PM to discuss personnel and contract issues on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Chadderton. **Motion carried.** Manager Mackenzie and Clerk Dawes were invited to attend the executive session.

Council came out of executive session at 6:58 AM on motion of Councilor Poirier, seconded by Councilor Herring. **Motion carried.**

Council discussed the following:

- \$15,000 approved by the voters for the regional public safety study
- Target budget cuts
  - Councilor Etli said he would like at least \$400,000 cut
  - Councilor Herring said he would like to see no more than \$100,000 cut
  - Councilor Smith said it's more important to identify cuts than set a target amount
  - Councilor Boutin said he would like to see \$300,000 cut
  - Councilor Chadderton said she would like to see \$300,000 cut
- Councilor Poirier asked if the Council wants to cut \$7,000 from the library appropriation
- Manager Mackenzie said it would be easier if Council would identify an amount to be cut and have him make it work
- Councilor Poirier said the City can't continue administratively the way it currently is. He said there is a need for the additional staff person in the Manager's office.
- Councilor Etli said there has been a lack of focus in the budget discussions, and Council needs to focus on what the City needs, not what is wanted.

Councilor Etli made the motion to cut \$500,000 from the originally proposed FY2013 budget. The motion was

To be approved at 04-10-12 Barre City Council Meeting

seconded by Councilor Boutin. Councilor Poirier offered an amendment to change the cut amount to \$200,000, seconded by Councilor Chadderton.

Manager Mackenzie asked Council to allow him to work up revised budgets that show reductions of \$200,000 and \$300,000.

All movers and seconders withdrew their motions and amendments.

Manager Mackenzie said with those levels of cuts, there will be structural changes and impacts on services.

Council adjourned at 7:20 PM on motion of Councilor Etli, seconded by Councilor Herring. **Motion carried.**

There is no audio file of the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn S. Dawes, City Clerk

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