

**Special Meeting of the Barre City Council
Held April 12, 2012**

The Special Meeting of the Barre City Council was called to order at 6:58 PM by Mayor Thomas Lauzon. In attendance were: From Ward I, Councilors Dominic Etli and Paul Poirier (arrived 7:00 PM); from Ward II, Councilors Michael Boutin and Michael Smith; and from Ward III, Councilors Anita Chadderton and Lucas Herring (arrived 7:02 PM). Also in attendance were Manager Steven Mackenzie and Clerk/Treasurer Carolyn Dawes.

A) Barre City/Barre Town Revolving Loan Fund.

Mayor Lauzon reviewed the details of the revolving loan fund that has been created with \$500,000 from a community development block grant awarded to Barre Town for economic development work in the Town. The Town Selectboard has established the revolving loan fund to benefit businesses in both Barre Town and Barre City, and requested that the City Council make a similar commitment to dedicate up to \$500,000 to the fund should the City receive a CDBG in the future. Council approved the commitment on motion of Councilor Chadderton, seconded by Councilor Etli. **Motion carried.**

B) Set FY2013 Budget for Re-Vote.

Mayor Lauzon said he and Manager Mackenzie worked on a budget plan that calls for a reduction of \$200,728. There was discussion on the following:

- Budgeting for increased parking meters/permits revenue.
- Reductions in overtime spending.
- Confirmation that the budget includes additional funds in case of an increase in health insurance costs.
- Consolidation of Facilities, Recreation and Cemeteries & Parks Departments, with salary cuts for two of the department head positions to \$40,000/year plus benefits.
- Consideration of maintaining pension levels regardless of salary cuts.
- Consideration of reductions for Barre Partnership, Barre Area Development Corporation and Aldrich Public Library.

Councilor Poirier made the motion to approve the \$200,728 reduction. The motion was not seconded.

Discussion continued on whether the adjusted positions will be supervisory, non-union or union. Manager Mackenzie said he has reached out to the City's labor attorney to discuss the question.

Cemeteries & Parks Director Dwight Coffrin said he wished the discussions about the adjustment of positions had been conducted out of the media, that he was not kept in the loop and not asked for input. Mr. Coffrin said he has more than 30 years of service to the department and there are aspects to his job that people don't know.

Councilor Boutin asked if it is possible to finish the current fiscal year with a \$40,000 surplus, and if bonuses can be given to employees. Mayor Lauzon said the Manager manages the budget and wouldn't need Council permission to make expenditures as long as they fall within the total budget.

Councilor Etli said he recommended increasing the traffic court revenue line item from \$7,500 to \$30,000, and increasing the inspection fines & penalties revenue line item from \$1,000 to \$4,000. Mayor Lauzon said he agreed with the recommendations, and said it would require two Councilors to follow up with the Police Department. Councilors Etli and Smith said they will work on the issue and report back to Council.

There was discussion about the following:

- Vacant building ordinance.
- Revised breakdown and listings for the City Council & Mayor budget category.
- Changing the salary cap for the adjustment positions from a set amount to a percentage.

Mayor Lauzon said by making the revenue adjustments recommended by Councilor Etli, and making salary reductions of 10%, the total budget reduction is \$198,878.

There was discussion about support for the Aldrich Library. Councilor Etli made the motion to leave the library's appropriation whole with the \$7,500 increase included in the proposed budget that was defeated at the March 8th annual meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilor Herring. **Motion failed, with Councilors Smith, Herring and Etli voting yes, Councilors Chadderton, Boutin and Poirier voting no, and Mayor Lauzon abstaining.**

Councilor Poirier made the motion to reduce the library's increase by \$3,500 to \$4,000, seconded by Councilor Chadderton. **Motion failed, with Councilors Chadderton, Boutin and Poirier voting yes, Councilors Smith, Etli and Herring voting no, and Mayor Lauzon abstaining.**

Councilor Smith made the motion to accept the \$198,878 budget reduction amount, seconded by Councilor Herring.

There was continued discussion about the library appropriation. Councilor Herring called the question. **Motion failed, with Mayor Lauzon and Councilors Smith and Herring voting yes, and Councilors Chadderton, Boutin, Etli and Poirier voting no.**

Councilor Poirier made the motion to reduce the library's increase by \$3,500 to \$4,000, and to level fund the Barre Partnership and Barre Area Development Corporation to the FY12 levels, seconded by Councilor Chadderton. Mayor Lauzon recommended that the Barre Partnership appropriation be maintained at the level included in the original proposed budget, and the mover and seconder accepted the recommended amendment. The final motion was to reduce the library's increase by \$3,500 to \$4,000, to level fund BADC and fund the Partnership at the increased level as originally proposed in the FY13 budget. **Motion carried with Mayor Lauzon and Councilors Chadderton, Smith, and Poirier voting yes, and Councilors Herring, Boutin and Etli voting no.**

Mayor Lauzon recalculated the reduction based on the previous motion, and announced that the new amounts called for a general fund budget of \$9,988,212, with \$6,770,197 to be raised by taxes. Councilor Herring made the motion to approve these amounts, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried with Councilors Boutin and Etli voting no.**

C) Approve Warning for May 8, 2012 Special Meeting Election

Clerk Dawes distributed copies of the draft warning and requested Council's approval. Council approved the warning with the inclusion of the general fund and amount to be raised by taxes figures as previously approved on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Chadderton. **Motion carried with Councilor Etli voting no.**

Council adjourned at 9:13 PM on motion of Councilor Poirier, seconded by Councilor Herring. **Motion carried.**

There is no audio file of the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn S. Dawes, City Clerk