Special Meeting of the Barre City Council
Held March 6, 2013

The Special Meeting of the Barre City Council was called to order at 8:00 AM by Mayor Thomas Lauzon. In attendance were: From Ward I, Councilors Charles Dindo and Paul Poirier (arrived 8:12 AM); Ward II, Councilors Michael Boutin (arrived 8:05 AM) and Michael Smith (arrived 8:09 AM); and from Ward III, Councilors Anita Chadderton (arrived 8:08 AM) and Lucas Herring (arrived 8:07 AM). Also in attendance were City Manager Steven Mackenzie and Clerk/Treasurer Carolyn Dawes.

Also in attendance were members of the Citizens' Budget Review Committee: Justin Johnson (chair), Linda Couture, Jeffrey Friot, John Hannigan, Renita Marshall, Aimee Pope; Nancy Pope (Aldrich Library), Mary Ellen Boisvert (Aldrich Library), Pete Fournier (BADC), and Joel Schwartz (BADC).

New Business –
B) FY 14 Budget Revote Discussion.
Mayor Lauzon passed around copies of the 10 year capital plan developed in 2009, and discussed the paving program. The Mayor asked the Citizens' Budget Review Committee to review and update the plan.

Mayor Lauzon passed around a report of the status of the 2013 street reconstruction/sidewalks/capital fund, and led a discussion on the effect of the purchase of turnout gear and the replacement of the Potash Brook culvert on planned capital expenses. Mayor Lauzon said he would like the Budget Committee to work on TIF district issues, including the Potash Brook culvert and public relations.

There was a discussion about the capital fund and how funds are designated for equipment, and exploring the possibilities of recovery of expenses associated with the replacement of the turnout gear.

Consensus of the Council was to set the budget revote for May 14th. Councilor Herring said the City School Board is planning on following the Council's lead with regards to a date for the school budget revote. Mayor Lauzon said he recommended removing the two additional police officers and putting out the baseline budget originally recommended by the Budget Review Committee. There was additional discussion on the following:
The voters have spoken on the issue of additional police officers.
The Budget Committee will work to help promote the budget revote.
Council and Committee spend time before working on next budget to discuss goals, with eye towards possible reorganization of structure.

The Budget Committee met briefly in the hall. The Committee came back to Council with a recommendation to go out with the original baseline budget for the budget revote. Mayor Lauzon asked that the warning for the budget revote be placed on the April 9th Council meeting agenda for approval.

A) Discussion of Council Goals, Objectives and Priorities.
Mayor Lauzon reviewed his list of priorities, which included:

- Develop the City's newly approved tax increment finance district (TIF).
    - Possible TIF projects include the Potash Brook culvert and Pearl Street
    - Seat a TIF district commission to identify possible projects, administrate the district, address public relations issues.
- Continue to work with the Budget Committee on quarterly updates and begin work on the FY15 budget.
- Water & sewer updates for fees, and long range planning.
- Community development projects, including:
    - City Place
    - Main Street reconstruction, including parking
    - Make City parking lots efficient.
    - Develop parking revenue plan.
    - Depot Square North.

- Merchants Row.
- Bike Path – explore TIF options.
- Summer Street Center – a co-project with Central Vermont Community Land Trust, Washington County Mental Health, Barre Senior Center, possible community center (a la YMCA/YWCA).

Councilor Herring shared his goals, including:

- Site visit to the Barre Senior Center.
- IT support and website.
- Digital sign and promotions manager for Civic Center, paid for out of Semprebon funds.
- Address issues with City garage.

Councilor Chadderton shared her goals, including:

- Supporting the Mayor's idea for a YMCA/YWCA as a way to replace afterschool options for kids that will be lost through the loss of CityScape programs.
- Do a better job educating the community on what the police department does.

Councilor Dindo shared his goals, including:

- Development of the bike path; surmounting the current hold up in dealing with Washington County Railroad.

Councilor Boutin shared his goals, including:

- Creation of a yearly evaluation policy by June 1st.
- Evaluation of all City employees by August 31st, October 1st at the latest.
- Research moving to bi-weekly paychecks, and have a proposed plan by December 31st.

Councilor Smith shared his goals, including:

- Promoting downtown.
- Council acting as a body – individual initiatives and concerns brought to the body for action.
- Address long-term flood issues, especially north of Route 62/North Main Street intersection.
- Provide assistance/additional staffing in the Manager's office.
- Perform a management review of City operations.

Councilor Poirier shared his goals, including:

- Establish criteria for what constitutes an emergency for spending funds.
- Serious discussion of what services the City offers/cannot sustain spending.
- Explore moving to the Health Exchange earlier than mandated implementation date.

Council went into executive session at 10:10 AM to discuss Manager Mackenzie's performance review on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Chadderton. **Motion carried.**

Council came out of executive session at 11:25 AM on motion of Councilor Smith, seconded by Councilor Herring. **Motion carried.**

Council adjourned at 11:25 AM on motion of Councilor Smith, seconded by Councilor Herring. **Motion carried.**

An audio transcript of the meeting is available through the Clerk's Office.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn S. Dawes, City Clerk

DRAFT