

**Special Meeting of the Barre City Council
Held January 10, 2015**

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 II, Councilors Michael Boutin and Michael Smith; and from Ward III, Councilors Anita Chadderton and Lucas Herring (arrived 8:11 AM). Also in attendance were City Manager Steven Mackenzie, City Clerk/Treasurer Carolyn Dawes, and members of the Budget & Finance Committee: John Hannigan, Linda Couture, Alex Pastor, and Mary Ellen Boisvert.

Absent: From Ward I, Councilors Charles Dindo and Paul Poirier.

Mayor Lauzon opened the budget work session by reviewing the history of the current FY16 budget draft and the Budget & Finance Committee's survey conducted this past year. The Mayor said his target is to hold the tax rate increase to 1%, including both the municipal and education tax rates. Councilor Herring said the school board's goal is to hold the education tax rate to a 0% increase. Mayor Lauzon said the municipal rate increase should be held to 2% to average out to 1%.

There was discussion on the following topics:

- Retiring the \$143,000 deficit from FY14.
- Identify between \$200,000 - \$300,000 in reductions in the FY16 budget to reach the target.
- Effects on personnel
- Reviewing assignment of vehicles to City employees.
- Library appropriations.
- Balancing reductions with programs and levels of service.
- Exploring options for a volunteer fire department.
- Reducing hours vs. reducing staffing levels.
- Discussing options with the labor unions.
- Creation of a part-time finance position.
- Sharing the burden of reductions and the budget across departments and the community.
- Reviewing fuel pricing.
- Timeframe – the warning must be approved by January 31st.
- Completion of the streetlight retrofit for savings.
- Managing employee vacancies.
- Capping benefits and buybacks.
- Polling employees about retirement plans.

Mayor Lauzon adjourned the Council meeting at 9:28 AM.

There is no audio recording of this meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn S. Dawes, City Clerk