

**SELECTMEN'S MEETING
JANUARY 5, 2003**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Galen Stearns, Alan Carpenter, Roger Hohenberger and Bruce Breton. Christopher Doyle and David Sullivan were excused. Meeting commenced at 7:00 pm.

WORKSHOP: The Board and Mr. Turner discussed a number of possible scenarios to restructure the Planning & Development Department in terms of personnel hiring. The Board recommended that Mr. Turner and Mr. Sullivan discuss the final version that the majority of the Board proposed and develop a cost scenario for the Board to review at the next meeting..

NON-PUBLIC SESSION: Mr. Carpenter motioned and Mr. Hohenberger seconded to go into non-public session in accordance with RSA 91-A:3, IId. Roll call vote – all members – yes. The subject was land acquisition. The Board, and Conservation Commission members Lisa Linowes and Bruce Anderson were in attendance.

The Board instructed the Conservation Commission to continue as the Board previously voted on purchasing the King Property previously approved for purchase by both the Board and Commission.

The Board also agreed to meet with another property owner and the Conservation Commission members to discuss possible acquisition of land.

PUBLIC SESSION – EXEMPTIONS: The Board reviewed information from David Sullivan, Town Administrator and Rex Norman, Assessor, recommending the Board support Warrant Articles to increase the Veterans Tax Credit and increase the Tax Credit for Service-Connected Total Disability, to adopt an Exemption for the Deaf or Severely Hearing Impaired, modify the Disabled Exemptions and amend the income thresholds for elderly exemptions.

Mr. Hohenberger motioned and Mr. Carpenter seconded to submit an article to modify the Veterans Tax Credit from property tax in the Town of Windham, for qualified taxpayers from \$100 to \$250. Passed unanimously.

Mr. Carpenter motioned and Mr. Hohenberger seconded to submit an article to modify the Tax Credit for Service-Connected Total Disability from property tax in the Town of Windham, for qualified taxpayers, from \$1,400 to \$2,000. Passed unanimously.

Mr. Carpenter motioned and Mr. Hohenberger seconded to submit an article to adopt an Exemption for the Deaf or Severely Hearing Impaired Persons, based on assessed value, for qualified taxpayers, in the amount of \$15,000. To qualify, the person must have been a New Hampshire resident for at least 5 years and own the real estate individually or jointly, or if the real estate is owned by such person's spouse, they must have been married for at least 5 years. In addition, the taxpayer must have a net income of not more than \$40,000 or, if married, a combined net income of less than \$50,000; and own net assets not in excess of \$150,000 excluding the value of the person's residence. Passed unanimously.

Mr. Carpenter motioned and Mr. Hohenberger seconded to submit an article to modify the disabled exemptions from property tax in the Town of Windham, based on assessed value, for qualified taxpayers, from the current amount of \$35,000 to \$80,000. In addition, the taxpayer must have a net income of not more than \$40,000 (currently \$10,000) or, if married, a combined net income of less than \$50,000 (currently \$12,000); and own net assets not in excess of \$150,000 (currently \$30,000) excluding the value of the person's residence. Passed unanimously.

Mr. Hohenberger motioned and Mr. Carpenter seconded to submit an article to modify the elderly exemptions from property tax in the Town of Windham, based on assessed value, for qualified taxpayers, to be as follows: for a person 65 years of age up to 75 years, \$80,000; for a person 75 years of age up to 80 years, \$100,000; for a person 80 years of age or older, exempt if they qualify. To qualify, the person must have been a New Hampshire resident for at least 5 years and own the real estate individually or jointly, or if the real estate is owned by such person's spouse, they must have been married for at least 5 years. In addition, the taxpayer must have a net income of not more than \$40,000 or, if married, a combined net income of less than \$50,000; and own net assets not in excess of \$150,000 excluding the value of the person's residence. Passed unanimously.

Mr. Breton motioned to adjourn. Mr. Hohenberger seconded. Passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Galen Stearns
Chairman, Board of Selectmen

NOTE: These minutes are prepared in draft and have not been submitted to the Board for approval.