

SELECTMEN'S MINUTES
January 13, 2005 Budget Public Hearing

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Alan Carpenter, Chris Doyle, Galen Stearns, Roger Hohenberger and Bruce Breton were present. David Sullivan, Town Administrator, and Dana Call, Finance Director were also in attendance. At 7:00 pm the Board of Selectmen opened the public hearing on the 2005 Town Budget and Warrant.

The proposed budget figures are as follows:

General Government	\$ 1,758,650.00
Public Safety	4,514,455.00
Highways, Streets and Bridges	794,325.00
Sanitation	926,685.00
Health and Human Services	68,950.00
Welfare	56,710.00
Culture and Recreation	988,850.00
Debt Service	579,659.00
Capital Outlay	100,000.00
Total Proposed Budget	<u>\$9,788,284.00</u>

The above proposed budget figures represent a decrease of (\$93,451) net from the 2004 appropriations of \$9,881,735 or (0.9457%).

The Selectmen will also address all Petition and Special Warrant Articles including:

1. \$30,000 for Earned Time Trust
2. \$30,000 for Property Trust
3. \$4,350 for Museum Trust
4. \$50,000 for purchasing a Transfer Station Trailer
5. \$85,500 for purchase of Fire Forestry Truck; a minimum of \$12,000 to come from funds previously collected from Route 28 developments
6. \$380,000 for purchase of Fire Engine - \$190,000 of cost to be bonded
7. \$60,000 for purchase of Articulating Loader for Transfer Station
8. \$85,000 to be placed in Capital Reserve Fund for Salt Shed Facility and Land
9. \$5,000 for Town's 20% share of right of way cost for Lowell Road Bike Paths
10. \$100,000 for Police Contracted Details – funding to come from Revenue Fund
11. \$0 for paying bond for Searles Building Improvements – funding to come from Revenue Fund – actually shown in operating budget
12. \$15,535 for Searles School Improvements – funding to come from Revenue Fund
13. \$12,000 for Searles School Marketing and Maintenance – funding to come from Revenue Fund
14. \$1,000 for Searles School Improvements – funding to come from Bond Interest
15. \$7,000 for improvements to Griffin Park – funding to come from Special Revenue Fund

16. \$20,000 for paying Hazardous Materials Contracted Fire Services – funding to come from Special Revenue Fund
17. \$280,000 for purchase of Fire Tanker - \$225,000 of cost to come from grant funds with the balance of \$55,000 to come from funds previously collected from Route 28 developments
18. \$85,800 for purchase of Fire Trailer - \$77,220 of cost to come from grant funds
19. \$70,000 for funding a Contracted Assessing Technician for part of 2005
20. \$29,025 for hiring Police Officer – cost for six (6) months
21. \$21,885 for hiring Recreation Coordinator – cost for eight (8) months

If all special articles are approved (total \$1,372,095) the budget will increase by \$1,278,644 or 12.939%. Total budget for 2005 would then be \$11,160,379 (gross before use of other revenue sources).

The total budget increase, after taking into account the use of \$190,000 in bonds, \$39,999 from the Searles Revenue fund, \$1,000 in bond interest, \$302,220 in grant funds, \$67,000 from funds previously collected from Route 28 developments, \$7,000 from Griffin Park Revenue fund, \$20,000 from Fire Haz Materials Revenue fund and \$100,000 from the Contracted Police Revenue fund (grand total of \$727,219) would be \$551,425 or 5.58%. The 2005 budget would be a net of \$10,433,160.

Mr. Sullivan gave a presentation explaining the overall budget and highlighting the areas of increases in all departments. Following this the Board explained each area and addressed any questions. As part of the discussions, the Board made the following motions on the 2005 Budget:

Article 31 – Operating Budget - \$9,786,194.00 –

Mr. Sullivan requested that the Board consider reinstating the \$28,180 that had previously been removed from the Fire Overtime budget. Mr. Breton motioned to add \$28,180 to the Fire Overtime budget and Mr. Doyle seconded the motion. After further discussion, the motion passed 4-1 with Mr. Hohenberger opposed.

Mr. Stearns moved to RECOMMEND the operating budget article 31 as amended. Mr. Doyle seconded. Passed 5-0. The recommended proposed operating budget, as amended, is **\$9,814,374.00**.

Article 5 – \$380,000 to purchase fire engine; \$190,000 of which to be bonded. Mr. Stearns moved to RECOMMEND the article. Mr. Hohenberger seconded. Passed 5-0.

Article 14 – \$85,500 for purchase of a Fire Forestry Brush Truck – Mr. Hohenberger moved to amend the Article to change the amount to be applied from funds previously collected from Route 28 developments from \$12,000 to \$15,000. Mr. Doyle seconded and motion passed 5-0. Mr. Doyle moved to RECOMMEND article as amended. Mr. Breton seconded. Passed 5-0.

Article 15 – \$50,000 for purchase of a Trailer for the Transfer Station – Mr. Doyle moved to RECOMMEND article. Mr. Hohenberger seconded. Passed 5-0.

Article 16 – \$60,000 for purchase of an Articulating Loader for the Transfer Station – Mr. Doyle moved to RECOMMEND article. Mr. Breton seconded. Passed 5-0.

Article 17 – \$85,000 to be placed in Capital Reserve Fund for Salt Shed Facility and Land – Mr. Doyle moved to RECOMMEND article. Mr. Stearns seconded. Passed 5-0.

Article 24 – \$5,000 for the Town’s 20% share of right of way cost for Lowell Road Bike Paths – Mr. Doyle moved to RECOMMEND the article. Mr. Hohenberger seconded. Passed 4-1 (Stearns opposed).

Article 6 – \$280,000 for purchase of Fire Tanker Truck – Article was amended to add language to indicate that the Town has been notified that we will be a grant recipient. Mr. Stearns moved to RECOMMEND the article as amended. Mr. Breton seconded. Passed 5-0.

Article 7 – \$85,800 for purchase of Fire Safety Trailer – Article was amended to revise “Fire Safety Trailer” to “Fire Safety Truck and Trailer and the necessary equipment and training for same”. Mr. Doyle moved to RECOMMEND the article as amended. Mr. Stearns seconded. Passed 5-0.

Article 8 – \$30,000 to add to Earned Time Trust Fund– Mr. Breton moved to RECOMMEND the article. Mr. Hohenberger seconded. Passed 5-0.

Article 9 – \$30,000 to add to Property Maintenance Trust Fund– Mr. Doyle moved to RECOMMEND the article. Mr. Stearns seconded. Passed 5-0.

Article 10 – \$4,350 to add to Museum Trust Fund– Mr. Sullivan noted that the Museum Trustees indicated that they did not need any additional funding for 2005. Mr. Stearns moved to REMOVE the article. Mr. Hohenberger seconded. Passed 5-0.

Article 11 - \$70,000 for Contracted Assessing Technician – The Article was amended to include the words “as required by the State Department of Revenue Administration” at the end of the Article. Mr. Stearns moved to RECOMMEND the article as amended. Mr. Hohenberger seconded. Passed 5-0.

Article 12 – \$29,025 to hire full-time Police Officer beginning July 1, 2005 – Mr. Doyle moved to RECOMMEND the article. Mr. Hohenberger seconded. Passed 5-0.

Article 13 – \$21,885 to hire part-time (30 hour) Recreation Coordinator beginning May 1, 2005 – Mr. Doyle moved to RECOMMEND the article. Mr. Stearns seconded. Passed 3-2 (Hohenberger and Breton opposed).

Article 18 – To amend the purpose of the Searles Special Revenue Fund to add maintenance and general overall operational needs – Mr. Stearns moved to RECOMMEND the article. Mr. Hohenberger seconded. Passed 5-0.

Article 19 – **\$9,000 for Marketing costs associated with Searles Building**– Funding to come from Revenue Fund. Mr. Stearns moved to RECOMMEND the article. Mr. Hohenberger seconded. Passed 5-0.

Article 20 – **\$3,000 for Maintenance costs associated with Searles Building**– Funding to come from Revenue Fund. Mr. Stearns moved to RECOMMEND the article. Mr. Hohenberger seconded. Passed 5-0.

Article 21 – **\$12,464 for Bond payment on Searles Building renovations** – Funding to come from Revenue Fund. Article was amended to add the words “the debt service account” in front of the reference to the approved operating budget from Article 31. Mr. Stearns moved to RECOMMEND the article as amended. Mr. Hohenberger seconded. Passed 5-0.

Article 22 – **\$15,535 for improvements to the Searles Building**– Funding to come from Revenue Fund. Mr. Stearns moved to RECOMMEND the article. Mr. Hohenberger seconded. Passed 5-0.

Article 23 – **\$1,000 for improvements to the Searles Building**– Funding to come from Bond Interest. Mr. Stearns moved to RECOMMEND the article. Mr. Hohenberger seconded. Passed 5-0.

Article 25 – **\$100,000 for Police Contracted Details**– Funding to come Revenue Fund. Mr. Doyle moved to RECOMMEND the article. Mr. Hohenberger seconded. Passed 5-0.

Article 26 – **to create Hazardous Materials Contracted Fire Services Special Revenue Fund** – Article was amended to include the words “training for and” in front of “providing fire hazardous materials response contracted details...” Mr. Stearns moved to RECOMMEND the article as amended. Mr. Breton seconded. Passed 5-0.

Article 27 - **\$20,000 for Fire Haz Mat Contracted Details** – Funding to come from Revenue Fund. Article was amended to include the words “to train for and” in front of “provide fire hazardous materials response contracted detail ...” Mr. Doyle moved to RECOMMEND the article as amended. Mr. Breton seconded. Passed 5-0.

Article 28 – **to create Griffin Park Special Revenue Fund** – Article was amended to include the words “Fields and Facilities” after “...Multi-purpose Building” Mr. Doyle moved to RECOMMEND the article as amended. Mr. Breton seconded. Passed 5-0.

Article 29 - **\$7,000 for Griffin Park Special Revenue Fund** – Mr. Breton moved to REMOVE this article. Mr. Doyle seconded. Passed 5-0.

Article 30 – **Conservation Commission \$2,090** – Mr. Breton moved to amend the article and reduce the Conservation Commission budget to \$1,000. Mr. Hohenberger seconded. Passed 4-1 (Doyle opposed). Mr. Doyle moved to RECOMMEND the article as amended. Mr. Stearns seconded. Passed 5-0.

Article 32 – **To conduct any other business** – Mr. Stearns moved to REMOVE the article. Mr. Hohenberger seconded. Passed 5-0.

Article 2 – **To change Tax Collector position from elected to appointed** – Article was amended to remove the words “one year”. Mr. Doyle moved to RECOMMEND the article as amended. Mr. Stearns seconded. Passed 5-0.

Article 6 – **\$280,000 for purchase of Fire Tanker Truck** – Mr. Doyle moved to reconsider article. Mr. Hohenberger seconded. Passed 5-0. Article was amended to eliminate \$2,200 from the total appropriation for radio equipment that is already being appropriated in Article xx1. This brings the gross appropriation for the Tanker Truck to \$277,550 with \$225,000 to come from grant funds and the balance of \$52,550 to come from funds previously collected from Route 28 developments, as opposed to \$55,000 as previously posted. Mr. Doyle moved to RECOMMEND the article as amended. Mr. Hohenberger seconded. Passed 5-0.

New Articles: The following articles were added at the hearing:

Article xx1 – **\$2,451 for purchase of a radio/intercom system for a fire department vehicle** – Article was amended to change the total appropriation to \$2,450 and to change the amount applied from previously awarded grant funds to \$2,205. Mr. Doyle moved to RECOMMEND the article as amended. Mr. Hohenberger seconded. Passed 5-0.

Article xx2 – **To modify Tax Exemption for Elderly** – Article was amended to change the phrase “exempt if they qualify” to “totally exempt”. Mr. Stearns moved to RECOMMEND as amended. Mr. Hohenberger seconded. Passed 5-0.

Article xx3 – **To modify Tax Exemption for Disabled** – Mr. Stearns moved to RECOMMEND. Mr. Hohenberger seconded. Passed 5-0.

Mr. Sullivan noted that as a result of articles that were deleted or changed, the revised warrant will reflect different Article numbers than those presented at the hearing.

Petitioned Articles:

None were submitted.

At 9:30 pm, Mr. Stearns motioned to open all public hearings including the Fire Engine Bond, the Searles Special Revenue Fund, Fire Haz Mat Contracted Details Fund, and Griffin Park Special Revenue Fund. Mr. Hohenberger seconded. Passed 5-0.

The following notice was read:

LEGAL NOTICE

In accordance with RSA 33:8-A, the Board of Selectmen will hold a Public Hearing on a proposed bond issue in the amount of \$190,000 for the purpose of purchasing a new fire engine for the fire department, on Thursday, January 13, 2005 at 8:15 pm at the Planning and Development Department. The total cost of the vehicle is \$380,000 with the balance to be raised through the general 2005 budget.

This bond was previously discussed as part of Article 5. There were no comments from the public. Mr. Stearns motioned to close the hearing and approve the article. Mr. Hohenberger seconded. Passed 5-0.

The following notice was read:

LEGAL NOTICE

In accordance with RSA 31:95-c and 31:95-d (I,b) the Selectmen will hold a public hearing on January 13, 2005 at 9:00 PM to consider changing the purpose of the Searles Revenue Fund to cover the additional purposes of maintenance and general overall operational needs of the building. The wording for the proposed article is as follows:

“To see if the Town will vote to amend the Searles Special Revenue Fund from “expenditures for the purpose of renovations, restoration, and marketing of the Searles Building” to “expenditures for the purpose of renovations, restoration, maintenance, marketing, and general overall operational needs”.

This fund was previously discussed as part of Article 18. There were no comments from the public. Mr. Stearns motioned to close the hearing and approve the article. Mr. Hohenberger seconded. Passed 5-0.

The following notice was read:

LEGAL NOTICE

In accordance with RSA 31:95-c and 31:95-d (I,b) the Selectmen will hold a public hearing on January 13, 2005 at 8:30 PM to consider the establishment of a Special Revenue Fund for Fire Hazardous Materials Contracted Details, said fund to be voted on at the 2005 Town Meeting. The wording for the proposed article is as follows:

“Shall we adopt the provisions of RSA 31:95-c to restrict 95% of the revenues from income derived from *providing fire hazardous materials response contracted details* to expenditures for the purpose of *paying the fire fighters to provide fire hazardous materials response contracted detail service*? Such revenues and expenditures shall be accounted for in a special revenue fund to be known as the *Fire Hazardous Materials Response Contracted Details Special Revenue* fund, separate from the general fund. Any surplus in said fund shall not be deemed part of the general fund accumulated surplus and shall be expended only after a vote of the legislative body to appropriate a specific amount from said fund for a specific purpose related to the purpose of the fund or source of the revenue.”

This fund was previously discussed as part of Article 26. There were no comments from the public. Mr. Doyle motioned to close the hearing and approve the article as amended. Mr. Stearns seconded. Passed 5-0.

The following notice was read:

LEGAL NOTICE

In accordance with RSA 31:95-c and 31:95-d (I,b) the Selectmen will hold a public hearing on January 13, 2005 at 8:45 PM to consider the establishment of a Special Revenue Fund for Griffin Park, said fund to be voted on at the 2005 Town Meeting. The wording for the proposed article is as follows:

“Shall we adopt the provisions of RSA 31:95-c to restrict *100%* of the revenues from income derived from *rental of the Griffin Park Multi-purpose Building* to expenditures for the purpose of *making improvements and repairs to Griffin Park, including its fields, facilities, and structures?* Such revenues and expenditures shall be accounted for in a special revenue fund to be known as the *Griffin Park Special Revenue* fund, separate from the general fund. Any surplus in said fund shall not be deemed part of the general fund accumulated surplus and shall be expended only after a vote of the legislative body to appropriate a specific amount from said fund for a specific purpose related to the purpose of the fund or source of the revenue.”

This fund was previously discussed as part of Article 28. There were no comments from the public. Mr. Doyle motioned to close the hearing and approve the article as amended. Mr. Hohenberger seconded. Passed 5-0.

Mr. Hohenberger moved to move all articles discussed to the deliberative session with the Board's recommendations as noted. Mr. Doyle seconded. Passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 9:45 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Dana Call
Finance Director

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