

SELECTMEN'S MINUTES
November 28, 2005 Budget Workshop

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Roger Hohenberger, Alan Carpenter, Galen Stearns, Margaret Crisler and Bruce Breton were present. Dana Call, Finance Director was also in attendance and David Sullivan, Town Administrator, arrived at 7:30 pm. Meeting commenced at 7:15 pm.

BUDGET WORKSHOP: The Board met with Supervisors of the Checklist, Robert Skinner and Gail Webster to discuss the Elections budget. Mr. Skinner requested the Board consider increasing the hourly amount paid to ballot clerks, however, consensus was not to do this. Discussion ensued regarding the number of meetings budgeted for and no changes were made to the proposed budget.

The Board then met with Gail Webster, Cemetery Trustee, regarding the Cemetery budget. Consensus was to reduce the Groundskeeping portion of the budget by \$1,000, based on the expectation the current year contract will be escalated by a maximum of 3%. Consensus was to also reduce the Property Maintenance budget by \$2,000, with the agreement by Ms. Webster that this money will not be needed this year. The plowing of the cemeteries was also discussed and it was agreed that the highway agent will coordinate the plowing to be done after the roads are finished, however, \$3,000 will remain in the Cemetery budget for emergency needs if there is a funeral scheduled and the highway agent can't get someone there timely, allowing the Trustees to call a contractor.

The Board then met with Carl Heidenblad, Library Director and members of the Library Trustees to discuss the Library budget. It was noted that preliminary budget cuts had eliminated a requested increase in book funding and it was suggested by the Board that other line items be reduced if the books line item is ultimately increased. The Trustees indicated they would take another look at these line items and see if they could accommodate the Board's request to leave the budget, in total, as it currently is presented. Due to the increase in several utility line items, there was also discussion that the Town, Library and School departments should consider combining efforts to bid out services in the future in order to reduce costs.

The Board then met with Al Barlow, Maintenance Supervisor, to discuss the General Government Buildings budget. There were no changes to the proposed budget, however, there was some discussion as to the possible realignment of field maintenance costs from the Recreation budget to this budget.

The Board then met with Cheryl Haas, Recreation Coordinator, and members of the Recreation Committee to discuss the Recreation budget. There was discussion as to the total amount it takes to maintain the sportsfields, including amounts spent by the Town as well as private

sports organizations. A discussion ensued regarding the Committee's original request to increase the Sportsfield maintenance line by \$51,600, which was eliminated by preliminary budget cuts to approximate level funding, pending further discussion directly with the Board. Mr. Carpenter motioned to increase this line by \$25,000, from \$15,000 to \$40,000 with a request that the Committee report back to the Board with a prioritization of all the projects listed in their original budget request. Mrs. Crisler seconded, motion passed 3-2 (Mr. Stearns and Mr. Hohenberger opposed).

NEW BUSINESS: The Board discussed further the amount of money that is expected to be available from previously collected Fire Emergency Response funds, to be used towards paying down the fire engine bond due in 2006, thus reducing the amount that needs to be included in the operating budget. Also, the Board went over the schedule of future budget workshop dates.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION: Mr. Carpenter motioned to enter into non-public session in accordance with RSA 93-A:3 IIa. Mrs. Crisler seconded. Roll call vote, all members "yes". The topic of discussion was personnel. Mr. Sullivan updated the Board on the status of the Deputy Town Clerk issue. No decisions were made.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 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.