

SELECTMEN'S MINUTES
December 8, 2005 Budget Workshop

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Roger Hohenberger, Alan Carpenter, Galen Stearns, Margaret Crisler and Bruce Breton were present. David Sullivan, Town Administrator and Dana Call, Finance Director were also in attendance. Meeting commenced at 7:05 pm.

BUDGET WORKSHOP: The Board met with David Poulson, Transfer Station Manager, to discuss the Transfer Station budget. After much discussion regarding holiday pay, Mr. Carpenter motioned to close the Transfer Station on the day after Thanksgiving in order to reduce this budget line item. Mr. Hohenberger seconded. Passed 4-1 (Mrs. Crisler opposed). There was also discussion of the operation of the Yard Waste Program by Transfer Station personnel and it was consensus of the Board to reduce the Saturday hours at the old landfill to half a day next year.

Discussion ensued regarding all of the budget line items and the following changes were made: Mr. Hohenberger motioned to reduce Contracted Services to \$2,500 and Mr. Breton seconded. Passed 5-0. Mrs. Crisler motioned to reduce Site Monitoring by \$550 in order to reduce grass mowing to twice a year. Mr. Carpenter seconded. Passed 5-0. The Board had a lengthy discussion regarding the Town's inability to recycle electronics without a significant increase in costs, as our existing vendor has closed. Consensus was to eliminate electronics recycling, which will increase our tonnage of waste. Mr. Stearns motioned to increase the Waste Removal budget by approximately \$3,000 and reduce Scrap Metal by \$780. Mr. Carpenter seconded. Motion passed 5-0. Although the department originally requested funding for replacement of two conveyor belts, one is expected to be purchased out of 2005 funds due to a recent breakdown. Mr. Carpenter motioned to decrease Equipment to \$2,500 and Mrs. Crisler seconded. Passed 5-0.

The Board then met with Jack McCartney, Highway Agent, to discuss the Roads budget. Discussion ensued regarding the department's request for a new full-time laborer. There was extensive discussion as to the need for this employee, full-time or part-time, as well as the potential for use by other departments. Consensus was to fund a full-time summer position for 20 weeks and adjust all the budgeted benefits to part-time only. The Board also agreed to discuss the \$9,600 requested to replace the dump body at a later date, once it is known if 2005 funds are available. The Board also agreed to transfer the \$3,000 budgeted for plowing in the Cemetery budget, to the Roads budget and have the Highway Agent oversee expenditure of these funds.

The Board then discussed several budgets overseen by the Town Administrator and made no changes to the following budgets as presented: Town Officer Salaries, Insurance, Retirement, Debt Service, General Assistance, Trust Funds, Street Lights, Senior Center and Legal.

The Board then met with members of the Conservation Commission to discuss their budget for 2006. Conservation is requesting approximately \$5,000 to utilize contracted help to complete the updating of trail maps and other projects. Consensus was to have Conservation come back to the Board with a detailed plan and cost estimate, and it will be considered for funding through other sources such as the Conservation Land trust or Recreational Improvements fund.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION: Mr. Carpenter motioned to enter into non-public session in accordance with RSA 93-A:3 IId. Mrs. Crisler seconded. Roll call vote, all members “yes”. The topic of discussion was land acquisition. Mr. Stearns motioned to seal the minutes and Mr. Carpenter seconded. Passed 5-0.

Meeting adjourned at 10:30 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.