

**SELECTMEN'S MINUTES**  
**January 17, 2006 Budget Public Hearing**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairman Roger Hohenberger, Galen Stearns, Margaret Crisler and Bruce Breton were present. Alan Carpenter was excused. David Sullivan, Town Administrator, and Dana Call, Finance Director were also in attendance. At 6:50 pm the Board of Selectmen opened the public hearing on the 2006 Town Budget and Warrant.

The proposed budget figures are as follows:

|                               |                        |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|
| General Government            | \$ 1,876,585.00        |
| Public Safety                 | 4,864,095.00           |
| Highways, Streets and Bridges | 841,610.00             |
| Sanitation                    | 990,160.00             |
| Health and Human Services     | 68,950.00              |
| Welfare                       | 56,710.00              |
| Culture and Recreation        | 1,055,660.00           |
| Debt Service                  | 737,367.00             |
| Capital Outlay                | 290,000.00             |
| <br>                          |                        |
| Total Proposed Budget         | <u>\$10,781,137.00</u> |

The above proposed budget figures represent an increase of \$401,902 net from the 2005 appropriations of \$10,379,235 or (3.8722%).

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

1. \$20,000 for Earned Time Trust
2. \$30,000 for Property Trust
3. \$75,000 for portion of town's overall 20% share of costs associated with Lowell Road Bike Paths
4. \$148,800 for purchase of new ambulance for Fire Department
5. \$50,000 to be placed in Capital Reserve Fund for Salt Shed Facility and Land
6. \$20,000 for Fire Contracted Details – funding to come from Revenue Fund
7. \$40,000 for Police Contracted Details – funding to come from Revenue Fund
8. \$0 - \$12,512 for paying bond for Searles Building Improvements – funding to come from Revenue Fund – actually shown in operating budget
9. \$24,600 for Searles School Improvements – funding to come from Fund Balance
10. \$9,000 for Searles School Marketing – funding to come from Revenue Fund
11. \$3,000 for Searles School Maintenance – funding to come from Revenue Fund
12. \$20,450 estimated costs associated with Municipal Union Contract

13. \$32,310 estimated costs associated with Fire Union Contract
14. \$38,440 estimated costs associated with Police Union Contract
15. \$70,000 for funding a Contracted Assessing Technician for part of 2006 – funding to come from Fund Balance
16. \$11,530 for funding a police speed trailer – funding to come from Fund Balance
17. \$25,000 for funding improvements to recreation fields and facilities – funding to come from Fund Balance
18. \$20,000 for developing architectural plans of Library expansion – funding to come from Capital Reserve Fund

If all special articles are approved (total \$638,130) the budget will increase by \$1,040,032 or 10.02%. Total budget for 2006 would then be \$11,419,267 (gross before use of other revenue sources).

The total budget increase, after taking into account the use of \$24,512 from the Searles Revenue fund, \$20,000 from Fire Haz Materials Revenue fund and \$40,000 from the Contracted Police Revenue fund, \$20,000 from Capital Reserve Funds, and \$131,130 from fund balance (grand total of \$235,642) would be \$804,390 or 7.75%. The 2006 budget would be a net of \$11,183,625.

Mr. Sullivan gave a presentation explaining the overall budget and highlighting the areas of increases in all departments. Mr. Sullivan then noted several areas in which the proposed budget could be decreased as a result of savings generated from positions that are currently vacant, as well as the recent declaration of impasse in the Police Union negotiations, with reductions totaling \$101,820 accepted by the Board (\$63,380 from the operating budget and \$38,440 from special articles). Included in this overall reduction is the elimination of the proposed management incentive program, at a cost of \$20,800, as the department heads suggested to the Board that start-up of this program be delayed to a future date. Following this the Board explained each budget area and addressed any questions. As part of the discussions, the Board made the following motions on the 2006 Budget:

**Article 29 – Operating Budget - \$10,779,047.00 –**

Mr. Stearns moved to reconsider the Board's vote from a prior meeting in which it was agreed to add \$3,100 to the operating budget to fund a regional transportation service. Mr. Breton seconded; passed 3-0-1 (Mrs. Crisler abstained). After much discussion and input from the public, Mr. Stearns moved to not add funding of \$3,100 for this service. Mr. Breton seconded; passed 3-0-1 (Mrs. Crisler abstained).

As the Board was discussing the Senior Center budget, discussion ensued regarding funding for the Retired Seniors Volunteer Program. Based on the public input received, Mrs. Crisler moved to remove \$500 from the RSVP portion of the Senior Center budget. Mr. Stearns seconded; motion passed 3-1 with Mr. Breton opposed.

Mr. Sullivan reminded the Board that there is currently no funding in the operating budget for any mosquito control programs. Discussion ensued with Al Turner, Health Officer, regarding quotes received from vendors providing this service to other area towns. Mr. Turner indicated that one of the vendors he had previously received a quote from had reduced their proposed fees to approximately \$40,000; to include 30 weeks of larvaciding wetland areas (\$30,000), funding for emergency spraying (\$2,000) and mosquito testing (\$8,000). Mr. Stearns moved to include \$35,000 for mosquito control in a separate warrant article. Mrs. Crisler seconded; motion passed 4-0. Mr. Stearns moved to RECOMMEND the new warrant article for mosquito control. Mrs. Crisler seconded. Passed 4-0. Mr. Turner also indicated the vendor has offered to complete the emergency spraying application with the State at no cost to the Town. Mr. Stearns moved to authorize the Town Administrator and Health Officer to move forward with the vendor to apply to the State for an emergency spraying permit with the understanding that it will be at no cost to the Town and no obligation to enter into any contract with this vendor. Mrs. Crisler seconded; motion passed 4-0.

Mr. Stearns moved to RECOMMEND the operating budget article 29 as amended with the changes noted above. Mrs. Crisler seconded. Passed 4-0. The recommended proposed operating budget, as amended, is **\$10,715,167.00.**

**Article 4 – \$20,000 to be added to the Earned Time Expendable Trust Fund** - Mr. Stearns moved to RECOMMEND the article. Mr. Breton seconded. Passed 4-0.

**Article 5 – \$30,000 to be added to the Property Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund** – Mr. Stearns moved to RECOMMEND the article. Mr. Breton seconded. Passed 4-0.

**Article 6 – \$38,440 (placeholder) for 2006 cost of the latest tentative collective bargaining agreement entered into by the Selectmen and Local Union No. 3657 AFSCME (Police Union)** – Mr. Sullivan indicated that the contract negotiations are currently at impasse and he believes that we are past the state deadline for submission of a contract to the warrant, thus he believes this article will need to be removed; he is currently waiting for confirmation of this from the Town’s attorneys. Mr. Stearns moved to NOT RECOMMEND the article and if it is deemed to be invalid, to remove it from the warrant. Mrs. Crisler seconded. Passed 4-0.

**Article 7 – \$32,310 for 2006 cost of the latest tentative collective bargaining agreement entered into by the Selectmen and Local Union No. 2915 IAFF (Fire Union)** – Mr. Sullivan noted that the article should be amended to \$33,160 to include the cost of additional benefits agreed to in the latest tentative agreement. Mr. Stearns moved to RECOMMEND the article, as amended. Mr. Breton seconded. Passed 4-0.

**Article 8** – \$20,450 for 2006 cost of the latest tentative collective bargaining agreement entered into by the Selectmen and Local Union No. 1801 AFSCME (Municipal Union) – Mr. Stearns moved to RECOMMEND the article. Mrs. Crisler seconded. Passed 4-0.

**Article 9** – Fallback article to hold one special meeting if Article 7 or 8 are defeated – Mr. Stearns moved to RECOMMEND the article. Mrs. Crisler seconded. Passed 4-0.

**Article 10** – \$20,000 for Fire Haz Mat Contracted Details (funding to come from revenue fund) – Mrs. Crisler moved to RECOMMEND the article. Mr. Stearns seconded. Passed 4-0.

**Article 11** – \$40,000 for Police Contracted Details (funding to come from revenue fund) – Mr. Sullivan suggested an amendment to the article to add the words “up to” prior to \$40,000. Mr. Stearns moved to RECOMMEND the article as amended. Mrs. Crisler seconded. Passed 4-0.

**Article 12** – Rescind Police Contracted Details Special Revenue fund and transfer remaining balance to the Town’s General Fund Balance – Mr. Breton moved to open the public hearing and Mr. Hohenberger read the following.

LEGAL NOTICE

In accordance with RSA 31:95-c and 31:95-d IV(a) the Selectmen will hold a public hearing on January 17, 2006 at 9:15 PM to consider rescinding the Special Revenue Fund for Police Contracted Details, said fund established in 2002. The wording for the proposed article is as follows:

“Shall the Town vote to rescind the Police Contracted Details Special Revenue Fund established under RSA 31:95-c in 2002, which mandated that 95% of revenue from police details should go into said fund? Such revenues now go to the Public Safety Revolving Fund established in 2005. If this article should pass, the balance in said fund, after removal of any funds appropriated under Article #12, shall be transferred to the Town’s General Fund Balance”

Mr. Stearns seconded; passed 4-0. There were no comments from the public. Mrs. Crisler motioned to close the hearing and rescind the fund. Mr. Stearns seconded; passed 4-0.

The Board continued with the budget public hearing. Mrs. Crisler moved to RECOMMEND the article. Mr. Breton seconded. Passed 4-0.

**Article 13** – \$70,000 for a contracted Assessing Technician (funding to come from fund balance) – The Board discussed several wording changes to the article. Mr. Stearns moved to RECOMMEND the article as amended. Mrs. Crisler seconded. Passed 4-0.

**Article 14** – \$11,530 for a speed enforcement trailer for the Police department (funding to come from fund balance) - Mr. Stearns moved to RECOMMEND the article. Mrs. Crisler seconded. Passed 4-0.

**Article 15 - \$25,000 for Recreational Field Improvements (funding to come from fund balance)** – Mr. Breton moved to RECOMMEND the article. Mrs. Crisler seconded. Passed 4-0.

**Article 16 – \$75,000 for construction expenses of the Lowell Road Bike Paths** – Mrs. Crisler moved to RECOMMEND the article. Mr. Hohenberger seconded. Passed 3-1 (Mr. Stearns opposed).

**Article 17 – \$148,800 for the purchase of a new ambulance** – Mr. Stearns moved to RECOMMEND the article. Mr. Breton seconded. Passed 4-0.

**Article 18 – \$50,000 to be added to the Salt Shed/Highway Facility Capital Reserve Fund** – Mrs. Crisler moved to RECOMMEND the article. Mr. Stearns seconded. Passed 4-0.

**Article 19 & 20 – \$9,000 for Marketing costs and \$3,000 for Maintenance costs associated with Searles Building (funding to come from revenue fund)** – Mr. Sullivan suggested that the Board could amended the articles to combine the two articles into one. Mr. Stearns moved to RECOMMEND the articles, as amended into one new article. Mr. Breton seconded. Passed 4-0.

**Article 21 – \$12,512 for Bond payment on Searles Building renovations (funding to come from revenue fund)** - Mrs. Crisler moved to RECOMMEND the article. Mr. Stearns seconded. Passed 4-0.

**Article 22 – \$24,600 for improvements to the Searles Building (funding to come from fund balance)** – Mrs. Crisler moved to RECOMMEND the article. Mr. Breton seconded. Passed 4-0.

**Article 23 – Conservation Commission \$2,090** – Mr. Breton moved to moved to RECOMMEND the article. Mrs. Crisler seconded. Passed 4-0.

**Article 24 – \$20,000 for architectural plans for the Nesmith Library (funding to come from capital reserve fund)** – Mrs. Crisler moved to RECOMMEND the article. Mr. Breton seconded. Passed 2-2 (Mr. Stearns and Mr. Hohenberger opposed).

**Article 25 – To explore the possibility of conveying a protective Conservation Easement on certain town conservation properties to the Nature Conservancy or other third party guarantor** – Mr. Stearns moved to REMOVE the article. No second was received. Mrs. Crisler moved to amend the article to include several minor wording revisions. Mr. Breton seconded. Passed 3-1 (Mr. Stearns opposed). Mr. Stearns moved to RECOMMEND the article as amended. Mr. Hohenberger seconded. Passed 1-1-2 (Mr. Stearns against, Mr. Hohenberger & Mr. Breton abstained). Mrs. Crisler moved to reconsider the previous motion. Mr. Breton seconded. Passed 3-1 (Mr. Stearns opposed). Mrs. Crisler moved to not place a recommendation on the article, as the Board

considers it to be an advisory article. Mr. Breton seconded. Passed 3-1 (Mr. Stearns opposed).

The Board discussed the wording for all articles and whether the expected tax impact should be reflected on all articles, or only those in which there is a zero tax impact due to funding from another source. Consensus was to include the tax impact on all articles immediately after the Board's recommendation, provided this authorized by the Town's attorney, and amend the articles accordingly.

**Article 26** – **To authorize the Selectmen to convey a portion of the Industrial Way right of way to the State of NH for Route 111 relocation purposes** – Mr. Breton moved to remove the article. Mr. Stearns seconded. Passed 4-0.

**Article 27 & 28** – **Petitioned article regarding emergency access in the area of Harvest and Armstrong Roads** – The petitioners were not present to explain the articles. Mrs. Crisler moved to NOT RECOMMEND both articles. Mr. Breton seconded. Passed 4-0.

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

**Article xx1** – **\$30,000 for improvements to Tokanel Field** – The petitioner was present to explain the article and answer any questions. Mr. Breton moved to RECOMMEND the article. Mrs. Crisler seconded. Passed 2-2 (Mr. Stearns and Mr. Hohenberger opposed).

**Article xx2** – **To reclassify Hopkins Road from a Class VI road to a Class A trail** – The petitioner was present to explain the article and answer any questions. Mrs. Crisler moved to NOT RECOMMEND the article. Mr. Stearns seconded. Passed 2-0-2 (Mr. Breton and Mr. Hohenberger abstained).

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

**NEW BUSINESS:** Acting Fire Chief McPherson requested the Board's permission to apply for a grant for portable radios for the fire department under a State Interoperability Grant. The intent is to get one radio per firefighter that is digital capable. Currently our vehicles are digital, which was handled under the first phase of this grant, but our portables are analog. The application would be for 29 portable radios with a 3-year warranty. The value of the grant is \$54,485. The funds that would come from the State would cover the cost of the radios and accessory equipment. There would be no cost outlay from the Town at this time, however, future upgrades or additions would be the responsibility of the Town. Mr. Stearns moved to authorize Chief McPherson to apply for the grant as stated. Mrs. Crisler seconded. Passed 4-0.

Mrs. Crisler moved to adjourn at 1:00 am. Mr. Stearns seconded; passed 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Dana Call  
Finance Director

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