

SELECTMEN'S MINUTES
November 27, 2006

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Galen Stearns called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Selectmen Roger Hohenberger, Alan Carpenter, Margaret Crisler and Dennis Senibaldi were present. David Sullivan, Town Administrator, Dana Call, Asst Town Administrator-Finance and several other Department Heads were also in attendance. Mr. Stearns read the agenda into the record, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Mrs. Crisler congratulated all the schools for the 2,800 pounds of food collected for Thanksgiving baskets and noted that the Middle School collected the most of the three schools. Mr. Senibaldi reminded everyone of the Recreation Committee's Christmas Tree Lighting event at Town Hall on December 9, beginning at 3:00 pm. Mrs. Crisler reminded everyone of the Senior Christmas party taking place on December 13 at the Castleton.

LIAISON REPORTS: Mrs. Crisler noted that the Planning Board will be holding a public hearing on proposed zoning amendments this Wednesday, November 29.

BUDGET WORKSHOP: Mr. Sullivan presented an overview of the budget process to date. Mr. Stearns reviewed the proposed budget workshop schedule. Mr. Sullivan indicated that the 2007 proposed budget is 8.46%, or \$940,385 higher than the 2006 approved budget. This compares to the 2006 approved budget increase of 7.14%, or \$741,020 over 2005. Mr. Sullivan then gave a detailed presentation of the areas of increase/decrease throughout the proposed 2007 budget. A general discussion ensued regarding health insurance and retirement rate increases and the current programs provided by the Town to its employees. The Board also discussed the proposed Capital Improvements plan for 2007 and related debt service reductions. A discussion then ensued regarding the tax rate history and the tax impact on the average household in Windham, as compared to other surrounding towns.

Mrs. Call then gave an overview of the global prioritization process held by the department heads and committee chairs, and explained the global priority list given to the Selectmen. Mr. Sullivan and each department head present gave a brief presentation of each of the items on the list, which will be further reviewed as part of each individual department's budget workshop. Mr. Senibaldi asked the Board when they would be discussing the situation with Engine 3 and a general discussion ensued regarding the CIP's recommendation on this issue and the appropriate timing for the Selectmen to make a decision regarding funding of a new engine or repairs to the existing engine.

NEW/OLD BUSINESS: Mr. Sullivan discussed a request that the Board consider extending the deadline for the closing of the Rocky Ridge right-of-way sale for a period of 30 days. Mr. Hohenberger motioned to approve as requested. Mr. Carpenter seconded. Passed 5-0.

Mr. Delong, IT Director, presented the Board with a request to renew the Town's current telephone contract to One Communications for a three-year period. This would allow the Town to receive approximately \$6,000 in discounts at the end of the contract period, while the Town would still be able to cancel the contract, with no penalty, at any time. Mr. Senibaldi motioned to approve the three-year contract with One Communications, with a termination clause. Mrs. Crisler seconded. Passed 4-0-1 with Mr. Carpenter abstaining.

Mr. Hohenberger questioned the storage bins at Griffin Park being built by the Windham Baseball/Softball League and whether this work on Town property was approved by the Board. Mr. Sullivan indicated that the topic was discussed at previous meetings and it was staff's understanding that the consensus of the Board was in agreement with the work being proposed, however, no formal motion of approval could be found in the minutes. Mr. Hohenberger's concern was in regards to vehicles being driven on the center pathway to get to the back of the park and Mr. Sullivan indicated that recent paving improvements have brought the pathway to driveway standards. Consensus of the Board was to visit the park and look at the structure prior to making a formal approval. A walk of the proposed new parking area, as well as the new storage structure being built, will be conducted at a later date.

Chief Lewis updated the Board on the two juveniles arrested for vandalizing the bathrooms at Griffin Park. They will be paying restitution for the damages and Police efforts, performing 50 hours each of community service in Town, as well as serving probation.

CORRESPONDENCE: Mr. Stearns read into the record a petition by Thomas Saad and others, for a warrant article relative to establishing a budget committee.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION: Mrs. Crisler motioned to enter into non-public session in accordance with RSA 91-A:3 IIa. Mr. Senibaldi seconded. Roll call vote, all members "yes". Mr. Sullivan and Chief Lewis updated the Board on a matter involving an employee. No decisions were made.

Meeting adjourned at 10:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Dana Call

Asst Town Administrator-Finance

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