

SELECTMEN'S MINUTES
December 2, 2006 Budget Workshop

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Galen Stearns, Alan Carpenter, Roger Hohenberger, Margaret Crisler were present. Dennis Senibaldi was excused but was present from approximately 12:00 to 12:30 pm. David Sullivan, Town Administrator, Dana Call, Asst Town Admin-Finance and several Department Heads were also in attendance. Meeting commenced at 8:40 am.

BUDGET WORKSHOP: The Board met with Dave Poulson, Transfer Station Manager, to discuss the Transfer Station budget. The Board discussed the current practice of allowing collections of certain electronics (i.e. CPUs, TV monitors, etc) at the station and whether that will change in light of new legislation taking effect in July 2007 which prevents the town from including these items in the general trash. The cost to dispose of these items is estimated to be \$22,000 annually, with approximately \$11,000 included in the proposed 2007 budget for a half year. Consensus of the Board was to not allow these items to be accepted at the station on a regular basis, but to consider holding a separate event 2 or 3 times a year. Therefore, this portion of the budget was reduced by approximately \$8,000, leaving some funding to cover the costs associated with these collection events. The Board also reduced \$3,500 from Vehicle Maintenance in light of planned equipment purchases approved through the CIP process. Lastly, the Board discussed the scope of the feasibility study of the Wilson property and reduced funding from \$25,000 to \$5,000.

The Board then discussed with Chief Lewis and Captain Wagner the Police and Dispatch budgets. A discussion was held regarding the request to increase the Prosecutor from 30 hours to full-time employee status, and consensus of the Board was in agreement. The department made a detailed presentation to the Board regarding their request to purchase three tasers and train the department in their use, and consensus of the Board was in agreement. The Board made several reductions including: \$14,200 in salaries reduced due to the anticipated vacancy in one sergeant's position through March 31, 2007; \$2,500 reduced for office furniture; \$5,000 reduced for outfitting the old ambulance to a mobile command unit; \$2,400 reduced for security locks and \$2,700 for an LED light bar, anticipating purchase of both items out of 2006 funds.

The Board discussed the Information Technology budget with Eric DeLong, IT Director. Several items were discussed at length including the Police department digital recorder system, the Fire department inspection software, the IT backup server and a laptop to be used by all town departments. Consensus was to reduce the budget by \$2,000 to defer purchase of the laptop.

The Board then discussed with Chief McPherson and Deputy Chief Leuci the Fire and Emergency Management budgets. The Board discussed several items within the Fire budget as well as \$6,000 for a

copier included in the EM budget. The Board reduced \$10,000 from Callmen Salaries based on 2006 year-to-date expenditures, and made no changes to the EM budget.

The Board discussed the Roads budget with Jack McCartney, Highway Agent. A discussion was held regarding the request to increase the Highway Laborer from a seasonal position to full-time year round, and consensus of the Board was in agreement. A lengthy discussion was held regarding the \$85,000 proposed increase in summer maintenance of roads. It was noted that the budget is based on repaving essentially the same length of roads, however, the dramatic increase in costs associated with paving work is reflected in the budget. A discussion was held regarding \$30,000 added to the budget to purchase a used vehicle for the department, in lieu of a new vehicle as directed through the CIP process. Consensus of the Board was in agreement with the CIP's recommendation. The Board discussed several other budget line items and minor reductions were made.

RECESS: The Board recessed their meeting at 2:20 pm to move to Griffin Park in order to conduct a walk at the park. No decisions were made.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 3:45 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.