

SELECTMEN'S MINUTES
December 18, 2006 Budget Workshop

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Galen Stearns, Alan Carpenter, Roger Hohenberger and Dennis Senibaldi were present. Margaret Crisler was excused. David Sullivan, Town Administrator and Dana Call, Asst Town Admin-Finance, as well as several department heads, were also in attendance. Meeting commenced at 7:05 pm.

BUDGET WORKSHOP: The Board met with Marion and George Dinsmore to discuss the Searles operating budget and no changes were made. The Board met with Jim Finn and Bruce Breton of the Conservation Commission to discuss Conservation's operating budget. Consensus of the board was to reduce Conservation's requested budget for items that could be purchased out of the Conservation land fund, therefore the budget was reduced by \$2,700. The Board then met with Carol Pynn of the Historic/Heritage District Commission in regards to their request for an initial budget this year. A lengthy discussion was held and consensus of the Board was to delay funding for an intern to a future year and fund the \$1,000 requested for markers for the five historic districts out of the Property Maintenance Trust next year. Therefore, the requested budget was reduced to zero. Mr. Sullivan indicated that he may be able to have the Administration's intern do some of the intended work planned for the Historic intern to start the project for the Committee.

Mr. Senibaldi requested the Board reconsider the Senior Activities portion of the Recreation budget in light of the known increased cost of the Senior Christmas party next year. Consensus was to reallocate funds within the Recreation budget and not to increase the budget as a whole.

Dave Poulson, Transfer Station Manager, requested the Board reconsider several items in the Solid Waste budget. First, he updated the Board on the status of the rack truck and indicated it would not pass inspection next year, thus, he is not planning to put any vehicle maintenance funds into the truck, but asked that the budget remain the same as he would use those funds to contract out the required hauling. Second, the Board continued their earlier discussion regarding the collection of electronics (TV's, CPU's, etc) after July 1, 2007 when they will not be allowed in general trash. Consensus was to reduce the \$3,000 budgeted for this item to \$1,500 in order to cover the cost of disposing of incidental electronics items accidentally brought to the Transfer Station. The Board then continued their earlier discussion regarding the \$5,000 remaining in the budget for a feasibility study of the Wilson property, as well as any engineering studies that may be required in relation to building a new salt shed. Consensus was to include an article on the warrant asking the voters if they would reconsider use of the Wilson property for a salt shed, based on the Salt Shed Committee's request. Also, consensus was to include an article on the warrant to authorize the expenditure of funds from the existing Salt Shed Capital Reserve Fund for the purpose of a feasibility or engineering study on any potential land to be used for the salt shed.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION: The Board took a brief recess and Mr. Hohenberger motioned to enter into non-public session in accordance with RSA 91-A:3 IId, immediately after the recess. Mr. Carpenter seconded. Roll call vote, all members “yes”. The topic was land acquisition.

Mr. Senibaldi stepped away for a brief moment. Mr. Carpenter motioned to go out of non-public session and seal the minutes of the non-public session. Mr. Hohenberger seconded. Passed 3-0. Mr. Senibaldi then returned to the meeting.

BUDGET WORKSHOP, continued: Mr. Sullivan suggested to the Board several areas in which cuts could be made to lower the overall percentage increase to just under 7%, however, no decision was made. The Board then discussed several items currently in the 2007 budget, which could be purchased out of the 2006 budget due to significant salary and benefit savings as a result of several employees being out on long-term disabilities this year. These were presented to the Board at a previous meeting and include \$12,000 for a Police digital recorder system, \$10,000 for the fire inspection software and \$4,000 for a backup server. Consensus was to approve these purchases in 2006, and purchase orders will be executed at the Board’s year-end meeting.

Discussion then turned to the mosquito control program and consensus was to reduce the appropriation from \$35,000 to \$25,000 and put it in the operating budget versus a separate warrant article. Consensus was also to reduce the Roads summer maintenance budget by \$10,000. Discussion then turned to the Wonderland project which had been put out as a separate warrant article, and the potential to get half the funding through a grant. Consensus was to put \$10,250 for Wonderland back in the Recreation operating budget by reducing another \$10,250 from the bottom line Roads budget, with Mr. McCartney to determine where to find the savings. It was agreed that if grant money for this project is in fact received, Mr. McCartney will be allowed to overspend the Roads budget by that amount if needed as the Town would have offsetting revenues in the overall budget.

Discussion then turned to the overall percentage increase that the Board would be comfortable bringing forward to the public hearing. Consensus was to get to approximately 6.64% and use the previously established priority list to eliminate items in order to get to that percentage. As part of this, the following reductions were made:

- 1) \$1,000 was further reduced from Cemetery property maintenance, thus level funding this line item;
- 2) \$4,000 was reduced from Recreation for the Nashua Rd field engineering project;
- 3) \$2,000 was reduced from Fire for the Roll’n Rack system;
- 4) \$1,500 was further reduced from Solid Waste for the electronics disposal, leaving no funds in the budget for this issue;

- 5) \$9,050 was further reduced from the Admin budget for the non-union incentive compensation program, leaving no funds for this program;
- 6) \$3,500 was further reduced from the Solid Waste budget for vehicle maintenance, leaving \$2,500 for the Mack contingency;
- 7) \$3,000 was reduced from Roads vehicle maintenance budget, thus level funding this line item;
- 8) \$1,500 was reduced from Roads materials budget, thus level funding the portion of this budget allocated for signs, etc.
- 9) \$5,000 was further reduced from the Solid Waste budget for the feasibility of the Wilson property, leaving no funds for this item.

Mr. Sullivan then discussed with the Board the budgetary implications of the Board's agreement to add another patrol officer as part of a staffing stabilization plan to prepare for the vacancy caused by another officer's intent to use earned time beginning in June 2007, leading up to that officer's retirement. Mr. Sullivan indicated this would add a minimum \$29,600 to the Police salaries budget, and the Board requested that Mr. Sullivan and the department heads work to cut additional items out of the overall budget to make up for this increase so that the bottom line budget increase would remain at approximately 6.64%. It was agreed that Mr. Sullivan would oversee this and post the revised budget for public hearing as requested.

Meeting adjourned at 11:00 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.