

**SELECTMEN'S MINUTES**  
**January 8, 2007 Budget Public Hearing**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Vice Chairman Alan Carpenter, Margaret Crisler and Roger Hohenberger were present. Galen Stearns was excused. Dennis Senibaldi arrived at 7:25 pm. David Sullivan, Town Administrator, and Dana Call, Asst Town Administrator were also in attendance. At 7:00 pm the Board of Selectmen opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**NON-PUBLIC SESSION:** Mr. Hohenberger motioned to enter into nonpublic session in accordance with RSA 91-A:3 IIc. Mrs. Crisler seconded. Roll call vote all "yes". The topic of discussion was reputations. *The Board* and Mrs. Call were in attendance.

The Board met with a resident requesting a hardship abatement. Mr. Hohenberger moved and Mrs. Crisler seconded to approve an abatement in the amount of \$513.75. Passed unanimously.

The Board met with a second resident requesting a hardship abatement. Mr. Hohenberger moved and Mrs. Crisler seconded to approve an abatement in the amount of \$592.03. Passed unanimously.

The Board met with a third resident requesting a hardship abatement. Mr. Hohenberger moved and Mrs. Crisler seconded to approve an abatement in the amount of \$513.75. Passed unanimously.

The Board met with a fourth resident requesting a hardship abatement. Mr. Hohenberger moved and Mrs. Crisler seconded to approve an abatement in the amount of \$513.75. Passed unanimously.

The Board went back into public session at approximately 7:15 pm.

**PUBLIC HEARING:** The Board of Selectmen opened the public hearing on the 2007 Town Budget and Warrant and Mr. Sullivan read the public hearing notice into the record.

The proposed budget figures are as follows:

General Government	\$ 1,935,665.00
Public Safety	5,129,215.00
Highways, Streets and Bridges	975,000.00
Sanitation	1,078,050.00
Health and Human Services	93,225.00
Welfare	57,040.00
Culture and Recreation	1,131,995.00
Debt Service	400,119.00
Capital Outlay	300,000.00
Total Proposed Budget	<u>\$11,100,319.00</u>

The above proposed budget figures represent a decrease of (\$19,946) net from the 2006 appropriations of \$11,120,255 or (0.18%).

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

1. \$30,000 for Property Trust
2. \$30,000 for Earned Time Trust

3. \$104,860 for estimated costs associated with Fact finders report to fund Police Union contract
4. \$12,000 for Searles School Marketing and Maintenance – funding to come from Revenue Fund
5. \$0 - \$12,544 for paying bond for Searles Building Improvements – funding to come from Revenue Fund – actually shown in operating budget
6. \$85,000 for portion of town's overall 20% share of costs associated with Lowell Road Bike Paths
7. \$75,000 for purchase of used Tractor for Transfer Station
8. \$54,080 for purchase of new Trailer for the Transfer Station
9. \$89,250 for construction of Garage for Police Station
10. \$65,000 for repairs to Engine 3 – Fire Department
11. \$57,975 to be placed in Capital Reserve Fund for Fire Apparatus (ambulance)
12. \$15,000 for engineering study for Salt Shed/Highway Garage
13. \$120,000 to be placed in Capital Reserve Fund for Salt Shed Facility and Land
14. \$50,000 for Phase Two renovations to Bartley House (2<sup>nd</sup> floor) – Administration building
15. \$540,950 for Castle Hill Rd Bridge replacement – funding to be reimbursed by State and donations
16. \$13,000 for portion of Town's overall 20% share of costs associated with renovations to the Depot Historic Area

If all special articles are approved (total \$1,342,115) the budget will increase by \$1,322,169 or 11.89%. Total budget for 2007 would then be \$12,442,424 (gross before use of other revenue sources).

The total budget increase, after taking into account the use of \$24,544 from the Searles Revenue fund, \$15,000 from Capital Reserve Funds, \$432,760 in State Bridge Aid Grants and \$108,190 in donations (grand total of \$580,494) would be \$741,675 or 6.67%. The 2007 budget would be a net of \$11,861,930.

Mr. Sullivan gave a brief presentation outlining some of the more significant areas of increases affecting all departments. Mr. Carpenter asked about the default budget and the difference between that and the proposed budget. The Board then explained each budget area and addressed any questions from the public. As part of the discussions, the Board made the following motions on the 2007 Budget:

**Article 33 – Operating Budget - \$11,097,959.00** – No changes were made to the operating budget as proposed. Mr. Hohenberger moved to RECOMMEND the operating budget article 33. Mrs. Crisler seconded. Passed 4-0.

**Article 10 – \$85,000 for the second installment of engineering and construction expenses relating to the Lowell Road Bike Paths** – Mrs. Crisler moved to RECOMMEND the article. Mr. Senibaldi seconded. Passed 4-0.

**Article 11 – \$75,000 for the purchase of a used Tractor for the transfer station** – Mrs. Crisler moved to RECOMMEND the article. Mr. Hohenberger seconded. Passed 4-0.

**Article 12** – **\$54,080 for the purchase of a new Trailer for the transfer station** – Mr. Sullivan noted that the article wording will be slightly amended to insert the words ‘...will not lapse “until the project is complete or” for a period of two (2) years, “whichever is less”.’, in order to be consistent with similar wording in the other articles. Mrs. Crisler moved to RECOMMEND the article as amended. Mr. Hohenberger seconded. Passed 4-0.

**Article 13** – **\$89,250 for the construction of a garage facility adjacent to the police station** – Mrs. Crisler moved to RECOMMEND the article. Mr. Hohenberger seconded. Passed 4-0.

**Article 14** – **\$65,000 for repairs to the fire department’s Engine 3** – Mr. Hohenberger moved to RECOMMEND the article. Mrs. Crisler seconded. Passed 3-1 with Mr. Senibaldi opposed.

**Article 15** – **\$57,975 to be added to the Fire Apparatus Capital Reserve Fund** – Mr. Senibaldi moved to RECOMMEND the article. Mr. Hohenberger seconded. Passed 4-0.

**Article 18** – **\$120,000 to be added to the Salt Shed/Highway Facility Capital Reserve Fund** – Mrs. Crisler moved to RECOMMEND the article. Mr. Senibaldi seconded. Passed 4-0.

**Article 19** – **\$50,000 for Phase Two repairs to the administrative offices (Bartley House)** – Mr. Sullivan noted that the article wording will be slightly amended to insert the words ‘...will not lapse “until the project is complete or” for a period of three (3) years, “whichever is less”.’, in order to be consistent with similar wording in the other articles. Mr. Senibaldi moved to RECOMMEND the article as amended. Mrs. Crisler seconded. Passed 4-0.

**Article 20** – **\$540,950 for the engineering and construction expenses relating to the Castle Hill Rd Bridge** – Mr. Sullivan noted that based on the latest information received from the engineers and State, he would recommend we change the appropriation to \$104,800 for the engineering portion only and exclude the appropriation for the full construction costs, due to the fact that construction won’t be done until 2008 at the earliest, and we don’t want to have an appropriation in one year and reimbursement from the State in another year. After further discussion, consensus was to make the necessary changes to the article wording for the appropriation change, as well as add language indicating the overall cost of the entire project. Mr. Hohenberger moved to RECOMMEND the article as amended. Mr. Senibaldi seconded. Passed 4-0.

**Article 21** – **\$13,000 for the engineering expenses relating to the renovations of the Windham Depot Area** - Mrs. Crisler moved to RECOMMEND the article. Mr. Hohenberger seconded. Passed 4-0.

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

**Article 5** – **\$30,000 to be added to the Earned Time Expendable Trust Fund** – Mrs. Crisler moved to RECOMMEND the article. Mr. Senibaldi seconded. Passed 4-0.

**Article 6** – \$104,860 for estimated costs associated with Fact finders report for the collective bargaining agreement with Local Union No. 3657 AFSCME (Police Union) – Mr. Hohenberger moved to RECOMMEND the article. Mrs. Crisler seconded. Passed 4-0.

**Article 7** – Fallback article to hold one special meeting if Article 6 is defeated – No recommendation made.

**Article 8** – \$12,000 for Marketing costs and Maintenance costs associated with Searles Building (funding to come from revenue fund) – Mr. Senibaldi moved to RECOMMEND the article. Mr. Hohenberger seconded. Passed 4-0.

**Article 9** – \$12,544 for Bond payment on Searles Building renovations (funding to come from revenue fund) - Mr. Hohenberger moved to RECOMMEND the article. Mr. Senibaldi seconded. Passed 4-0.

**Article 17** – \$15,000 to conduct an engineering study for a Salt Shed/Highway Facility – Mrs. Crisler moved to RECOMMEND the article. Mr. Hohenberger seconded. Passed 4-0.

**Article 22** – Conservation Commission \$2,350 – Mrs. Crisler moved to moved to RECOMMEND the article. Mr. Senibaldi seconded. Passed 4-0.

**Article 16** – To see if the Town will vote to remove the restriction placed on Town owned Lot 11-A-300, which prohibits the use of the parcel as a possible location for a Salt Shed – Discussion ensued regarding previous concerns relating to the proximity of the property to Town wells which prompted the 2001 Town meeting vote to restrict the land usage, as well as previous testing done on the wells. Mr. Carpenter requested the Board get comments from the Conservation Commission and defer further discussion until the full Board is present on January 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Article 23** – To modify the elderly exemption levels for qualified taxpayers to \$160,000 (65 to 75 years), \$190,000 (75 to 80 years) and full exemption (80 years and older) – After discussion regarding the residency requirement, Mr. Hohenberger moved to RECOMMEND the article. Mr. Senibaldi seconded. Passed 4-0.

**Article 24** – To modify the disabled exemption level for qualified taxpayers to \$160,000 – Mr. Hohenberger moved to RECOMMEND the article. Mrs. Crisler seconded. Passed 4-0.

**Article 25** – To modify the Veterans tax credit for qualified taxpayers from \$250 to \$500 – Mr. Senibaldi moved to RECOMMEND the article. Mrs. Crisler seconded. Passed 4-0.

**Article 26** – To extend the Selectmen’s authority to enter into a lease agreement with the Housing Authority for land to the rear of the Town Complex on Fellows Rd for an additional five years – Bob Skinner asked about any effect of this on potential library expansion, and the Board indicated there would be none. No recommendation was made.

**Article 27** – To rescind the Selectmen’s authority to bond funds remaining but not needed for the Fire Engine purchased in 2005 – No recommendation was made.

**Article 28** – To rescind the Fire Hazardous Materials Response Contracted Details Special Revenue fund and transfer remaining balance to the Town’s General Fund Balance. Mrs. Crisler moved to RECOMMEND the article. Mr. Senibaldi seconded. Passed 4-0.

**Article 29** – To rescind the Searles Expendable Trust fund and transfer remaining balance to the Town’s General Fund Balance. Mrs. Crisler moved to RECOMMEND the article. Mr. Hohenberger seconded. Passed 4-0.

**Article 30** – To establish December 30, 2008 as the date at which the Selectmen’s authority to enter into agreements to create a water system on Lot 16-L-100 shall terminate – The article wording was changed slightly to December 31, 2008. No recommendation was made.

**Article 31** – Petitioned article to establish a Budget Committee – Thomas Saad, petitioner spoke on the article and several members of the Board voiced their opinions, however, consensus was to defer a formal vote regarding a recommendation on the article until a full Board is present on January 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Article 32** – Petitioned article requesting Town support for federal legislative actions addressing the issue of climate change. No recommendation was made.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Fire Chief McPherson requested the Board’s permission to apply for a Homeland Security grant for a residential knox box program. This will allow the fire department to purchase 300 knox boxes that will be mounted, logged and maintained through the fire department on residential homes. The total cost of the project is \$49,795 of which the State will pay 95% and the Town will match 5%, or \$2,490. Mrs. Crisler moved to authorize Chief McPherson to apply for the grant as stated. Mr. Senibaldi seconded. Passed 4-0.

Mr. Senibaldi moved to adjourn at 9:20 pm. Mr. Hohenberger seconded; passed 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Dana Call  
Asst Town Administrator

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