

Minutes of the Special Selectboard Meeting of Wednesday, January 2, 2008 at 6:30 PM

Members present: Ed Childs, Chair; Alison May; Jack Candon; Suzanne Lupien; Stephen Soares, Town Manager; Nancy Kramer, Assistant to the Town Manager. Absent: Gerard Chapdelaine.

There were about 25 people in the audience.

Also participating: Jake Blum, Susan Blum, Phil Dechert, Neil Fulton, Nancy Hoggson, David Hubbard, Dennis Kaufman, Bill Lamb, Jenny Lamb, Craig Layne, Cheryl Lindberg, Bonnie Munday, Sharon Racusin, Chief Robinson, Roberta Robinson, Henry Scheier, Demo Sofronas.

Childs opened the meeting at 6:35 pm.

1. Finance – Board to Sign Accounts Payable/Warrants (Action Item). Candon **moved** (2nd May) to approve Check Warrant Report #08-14 for the period from 12/20/2007 to 1/2/2008 in the amount of \$143,690.24; which is all General Fund. **Motion passed.**

2. Fourth FY09 Budget Work Session (Discussion/Action Item). The Town Manager discussed the changes to version 6 of the proposed 08-09 budget, resulting in a property tax increase of 1.51% and a total budget increase (excluding appropriations) of 2.94%. Soares also indicated that projected dispatch service costs would be reduced to \$43,420 for the Police Department and \$10, 580 for the Fire Department.

a) Town Administration, BCA/BOA, Statutory Meetings, Town Clerk, Audit, Finance, General Administration, Planning & Zoning, DRB, Tracy Hall, Emergency Management, Tree Warden, Solid Waste and Conservation In Depth. Each budget was gone over in the order listed. Items discussed were: increasing the amount budgeted for professional services in Town Administration, postage in Audit and the communications study in Emergency Management. Jake Blum, the Tree Warden, handed out a document on trees and spoke about what he does and the need for additional funds. Layne answered questions asked on the Conservation budget.

b) Highway – Hodgdon has asked for two internal changes to his budget that do not change the bottom line. The Selectboard agreed to these changes. Salt usage in the Town of Norwich was again discussed.

Fire – The reduction to the amount budgeted for tools and equipment was talked about.

Police – Chief Robinson again spoke about the need for an unmarked vehicle. Two members of the Police Services Committee, Sofronas and Lamb, praised Chief Robinson for his efforts so far on community policing and agreed that four vehicles were necessary.

Candon reminded townspeople that the January 9th Selectboard meeting is the first public hearing on the budget and hopes that people will attend.

Candon **moved** (2nd May) to adjourn. **Motion passed.** Meeting adjourned at 8:54 pm.

Approved by the Selectboard on January 16, 2008.

By Nancy Kramer
Assistant to the Town Manager

Edwin Childs
Selectboard Chair

Special Selectboard Meeting – January 8, 2008 at 6:30 PM

Next Regular Meeting – January 9, 2008 at 6:30 PM

Pending Items:

- 1) Public Budget Sessions

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