

**Board of Selectmen
October 2, 2006**

Present: Paul S. Morrill, Chair; Mark P. Duffy and Robin L. Frost, Town Administrator

The Board met to begin review of the 2007 proposed budget with department heads.

6:30 pm – George Frothingham was in to review the proposed ZBA budget. Though there were no revisions suggested, Mr. Morrill asked how many cases the ZBA had heard to date in 2006. Mr. Frothingham was not sure, but that information will be given to the Selectmen. Mr. Morrill stated that he thought we should be able to tie the salary and advertising costs more closely together, but Mr. Frothingham explained that some of the salary line was expended due to continued hearings that do not need to be readvertised.

6:50 pm – Mary Richards, Sandy Cools, and Nancy Bancroft were present to discuss the Voter Registration budget. They explained to the Selectmen that they would need several more hours next year to complete the work that needs to be done with regard to the new State-wide voter system. They also brought in the specs for a new laptop. In addition, they believe that they need a scanner. When asked about the advertising budget, they said that they needed to advertise their required meetings in the Granite State and Fosters. Ms. Frost questioned advertising in two papers and they said they would check into that.

7:20 pm – Elizabeth MacRury came in to discuss the heritage Commission budget. The bottom line of this budget is down. This is mostly due to a new secretary who will not be paid at the same rate as the former secretary. Because the advertising budget is an unknown, but is only used when they need to have a public hearing, it was decided to reduce this line to \$100.

7:45 pm – Henry Blanton reviewed his budget with the Board. He is asking for the funds to purchase a kennel. There was no objection to the addition of \$300 for the purchase of a kennel. Mr. Blanton expects that he will use about the same number of hours next year as he has used this year.

7:50 pm – Bob Anderson was substituting for Lyman Holmes to explain the Patriotic Purposes budget. The only change to this budget is the addition of \$415 to reimburse the VFW for the placement of the new names of veterans of the current conflict.

7:55 pm – Arlene Fogg was present to discuss the Welfare budget. Arlene is concerned about the fact that they are still part time employees and have no benefits like holiday pay, health insurance, etc. She is concerned that she may not be able to keep LouAnn Linne, her assistant. There was a lengthy discussion about the services that this department provides and whether we are trying to provide more than we should. Perhaps we should be directing people to other agencies and leaving it at that rather than walking them through the procedure and helping them fill out applications. Mr. Morrill stated that though he believes that Mrs. Fogg and Ms. Linne are doing a good job, he thinks people

are not taking responsibility for themselves and we should not be enabling them to be in the welfare system. The Board will continue to review this budget and ask Mrs. Fogg to return at a later date.

8:50 pm – Cathy Kinville came in to discuss the budget for the Tax Collector’s Office. The salary line was amended to reflect the COLA, which is presumed to be around 4%. Mr. Morrill asked Ms. Kinville how the lockbox procedure was working out. She said that she thought it was working out fine, although there are a couple of people who insisted they sent their payments to the lockbox and they never got there. She stated that she never knows when the tax bills are mailed, but she admitted that she can call them for that information. When asked, she also stated that she does not make disparaging remarks about the lockbox procedure. Mr. Morrill asked about the annual conference and Ms. Kinville stated that though it is at the Wentworth-by-the-Sea next year, she will be staying at the Comfort Inn that is nearby. The Board decided that they would like to send a letter to both the Tax Collectors’ and Town Clerks’ Associations and express their dissatisfaction with the expensive choices of annual conference venues.

9:20 pm – Wayne Robinson was in to talk about the Parks and Recreation budget. The one unknown at this time is the park maintenance contract. This has gone out to bid, but we have not received any as yet. The closing date is next week. Other than that there are no major changes to this budget. Mr. Robinson would like to continue to put funds into the newly established CRF for upgrades to the athletic fields, etc. Specifically he is hoping to light one or more of the fields.

10:15 pm. As there was no further business to discuss, the Board adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin L. Frost
Acting secretary

Approval of minutes:

Paul S. Morrill, Chairperson

Mark P. Duffy

John J. Blackwood