

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

JANUARY 8, 2008

MEMORIAL BUILDING

7:00 P.M.

The following are to be considered draft minutes only until approved by the Board at their next meeting.

Present: Bob Anderson and Neal Huntoon. John Chiarella arrived about 9:30 p.m. after the polls closed and ballots were counted.

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

Cynthia Bruss met with the Board to discuss the process of building permits and application fees.

Minutes: Bob moved to approve the December 11, 2007 and December 18, 2007 minutes as written, seconded by Neal and unanimously approved.

Old Business:

Neal reported Jim Yager met with the Planning Board at their last meeting regarding subdivision of property on George Hill Road. He presented information regarding the lot he has for sale. The Board questioned the status of this as a separate lot of record. Neal stated he spoke to George Hildum regarding the property and George believes the ownership is questionable and the town should require more proof of ownership. George stated if this lot is a separate lot, it should be shown on the tax maps as owner unknown until the Town has more information. It was advised that the Selectmen seek further advice from Town Counsel.

Neal stated the Planning Board has been advised by the Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission, the Conservation Commission cannot be named as a regulatory authority regarding easement areas on the Matarazzo subdivision off Four Corners Road. The subdivision was given conditional approval.

Bob reported he attended the January 10, 2008 Conservation Commission meeting. The Commission discussed the road salt issue and will be speaking with the State regarding scheduling a hearing.

Budget Review:

Police Department: Tim Julian, Police Chief, presented his proposed budget for 2008. Wages reflect the 3% COLA adjustment approved by the Board as well as 53 pay periods this year. Patrolman wages reflect a full year of full-time duty. Since Mike was not hired full-time until April 1 and attended the academy for 12 weeks, the department has not had a full year of coverage by two full-time officers. He is not proposing adding any part-time positions since he does not know what is needed at this point. He has reviewed his phone service and has the cheapest plan available with three phone lines. He signed a 5

year contract in order to be able to get cheaper rates 2 years ago. Telephone expense also includes cell phone service. He has doubled the anticipated fuel appropriation. Dispatching shows up as double in 2007's expenditures. Newport Dispatch bills at the end of the year and in the past, the bill would get held until the beginning of the new operating budget. The auditors have said the expense should be paid in the year of the expenditure. Therefore, expenses reflect dispatching for 2006 and 2007. This should now be corrected for 2008. His budget is showing as overspent, but essentially would have been under by \$3,000.

Bob stated that the Selectmen need to appropriate money for building and engineering plans for research of a site for a police department building.

Cemetery: Brad Butcher, Road Agent and Linda Welch, Cemetery Trustee reviewed the cemetery budget. The Cemetery Trustees are proposing a wage increase for Frank Anderson. There are two large pine trees that need removal in the upper cemetery which will require a crane. The Highway Department will do pressure washing of stones. The old riding lawn mower is in need of repair and the engine is obsolete and parts are not available. Brad is proposing a new mower and a small trailer to tow behind to haul small loads of materials.

Highway: Brad presented a price for a 1" pavement overlay on Colby Hill Road. He also has a price for reclamation work on Stoney Brook Road in the area from the Grantham Town line half way to Bog Pond. He expects to raise the low lying area by 12" and install filter fabric. There will be one remaining section in the middle from the reclamation area of last year and this year's proposal. Brad discussed with the Board adding a third full-time person. In discussion, Bob stated for the past several years there have been breaks in service for various reasons and the department should continue with two full-time and one part-time employee. The Board discussed the idea of job sharing with other departments. Other line items essentially reflected cost increases.

Brad discussed an estimate from Michael Hansen Construction for work on the bridge on Star Lake Road. After review, the Board agreed not to proceed with an appropriation for this year but will review options for another year. Neal stated he felt the Board should review this with the land owner. The Board would like advice from legal counsel before proceeding.

Fire and Fast: Dallas Patten, Fire Chief, presented the Fire Department proposed budget. Dallas proposes an increase in training/response wage. In 2006 the department responded to 97 calls, in 2007 they responded to 125. He has moved the appropriation for Forest Fire Wages to Casual Labor. He would like to get other members involved in doing home inspections and would like to be able to compensate these members. Dispatching for the Rescue Department has been switched from New London Dispatch to Hanover Dispatch effective December 31. The Department is proposing two hydrant repairs. They would like to propose a large- item washing machine to wash turn out gear.

NFPA recommends washing after each fire or chemical exposure. He feels members should have a place to wash their gear. Exposure to elements on gear, put members at risk, and also shortens the life of the equipment. They do not have any means to wash gear on-site. Three members are now starting the Level I fire fighter training in January and will be reimbursed when they pass the course.

The rescue truck is in need of repair and they are pending estimates for that at this time.

New Fire Truck:

Dallas reported they have talked to 4 fire truck manufacturers. Three of them have been from program-truck dealers. They have investigated two cab styles. The Department is favoring a custom cab. This allows for a shorter wheel base, better safety ratings, and more room in the cabs for passengers and equipment. They have gotten some pretty firm pricing from a couple of the dealers. Costs for additional equipment were reviewed. The Department is also looking to replace aging hose on the trucks with larger diameter hoses and newer fittings more compatible with area departments. Details regarding financing for the new truck remain to be worked out.

John Chiarella arrived from the elections at 9:30 p.m.

Dallas reported NFPA standards recommend replacing a truck every 20 years. He stated, realistically this Town can expect to extend this to more like 30 years and that is what the department has taken into consideration while planning this truck.

The Board reviewed other line items in the budget.

Estimates for costs associated with consultation work for revenue tracking, for computer network administration and equipment assessment, and for engineering and studies for a police department building need to be worked out.

The Board reviewed a copy of information John shared from Ausbon Sargent regarding the Conservation Easement for the Woods Without Gile property.

The Board approved and signed the agreement to participate in the Hazardous Household Waste Day on August 16, 2008 in Newbury.

The Board agreed to meet at 6:00 p.m. on January 15, 2008 to review the budget.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Janet Roberts,
Administrative Assistant