

Board of Selectmen
First Selectman's Office
February 26, 2007
Special Meeting Minutes

Selectmen present: Brad Parker and Randy Dill. Peter Govert arrived at 5:46pm.
Also present: Matthew Budzik, Fred Thumm and Stephanie Tatro - Finance Director.

1. The meeting was called to order at 3:15pm by First Selectman Parker.

2. Departmental Budget Reviews:

A. **750 General Highways:** Discussion was held regarding various line items, including stipends for meals and the policy related to boots.

850 General Highways: Discussion was held regarding the purchase of a new backhoe, and copies were distributed of a 10-year equipment replacement plan.

B. **753 Machine and Equipment Repair:** Discussion was held regarding various line items for the Machine and Equipment Repair budget, including replacement of the backhoe.

C. **754 Snow Removal:** Discussion was held regarding the change from sand/salt mix to all salt. Mr. Thumm indicated that while the salt mixture was more expensive than the traditional sand/salt mixture, there were potential savings in cleaning the catch basins in the spring and summer, and potential savings in the cost of sweeping the roads. Mr. Thumm handed out a copy of a memo from the Director of Public Works in Manchester regarding their conversion to an all-salt program, as well as a worksheet on estimated costs to go to an all-salt program for East Haddam. He also noted that there has been discussion regarding the disposal of the sand when the catch basins are cleaned, and that depending upon how the debris was classified, it could become very difficult and expensive to dispose of the catch basin waste. Discussion was also held regarding the "Other Supplies" line.

D. **755 Town Garage Maintenance:** A brief discussion was held regarding various line items.

E. **756 Sanitation:** Discussion was held regarding various line items, and changes were made to the "Other Supplies", "Electric" and "Propane" lines, based on additional research done by Mr. Thumm. Discussion was also held regarding traffic patterns at the transfer station.

856 Sanitation: Discussion was held regarding various line items. The line item for site lighting was changed from \$10,000 to \$5,000

Fred Thumm left at 4:40 pm, and Jim Ventres arrived.

F. 713 Planning and Zoning: Discussion was held regarding various line items. It was noted that the budgeted revenues were decreased, and Mr. Ventres thought there would probably be a slowdown in construction.

Jim left at 4:50 pm. Kathleen DesRosiers and Bob Bennett arrived at 5:02 pm.

G. 783 Reserve for Capital Projects: Discussion on this budget was postponed to a later meeting.

H. 784 Reserve for Revaluation: Discussion on this budget was postponed to a later meeting.

I. 785 Capital Reserve Non-Recurring: Discussion on this budget was postponed to a later meeting.

J. 786 Reserve for Open Space Acquisition: Discussion on this budget was postponed to a later meeting.

K. 772 and 872 East Haddam Free Public Library: Discussion was held regarding the operating budget and presentation thereof. The library asked for additional staff time above the current needs, to keep the library properly staffed. Mr. Bennett asked that going forward, the library present their request in a form that was more easily understandable. Ms. DesRosiers and Ms. Tatro will work together to put this format together for next year's budget. Discussion was also held regarding the capital requests for the library, including the repair of the plaster ceiling.

Ms. DesRosiers left at 5:37pm. Additional discussion was held regarding the format of the budget presented, and it was recommended that the library present their budget the way Youth and Family Services presents theirs, showing total operations, and the portion that the library was asking the Town to fund.

At 5:46 pm Pete Govert, Ed Smith and John Blaschik arrived.

L. 741 Fire Department: Discussion was held regarding various line items, including paid fire fighters and scheduling of such employees on weekends and holidays.

841 Fire Department: Discussion was held regarding various line

items, and the long-range replacement plan for equipment.

Selectman Govert left at 6:00 pm.

M. **742 Fire Marshal:** Discussion was held regarding various line items.

842. Fire Marshal: Discussion was held regarding various line items, including replacing the fire marshal's vehicle. One plan was to buy the Building Official a new vehicle, and give his existing vehicle to the fire marshal.

Ed Smith and John Blaschik left at 6:30pm, and Craig Mansfield and Mike Hassett arrived at 6:31pm.

N. **744/844 Police Officers:** Discussion was held regarding various line items, including tasers.

O. **746/846 Emergency Management:** Discussion was held regarding various line items, including low-ban versus high-ban communication needs and requirements. The Emergency Management Coordinator was leading the process to implement a town-wide communication system.

P. **Others as time permits:** There were no other budgets presented.

3. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 7:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter T. Govert, Secretary