

**2000 PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING**  
**February 10, 2000**

Attendance: Chairman Timothy Seeger, Selectmen Denise Dargie and Eric Tenney, Town Administrator Kelley Collins and townspeople on the attached attendance sheet.

The meeting opened at 7:05 p.m. with each member present having a copy of the 2000 proposed budget (see attached).

It was the consensus of those present to review the budget by line item.

The first area of the budget reviewed and discussed was the Executive Office. As there was no discussion, the area of Election, Reg. And Vital Statistics was reviewed. The Selectmen noted that the increase reflected the purchase of 12 new voting booths.

The line items under Revaluation of Property were covered next. There being no discussion, the area of Legal expense was covered next with no discussion.

Employee benefits were reviewed with an increase reflecting a change in the amount will be getting back this year. There being no further discussion, the Maintenance of Cemeteries was reviewed with an increase reflecting the contracted services of Ben Chadwick for repair and maintenance.

The next department discussed was the Police Department. It was noted that the increase was due to the bringing back of the Sargent's position. A resident questioned if this would be voted on at town meeting and asked if it was necessary to have a Sargent. Chief Brown explained that there has always been a Sargent's position, it has just been vacant.

The Ambulance Squad was reviewed next. Pat Lovering, Rescue Captain stated that the appropriations received from Bennington and Stoddard have increased this year and after talking with both towns they have agreed to pay the increase. A resident asked if the ambulance squad billed insurance companies, Ms. Lovering stated that "no" we do not, and went on to state that she had looked into billing and felt that at this time considering our call volume it would not be cost effective.

The Fire Department, Building Inspector, Highways & Streets, Bridges, Street Lighting, Sanitation, Water distribution & Treatment and Electric line items were reviewed with no discussion- taking place. The next item reviewed was Health & Welfare, it was noted that last year Project Lift did not ask for any money and that this year they are requesting \$2500 for a 15 month budget. There was also an increase in the amount for St. Joseph Community Services.

The Parks & Recreation, Library and Conservation items were reviewed next and there being no discussion the Board moved to review the warrant.

## **2000 Public Budget Hearing Cont.**

The following articles were reviewed with no questions from residents in attendance: #2 amendment to the Zoning Ordinance, #3 \$937,141 reconstruction, repair, restoration and improvement of Town Hall, #4 the budget of the town for \$1,724,895, #10 for a six wheel dump truck, #11 \$30,000 for the crushing and stockpiling of gravel, #16 \$22,000 for items for the Fire Department and #17 to establish an Ambulance Squad within the Antrim Fire Department.

The first warrant to be reviewed was for \$107,500 to be placed in the Capital Reserve Funds. A resident expressed concern that the Capital Reserve Fund for Town Building Repair is incorrect and should be "Town Building, Renovation & Major Repair."

There was some discussion regarding the purchase of a new Police vehicle. It was noted that the Explorer would most likely be traded in towards the purchase of the new vehicle, which will probably be a new Dodge Durango.

The next article discussed was the purchase of Touchwood Square. The Selectmen stated that they felt it was in the best interest of the town to purchase this property to enhance the downtown. There was some concern regarding the asking price, it was suggested that the property be appraised prior to town meeting. There was also some discussion regarding the five-year note as to when the interest and principal payments should be made. It was noted that any improvements on the lot would need to be approved at town meeting by the townspeople.

The warrant article for \$78,100 to purchase the Aiken Barn was discussed next. The library is planning to add onto the library using the Aiken Barn. Their intentions are to have the Grapevine move out so that construction on the addition to the library can begin immediately. There is some concern that there is nothing specifically stating that the Aiken Barn will be for the sole use of the library, this could be amended on the floor at town meeting.

There was a brief discussion regarding article 9, which would only come into effect if article #3 fails. The main purpose of this article is to get the town hall (1<sup>st</sup> floor) up to code; the upstairs would be sealed off until more money is appropriated for the necessary repairs.

The next article discussed was for the replacement of the Depot Street Bridge. There was some concern as to why Bennington was placing \$13,000 into Capital Reserves this year and that Antrim was asking for the full amount. Some residents felt that the town should look into bridges in this town first, considering that the Bennington Bridge seems to be in good shape.

## **2000 Public Budget Hearing Cont.**

Article #13 was discussed next. The Library is looking to put \$60,000 a year for the next five years into a Capital Reserve Fund for the purpose of future renovations/remodeling and/or additions to the Library. The Library Trustees stated that they are hoping to raise an additional \$600,000 over the next 5-6 years through private donations.

The next warrant article discussed needs to establish a Capital Reserve Fund for the purchase of new tax maps. There was discussion that this was not a necessity.

The warrant article for the appropriation of \$5000 for the 2000-2001 Millennium Celebration was discussed next. It was noted that the Board of Selectmen are not in favor of this article. A member of the Millennium Committee spoke and stated that the funds would be used for a parade and fireworks display this summer.

Articles 18 & 19 were discussed next regarding entering a 99 year lease with Contoocook Valley School relative to the renovation of the Gymnasium, and the use and occupancy of the Robert L. Shea Field. There was some concern that the town only has one field and that we should be careful as to who uses and has control of the field. Resident's felt that they should be able to view said lease.

The next article discussed was to rescind article #15 voted in the affirmative at town meeting in March of 1998.

Articles 21 & 22 were discussed next. Dave Essex explained that a TIF District allows you to apply for improvements within the designated district. The district that is being proposed is the "downtown" area from the Bennington town line to the 202/31 split. The funds would be used to improve the appearance of the downtown.

The last article was a written request from Charles Levesque. Mr. Levesque was unavailable for tonight's hearing to speak on article 23, however he will be available to speak at town meeting.

With no further discussion of the budget, the meeting was adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Shierry Miller  
Secretary to Selectmen

# 2000 Budget Hearing

Sign in Sheet  
JOHN JORDAN

Bill Nichols

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

Bruce Cuddy

Marita Hammond

Myndwight

Philip T. Dought

Michael Conwell

Genele Ciswell

Ben Armer

Bruce Armer

Pat J

Pat Covering

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

Wolli Perry

DANA Welch

Ben Pratt

David Bauli

Brian A. Brown

Constance Kiviri

Gregory C. Long

Jay Henning

STRENN ROBBACCA

From Jordan

Lyman Gilmore

Bob Edwards

Matt Miller