

**Town Council Meeting**  
**March 25, 2009**  
**DRAFT Minutes**

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm.

**Roll Call**

Councilors present and answering roll call: Councilors Breen, Payne, Rodden, Wrobleski, Armitage and Libby.

Councilors Pierce arrived late.

Councilor Armitage announced that two public hearings would be held on April 13, and April 27 to give the public more opportunity to discuss the proposed budgets.

**Item 1**                                **Presentation and Discussion on the proposed FY10 School Department**

Superintendent George Entwistle gave a PowerPoint presentation with assistance from Assistant Superintendent Barbara Powers, Director of Finance & Operations Dan O'Shea, Lunt School Principal John Flaherty, and Chairperson of the School Finance Committee Kathy Hillman Reed. Superintendent Entwistle encouraged questions to be asked during the presentation and informed the public that the budget is available on the school department's web site.

**Item 2**                                **Order to schedule the School Department Budget Validation Referendum.**

Councilor Breen moved the order to schedule the School Department Budget Validation Referendum in accordance with 20-A M.R.S.A. §§ 1485-1487 and 2307 on May 5, 2009. Councilor Libby seconded.

Motion failed; 3 ayes, Breen, Wrobleski and Pierce and 4 nays; Payne, Rodden, Armitage and Libby.

Councilor Payne moved the order to schedule the School Department Budget Validation Referendum in accordance with 20-A M.R.S.A. §§ 1485-1487 and 2307 on June 9, 2009. Councilor Libby seconded

Motion passed 4 ayes, Councilors Payne, Rodden, Armitage, and Libby. 3 nays Councilors Breen, Wrobleski and Pierce.

**Item 3                      Presentation and Discussion on the proposed FY10 Municipal Budget.**

Town Manager Nathan Poore explained how the budget was developed. The Council asked questions about General Assistance, composting, the Transfer Station and the Pleasant Hill Fire Station.

Councilor Breen stated that Falmouth had the Cadillac for solid waste recycling and she was compelled to put the public on notice that maybe we would not always have so many solid waste choices. Councilor Breen also identified that she was the one pushing the staff to try to figure out if the current plan was the most efficient solid waste management plan.

Town Manager Nathan Poore recommended sticking to the budget as presented. The savings would be \$80,000 including the new revenues, buying the truck and hauling our own. To close the Transfer Station and eliminate the Silver Bullets and weekly solid waste collection it would be \$120,000. Nathan Poore stated he did not recommend saving the extra \$40,000 because it would reduce the options for our citizens and lower our MSW recycling as well as our overall recycle rate.

Councilor Payne asked about bi-weekly pick up.

Nathan Poore explained that bi-weekly would not cut the cost in half.

Councilor Rodden suggested that the Recycling Committee study this issue in depth with public hearings and maybe a survey to see what services the residents want.

Councilor Breen explained that the Finance Committee needed to dig deep into the budget, ask questions and get data from the manager.

Councilor Armitage suggest that this was a big policy discussion that needed further discussion and further analysis. There are questions that exist and opportunities to tweak things.

Councilor Wrobleski suggested to put it on the Council retreat agenda. He stated that he appreciated the Town Manager's aggressive approach to cost savings but he was concerned about the cuts affecting core services, both solid waste and the fire station.

Councilor Libby supports the work the Finance Committee has done it was impervious for the Committee to ask Nathan Poore to present data.

Councilor Pierce was initially concerned about the purchase of the truck and the possibility of closing the transfer station.

Chief Rice discussed the answers to the questions in his memo concerning the Pleasant Hill Fire Station.

Councilor Breen proposed to close up the building and not do anything with it for six to twelve months. Try out the new increased service and if the building needed to be reopened then it could be reevaluated from there.

The Council continued to discuss different scenarios for moving trucks, volunteers and different possibilities for the Station.

Councilor Armitage reviewed the upcoming time line for the budget and the public hearings and reminded the public to continue to email the Councilors.

### **Adjourn**

Councilor Libby moved to adjourn the meeting; Council Pierce seconded. Motion carried 7-0.

Meeting adjourned at 10:51 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Planer  
Town Clerk