

**PUBLIC HEARING – 2010 BUDGET
*FINAL***

PRESENT: M. J. Farinola, Chairman; S. C. Hanson, R. P. McDermott, Selectmen;
E. N. Small, Town Administrator; L. A. Ruest, Administrative Assistant

BUDGET HEARING: M. J. Farinola reported that the 2009 year end budget balance is \$113,000 of which remaining invoices from 2009 will be applied. He also reported that the proposed 2010 operating budget is decreased by 3.97%.

Proposed Operating Budget - \$2,368,100

Copies of 2010 budget worksheets were provided to the public. The Board of Selectmen presented budget proposals, line by line, offering information relating to increases and decreases and welcomed comments and questions from the public. No cost of living adjustments are included in the budget for the second year. One change was made to add \$100 to the Cemetery budget for electricity. Certain changes in various budget lines were noted as follows:

Election, Registration and Vital Statistics: Three elections in 2010, less part-time hours for Town Clerk's office.

Legal: Funds have been added for legal services in regard to the upcoming cable franchise contract negotiations. The Board plans to conduct a survey of town residents with regard to cable services.

Employee Benefits: Increase in health insurance and retirement costs. Town employees are now contributing 16% toward health insurance; a plan to increase 2% over five years for a total employee contribution of 20%.

Government Buildings: R. P. McDermott reported on the repairs being conducted or planned for the Town Hall. C. Graham, Crank Road, inquired as to improvements to the front of Town Hall. It was explained that the Town Improvement Committee is working on a plan to present to the Selectmen for consideration. There is \$300 in the budget for landscaping.

Cemeteries: Increase is primarily due to the Town taking over the former private West View Cemetery. Trust funds for this cemetery have been received; however, the expendable income is approximately \$2. The Board approved adding \$100 for electricity to operate the water pump at the West View Cemetery.

Police: Increase in part-time hours as requested and approved by the Board of Selectmen is part of the increase in this budget line. Discussion took place with regard to the \$18,000 expended for cruiser repairs in 2009 as well as the need for a new cruiser in years 2010 and 2011. Discussion took place with regard to the cost of ammunition.

Ambulance and Fire: The Board acknowledged the significant decrease for these line items and thanked Fire Chief J. M. Lord for his efforts. Ambulance service was taken over by the Town of Hampton Falls from a private company in 2009 for a reduced cost to the Town.

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Emergency Management: Increase is due to two drills and one graded exercise required by the NRC; these are 100% reimbursable to the Town.

Other Public Safety: This budget line has been zero funded and categories and funds formerly budgeted here have been applied to other budget lines such as fire and police. Special detail funds are now kept in a Revenue account held by the Town Treasurer.

Discussion of offsetting revenues and the reserve fund took place at this time.

Highway: S. C. Hanson presented the changes in the winter snow maintenance contract over previous years (per inch schedule with a cap) as well as salt, patching and crack sealing plans for the upcoming year.

Solid Waste Collection and Disposal: There are three years remaining on this contract with Northside Carting. The decrease is primarily due to the decision to not go back to the collection of recycling on a weekly basis. Budget funds for Disposal have been adjusted to actual and show a decrease over 2009. C. Brown, Exeter Road, requested the Board consider changing the schedule of every other week recycling to possible the first and third Fridays so that people can get a better handle on which day is collection day. The Board reported that the calendar on the web site identifies collection days and also reported that a dumpster is planned to be placed at the Brush Dump for those who might miss a collection day. It will be available to residents with dump stickers on Saturdays when the Dump Attendant is present (April through November, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.).

Health Agencies: The Board of Selectmen reduced the total amount of proposed funds for 2010 by five percent.

Parks and Recreation: The part-time positions line is no longer funded due to the fact that there is a revenue account held by the Treasurer that pays for wages for the summer camp program at Lincoln Akerman School. B. Mutrie, Brown Road, suggested that a survey be done to determine the number of townspeople who attend band concerts in order to determine if concerts should be funded. It was also suggested that more townspeople might attend concerts if there were concerts for children. The Board agreed to present this suggestion to the Recreation Commission.

Library: This budget has increased due to health insurance and retirement benefits. C. Graham, Crank Road, inquired as to the difference in employee contribution for health insurance (10% for qualifying library employee versus 16% for qualifying town employees). Library Trustee Beth Forgione explained that the Trustees felt this was a cost effective way to provide the library employee with income without costing the Town money. It was explained that the Library is separate from the Town and that the matter is not comparable to other town offices. S. C. Hanson noted that the Board of Selectmen has suggested unofficially over time that the Library be consistent with the Town.

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Conservation Commission: Decrease is due to elimination of funds for grant writing.

Bond Principal and Interest: These funds were reviewed in conjunction with a spreadsheet and schedule outlining details of when bonds began and will end.

E. N. Small reported that 94.46% of the 2009 taxes have been collected leaving 5.54% uncollected.

Money warrant articles planned to come forward to ballot were presented and discussed, with reasons for support, as listed below. This year, the result of the vote of the Board of Selectmen to bring money articles forward is shown on the ballot. Petition Articles asking for funding were due by the deadline of January 12, 2010. None were received. One citizens' petition with regard to the definition of marriage has been received and is part of the warrant. The Board requested that Conservation Chair K. Ayers be asked to attend the next Selectmen's meeting to provide information and explanation supporting the request for warrant article. Otherwise, it will not be included.

Art. Proposed Money Warrant Articles

3	1,000	Heritage Fund
4	5,000	Maintenance of the exterior of the old Library Building
5	31,000	Police Cruiser to replace the 2001 Ford Crown Victoria
6	7,000	In-cruiser Digital Video Camera
7	25,000	Fire Vehicle Capital Reserve Fund
8	327,000	Fire Engine to replace Engine I (1978 International)
9	45,000	Highway Capital Reserve Fund
10	20,000	Mosquito Control

The Board agreed to invite Sarah McGregor of Dragon Mosquito Control to its next meeting to review services and various options.

\$2,828,200 TOTAL
(\$1,142,800) Revenue and Offsetting Funds
\$1,686,400 To be raised by Taxes

OTHER:

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Selectmen S. C. Hanson formally announced that he does not intend to run for another term. Those in attendance thanked S. C. Hanson for his service with a round of applause.

E. N. Small distributed his recommendations for encumbering warrant articles to the Board.

Judy Wilson, Chair of the Old Stage Road Bridge Committee, has submitted a request to the Board to reconsider the change of the name of the bridge from Coffin's Mill Bridge back to Old Stage Road Bridge.

MOTION: To withdraw the motion naming the bridge "Coffin's Mill Bridge" and approve naming the bridge "Old Stage Road Bridge."

MOTION: S. C. HANSON
SECOND: R. P. MCDERMOTT
UNANIMOUS

E. N. Small presented a draft flyer outlining information regarding the deliberative session. M. J. Farinola requested that additional information be shown to include last year's budget, last year's expenditures and the proposed budget for 2010 to also include a statement that the 2010 budget is reduced by a specific dollar amount and percentage. The Board approved the flyer for mailing.

E. N. Small reported that the Historical Society is requesting permission to add a water spigot to the exterior of the Old Library for maintenance of the landscaping.

MOTION: To allow installation of an outside water spigot, with frost head, to be added to the exterior of the Old Library building.

MOTION: S. C. HANSON
SECOND: R. P. MCDERMOTT
UNANIMOUS

E. N. Small reported that he has sent an email response to Ann Haggart's concerns on Frying Pan Lane.

E. N. Small reported he has received information from R. Landry with regard to the Taylor River Dam and has forwarded it to the Selectmen. Mr. Landry is willing to come to meet with the Board of Selectmen. The Board requested that this matter be added to the next agenda and that G. Parish, Towle Farm Road, be informed.

Fire Chief J. M. Lord explained that he received a visit from Julia Chase, Field Representative for Emergency Management, with regard to State funds forthcoming for the December 2008 Ice Storm. He informed the Board of a grant opportunity and asked the Board to consider using these State funds toward this grant. The grant addresses needs of planning and preparedness,

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mitigation, response and recovery initiatives. J. M. Lord is looking to use these grant funds to purchase road barricades, safety cones and a sign board; items utilized during the Ice Storm. The Board approved J. M. Lord researching and reporting his findings for consideration of using State funds toward the proposed grant.

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 9:10 p.m.

MOTION: S. C. HANSON
SECOND: R. P. MCDERMOTT
UNANIMOUS

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