

FINAL

BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING

February 26, 2015

5:00 P.M. – MUNICIPAL OFFICE BUILDING – HANOVER, NH

The meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Chairman Peter Christie. Present were: Peter Christie, Chairman; Athos Rassias, Vice Chairman; Bill Geraghty, Selectman; Nancy Carter, Selectman; Jay Buckey, Selectman; and Julia Griffin, Town Manager.

1. PUBLIC COMMENT.

Chairman Christie asked for Public Comment. There were no comments from the public.

2. 2nd BUDGET HEARING.

Fire Department

Selectman Geraghty welcomed Chief McMillan and his staff and asked him to speak to the budget and note any issues of concern and to discuss the restructuring of the department.

Chief Martin McMillan introduced himself and stated that he has been with the Department for almost a year and it has gone very quickly. He introduced Deputy Chief Jeryl Frankenfield noting that his job has recently been combined with the building inspector position in addition to the fire inspector position. Chief McMillan introduced Captain Gilbert, Captain Hennessey, Captain Hinsley and Captain Thibeault.

Chief McMillan stated that he is very happy with the budget and felt that with Betsy McClain and Julia Griffin's assistance it was a very easy budget process. He noted that it is nice to work in an environment where they can move forward in reasonable increments. He stated that he provided information to the Select Board from the National Fire Protection Association which recommends a minimum of 17 firefighters to put out fires. He noted that small towns and volunteer communities are unable to put forth that kind of manpower whereas larger communities double that type of manpower. He noted that they can't ask for that with the funding available so it comes down to regionalization. Chief McMillan stated that he is pushing very hard with Hartford and Lebanon to create a single entity when dealing with a large fire response.

Chief McMillan felt that partnering with other agencies is the wave of the future. He reported that there have been some serious fires recently which illustrate the need to work together. These incidents have proven that they can work together but it has also shown them where they need additional people initially on the scene. Chief McMillan noted a 3rd alarm fire in Lyme with a 1790 era farmhouse that had a significant fire and they

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found that they came up short because it would have taken about 25 firefighters with air packs to be able to put the fire out.

Chief McMillan also noted incident in which a woman was trapped in a house fire in Thetford and Captain Hinsley played an intricate role in that rescue as well as a Vermont State Trooper that made the heroic rescue. The victim was not breathing and they were able to revive her. He noted that it was -20 degrees and he got a good look at this fire department and he is very proud to be a member of it. He stated that they need more resources in this budget to make them more efficient. Last night at 2:00 a.m. there was a fire in the ceiling of the nursing home across the street from the Etna fire station and they are historically using that fire house at full capacity and he noted that he is very proud of the firefighters in that area. Chief McMillan stated that from an operational standpoint they are in a very good place.

Chairman Christie asked about the response to Thetford as to who arrived first, who arrived second and how far apart they were in time.

Chief McMillan stated that he was not sure exactly but the Thetford Chief arrived first as he was about 2 houses down from the fire. The fire was discovered by the State Trooper who noticed the smoke and without a house number he determined the location by calling in the license plate number. Hanover Fire Department arrived about 4th or 5th and Captain Hinsley arrived in his capacity as the Chief of Lyme.

Chief McMillan also reported that Hanover Magazine has a great article about the new rescue boat. He stated that when he arrived in Hanover, he looked at the areas where they are deficient from a rescue perspective and he noticed that the ability to get out on the water needed to be enhanced so the acquisition of the rescue boat was a huge accomplishment.

Chairman Christie asked Chief McMillan to provide some background on this purchase for the benefit of the audience. Chief McMillan reported that last summer the department explored the possibility of purchasing a rescue boat. He noted that Dartmouth College has a pontoon boat that they keep at the dock which the Fire Department has been able to use with Dartmouth staff. The Fire Department wanted to buy a boat that they could put on a trailer and one that could be used in different types of weather. He noted that this boat is called a "rib" and is similar to a Coast Guard rescue boat which is designed for rescue work. He noted that they have a number of people who can scuba dive but they didn't have the equipment. He noted that they have been able to purchase some scuba gear and some electronics for this boat that will now allow them to make a successful attempt to rescue or recover a victim. He reported that the funding for the boat was split with \$25,000 from Dartmouth College and \$25,000 from the Byrne Foundation. Ms. Griffin noted that this is being stored at the Fullington Farm at Wilson's Landing.

Ms. Griffin noted that the Fire Department already assisted with a search on Mascoma Lake last fall. Chief McMillan reported that they assisted about a dozen people over the summer. He noted that they have not used their scuba component yet for a rescue.

Chief McMillan reported that they will be working on wilderness rescue training. He stated that there were seven incidents since the fall with people getting lost on trails or hunters falling out of tree stands and he feels that they need to enhance their capabilities. He noted that this officially falls under the Fish and Game Department but it does take them a while to respond so he would like for his agency to be able to get the rescue operation started.

Chief McMillan noted that the number of ambulance runs and fire calls are about the same at 1800 calls/year. He noted that one concern is that about 1/3 of the time that they go out on a call, they get another call so the department relies on the ability of call back personnel being utilized.

Chief McMillan noted that they have asked for funding to address fire safety and they hope to get into every 2nd grade class and this is not a significant amount of money.

Chief McMillan reported that as part of the regionalization efforts, the three area Fire Chiefs and Dr. Trimarco and their medical teams got together to address issues surrounding the Ebola scare and they are now well equipped to help everyone from the transportation aspect. He stated that he is proud of the response from all of the communities with their ability to put this together in a relatively short period of time.

Selectman Geraghty asked about capital equipment concerns. Ms. Griffin noted that Chief McMillan provided a spreadsheet with regard to their capital improvement program. Chief McMillan stated that some equipment has reached their life expectancy. For example, the hoses are 30 years old and the self contained breathing apparatus (SCBAs) are 26 years old. He noted that they applied for a grant but wanted to make sure that this was funded in case it is not awarded to them as it is a priority. He noted that they applied for this grant with Lyme and Orford to enhance regionalization.

Selectman Geraghty asked about the funding source for the grant. Chief McMillan stated that Congress appropriates money every year for a Firefighter Assistance grant and they used one last year to put an exhaust system in the fire base for diesel fumes. The grant is for \$257,000 and the Town has to come up with 5% and they should learn whether they will receive this next spring or early summer. Chief McMillan stated that they have utilized some of the undesignated fund balance to set aside the funds for this equipment. Most of the operational equipment that they are asking for are one-time purchases.

Chief McMillan stated that most of the fire trucks have a useful life of 24 years and they hope to get 30 years out of the ladder truck. He noted that smaller vehicles generally have a useful life of about 10 years. He stated that he ran the numbers out and doesn't see any problems with funding until the year 2034 and have plenty of time to make adjustments.

Chief McMillan stated that the really big ticket item coming up is the ladder truck. He noted that as part of the regionalization efforts, it doesn't make sense to duplicate some

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equipment. Hartford has a rescue truck with \$2 million worth of equipment which they should be able to share.

Selectman Geraghty noted that if personalities change in the future and there is not as much cooperation, he would encourage the Chief to discuss this with the Select Board as they support regionalization.

Chairman Christie noted that there is significant capital expense based on a one-time purchase but wanted to know if this is part of the grant. Ms. Griffin stated that this is the full amount recognizing that the equipment needs to be replaced and they hope to ultimately receive the grant. Chief McMillan stated that this will allow them to get caught up and then to reserve funds for this equipment in the future.

Captain Hinsley stated that the Capital Improvement Program includes other vehicles that are in operation that were either purchased through grants or by donations but were not previously included. Ms. Griffin stated that the Fire Department provided a spreadsheet that shows the equipment and the replacement that needs to be replaced in the future. A snow machine was donated to the department and they need to plan for its eventual replacement. Captain Hinsley noted that they try to get the best deal possible and working with other communities enables them to get more buying power.

Chairman Christie noted that some of the items in the Ambulance Fund are in the red as of FY 2019. Captain Hinsley stated that they would be in the red by \$39,000 noting that on the equipment side when they need to replace the Zoll cardiac defibrillators, they are on a 5 to 7 year replacement and are very expensive. Chairman Christie stated that the numbers appear to be manageable.

Chief McMillan noted that neighboring communities run straight ambulances and Hanover runs a combination of an ambulance and a rescue truck which costs approximately \$75,000 more. There are advantages to this but he is willing to explore the possibility of doing something different with regard to running two ambulances and working something out with a new piece of apparatus. He noted that they are looking at the possibility of doing an ISO update and perhaps they don't need 4 engines and could do a different combination of apparatus.

Selectman Carter asked whether Chief McMillan was confident that fleet mechanics from other communities are sufficiently common throughout the towns so that when another fire truck is needed at a site, it's not down because that town decided not to fund a sufficient maintenance budget. Chief McMillan stated that Hartford and Lebanon do a great job and have the ability to keep 2 ambulances running.

Captain Hinsley stated that they are very confident with the fleet from surrounding areas. He noted that Chief Christopolous of Lebanon is working toward assisting other towns as Newport is no longer going to provide back-up to them. Upper Valley Ambulance has had a turnover in leadership and have reached out to Hanover. Captain Hinsley stated

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that they are looking at ways to assist without affecting responses to Hanover. Chief McMillan reported that they are actively pursuing options and are on top of this.

Chairman Christie stated that the concept of regionalization is important to the Town and he appreciates their work in this area.

Parks and Recreation

Selectman Geraghty asked Hank Tenney, Parks and Recreation Director, to give an overview of their department and speak to any concerns.

Hank Tenney announced that he is leaving the Town in August after 41 years and this would be his last budget hearing. He wants to make sure that he thanked the people in the community including the Hanover Fire Department for all of their help installing banners, the Police Department for providing coverage for events, and noted that without the Public Works Department they could not have survived.

Mr. Tenney stated that it has been a great Town to work for as well as the Select Board. He couldn't ask for a better staff; Sherry Colfer, Jeanne Vieten, John Wilmot, Gail Schaal, and Liz Burdette. He stated that he remembered when Julia came on board and he really appreciates what Julia has done for the department and the community. He stated that having monthly Department Head meetings have been one of the best things that she has done. He stated that he feels that his budget has been respectable and that he has provided some wonderful things to the community. Mr. Tenney asked Liz Burdette and Nicole Leonard to present the budget to the Board.

Liz Burdette stated that she asked staff members to determine the accomplishments for the past year. She reported that they were able to pull off 6 weeks of summer camp at the high school and middle school while the Ray School was under renovation. She thanked Jonathan Brush and the staff at both schools for helping with that transition. Ms. Griffin noted that this will be happening again this summer.

Ms. Burdette reported that another accomplishment was the transition to a digital brochure which is on their website. The spring brochure will be up by March 1st and they print a limited number of paper copies. She noted that they are working on their Facebook page and working with a group from Dartmouth to learn how to best use digital marketing. She reported that Fall Fest is officially an annual event and they had solid participation from each department. She noted that they worked out some of the parking problems from the first year and they had increased attendance numbers as well.

Ms. Burdette reported that they were able to expand their exercise classes in participation and classes offered. She reported that there are new art installations that were made during last April's vacation camp. She reported that they are continuing to see high numbers at their events and estimated that between 2500 to 3000 people attended the Pond Party. The basketball tournament hosted 122 teams and adult exercise programs serviced 80 to 90 participants per week.

Nicole Leonard reported that they have had an increasing amount of participation in the camps and afterschool programs. In 2008, the afterschool program started with 10 children and this school year they are servicing 90 to 100 every day. She noted that the summer camp services 150 kids per day and the mini camps are continuing to have a wait list and they serve 30 to 40 kids per day. The afterschool program continues to have a wait list for students grade K-2. The Camp Quest program started by servicing 10 children and is now at 30 children. Ms. Leonard noted that at the request of parents last year, they added an additional week called "Can't Get Enough of Camp" that runs before school starts.

Ms. Burdette stated that there are no major changes in the budget and participation numbers are the drivers of the budget. She stated that the concerns moving forward surround marketing and getting the word out about the programs and there is a lot of competition. She noted that funding and volunteers are hard to find for the special events and Pond Party in particular.

Ms. Burdette noted that they continue to have space issues and this winter there were 16 basketball teams with only 2 gymnasiums available. They would like to be able to offer more practice times. She noted that they struggle to fit in requested adult exercise programs as well due to the limited space and they turn reservations away for birthday parties and group functions because the multi-purpose room is usually booked months in advance.

Ms. Leonard noted that the child care programs struggle with space as well and they have a wait list for programs. Chairman Christie confirmed that the wait list is due to the limits of space.

Ms. Griffin reported that there was a meeting with parents of after school participants last spring and they were angry that the Town couldn't accommodate their needs due to space limitations. Some parents thought that the Town was being unreasonable so it became apparent that there is a real need in the community as many of these people are affiliated with Dartmouth College and DHMC. The KAST program is self sufficient with fees. She noted that this is the reason that they are looking at the property at 46 Lebanon Street to meet some of these demands.

Ms. Burdette stated that they are hopeful for an addition and are working with the architect that designed the RW Black Center.

Selectman Geraghty thanked Hank Tenney for his years of service and staff for their presentation.

Public Works

Selectman Buckey asked Peter Kulbacki, Public Works Director, to outline his accomplishments and concerns.

Peter Kulbacki stated that one of the accomplishments this past year was that the Town of Hanover became a Green Power Community and the first community in New England to enter into the direct power pool where he expects to see substantial savings in their energy budgets. He is unable to predict how much because they just got through the first round of bills from July. He stated that they buy a “sleep contract” for the winter months at a cap of 15 cents per kilowatt hour. He noted that they were able to lock in at 12 cents per kilowatt hour for next year.

Mr. Kulbacki stated that Solarize Hanover efforts started last fall and they are now working on the permitting piece to get the equipment installed.

Mr. Kulbacki noted that they worked with Liberty Utilities to replace underground utilities last summer. This will result in a more reliable power supply. He noted that Liberty Utilities is required to overlay the road but he worked out a deal where they would provide the funding and Town staff will replace the road/sidewalk which will take place this summer.

Mr. Kulbacki reported that they completed 2 of the 3 red listed bridges. He is trying to figure out how to fund the replacement of the bridges without increasing the contributions. He stated that ideally they would have one fund and determine the replacement schedule each year but the language in the law does not allow for this as the funding needs to be set aside for each specific project.

Mr. Kulbacki stated that Rudsboro Road has more bridges than any other road in town. There were 3 bridges replaced with FEMA money.

Mr. Kulbacki stated that the drivers of the budget are related to infrastructure. This includes the maintenance of buildings, streets, water, and as programs increase in other departments, it affects the Department of Public Works. For example more trucks, more programs, more buildings require more maintenance and they try to determine how to do more with the same amount of staff. There are constant requests for more bike paths, sidewalks, and their goal is to determine ways to contain the maintenance costs.

Mr. Kulbacki stated that pricing affects the budget and they have been lucky lately with the price of fuel. He noted that he gets a little nervous trying to determine the price of oil 18 months from now and knowing that they don't have any control over it. He tries to find ways to stockpile some materials.

Mr. Kulbacki stated that his concerns are related to the weather which they can't control. He noted that everything is changing and they have been successful in managing their roadways and by being diligent in maintaining ditches and culverts, they've been able to avoid a lot of problems.

Selectman Buckey asked about issues with the paving program. Mr. Kulbacki stated that they are in the 2nd year of a 3 year phase and another \$15,000 would bring them up to the

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appropriate level for roads and sidewalks. The areas that Liberty Utilities is paying for will give them time to catch up. He noted that the downtown repairs allowed them to require that the roads be replaced.

Ms. Griffin noted that adding \$10,000 to the paving program was on the additional funding options list. Mr. Kulbacki stated that this is important because they have tried to maintain a good road base and good cross section which cuts down on maintenance and the public's impact on vehicles. The Department will spend more money if they defer paving and then have to rebuild the roads. Mr. Kulbacki stated that you can see the difference in the maintenance of State roads versus Town of Hanover Roads.

Chairman Christie noted that the budget has \$590,000 for paving up from \$584,000 last year which is \$10,000 short of what they should put in based on the recommended funding level. Mr. Kulbacki stated that \$492,000 is being put into the paving budget and the rest is for reclaiming and rebuilding the roads. He noted that the cost of asphalt went down a little bit. Ms. Griffin clarified that FY 2016 would be the 3rd year in the paving budget and if they could add \$10,000 they would be funding it at the full amount.

Selectman Buckey noted a large increase in line maintenance. Mr. Kulbacki stated that they have a small pump station on Downing Road that the Town was responsible for and this year they dug a gravity line to eliminate it. He stated that they have not seen their NPEDS (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination Permit) permit for renewal although they submitted the application before the deadline over 18 months ago. The permit is a 5 year permit and by the time they receive it, it may be close to expiring. Mr. Kulbacki noted that they are aware that there will be new requirements including management in operations and maintenance.

Selectman Carter asked if the sidewalk plows can be used for other purposes. Mr. Kulbacki stated that they are also used for mowing right-of-ways, some Conservation Land and cemeteries; part of the time they are being repaired as they are very finicky pieces of equipment. Selectman Carter confirmed with Mr. Kulbacki that their first and primary use is to plow sidewalks. Mr. Kulbacki also noted that they want to run this equipment because having it sit idle is not good for the equipment.

Capital Improvement Projects

Selectman Buckey clarified with Mr. Kulbacki that the spreadsheet provided regarding the CIP 5 year plan shows money being allocated to balance the funds among the funds available. Mr. Kulbacki confirmed that this is true and that it's not a matter of taking money out of a particular fund. Chairman Christie noted the negative numbers at the Howe Library in the building funds. Mr. Kulbacki stated that if they put \$110,000 each year into the building fund, it will not be long before they are in the red.

Chairman Christie requested to see how the funds are balanced. Mr. Kulbacki will send the Board an updated spreadsheet. Mr. Kulbacki stated that he uses a "one bucket" approach versus fund by fund and it would take 10 years before this would be overspent.

Mr. Kulbacki stated that in buildings for DPW there is an expense to replace the salt shed which is about ready to fall down. He is concerned about the price of salt and the vendor is required to provide the salt at the same cost as the State but is refusing to do so. His biggest concern is that the Town would be cut off or be forced to pay more. He would like to have the ability to store more salt. He noted that 2 years ago they ran out and couldn't afford the higher demand prices.

Mr. Kulbacki stated that they are looking at replacing the carpeting in the old section of the library.

Mr. Kulbacki stated that the last bridge on Rudsboro Road that is west of Old Dana road contains two aluminum culverts that need some work. They may be able to make repairs to extend the life and are trying to avoid having to build a bridge.

Mr. Kulbacki reported that they have a long-line painter and truck that they purchased a few years ago. He stated that they used to contract out for this but weren't satisfied with the result and can save money and have control over timing by doing this themselves.

Mr. Kulbacki reported that the head of the mowing machine needs to be replaced and he noted that the tractor itself is fine. He will look in the future to find a replacement part to assist with plowing as well.

Mr. Kulbacki stated that in the operations budget there is an expense to replace one of the lifts that can handle larger vehicles.

Ms. Griffin noted that she asked Mr. Kulbacki to provide the Board with additional information regarding the Multi Use Path (MUP) proposed for Lyme Road. This would be a separate bicycle and pedestrian path that would be plow-able by truck and retains enough space for the bicyclists of all abilities. She noted that there are additional costs in the amount of \$67,424 which can be funded out of the Transportation Improvement Fund which is money collected through a \$5 surcharge from every motor vehicle registration. Vice Chairman Rassias stated that this is a high priority item for the Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee. Ms. Griffin stated that this is a 4500' section from Reservoir Road roundabout to the Dewey Field gate. Mr. Kulbacki stated that they would need to determine the treatment at the roundabout.

Mr. Kulbacki stated that the total cost is \$267,000 and the \$67,424 represents the difference of the total cost. The cost otherwise would be \$150,000 to \$160,000 if the path was budgeted separately from the rest of the paving project. Ms. Griffin added that they would be narrowing the travel lane which would have a side benefit of slowing traffic down in that area.

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Selectman Carter asked about the reason that they are not continuing it out to the school. Mr. Kulbacki stated that a lot of this has to do with money and this is being done in the current footprint of the right-of-way. He stated that the estimate includes crosswalks and trees. Ms. Griffin stated that they can review this again when the College addresses the area of Rivercrest.

Town Properties

Mr. Kulbacki reported that some accomplishments include finishing the air conditioning system at the Wastewater Plant; a new roof on the old part of the Howe Library; and the work done to obtain a good inventory of what should be included in the Capital Improvement Program.

Mr. Kulbacki stated that they didn't have a capital plan until the last few years and they are now scheduling replacements before things break down. There are increased uses of facilities which results in increased maintenance. The Town Office has poor insulation and making it more efficient is expensive and to do this on the top floor it would cost \$94,000. He noted that there is a balancing act with the facilities as some of them are aging structures. Mr. Kulbacki stated that they are fortunate that they don't need more staff but when they add more facilities, there will be a tipping point.

Selectman Carter asked whether the Town and School District could share mowing, paving, and waxing of floors. Mr. Kulbacki stated that they have tried some things and the school contracts out a lot of their mowing. The Town is looking at that now as well so that they don't have to spend as much on equipment. He noted that they bid their fuel together and they work together when possible.

Selectman Buckey noted the electricity savings at the Police Department. Mr. Kulbacki stated that one of the contracts for Solarize Hanover was for a Town facility so they will be putting this in at the Police Department. He stated that the solar hot water panels were already installed and they expect to see \$4,000 to \$5,000 savings in that building alone and it will pay for itself in 8 or 9 years.

Water Reclamation – Sewer Fund

Mr. Kulbacki stated that one of the biggest accomplishments was finishing the last funded upgrade which started in 2008. He noted that it is hard to do upgrades of operating equipment and there were some things that weren't included as part of the CIP. He noted that some equipment is original to the plant built in 1960.

Mr. Kulbacki stated that they eliminated the small pump station on Huntley. He stated that they continue to work on the GIS (Graphic Information System) system so they have created an inventory of all sewer manholes, curb stops, hydrants, etc. and they are now collecting data on their condition. Mr. Kulbacki stated that the challenges will be driven by the permit renewal requirements.

Kevin MacLean, Water Reclamation Superintendent, stated that the new equipment runs continuously and they have a more stable and reliable operation. He announced that they recently received another award from the EPA for their industrial pre-treatment program.

Mr. Kulbacki stated that one of the major drivers is the discharge permit and they have seen the draft of the permit which includes additional testing requirements at an additional cost. He anticipates that their biggest challenge will be nitrogen removal. He stated that the EPA expects a major overhaul without any pre-planning and he would like the ability to plan 5, 10 and 15 years out.

Ms. Griffin anticipates the some of the delay in obtaining the permit is the controversy surrounding the nitrogen and phosphorus removal as well as some other issues. Mr. Kulbacki stated that the numbers they are requiring the Towns meet are not scientifically accurate. There is no science base or rationale and nobody can explain it. They thought that they had a good plan but now all of the people they were working with at the start of the process are now gone.

Mr. Kulbacki stated that there are two pump stations that need to be replaced at some point. One is located near the Ledyard Bridge and the other is located behind CRREL. One may be replaced when the Rivercrest development moves forward. He stated that most of the collection systems are in pretty good shape.

Mr. Kulbacki stated that they do have some inflow from Lebanon and they do feel the effects of climate change and storm intensity.

Selectman Buckey asked about the digester. Mr. Kulbacki stated that the digester is making methane and works quite well. He noted that they cut their fuel consumption dramatically and eliminated the need for fuel to be used for the digesters. He stated that they still use fuel oil to heat the building. Mr. MacLean stated that they reduced their bio disposal by 13% from last year.

Chairman Christie asked if there would be any rate changes. Mr. Kulbacki stated that there were no rate changes.

Selectman Buckey noted that electricity is a big cost. Mr. Kulbacki stated that there are pumps that are constantly running, blowers that keep the bacteria growing so there is a lot of energy being used. Selectman Buckey asked if there would be any chance to solarize systems. Mr. Kulbacki stated that their plan is to look at every facility and determine opportunities.

Mr. Kulbacki stated that they are looking at putting a large array up at the Water Works Co. which is more of a small farm and it becomes more challenging with funding. They will be working Revision Energy next week to look more closely at this.

Water Utility Fund

Mr. Kulbacki stated that they continue to do asset mapping and GIS. He noted that they made great strides in this area and Don Ware has been looking at records and connecting this information. He stated that when this information is complete, it will be a great planning tool. He noted that they are working with the Bike & Pedestrian Committee as they consider digging up and repaving roads, etc.

Mr. Kulbacki stated that the plant is 9 years old and they have been working with a group of engineering students from Thayer to determine how to increase the life of the distribution system. As a result, there have been some things learned that are going to be helpful going forward.

Mr. Kulbacki stated that 73% of the distribution system are unlined cast iron; 40% of these are over 100 years old and 55% are over 60. He stated that there are some challenges and the expected life capacity for cast iron is 60 years. He noted that they have some original pipe that was installed in 1893 that looks new and a lot of this is determined by whether the water is moving all the time or whether it sits. Mr. Kulbacki stated that they are working to determine what the Town can do to increase the life of the cast iron pipes. He noted that raising the PH can reduce the amount of corrosion.

Mr. Kulbacki stated that since 2010, they cut the contribution from the Fire Fund to the Water Fund by \$250,000 and the rates were based on an agreement from 1939; rates will have to be raised at some point. He stated that one bond will be paid off this summer which can offset the reduction from the Fire Fund. He stated that when both bonds are paid off, they can determine where they should be focusing their efforts.

Chairman Christie asked when they will have a handle on the replacement schedule, costs, etc. Mr. Kulbacki stated that they should have this information within the next year. Chairman Christie stated that when they have that information they can start planning for it.

Mr. Kulbacki stated that his concerns are the aging pipe and it's the same areas that are most problematic. He noted that piping was put in with no bedding and they know where those areas are. There are other areas with poor water quality.

Ms. Griffin provided the Board with copies of the Wilson's Landing Plan. Ms. Griffin stated that Jim Kennedy had some meetings with DES (Department of Environmental Safety) on this but it has not been before the Planning Board.

Mr. Kulbacki stated that Jim Kennedy was also working with the Wetlands Board; there is more of a wetlands impact in the parking area offset by the crossing. He stated that this used to be a dredge area where they would dredge material out of the river and the goal is to narrow the causeway going out to allow passage. Currently there is no connection of the wetlands so the goal is to raise this up and put a larger culvert underneath for better passage of water.

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Selectman Carter asked if a truck could pass while the boaters were on the road. Mr. Kulbacki stated that this would be very tight; they would be taking a 20' road and making it 14' under the proposal.

Selectman Carter asked if there would be better waiting areas above the path. Mr. Kulbacki stated that he hasn't been involved in the details and he would need to talk to Mr. Kennedy about the plan.

Ms. Griffin reported that the estimated cost is \$27,500 which is on the Wish List. Selectman Carter asked if this ramp would support the Fire Department equipment. Mr. Kulbacki stated that the grader has to fit and is wider than any other vehicle that the Town owns. Selectman Carter asked if Chief McMillan looked at this. Mr. Kulbacki advised that he had.

Chairman Christie noted that the proposal includes a lot of work near the shoreline. He noted that this was highly supported by the neighbors.

The Board thanked Peter Kulbacki for his presentation.

Chairman Christie asked the Board members for any other questions regarding the budget and any Wish List items.

Selectman Carter asked to confirm that there were no other issues added to the Wish List during the hearings. Chairman Christie stated that they added funding to the social service agencies. Ms. Griffin stated that a 2.5% increase would result in an additional \$1,512.

Selectman Buckey asked about meeting with the Finance Committee. Ms. Griffin reported that she unable to find a time to meet with them prior to or in conjunction with the hearings. She is waiting for feedback as to whether they want to meet prior to their decision about the budget.

Selectman Geraghty noted the potential of a reasonably sized grant but the expense was already factored into the budget, meeting the tax rate target. He asked if there were any other grant funded items that could come in to counter some of the operating expenses. Chairman Christie noted that the reserve funds are paying for the expenses which results in no tax impact. Ms. Griffin stated that the only other grant is the Fire Act Grant and also Wastewater is slated to receive money from the SAG program which would cover a small portion of equipment upgrades. She stated that the DES proposal is to pull the funds from the SAG program which would impact what they accumulate in the undesignated fund balance. Chairman Christie noted that the fund balance in the Water Reclamation Fund is quite healthy.

Selectman Carter stated that if the grant money comes through for the Fire Department then it would go back into the reserve. Ms. Griffin stated that the grant would be used for the program and the Town would not draw down that money from the reserve.

3. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS.

There were no Administrative Reports.

4. SELECTMEN'S REPORTS.

There were no Selectmen's Reports.

5. OTHER BUSINESS.

There was no Other Business.

6. ADJOURNMENT.

Vice Chairman Rassias MOVED to Adjourn the Meeting. Selectman Buckey SECONDED the Motion.

THE BOARD VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 7:45 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nancy A. Carter

Minutes prepared by Elizabeth S. Rathburn.

SUMMARY

1. Vice Chairman Rassias MOVED to Adjourn the Meeting. Selectman Buckey SECONDED the Motion.

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