

**Official
As of 2/28/08**

**BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING
Minutes
Town Hall Council Chambers
Saturday, February 2, 2008**

CALL TO ORDER

Chair S. Oliver called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM.

ATTENDANCE

Chair S. Oliver, T. Keach, V. Lembo, C. Humphries, J. Danforth, J. Pieroni, G. Kearney, M. Sorel, P. Loiselle, C. Humphries and S. Doyon.

Excused: D. Argo

Staff: D. Jodoin, Town Administrator and C. Soucie, Finance Director

Overview of 2008-2009 Budget – Town Administrator

D. Jodoin presented the Budget with a Council direction to come in 2% over last year's default budget. This year, most of the new employees were put on as a Warrant Article with the exception of the maintenance person. The Budget, as presented by Administration reflected a 1.29% increase. The Council's adjusted budget is up to 3%. This year, we hired a consultant to look at the health insurance. We now have two (2) years of historical data and would like to bring the consultant back.

This year, the insurance bill for worker's compensation was up \$17,000. We contacted the LGC and we were able to get in with them for one year. Next year, we will look at worker's compensation.

This year, we added the Health Savings Account option for employees. Two (2) employees have opted for this plan. The savings on insurance was \$200,000.

We are seeking energy rebates from Keyspan for the work done at the Village School.

G. Kearney: I want to commend David Jodoin. For the past three (3) years, we have been asked for cost savings and this year, we have seen substantial savings including telephones, insurance and fuel.

P. Loiselle: The 3.32% number includes the Council's increases to the Family Service budget for Welfare. This is inclusive of contractual requirements.

Presentation of the Budget

Building

M. Bonsteel: My budget increases reflects transferring the Zoning Board responsibility from the Planning Department to the Building Department.

There is also a one-time expenditure for office equipment.

T. Keach: You indicated Jaymill Furniture on page 4. Did you do 3 bids?

M. Bonsteel: No, Jaymill has done furniture for the Town before. We are now looking further to try and do better to bring that number down. The \$7000 is the maximum cost based on this bid.

T. Keach: Since you didn't do 3 bids, I don't understand how you can say that \$7000 is the maximum?

D. Jodoin: These are estimates. We will take these quotes and then submit to various companies. We may have enough or we may have to cut back on furniture. This is a preliminary estimate.

T. Keach motioned to reduce the budget \$7586.75 because the 3 bid rule was not followed. M. Sorel seconded.

J. Pieroni: There is no requirement for three (3) bids for a budget. The budget begins when you put the budget together. To get bids 9 months in advance is unrealistic. The budget is put together with estimates and then bids are done prior to purchasing.

V. Lembo: What is the total amount of refurbishment?

D. Jodoin: The furniture in the Building, Planning, Human Resources, and Tax Collectors Office, will be replaced. Some of the desks in those offices now are made of particleboard. Many are not ergonomically correct. If they do not have correct equipment, you end up with workman's compensation claims. The total cost is under \$20,000 for equipment.

G. Kearney: I wouldn't mind zeroing out the office equipment in the individual department and put one number in the Administration's budget to be placed out for a 3 bids.

M. Sorel: How are we doing with revenue for the Building Department?

M. Bonsteel: We are looking to double our current building permit fees so our revenue will increase. Every Building Department should be self-sufficient. I don't know if this is true for this year with the drop in permits during November and December.

J. Duffy: When I started working here, I was working at an old metal desk. After sitting there a number of years, I filed a worker's compensation claim. Workman's compensation did pay for a desk that is now set up in the Planning Office.

S. Oliver: I think the costs should stay in each individual department.

J. Pieroni: We've renovated this new town hall, cheaply. Had you done a new town hall, you would have included furniture. There is a cost to this, and they have assured us they will put this out for bid at the best price. I support keeping it in each department's budget.

The consensus of the members was that it should remain in the individual departments.

M. Sorel: I suggest looking at second hand furniture.

T. Keach withdrew the motion and M. Sorel withdrew his second.

***J. Pieroni motioned to accept the Building Department's budget of \$117,653. Seconded by J. Danforth
Vote unanimously in favor***

Warrant Article:

This is a part time building inspector to cover vacations for the administrative assistant and myself and help during the busy season. They would work on the nuisance complaints, the signs, the banners, the junk cars and other miscellaneous issues that need to be addressed and are very time consuming.

This is based on \$20.00 per hour for 26 weeks and 20 hours a week. It would be an "as needed" basis.

Economic Development, B. Sirak: This is a new initiative by the Council.

The Hooksett Economic Development Committee is a new committee. The concept is to focus on economic development and encourage development. A study committee was formed and we

concluded that although it would be great to hire a person, we have looked at hiring services from SNPC to develop a baseline for doing economic development. The proposal is for \$27,000 for services to economic development research and provides a database. Specifically they would classify commercial into categories and seek opinions of business for other opportunities. This was approved by the EDC and presented to the Town Council and received their support. ON a broader view, you will need additional data to update the Master Plan. You need to view this as a return on investment in your budget. It is an investment in the future and cost effective way to get things done.

P. Loiselle: It is a proactive concept rather than being reactive. We need to know what is happening to our industrial growth. We have grown residential, but we have a large number of sand pits. We need to look at our Town and see what we have to market. This will give us the database needed to do that.

C. Soucie: The line item is in Administration for \$30,000.

B. Sirak: This is a one-time expenditure and there may be minimal cost to maintain this in the future. I advocate working regionally in looking at this plan.

M. Sorel: What is the time frame?

B. Sirak: It will be a 6-9 month timeframe to complete.

P. Loiselle: We need to know if we are equipped as a Town to support a large entity looking to move into the area. What are the infrastructures we need to focus on?

Community Development, Warrant Articles

J. Duffy: I request an increase in Professional Services. When I put this together, I was only in the position for a few months and I initially asked for \$20,000 from the Council for Professional Services for 2 studies for zoning changes; the 3A Corridor to implement a Performance Zone similar to Route 3 and to look at the Village area. The Village area could become more of a walkable community with the coming of Cabelas. To do that, we need to adjust the zoning. After speaking with SNHPC, the quote came in at \$25,000. Now, the highway and transfer would like to implement impact fees for their department. We now have roadway, school, public safety, and rec impact fees. The Transfer and highway are suffering due to the development and falling behind in services.

We don't have a definite figure, but \$15,000 is a safe number. Also, we need to update the Blue Book which states the requirements for the Sewer, Water and building a roadway. That book was put together by Dufresne Henry in 2001 and needs to be revised. The Development Regulations which were adopted in May also need updating. There is no money for those updates. We will be taking money from the salary line this year.

I request another \$5000 for engineering fees as well. We have an outside engineering company and we have no money for outside services for them.

Most of the studies have nothing to do with what the Planning Department does but it start with the Planning Department so it is appropriate to start with the planning. With this \$20,000 increase, the budget would be a level increase of 2%.

Bottom line number \$194,768

P. Loiselle: D. Hemeon mentioned this and it was an oversight on the part of the Council to omit the highway impact fees. Those fees have been an asset for the Town. The Council supports impact fees.

J. Danforth: Is the \$20,000 a one-time charge?

J. Duffy: Yes

J. Pieroni motioned to accept the Planning budget of \$194,768. Seconded by J. Danforth.

Vote unanimously in favor

Warrant Articles

\$10,000 for the Master Plan

This is a document that was updated in 2004 and adopted by the Planning Board. The Master Plan, by suggestion of the State, should be updated every 7-10 years. We would like to put that money in the CIP. There was a suggestion by CIP to do a chapter at a time so you don't have to wait as long to do the updates.

33,000 a roadway impact fee study

We collect roadway impact fees. We don't have any plans in place to tell us where to spend this money and what intersections need improvement. The Town is divided into 3 zones and the money must be kept and spent in the zone it was collected. We need to study the improvements that need to be made. The total cost of the study is \$100,000. It will cost \$2,000 per intersection. We are planning to start on the study shortly, and do 12 intersections with the money we have now. You can't use impact fee money for studies, only capital improvements.

There is a bill before the House now regarding State roads and the use of impact fees on those State roads.

This number is based on a proposal from SNPC.

V. Lembo: How many intersections need to be addressed?

J. Duffy: There are 12 intersections planned for 3 years.

V. Lembo: When we lose the impact fees, who does the money go back to?

J. Duffy: They go back to whoever paid the fee.

J. Duffy: It goes back to whoever owns the house at the time. I can get the exact wording of that law.

Library

M. Farwell: Our circulation figures have gone up 50% overall. Heather has made a focus on children and young adults. Our young adult circulation has increased 300%.

We are circulating 39,000 more than in past.

The challenge for the Library is the location. We need to let the citizens know about our services.

We have an alliance with schools. Our website is greatly improved with increased programs.

Thursday we had ladies night out and there wasn't a parking space. There were over 200 people at this event.

We invite the Budget Committee to our facility for a meeting in the future.

We have wish list, which is a giving tree. We received a Wal-Mart Grant as well.

On the bottom of the budget, the increases are in life and disability, which was moved from Administration to the Library. We had a new employee that had an increase in health benefit. We have all the benefit in our budget, unlike other departments.

Last year, we came before the Budget Committee because we were left out of the pay equity study. The total was \$37,000 and the Budget Committee only gave us \$20,000 last year and invited us back this year for the balance.

We also saw that we had one employee not working 40 hours and that was adjusted.

Council presentation included the balance of the pay equity. \$15,000 wages, S.S. \$2343.

At Council, we came in with \$47,000 utility line. They had us recheck our numbers. We research with PSNH to project our cost. Kepsan was not helpful so we added inflation and increased that number to 51,585.

G. Kearney: Was the 35 hours historical. So the work requirement was sufficient. Is the Town policy that you must work 40 for the full time even if the job doesn't require.

D. Jodoin: The Town policy is over 32 hours receives benefits.

G. Kearney: So we are going to increase hours for the sake of consistency?

M. Farwell: The previous Finance Director told me that the 40 hours was the standard. We can use the staff. We have 4 full time staff with a total of 10 employees.

G. Kearney: If the increase was to get the job done and improve library performance, that's fine, but to just be consistent is not a good reason.

M. Sorel: This is an \$8000 cost to bring 2 employees to bring these employees to 40 hours. I support the Library and the budget, which I have reviewed with Mary Farwell.

T. Keach: The circulation rate is up, which includes CD's, DVD's, and books.

Heather: We have 16 public computers, which are used a lot.

M. Sorel: Based on research, I looked at the pay equity issue and this year they broke it down into the various line items. If this passes, all the employees will be at par.

T. Keach motioned that \$17288 and the \$637 for Social Security not go to increasing hours to 40 but rather go to a wage increase.

T. Keach: You have people being paid \$13.00 hour and that is the lowest wage in Town.

M. Farwell: We have no one working full time at \$13.00 per hour. Those figures are last year's figures.

T. Keach: I am suggesting putting that money into the hourly wage.

Motion failed to get a second.

M. Sorel motioned to accept the Library's budget of \$457, 869. Seconded by J. Danforth.

Solid Waste

D. Boyce: My budget is below 2% and for the record I have the lowest paid employees in Town with 2 employees at \$13.00 per hour after the wage adjustment.

T. Keach: Do you have a bookkeeper?

D. Boyce: I have Jodi Pinard, working part time doing the billing. We have accounts that we bill. This is for segregation of duty.

C. Soucie: The other departments have an administrative assistant that does that and Diane doesn't have anyone in her department to pick that up.

T. Keach: Why is there accumulated sick time reimbursement?

D. Boyce: After 240 hours of accumulated sick time, the town reimburses.

T. Keach: Is that for salary and hourly employees? Why would you give a salary employee sick time? The State of NH says if you can complete your job in 1 hour, that's all you have to do.

C. Soucie: There is a mechanism for docking a salary persons pay for not showing up for work.

D. Jodoin: Wage issues are to be addressed by Administration.

P. Loiselle: I think this pay is too low. I would like to see this at \$14.00.

D. Jodoin: She has a salary range and has the ability to give someone a wage increase through the merit pool.

T. Keach: Manchester region starting pay is \$11.54 with a mean of \$15.00. Why is the cost of the school collections not reflected as a bill to the school?

D. Boyce: It is the same policy as the plowing for the schools.

T. Keach: It is the entire Town but it would be a more accurate reflection of the cost.

T. Keach: Do we have to grant the rebates to the condos?

D. Boyce: We didn't have to, but we do now because it is a Council policy.

V. Lembo: If we have to go collect that trash, it will cost us a lot more.

T. Keach: If that's the case, I don't have any kids in school, so I want to be reimbursed for them. I think it opens the door up for a huge argument. I think everyone should share the cost of the Town.

P. Loiselle: We went through this a number of times, and we found it was more cost effective this way.

S. Oliver: By giving that tipping fee back, the Town is still saving money.

D. Hemeon: I have an original letter from Granite Hill and they wanted to be private, and I don't think they should get reimbursed. No Town vehicle should be on private property.

D. Boyce: It is an inexpensive good will gesture.

V. Lembo: Why is there overtime on Saturday for certified employees?

D. Boyce: You must have at least one certified attendant on duty and a licensed weigh master to run the scale at all times.

M. Sorel motioned to accept the Transfer Station's budget. Seconded by J. Danforth.

Highway, Parks & Recreation, Warrant Articles

Highway

S. Doyon reviewed the Highway budget.

D. Hemeon: We couldn't meet the 2% percent goal. The cost of paving has increased dramatically. There are 3 major roads, Smyth, Bicentennial and Prescott that I want to do and the Council gave us the extra money.

In June, I had \$28,000 surplus, which I used for salt. The price for salt, fuel and steel is ridiculous. Plow edges use to be \$2000 a year and now they are \$20,000 per year due to the cost of steel.

S. Doyon: What happens if you go over in plowing and overtime?

D. Hemeon: We usually take money from the paving line. That is why I do a lot of the paving in the spring.

T. Keach: How is the plow fleet?

D. Hemeon: I had a 1987 and 1988 that had to be taken off the road. We are down a plow truck. Since 2001, we added 41 new streets and we never added to the department. I currently have 12 employees. We have added 6 miles for 3A Development and we picked up Main

Street this year. The new plow truck is in the CIP. That is to replace the one we took off the road. If Cabelas comes in, we will get another truck and I will go after MS&G for a truck as well. I have added one (1) new employee for highway and one (1) for Park and Rec.

M. Sorel: What is the status of the sweeper from J. Byrd?

J. Pinard: J. Byrd says he will be paying soon. They are aware they cannot put a shovel in the ground until payment is received. Sewer shut them down and they finally got paid. They owe Village Water \$120,000.

M. Sorel motioned to accept the Highway budget. Seconded by S. Doyon.

Park & Rec

D. Hemeon: The increase is the maintenance line, because for the first time, Village Water Precinct will be charging us for water. The lights at Donati require an amp service change. The total cost is \$12,000.

I have made it clear to the precinct that, if they are charging us, we will charge them.

Warrant Article

D. Hemeon: We are looking to establish a revolving fund for the Summer Program.

S. Doyon: What about the Corriveau playground?

D. Hemeon: After the public hearing, we received a lot of input from the neighbors. We will continue to go forward. We have \$50,000 for that project. We are working to eliminate the \$120,000 deficit.

We have collected \$132,000 in the impact fees for recreation.

Highway Impact fees:

D. Hemeon: The Transfer and Highway Departments are growing and we need to get on the impact fee list.

J. Pieroni motioned to accept the Park & Rec. budget. Seconded by S. Doyon

Warrant Articles

1. The revolving account
2. Two new employees, one for Park and Rec and one for highway
3. Plow truck – this is a lease
4. Tractor loader backhoe

C. Soucie: Within the operating budget are capital purchases. Under Capital purchases, there are two vehicles, a pickup truck with a plow and a ¾ pick up truck. We purchased two (2) trucks last year and we are putting two (2) trucks in this year. We can increase the fleet without increasing the budget.

Transfer Warrant Article

Scale computer program

D. Boyce: Our program is now a DOS program. We are requesting \$9000 from our revenue fund with no impact on taxes.

Forest Fire

No change, it is level funded

Fire, Warrant Articles

This reflects the 3rd year of a 5-year contract. We will go back to negotiation in 2009.

This reflects the major increase in the operating budget along with 2 additional firefighters.

V. Lembo: Why are those additional firefighters not in a Warrant Article?

Chief Williams: By hiring more people, you reduce the overtime, this way it is a cleaner process. If you put it on a Warrant Article, you still have to fund the overtime. The Council put this back in the budget so that you will see a reduction in the overtime line.

J. Pieroni: There are two overtime lines?

Chief Williams: The \$112,000 is sick and vacation coverage to meet the minimum coverage. \$114,000 shows the decrease as a result of the increased staff.

V. Lembo: The other departments go through a Warrant Article to increase their department. Why isn't the taxpayer getting the opportunity to respond? This looks like you are now trying to staff the ambulance.

P. Loiselle: If you put the two (2) employees in the warrant, you will have to increase the overtime line.

S. Oliver: If you are doing it for one department, you should do it for all. Over fund your overtime and put it in a Warrant Article and add the wording that "if passed that money will be in reserve".

Chief Williams: I have no problem with it being in a Warrant.

P. Loiselle: I will bring this concern back to the Council. They were trying to keep the Warrant Articles to a reasonable number. If the Council believes these services and increases are needed, they can opt to put it in the budget. This would also minimize the Warrant Articles.

G. Kearney: There are some small articles of \$10,000, I would cut those and put the \$100,000 items on Warrant Articles.

S. Oliver: Previous Councils said anything under \$20,000 went into the budget, anything over went to a Warrant.

J. Pieroni: Is any personnel going to man the ambulance? What is the differential in overtime?

Chief: The ambulance, everyone in the department is cross-trained for both fire and ambulance including myself and the new hires will be the same.

J. Pieroni: Would you not need this person if you didn't have this ambulance?

Chief Williams: Yes, and these people will reduce overtime but the major issue is the call volume. They will help me get the ladder out the door and the ambulance out the door. They will be used on multiple equipment.

J. Pieroni: There is a \$35,000 differential for two (2) new employees vs. overtime.

T. Keach: There is also gear?

C. Soucie: \$130,000 includes salary benefits and uniforms.

Chief Williams: We have to increase our staff. Hooksett is growing. We are up to 2073 incidents.

M. Sorel: Did we receive information last year that said the Fire could operate with the staff they had? When the ambulance was raised, they could do it without increasing personnel. Was the Fire Department budget brought to the Council with these in the budget or as a Warrant?

Chief Williams: D. Jodoin put it in a Warrant and it went to Council in a Warrant.

V. Lembo: How much increase in call volume was mutual aid?

Chief Williams: I don't have that number. One hand washes the other. If we go for them, Allenstown, Pembroke, they respond for us as well.

V. Lembo: The budget says you are up to staff.

Chief Williams: That means all the positions are filled. This will give us the ability to get another piece of equipment out the door.

V. Lembo: This ambulance will cost us \$300,000 to run?

Chief Williams: This was bought with impact fees and will run as a backup. It would be \$300,000 if we ran it full time but we are not running it full time. The plan we have in place now is to work with Tri-Town.

T. Keach: Overtime- with the two overtime lines, 12 & 14, it would be \$20,000 the first line increase from budget to budget year, and there would be a \$9000 difference from column 3 to column 4. How do we get to 99,000, and if we get to 99,000, a new fire personnel will cost us 130,000?

Chief Williams: The difference from 3 to 4 are contractual year differences. The second year of the contract was a 3% rate increase, which increases that line.

T. Keach: You were going to reduce overtime?

C. Soucie: Column 3 should be subtracted from column 6, which is new growth. Column 6, line 114 is \$149,000. Take column 3, that's \$228,000.

T. Keach: You will spend \$130,000 to save \$99,000.

D. Jodoin: If we go the Warrant Article route, we can put the balance in reserve in the Administrative budget.

J. Pieroni: 75% of the cost of the new employees are already in the budget. So the increase to add these two people is only 25%. There is a difference adding these and others that are not previously funded in the budget. You also need to consider the overtime.

D. Jodoin: I pulled this out of the budget to make it clear to the voter. It had nothing to do with the ambulance.

M. Sorel: This does have something to do with the ambulance. The Chief said that. The Council minutes state that C. Soucie will check for the terminology. If this goes forward, either in the budget or a warrant, can the Chief guarantee there will be no overtime?

Chief Williams: No, there will still be overtime, but it will be reduced. More than one person could be out sick or on vacation.

S. Oliver: The service will be provided whether it is overtime or added personnel. Which way does this committee feel it is best to be presented?

Consensus of the committee was to place the two employees on a Warrant Article to be consistent.

V. Lembo motioned to withdraw \$130,000 for two (2) firefighters. Seconded by M. Sorel.

V. Lembo: I think the voters were not allowed a say in the ambulance and the taxpayers should have a say on how the money is spent in the town.

T. Keach: The Council did override the voters request with regard to an ambulance, which was wrong and they circumvented the process and put the Chief in a precarious position.

Chief Williams: If you remove them from the budget, you need to remove the growth line.

C. Soucie: In the \$130,000, there is \$50,000 of Administration.
\$1,273,932 is the new bottom number.

M. Sorel motioned to table. Seconded by J. Danforth

Fire Department budget and remove the new growth – 2273932
Administrative budget remove 50,926 (removes two firefighters and puts the overtime back)

Bottom line #	Column #9	2,273,932
	Column #8	remains the same

T. Keach: That includes the equipment?

C. Soucie: \$4000 in equipment and the \$1600 for physical exams.

Untable the original motion

Amendment: S. Oliver motion to remove two (2) firefighters and the associated costs and reduce Administration by \$50,926 for a total Fire Department budget of \$2,273,932. Seconded by M. Sorel.

Roll call vote on amendment
Vote 9:1

Roll call vote on amended motion
Unanimously in favor except P. Loiselle and J. Pieroni

Warrant Articles

Detail: This is a revolving account which will be set up like the police fund with \$1.00.

Fire Air pack and bottle fund

Fire Cistern Capital Reserve: We have over 19 tanks buried in Town. (30,000 gallons of water)The rest are dry hydrants. If areas are not in the hydrant areas, they have to put in a cistern or extend the water main. Once they are in, they are the property of the Town. We had a12-year-old cistern fail last year and we had it rebuilt at a cost of \$15,000. We need to start putting money aside for these things.

J. Pieroni: Can we get developers to put money into this fund as well?

C. Soucie: Developers can't put money into a Capital Reserve. This has to go to the voters. There may be another avenue.

V. Lembo: Is \$430,851 in the impact fees? I thought we bought the ambulance with that money?

Chief: We did but we haven't paid that yet.

C. Soucie: We paid for the pick up truck, but we haven't taken it out of the account.

Chief Williams: The ambulance was approximately \$230,000 and \$34,000 for the pick up truck.

Chief Williams: We were trying to keep Engine #1 running for a few more years, and we wanted to put some paint on it. We have two (2) quotes from two (2) people for the paint. This is just an estimate. This is an '85 vehicle.

T. Keach: Are you still collecting weekend command staff coverage?

Chief William: Yes, but will discontinue as of July 1st 2008. It is not in this budget being presented.

Emergency Management

D. Jodoin: The only increase is additional wages.

***M. Sorel motioned to accept the Emergency Management budget for \$26,698. Seconded by J. Danforth.
Vote unanimously in favor***

Police, Communication, Warrant Articles

Police budget is now combined with Communication

G. Kearney: Sandy Oliver and I met with the Chief and attended a Commission meeting and in looking at the whole thing, it is a 2.7% increase. The Chief did a good job. The increase was driven by the 3% increase in cola. They had a problem hiring the full staff and returned \$208,000 to the Town. They showed a lot of good faith returning this money. It is a conservative budget and they are not adding any staff.

Chief Agrafiotis: The Town has authorized 29 positions. On the civilian side, we have two positions unfilled and we will not fill them at this time. Communication is now merged in. The Council took away a little and now it is 2.6%. Most of that is union contracts. The Commission put a 3% pool for non-union. The vehicle request is four (4) and it was three (3).

T. Keach: Does the police pay employees all unused sick including salary?

Chief: Yes, any employee above 240 hours, the time is cut in half and paid.

T. Keach: Community Service increased from \$1000 to \$5000.

Chief Agrafiotis: This is the first year of a full resource officer. There have been cost for supplies and this is the second year of having someone dedicated to that position.

T. Keach: Don't you have your own polygraph?

Chief Agrafiotis: A polygraph may be used for internal affairs. If they are outside coming in, we use our own people, but if our staff is unavailable or an internal issue we contract the service.

T. Keach: \$10,000 for officer uniform replacement?

Chief Agrafiotis: That is a catchall for all gear replacement.

M. Sorel: Letter of Nov. 26th where you gave the fire your 2004 ford expedition. Is there a credit for that?

S. Oliver: It is a bottom line budget and only if they wanted another vehicle. They shouldn't get a credit; it's still for the town.

M. Sorel: the Fire came to us for a new Tahoe and they got an Expedition with 25,000 miles and could they have gotten along without the Tahoe.

D. Jodoin: The chief bought the Tahoe and the deputy got the expedition.

M. Sorel: The Fire gained a new vehicle.

T. Keach: Are you replacing that vehicle?

Chief Agrafiotis: It wasn't suited for us. We will replace it with an unmarked cruiser.

V. Lembo: The fire chief bought a new vehicle, why is being painted now. Why wasn't it bought in the correct color?

D. Jodoin: I don't know, maybe they couldn't get it.

V. Lembo: Now we have to pay to paint this vehicle.

Please provide that information.

If a department gives a vehicle to another department, the Budget Committee should be aware.

Chief: We may look at 2009. \$5632 was the cost for the overtime of non-salary people. The program would be good to do every other year.

***J. Pieroni motioned to accept the budget of \$3,261,367. Seconded by M. Sorel
Vote unanimously in favor***

Warrant Article

Chief Agrafiotis: This is for Communication System Fund for radios and repeaters. I asked the Council, since it was a tight year, to put in any number they thought was reasonable. The Council put in \$30,000

T. Keach: Building repairs; has the department had to spend anything?

Chief Agrafiotis: The Commission's position, unless it is an emergency, it will not come out of the Police budget.

D. Jodoin: We wanted to make another means of egress. I'm trying to show the actual cost of repairing the buildings. We will pay for the repairs, for example \$10,000 will be put aside out of miscellaneous.

P. Loiselle: We have 13 buildings with no funds allocated for repairs.

Chief Agrafiotis: The Safety center never closes. It is open 24/7.

G. Kearney: What about the air handling system?

D. Jodoin: The air system came to the Council five (5) years after it was put in and turned down. We had a company go in and replace all the filters. Then they will come back with a report of what needs to be done. We are going to do the same to the Village School.

D. Jodoin: We are putting new rain gutters and looking at the fire tower.

Administration, Wage Increase Warrant Article, other Warrant Articles

D. Jodoin: There are couple items that I failed to put in. I didn't bring these to Council. The insurance consultant, we had \$7000 encumbered for health consultant. We now have two (2) years of data and we would like to look at property liability, and workman's comp. I'm requesting an additional \$10,000 to the same line item as the health consultant encumbered funds.

***J. Pieroni motioned to add \$10,000 for consultant. Seconded by M. Sorel.
Vote unanimously in favor***

D. Jodoin: We do have elections, which will increase.

S. Oliver: The maintenance position was added to the budget?

D. Jodoin: I left it in because it is need either way. I can move it a warrant but if it fails, I still have to add it. I don't then want voters to think they voted down something that was later added.

V. Lembo: I'd like to see it in a Warrant Article. I think they will support it. We did force the fire department to go to Warrant and that would keep it consistent.

P. Loiselle: I'd like to see it in the budget.

J. Pieroni: I think the people expect that these building will be maintained. This isn't a choice; this should be in the budget to maintain facilities.

It is \$34,000 in the Town Building budget and the benefits are in Administration.

M. Sorel: I agree, this should be in the budget.

S. Oliver: I am all in favor of personnel in warrants but after all these years of no maintenance for buildings, but I'm concerned about the number of warrant articles. There will be 22 Warrant Articles not including zoning.

Consensus was to leave this in the budget

M. Sorel: Did the Council vote to add a line item for Access TV, and where is it reflected in budget?

P. Loiselle: We added it with a \$1.00

C. Soucie: The line was not put in. It was just a typo error in the budget.

G. Kearney: Health Insurance, the Council increased that \$52,000?

D. Jodoin: That is the portion of the fire fighter's and maintenance personnel increase

Bottom Line **\$3,621,532**

M. Sorel motion to increase line 71- 104 - \$49,999 for access TV . V. Lembo seconded.

M. Sorel: I think access TV would bring more of the public into the process. At the school hearing only one member of the public attended. This town needs to move forward.

G. Kearney: I originally thought of it as a solution looking for a problem. The public doesn't like things rammed down their throat. If they want it, put in a Warrant Article. Let the public decide.

J. Pieroni: I think this should be done from the floor of the deliberative session. The Council is mixed, the community is mixed. The line is there, sp take it to the floor at the deliberative session.

C. Humphries: We know it will come up at the deliberative session and let the people decide.

M. Sorel withdrew his motion and V. Lembo withdrew his second.

J. Pieroni: The legal line is increased significantly. What steps have been taken so that we don't have phone polls and all committees should be clear on what is an acceptable process. Possibly presentations by LGC.

D. Jodoin: This is based on the annual cost. We consistently shortchanged this cost.

P. Loiselle: Two years ago, the Council set up a subcommittee to look into legal costs and we interviewed six (6) firms and the question was asked what is a reasonable budget for a town of this size and they all replied that this is meager budget in comparison.

M. Sorel: The Economic Development Committee was increased by \$30,000 by the Council.

D. Jodoin: We got a quote from SNHPC for that amount.

D. Jodoin: We have a floater administrative assistant. That person helped in finance and now is in planning. The other administrative assistant has always been there. The floater was presented to the Council and will be available as an ongoing basis.

M. Sorel: Is that floater still need? Is the extra cost included in the budget?

P. Loiselle: Historically, we've always needed that but it is not guaranteed.

J. Pieroni: With regard to public access TV, we can wait until we have the public hearing.

Warrant Article

Non-union wage increase

D. Jodoin: This is a merit pool system for 4%. I recommended 3% but the Council went for 4%.

M. Sorel: The Sewer is getting a 4% increase and they don't pay for benefits.

J. Pieroni motioned to accept the Administrative budget \$3,621,532. Seconded by M. Sorel.

Vote unanimously in favor

Assessing

D. Jodoin: That is under last year's budget. We are trying to get Visions up so we can have web hosting. New furniture and filling cabinets for the move to the school. They requested additional computers for public access. That was removed and we will use available equipment.

***J. Danforth motioned to approve \$172,845. Seconded by M. Sorel
Vote unanimously in favor***

***M. Sorel motioned to recommend \$50,000. Seconded by J. Danforth.
Vote unanimously in favor***

Budget Committee

J. Pieroni motioned to recommend the Budget Committee's budget.. Seconded by T. Keach.

Vote unanimously in favor

Capital Leases

***J. Pieroni motioned to accept the budget for \$130,568. Seconded by M. Sorel.
Vote unanimously in favor***

Capital Purchases

This is highway.

***J. Pieroni motioned to accept the budget for \$100,000. Seconded by T. Keach.
Vote unanimously in favor***

Cemetery

\$2500 level funded

**S. Oliver motioned to accept the budget for \$2500.00. Seconded by T. Keach
Vote unanimously in favor**

Conservation Commission \$6750

**S. Oliver motioned to accept the Conservation Commission budget \$6750. Seconded by
M. Sorel.**

J. Pieroni: There was a presentation on the GMO and other ways to limit growth. At that meeting, it was clear that GMO's are difficult to administer and they come into effect when there is a sudden burst of growth and it is difficult to manage. From the consultant, he suggested at other ways of controlling growth was to purchase land and set it aside.

S. Oliver: I think it is better if people donate their land or their conservation easements. It should not be up to the taxpayers.

C. Soucie: There is currently \$738,000 in the fund not including Berry Hill and the Ravinia money, which came in this month.

Vote unanimously in favor

Debt Service & Tax Anticipation Note Interest Finance \$434,265

**J. Pieroni motioned to accept. Seconded by M. Sorel
Vote unanimously in favor**

Warrant rescinding the unauthorized debt of 16 million.

C. Soucie: The obligation is for 3 (3) years and the Two (2) million dollars expires in 2009.

V. Lembo: Is Cabelas on hold until 2009.

**J. Pieroni motioned to accept the warrant. Seconded by M. Sorel
Vote unanimously in favor**

Family Service

Increase is in Welfare

**T. Keach motioned to recommend the \$189,890. Seconded by M. Sorel.
Vote unanimously in favor**

Finance

\$126,776

**J. Pieroni motioned to accept the Finance budget for \$126,776. Seconded by J. Danforth
Vote unanimously in favor**

Tax Collector

\$169786

**M. Sorel motioned to accept the Tax Collector's budget of \$169,786. Seconded by J.
Danforth.**

Unanimously in favor

Town Buildings

Maintenance person and repair line increased.

\$50,000 for future building repairs was put in a Warrant Article.

**\$458,217 M. Sorel motioned seconded by J. Pieroni
Vote unanimously in favor.**

Warrant Articles

Town Building maintenance fund for \$50,000. This will be added to the \$35,000. It could cost \$15,000 to clean the VHA system.

M. Sorel: A \$50,000 Warrant Article for a feasibility study?

D. Jodoin: That was removed by the Council.

C. Soucie recommending tabling all the warrant articles until the Feb. 21st meeting.

The numeric tally warrant article

This community has been putting the tally on the ballot. In 2007, the legislature said you can put the tally on but you have to go before the voters to approve that procedure.

Tax Impact

The tax impact is 82 cent per thousand for the municipal budget.

**The Bottom line, not including Sewer or the Warrant Articles is \$14,368,928
Default budget - \$13,907,548.**

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Lee Ann Moynihan