

**Board members present:** Chairman; John R. LaCourse, Selectman W. James Griswold and Frank J. DeRocchi.

**Others present:** Ed Banister, Town Administrator; Diane Guimond, Town Secretary; Dawn Hayes.

1. Chairman LaCourse Called the meeting to Order at 9:20 pm.
2. Chairman LaCourse motions to enter into a Non Public session regarding a legal matter at 9:21 pm. Selectman DeRocchi, seconds. All agree. Non Public ends at 9:35 pm, the minutes are sealed.
3. Chairman LaCourse discusses the operational budget; \$31,000 for the step was from last year (there isn't any new step in the budget), \$10,000 for temporary/part time help for the town hall. The Town Administrator states, if the temporary help line item is level funded, only \$4,000 would be needed, as last year's budget had the other \$6,000. Chairman LaCourse states if we are going to open town hall on Thursdays, the whole \$10,000 should be put back in the budget. Selectman DeRocchi wants the town hall to open on Thursdays as a service to the citizens, the issue is not the money. Selectman Griswold recommends the \$10,000 be put back into the budget and the town hall open on Thursdays. All agree.

Chairman LaCourse questions the Matthew Thornton health care recommendation and the use of the funds in the contingency fund. The Town Administrator states \$22,000 is needed to fund the Matthew Thornton plan, the contingency fund has an additional \$38,000 in it. The Town Administrator states, she would prefer the amount be in the appropriate line item. Selectman Griswold asks Selectman DeRocchi why the amount was put in the contingency fund line item. Selectman DeRocchi notes, it is a matter for a Non Public discussion.

Chairman LaCourse remarks about the state of the Transfer Station, when he visited the other day there was debris blowing around and a lot of stuff on the back wall. Selectman DeRocchi states there is a lot of permanent things being stacked and stored along the back wall.

The Town Administrator asks the Board to consider reducing the Welfare budget by \$2,000 (only \$965 has been used from the Welfare budget this year) and increasing the appropriation to the Homemakers Health Services by \$2,000. The Town Administrator further notes, the Budget Committee did give the Welfare Director a raise, while the rest of the employees wait for the step program, (all employees participate in the step program if it is put in the budget). The Town Administrator is concerned that the elderly in the town will be affected if the funds are cut from the Homemakers Health Services line item. Selectman Griswold asks why Homemakers Health Services didn't provide the Advisory Budget Committee with sufficient data supporting their needs. Selectman DeRocchi states, the committee was looking for the formula to calculate the value per unit of the number of people served. Selectman Griswold notes, the data that was submitted shows that one client from Lee received 198 hrs of service.

Selectman Griswold further states, he isn't sure what else they should have submitted. Selectman DeRocchi quotes Welfare budget items (totaling over \$11,000) from FY 08-09 and remarks the amount spent this year is not relevant to what normally transpires. The Town Administrator states that she thinks that the needs are being referred out, but there is reason to be concerned. Chairman LaCourse recommends giving the Homemakers Health Services and additional \$1,000 and reducing the Welfare budget by \$1,000.

Selectman DeRocchi remarks about the \$100,000 for the Library/Town Center Trust Fund, he wants to put it to the voters and let them make the decision. Chairman LaCourse agrees. Selectman DeRocchi states, one of the things that came out of the Advisory Budget Committee was to consolidate the trust funds and to stop earmarking them for individual things.

Selectman Griswold does not agree with the Conservation Commissions warrant article regarding timber revenue from town forests. However, he would like it to be included on the warrant, without the Selectmen's recommendation. All agree.

Selectman DeRocchi states the Advisory Budget Committee's concern with the warrant for the second floor fire building (\$136,100) is that there is no real design, no one has put together what it is really going to be, we are just making a much bigger gym. The Town Administrator adds, once you get the money, you can then ask for a conceptual plan before approving the expenditures. Selectman DeRocchi states, it would cost \$15,000 - \$20,000 to do the plans. Selectman Griswold asks, if we really need that level of detail. The Town Administrator inquires about the original plans. Selectman DeRocchi states, the original plans have a large meeting on the end – not a gymnasium. Chairman LaCourse recommends moving forward with the warrant to finish this, just as the CIP has recommended finishing projects that have been started. Selectman Griswold agrees.

Chairman LaCourse confirms, the Recreation Commission's request for \$16,000 for playground equipment Little River Park, funds are coming out of the trust fund. All agree. Selectman Griswold supports this, as it is coming out of the trust, as well as putting funds into the trust. All agree to put \$25,000 into the trust. Selectman Griswold states, there is a need for a Little River Park Operating Budget, additionally, any deals or contracts made for Little River Park must come through the Selectmen, as well as fees coming into the general fund. Selectman Griswold affirms, the Recreation Commission does a great job, but he wants to protect the town's liability. All agree.

Chairman LaCourse addresses the funds requested by the Oyster River Youth Association. All agree that they should be funded \$25,000.

Chairman LaCourse discusses the digital document archive equipment. All agree to scratch this from the warrant.

The Town Administrator addresses the statistical update; the way it was worded in the warrant article is that the Board of Selectman would be the administrators

- of the trust. She further notes, the term that has always been used is: the Board of Selectmen are named "agents to expend". (the Advisory Budget Committee disagrees) The Town Administrator refers to a report submitted by John Tappan.
4. Selectman Griswold confirms a meeting with Selectman DeRocchi regarding the property at 5 Mast Rd. (Thursday, February 10 @ 7:30pm)
  5. The Town Administrator notes that she will finalize changes, obtain the Board's signatures and get ready for printer on Friday.
  6. The Town Administrator submits the following items for the Board's signature; a letter to the Trustees of the Trust Fund regarding reimbursement of fire extinguisher inspection, Kevin Crawford's appointment to the Planning board, a Veteran's exemption form
  7. The Town Secretary submits an intent to cut form for All Paint farm, for the Board's signature.

There being no further business, meeting was adjourned at 10:23 p.m.

Minutes transcribed by:

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Dawn Hayes, Town Secretary

Minutes accepted by:

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John R. LaCourse, Chairman

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W. James Griswold

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Frank J. DeRocchi  
Lee Board of Selectmen