

**BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING
& SELECT BOARD MEETING**

January 21, 2014

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Board members present: Chairman John LaCourse, Selectwoman Carole Dennis and Selectman David Cedarholm.

Others present: Annie and Paul Gasowski, Bill Callen, Jim Morse, Tim Gehling, Denis Hambucken, Gael Grant, Bill Henze, Allan Dennis, Bob Smith, Dean Rubine, James Brown, Laura Gund, Joe Bassett and the Town Administrator Julie Glover. The Town Secretary Denise Duval was not present.

1. Chairman LaCourse calls the **Final FY15 Budget Public Hearing** to order at **6:00 pm**.
2. Chairman LaCourse opens the floor to discussion and public comment regarding the Budget for FY2015.

TA Glover states that the final budget in front of them is only slightly different than the previous budget that has been reviewed. The 2% COLA has been added and fine tuning has been done to telephone and electricity lines. The total operating budget equals \$3,664,065.00 which is \$108,334.00 higher than the current fiscal year's budget or just over a 3% increase. This includes fire department changes. Since the last public hearing, the Town did receive notice from the HealthTrust that we will be receiving a \$20,000 premium contribution holiday in FY15. The TA provided a summary spreadsheet showing the differences between 2014 and 2015. No public comment. Chairman LaCourse moves the Budget forward as presented and closes the Budget Public Hearing.

3. Chairman LaCourse opens the floor to general public comment.

Annie Gasowski, Library Trustee, invites the Board and the general public to an informational session that the Library Building Committee and the Trustees will be holding at the Public Safety Building on Thursday, January 23rd at 7:00pm.

Peter MacDonald, Veteran's Resort Chapel, informs the Board that he was unaware of the fact that some of his "artwork" spilled over onto the Town right of way. He has since moved the artwork back and has painted over the sign that had an unlawful advertisement on it.

4. Dr. James C. Morse, School Superintendent, presents the Oyster River Cooperative School Budget for 2015. The School Board set six goals: 1) the Budget increase will not exceed 2%; 2) it will be in accordance with Class Size Policy IIB; 3) determine if savings can be achieved before adding new positions; 4) tuition funds will be used to maintain and enhance programs and to lower the tax impact; 5) the Budget will support State and Local Standards and will account for unique costs associated with: Common Core, The Strategic Plan, The Technology Plan and Equalizing Elementary Enrollment; and 6) the Community Goals include a fiscally responsible budget and one that addresses the educational needs of the children.

A busing pilot program will begin February 1st, charging each child \$5 per day to get transported from Barrington to Lee. Report to follow in June to the School Board on its success.

Dr. Morse explains that the School Board approved his recommendation to utilize funds received from the LGC as a health insurance premium holiday for the construction of a cafeteria at Moharimet. This will be going to the voters as a warrant article in March.

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Allan Dennis asks how the return from the health insurance company is being apportioned and how much would it cost the Town of Lee to raise and appropriate its share of the \$500,000 to build the new cafeteria at Moharimet? Dr. Morse states that it goes by town size; therefore, Durham would receive the greatest return, then Lee and then Madbury.

5. Denis Hambucken, Heritage Commission, presents their new initiative called the Lee Heritage Documentation Project which involves building a digital depository of historic images, documents and interviews for the benefit of current and future generations of the Town of Lee residents. There are 3 components that make up this project. The first source is historic images whereby they will solicit photos from the public to scan and store. The second source is land mark documentation such as buildings, bridges, cemeteries, and sites. The third is oral history by contacting Lee residents to interview them and transcribe their stories. Laura Gund points out that for the Senior Citizens we need to have some of this on paper. Chairman LaCourse agrees.
6. Caren Rossi, Planning & Zoning Administrator, addresses a past complaint regarding the signage at 465 Packers Falls Road and reviews the ROW survey. Advertising signs are not allowed by the zoning law. Chairman LaCourse states that since Mr. MacDonald removed the advertising sign and moved the items back beyond the Town's ROW, he is now in compliance. Process has been completed, case closed.
7. TA Glover states that the Board had requested that a discussion regarding inspection procedures take place prior to the public hearing and issuance of the racetrack license. Chief Nemet begins the discussion. He needs to receive a bleacher report, fire suppression system report, hood cleaning report, fire extinguisher report and emergency lights report; all of which should be done by an outside agency, after which he will do his onsite inspection. Chairman LaCourse wants this written it up and the Board will sign it as policy. Next year we can submit an updated Ordinance as a Warrant Article. Chairman LaCourse asks Inspector Dennis if the Track (*Lee USA Speedway*) completed all they needed to (*from last year*) in order to be in compliance with his list of corrections, updates or changes. Mr. Dennis states that it appears they have taken care of 9 out of the 10 items, but he will go out there and check again before it is time to issue a license this spring. Chief Murch states that he only signs off on two sections of the Ordinance which are Section 7: the Racetrack needs to properly post signage regarding alcohol; and Section 17 which deals with unauthorized entry signage. Selectman Cedarholm asks if the ordinance speaks to the Racetrack hiring 3rd parties to do inspections and who pays for that. TA Glover states it does not. Chairman LaCourse wants a directive written up as to who signs off on what for the Board to sign off on.

Bill Callen, general manager of the Racetrack, states that he will have the last electrical item fixed as soon as he can, weather permitting. Chairman LaCourse suggested that Mr. Callen be at the Public Hearing for the Racetrack on Feb. 3rd to field questions.

8. Chief Scott Nemet goes over the three options of estimates to convert the surplus police Crown Victoria cruiser into the fire command vehicle. This would come out of the line item for new equipment. Chief recommends going with option 3 at this time which is the least expensive. Chairman LaCourse asks Bob Smith if this would be a CIP item in the future. The answer is yes. Mr. Smith suggests buying a brand new fire command car out of the State pool instead of fixing a used car. Chairman LaCourse moves to accept the Fire Chief's recommendation to convert a surplus police cruiser into a vehicle suitable for the Fire Chief and the Board of

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Selectmen is going with Option 3 which is \$8141.90. Selectman Cedarholm seconds. All in favor. **Motion Carries.**

9. TA Glover presents the Petitions to Amend Pole Licenses and Agreements for Excavation in Town ROW by Aqueduct or Gas Company requested by the Town Attorney Donahue, Tucker and Ciandella. TA Glover explains how amending the licenses to use the right of way is an important step for the Town to establish fair contribution to the Town's tax base by the licensees using the public right of way for their poles and/or conduits. Chairman LaCourse moves to accept the Petitions for Amendments to the Pole Licenses and for changes to agreements for excavation and/or maintenance of pipes and structures in highway by aqueduct or gas company and to schedule a public hearing on Fe. 18th regarding same. Selectman Cedarholm seconds. All in favor. **Motion Carries.**

TA Glover states that the Town Office did receive 2 Petition Warrant Articles by the deadline and the Town Clerk did verify all signatures. The first petition is to change the Veteran's Tax Credit from \$375 to \$500 and the second asks the Town to urge the NH State Legislature to join with sixteen other state's including all other New England states, in calling upon Congress to amend the US Constitution and establish that 1. Constitutional rights were established for people, not corporations, and 2. Money is not speech, and therefore regulating political contributions and spending is not equivalent to limiting political speech. Chairman LaCourse moves to accept the two Petition Warrant Articles submitted and place them on the 2014 Warrant. Selectwoman Dennis seconds. All in favor. **Motion Carries.**

Selectman Cedarholm states he supports all the veterans but he is concerned about the tax payers so he is not in favor of the Warrant Article to raise the Veterans Tax Credit. Paul Gasowski asks if the Board is allowed to take a position on the Petition Warrant Articles. TA Glover explains that a Warrant Article submitted via Petition that contains an appropriation is considered Special and Special Warrant Articles require a recommendation. For Article 5, Chairman LaCourse moves to recommend submitted Petition to raise the Veteran's Tax Credit. Selectwoman Dennis seconds. Motion is on the floor for discussion. Selectman Cedarholm wants to clarify that any tax credit should be based on need not just being part of a group or based on membership. Chairman LaCourse asks if TA had any information on other Towns. She did not. Chairman LaCourse states that Selectman Cedarholm makes a good argument and the Motion is on the floor for a vote. Selectman Cedarholm votes no, Selectwoman Dennis votes yes and Chairman LaCourse votes no. For clarification, the Warrant will indicate that the Board of Selectmen does not recommend this appropriation.

TA Glover points out that there is now language in regards to a deed restriction added to Article 7 – Purchase of the Kennard Property. In Article 8, the total operating budget amount of \$3,664,065.00 is added. In Article 11-Deposit to the recreation Trust Fund, the words ten thousand now match the number \$10,000.

Chairman LaCourse moves to approve the 2014 Warrant as amended. Selectman Cedarholm seconds. All in favor. **Motion Carries.**

TA Glover presents the Board with recommended budget transfers. Changes in personnel and increased legal expenses make it necessary to reassign funds in the current year's budget. Excess funds are available in benefit accounts due to the reduction in full-time employees, an employee no longer eligible for the buyout, and the receipt of an additional 'premium

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contribution holiday' from the Health Trust which was unanticipated. The proposed transfers are to move \$40,400 (Health Insurance) + \$2900 (Health Ins. Buyout) + \$5000 (Community Plan) into (Finance Officer) \$4000 + (Legal Expense) \$20,000 + (Group II NHRS) \$7300 + (FT Fire Fighter) \$17,000. Total transfer is \$48,300. Chairman LaCourse moves to accept the recommended FY14 Budget transfers. Selectman Cedarholm seconds. All in favor. **Motion Carries.**

10. Chairman LaCourse moves to accept the Consent Agenda as presented. Selectwoman Dennis seconds. All in favor. **Motion Carries.**
11. Selectman Cedarholm wants to hold off on accepting the public Minutes from January 6, 2014 so that he can review the tape for some public comments that he may want to add.

Chairman LaCourse moves to accept the Minutes from December 23rd both public and non-public and the non-public from January 6th. Selectman Cedarholm seconds. All in favor. **Motion Carries.**

12. Chairman LaCourse moves to accept the Manifest #14 and Weeks Payroll ending January 19, 2014. Selectwoman Dennis seconds. All in favor. **Motion Carries.**
13. Chairman LaCourse asks for any miscellaneous or unfinished business. There is none.
14. Chairman LaCourse moves to enter Non-Public Session per RSA 91-A:3 II (a) personnel issue at 8:00 pm. Selectwoman Dennis seconds. All in favor. **Motion Carries.** Chief Murch enters into non-public.

Chief Murch exits non-public at approximately 8:20 pm. TA Glover enters the non-public with the Board.

TA Glover exits non-public and Chief Nemet enters non-public at 8:30 pm.

The Board returns to public session at 9:05 pm and Chairman LaCourse announces that the non-public minutes with Chief Murch are to be sealed but the minutes with Chief Nemet are not to be sealed.

Chairman LaCourse announces that Chester W. Murch is resigning as Chief of Police effective 2/28/14. Chief Murch has been a part of the police department for 20 years and devoted much of his life time to the Town of Lee. He deserves all the respect and honor that is afforded to him.

The Fire Department has filled the full-time fire fighter position with Daniel Brothwell who will start on 2/3/14.

15. Chairman LaCourse motions to adjourn at **9:07 pm**. Selectman Cedarholm seconds. All in favor. **Motion Carries.**

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Minutes transcribed by:

Minutes accepted by The Lee Select Board:

Denise Duval, Town Secretary

John R LaCourse, Chairman



Carole Dennis



David Cedarholm

NON-PUBLIC MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING
January 21, 2013

Board members present: Chairman John R. LaCourse, Selectwoman Carole Dennis and Selectman David Cedarholm

Others present: Fire Chief Nemet

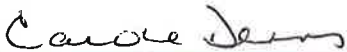
1. Chairman LaCourse motions to enter into Non-Public Session at 8:00 pm per RSA 91-A: 3 II (a) regarding the dismissal, promotion or compensation of any public employee or the disciplining of such employee or the investigation of any charges against him unless the employee affected (1) has a right to a meeting, and (2) requests that the meeting be open, in which case the request shall be granted. Selectwoman Dennis, seconds. **All Agree following Roll Call Vote.**
2. The Board meets with Chief Nemet per his request. The Chief makes his recommendation to hire Daniel Brothwell as a full-time fire fighter. Chairman LaCourse moves to accept the Chief's recommendation to hire Daniel Brothwell as a full-time fire fighter at a salary of \$18.00 per hour to start on 2/3/2014. Selectman Cedarholm, seconds. **All Agree following Roll Call Vote.**
3. The minutes are not to be sealed.
4. Chairman LaCourse moves to reconvene to public session at 9:05 pm. **All Agree following Roll Call Vote.**

Minutes typed by:

Denise Duval, Town Secretary

Minutes accepted by Lee Board of Selectmen:

John R. LaCourse



Carole Dennis



David Cedarholm