

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING FINAL  
MARCH 1, 2008  
SANFORD HALL, TOWN HALL

Present: Selectmen Chairman Glenn Trindade, Selectmen Dennis Crowley, Richard Dunne, Andrew Espinosa and John Foresto and Town Administrator Suzanne Kennedy.

Also Present: Town Accountant Barbara Durand, Fire Chief Wayne Vinton, and Deputy Fire Chief Paul Trufant.

*12:05 p.m.* – The meeting was called to order for the purpose of discussing the adequacy of the proposed FY 2009 Fire Department budget and staffing plan.

A lengthy discussion ensued with respect to the Fire Department staffing plan. At the request of Chairman Trindade, Chief Vinton and Deputy Chief Trufant attempted to determine the exact number of on-call fire personnel currently on staff, which included the command staff (Deputy Chief, Assistant Fire Chiefs, Captains and Lieutenants).

Chief Vinton explained that one of the difficulties in determining the precise number of volunteer firefighters was due to the infrequent participation of three to five personnel who may or not be retained on the Fire Department personnel roster.

Mr. Trindade and Mr. Crowley expressed concern that sufficient funding be provided for personnel and attendant overtime in order to avoid a funding shortfall in FY 2009. Chief Vinton indicated that the Town bylaw requires up to forty volunteer staff. After substantive discussion with respect to the proposed personnel budget for FY 2009 with the Board, Chief Vinton proposed that 37 staff persons, including five full-time staff, comprised of four full-time fire fighters and the Chief, with 32 on-call firefighters would be sufficient to meet his staffing needs in FY 09. Chief Vinton indicated to the Board that in order to provide for 32 on-call personnel he would likely need funding for 6 additional on-call staff as well as training funds for new personnel. He then requested that the Fire Department budget be increased by \$41,325 to provide for these matters. On motion by Chairman Trindade and seconded by Dennis Crowley, it was voted unanimously to increase the Fire Department budget by \$41,325.

The Board advised Chief Vinton that he would need to determine the exact number of on-call staff that would be asked to resign from the department in order to insure the sufficiency of the proposed training budget.

Both Chief Vinton and Deputy Chief Trufant were unable to specify the exact number of on-call firefighters that were inactive and consequently would be asked to leave the fire service. Chairman Trindade stated that recruitment of existing personnel would affect the training budget, and to maximize the availability of training funds Chief Vinton should attempt to conduct training for all new personnel simultaneously, which would also include replacement staff.

In view of the uncertainty of the potential number of resignations and the consequent impact on the proposed budget, Chairman Trindade instructed Chief Vinton to prepare a memorandum outlining his staffing and training needs which would provide for the recruitment of six new personnel as well as training for new staff. Chief Vinton indicated that to meet this requirement

he would need to assess the desire of existing on-call staff to continue working with the Fire Department. Chief Vinton stipulated that he would speak with a number of staff who were not actively participating in department activities to determine the exact number of new on-call firefighters needed to bring the proposed FY 09 staffing plan to 32 on-call fire staff.

Chairman Trindade then stipulated that the Chief's memo should reflect the exact number of new personnel needed taking into account the expected number of resignations. Chairman Trindade concluded the Fire Department budget discussion by instructing Chief Vinton to work with the Town Accountant to re-cast the FY 09 personnel budget and submit his proposal to the Town Administrator by March 4, 2008.

The board next briefly discussed the proposed FY 09 Library budget. Mr. Dunne stated that while the Library requested a funding allocation sufficient to provide for State recertification, available 2009 revenues may not be sufficient to fulfill the Library's request.

Mr. Dunne also indicated that the Town should attempt to increase the 2008 budget allocation in order to avoid adversely affecting the Tachinsky Fund. Mr. Dunne told the Board that this fund's interest earnings provided for a number of items in 2008. He cautioned the Board that fund interest -earnings would not be sufficient in 2009 to provide for the funds needed in the FY 09 Library budget. Mr. Dunne also indicated that continued use of the Tachinsky Fund would deplete the fund's corpus and eventually serve to eradicate the fund. Mr. Dunne concluded his remarks by requesting that the Board consider providing an increase in Town funding of \$50,000 to supplant the Tachinsky Fund interest earnings in order to adequately fund the proposed FY 09 Library budget.

Mr. Crowley asked that the Town Accountant make available for the Board a summary of non-recurring expense items that would likely not appear in the 2010 budget.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 PM on a motion by Mr. Trindade and seconded by Mr. Crowley.

\*Approved 11/3/08