

[B1][B2] **OFFICE OF SELECTMEN**  
**6 HOLLAND STREET**  
**PO BOX 139**  
**MOULTONBOROUGH, NH 03254**

Selectmen's Meeting

January 3, 2008

**MINUTES**

Present: Selectmen: Karel A. Crawford, Edward J. Charest, James F. Gray, Joel R. Mudgett, Betsey L. Patten; Finance & Personnel Director: Heidi Davis, Hope K. Kokas, Office Secretary.

- I. CALL TO ORDER:** Karel called the meeting to Order at 7:00 P.M.
- II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- III. REVIEW/APPROVE MINUTES:** Ed Made the Motion to approve the Minutes of December 27 , 2007 as written. Betsey Seconded. The Motion carried Unanimously.
- IV. NEW RESIDENTS:** Laura B. Lutkus, Paul W. & Renee J. Speltz, Rebecca S. Adams, Jamie L. Jams, Anne C. Robinson, Albert F. Brady, Laura L. Bunnell, Maria C. Nilson,

**PISTOL PERMITS:** None.

**V. PUBLIC MEETING:**

7:05 **Public Hearing – Budget Advisory Committee:** Karel opened the Public Hearing and welcomed the two attending School Board members, Laurie Whitley and William Blackadar. Karel stated that this a Public Hearing, duly noticed, to receive comments or answer questions regarding the Budget Study Committee's recommendation for the Town to have a Budget Advisory Committee. Hollis Austin asked to read his letter into the Minutes (attached), which questioned the existence of three missing documents: Letter of opposition to adopting a Budget Committee by Superintendent of the School District, statement by the School Board, and statement by the Library Board of Trustees. Mr. Austin stated that these documents were not included in the Budget Committee Study Group file. Laurie Whitley stated that the School Board sent their letter of position to the Budget Committee Study Group. Jerry Hopkins, Chair of the Budget Committee Study Group, replied that the three letters referred to were included in the report. Phyllis Prouty, Chair of the Library Board of Trustees stated that they wrote a letter of opposition and sent it to the Budget Committee Study Group. Mrs. Prouty read her letter to the Selectmen stating that the Library Trustees have over sixty years of experience of working on the budget, which is very detailed, taking into account the goals of the past, present, and future, staff salaries, technology and equipment. The Library Trustees are charged with preparing a budget that is in the best interest of the Town. They feel that without the experience and knowledge of the Trustees, a Budget Committee will not serve the Library well. Karel stated that the Selectmen have read the letters of opposition from the School Board and the Library Trustees. Peter Jensen asked what expertise would be required to be a member of the Budget Advisory Committee. Karel replied that the RSA does not state any requirements from volunteers. Hollis Austin asked to read his second letter into the Minutes (attached) which questioned the Selectmen's and the

School Board's authority to create and appoint an interim Budget Advisory Committee without a vote at Town Meeting. He felt by doing so, it limits the voters' participation in the process. In addition, Mr. Austin stated that the members of the Board of Selectmen made up their mind prior to this Public Hearing to approve a Budget Advisory Committee. Ed responded that his assumption is incorrect and the Selectmen have not discussed the issue. William Blackadar stated that based on the recommendation of the Budget Committee Study Group, the School Board is now in favor of a Budget Advisory Committee. Allan Ballard asked the Selectmen to explain the process. Karel responded that the Selectmen received the study group's recommendation, the School Board and Selectmen met during a work session to study the report, and the Selectmen will discuss it during Public Hearing tonight. Laurie Whitley commented that perhaps the School Board approved of the Advisory Board prematurely. Karel added that at Town Meeting, the voters asked that the question be studied; the Committee did their work and recommended the advisory committee. If approved, a full budget committee of five would have a tremendous responsibility for the whole Town's budget. An Advisory Budget Committee would be for the interim and the Town will be able to vote on the question in 2009. Jordan Prouty stated that he heard that the decision had already been decided. Karel commented that it is a shame that people spread misinformation. The Selectmen are five people with varied opinions. Prior discussion has not taken place, as the time to do that is during the Public Hearing. Ed stated that if residents have questions or concerns they can come to the Selectmen individually, versus making assumptions and looking for minutia to criticize. Ed expressed his opinion that he is in favor of a Budget Advisory Committee. Betsey stated that she attended Town Meeting and heard the Warrant Article for a Budget Committee with veto power over the Selectmen, School Board, and Library Trustees. The Motion was amended to study the question, asking the Moderator to appoint members. The study group made their recommendation that under RSA 32:24 Municipal Budget Act, to have an Advisory Committee. During the work session between the Selectmen and School Board, they examined the law and found that with an advisory committee, the Boards have the authority to appoint members to the Advisory Committee. Betsey stated she feels accepting the recommendation of the study group would be proactive. She added that a full Budget Committee would be a huge step and involving a lot of change in the way the Town is governed. The Advisory Committee would allow the Town to give it a try and take the side of caution by easing into it. Donna Kuethe stated that as a Town Department Head, she has the most experience working with Selectmen on her department's budget and it has been her experience that they understand the needs of the community, the departments, and go over each budget with attention to detail. She expressed her hope that members of an Advisory Committee will maintain a high level of professionalism. Donna concluded by stating that she lives in a town with a Budget Committee and she finds it less than favorable. Ed commented that an Advisory Committee would provide another set of eyes and is in the best interest of the Town. Karel expressed her opinion, stating that she has been a Selectman for six years, a School Board Member for nine years, and she doesn't feel a Budget Advisory Committee is needed. However, if the rest of the Selectmen are in favor, she will not oppose it. Karel added that members of a Budget Advisory Committee will need to be actively involved and informed all year long, and not just during the three months of the budgetary process. The Selectmen know the Town's employees and work as a family. She concluded that an Advisory Committee only adds layers of bureaucracy to a small Town. Joel stated that he feels having a Budget Advisory Committee might be helpful by adding more expertise to a complex process. The budget for the upcoming year really starts in January by going through the manifest weekly and monthly, asking questions and learning the needs. Jim agreed that the Town

should give a Budget Advisory Committee a try and after time, the members of the Select Board may change their mind. Considerable discussion occurred about the number of members on a Budget Advisory Committee, the requirements to serve, veto power and the pros and cons of the Selectmen appointing a committee versus voting at Town Meeting. Doug Whitley and Jerry Hopkins, members of the Budget Study Group, that they recommended a five member group made up of one member from the School Board, one from the Selectmen and three members from the public. The study group found that the successful Advisory Committees from other towns that they studied was made up of five members. The Selectmen and the School Board agreed that five members would work best. Betsey reminded everyone that if citizens want more members they can submit a petition no later than February 5, 2008. The Selectmen and School Board agreed that a member of the Advisory Committee should have as their main interest what is best for the Town and be willing to make a large time commitment. The Selectmen and School Board will have the veto power. It was explained that presently the Library Trustees make up their budget and the Selectmen make their recommendation only. Phyllis Prouty stated that this relationship has worked well in the past and asked that the Selectmen look for the Trustees input in the new process. Jerry Hopkins explained that if the Selectmen decided to put this to the Town as a Warrant Article, then the Town Moderator will appoint members, which is a difficult task to find qualified people. If the question is to be on a Warrant Article, the Study Group recommends that members are elected, which can't take place until 2009, requiring that the Town Moderator appoint members. Karel stated that an Advisory Committee appointed by the two Boards allows the members to decide if they want to continue to participate and if they want to go through the election process. Jerry Hopkins suggested that the two Boards appoint members to the Budget Advisory Committee and to start April 1, 2008. If the citizens want more members on the committee they can petition to be on the Warrant Article. Rick Heath asked if the voters will have a say in this. Karel responded that the Advisory Committee members will be appointed until the 2009 Town Meeting, which gives the Selectmen, School Board and Town time to consider the success of the Advisory Committee. Betsey Made the Motion that the Board of Selectmen and the School Board with the input of the Library Trustees establish an Advisory Budget Committee, made up of five members, one from the Select Board, one from the School Board, three from the public, term date expiring at the 2009 Town Meeting. Joel Seconded the Motion. Ed stated that he would have liked the question to be decided at Town Meeting. The Motion carried Unanimously. Karel closed the Public Hearing at 8:46 pm.

7:30 Karin Nelson – Milfoil Treatment Lee's Pond: Ms. Nelson explained that as the Treasurer for the Lee's Pond Association, they are requesting \$5,000 from the Town as a 50/50 match with the state to treat milfoil in Lee's Pond. Ms. Nelson added that the Association would like to add another \$5,000 for the state's harvester. She provided the Selectmen with the history for treating Lee's Pond for Milfoil. Ms. Nelson asked the Selectmen how best to proceed and if the Association needs to do a petition or could the Town include milfoil treatment in the budget. Karel replied and the Selectmen agreed the treatment of milfoil is an important issue and it would be best for the Association to present a petition for a Warrant Article.

## **VI. NEW BUSINESS:**

1. NH DOT, 2008 Highway Block Grant Aid: Karel announced that for January DOT will make available to the Town in January \$24,532.05, in April \$24,884.91 and estimated that the July payment would be \$36,505.26 and October would be \$36,505.26. Karel asked that this be placed in the Budget File.

2. Applications (2) for Permanent Sign Permit, 118 Whittier Highway – Pine Hill Plaza, Lakes Region Computer: Karel stated that Lakes Region Computer is moving to where the Roche Realty Company had been located at Pine Hill Plaza. The first permit is for the Lakes Region Computer Sign to be placed on the building. The CEO states that it complies with the Sign Ordinance. Betsey Made the Motion to approve the Application for the Permanent Sign Permit, located at 118 Whittier Highway – Pine Hill Plaza to Lakes Region Computer to be placed on the building. Ed Seconded the Motion. The Motion carried Unanimously. Karel stated that the second permit is to replace the Roche Realty Sign with “Go Wireless” on the sign post. The CEO recommends approval. Betsey Made the Motion to approve the Application for Permanent Sign Permit, 118 Whittier Highway – Pine Hill Plaza to Lakes Region Computer to replace the Roche Realty sign on the sign post with “Go Wireless”. Ed Seconded the Motion. The Motion carried Unanimously.

## **VII. OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Coalition Communities End of Year Education Funding Update: Karel reported that this is an update from the Coalition that they received last week, reiterating the importance that the Legislature approve the constitutional amendment.

## **VIII. OTHER BUSINESS:**

1. Legislative Update: Betsey reported that the Legislators fixed HB 471 for small contractors, eliminating the requirement of workmen’s compensation insurance. They also have been working on the language for the constitutional amendment. Betsey acknowledged that she gave Hollis Austin the definition of an adequate education and also a list of the committee members.
2. Planning Board Update: Ed announced that there wasn’t any meeting this week and they will be meeting next Wednesday. The Public Hearing for the Sign Ordinance will be held on January 14, 2008.
3. Administration Update: None.
4. Municipal Needs Committee Minutes, December 19, 2007: Acknowledged.
5. Municipal Work Committee Session Minutes, December 26, 2007: Acknowledged.  
Tom Howard read the Minutes of the MNC Minutes of December 26<sup>th</sup>, which stated that Peter Jensen and Barbara Rando would prepare the Committees’ recommendation on the Recreation Strategic Planning Committee’s proposal. He asked the Selectmen if they have received it yet. Karel replied that they haven’t, but as soon as they do, he can pick up a copy from the Administration office.

## **IX. PENDING:**

1. RSPT – RW Gillespie Contract, DES Dredge Application - States Landing: Karel stated that they have tabled this request until they could receive additional information regarding which budget this would come from. Donna Kuethe stated that she has added the \$10,000 for the engineering cost for the DES Dredge Application to the Recreation Department’s 2008 budget. Joel stated that the Selectmen were confused whether this amount was in the RSP study budget and if there were any funds left. Donna stated that she didn’t think this was the case and would confirm this and report back to the Selectmen. The Selectmen agreed that if in fact the funds are from the 2008 budget, that

the request will remain tabled until the budget is approved at Town Meeting.

2. Public Hearing, Recreational Strategic Planning Proposal, January 10, 2008, 7:05 pm:
3. GIS Contract Presentation, January 17, 2008, 7:05 pm:
4. Public Hearing, 2008 Road Projects, January 24, 2008, 7:05 pm:

**IX. CORRESPONDENCE:**

1. Thomas A. Howard, December 27, 2007: Karel reported that Mr. Howard asked the Selectmen to consider supporting the RSPC proposal with two Warrant Articles, one for \$500,000 to be placed in a Capital Reserve and the other for \$410,000 for architecture and engineering.
2. Jean Beadle, December 27, 2007: Karel stated that the Selectmen acknowledge Ms. Beadle's offer to serve on the Budget Advisory Committee, adding that she has the qualifications needed.
3. Bob & Sandy Warren, December 31, 2007: Karel summarized the Warren's letter stating that their concern for rising taxes and increases in the budget. Betsey stated that the Warrens quoted numbers and percentages that are not accurate, comparing the Town to their home town in Massachusetts.

- X. ADJOURNMENT:** Joel Made the Motion to Adjourn. Betsey Seconded.  
Motion Carried Unanimously  
Karel adjourned the meeting at 9:43 p.m.

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Approved

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Date  
Respectfully Submitted  
Hope K. Kokas, Office Secretary