

**OFFICE OF SELECTMEN  
6 HOLLAND STREET  
PO BOX 139  
MOULTONBOROUGH, NH 03254**

**Selectmen's Budget Work Session, 8:30 AM**

**December 6, 2013**

**MINUTES**

Selectmen: Joel R. Mudgett, Chair, Jonathan W. Tolman, Edward J. Charest, Christopher P. Shipp, Russell C. Wakefield; Town Administrator, Carter Terenzini.

Adv. Budget Com.: Jean Beadle, Chair, Barbara Sheppard, Chris Shipp, Selectmen's Rep., Alan Ballard and Kathy Garry (both absent with prior notice).

I. **CALL TO ORDER:** Joel called the meeting to Order at 8:30 A.M.

II. **BUDGET & POLICY WORKSHOP**

1. **Moultonborough Fire Department:** Chief Bengtson reported that he tried to keep the budget close to this year's. He described the need for an item for off-duty details (Football Camps, Volksbahn event and the like). The Town Administrator has moved these dollars to a Revolving Fund being proposed to be established. Carter said this is yet to be determined on the warrant and there is a technical question to NH DRA as to whether or not we can implement this with separate dates for Fire and Police. Under Professional and Technical Services, there is the addition of Lakes Region Partnership for Public Health (\$5,300). This funds the MOU recently signed with them for emergency planning. It is offset by the elimination of the support for the Red Hill Fire Tower. Also being developed is the Water Resources Fire Protection plan (\$5k) in connection with the Hazard Mitigation Plan and the rewording of the Dry Hydrant Trust Fund. The Chief said the purpose of the plan is to make sure we develop resources where we need them. While there is a lake around much of us, it is often too shallow to easily access. The plan will work hand in hand with subdivision regulations. Joel asked the Chief who he would be working with. Dave replied that he looked at the North Country Resource Conservation and Development (NCRCD), but there isn't any grant money. He then was asked to look into the LRPC under the Hazard Mitigation Plan and they referred us back to the NCRCD. He said that one problem is that the state changed statutes and we can no longer require sprinklers within subdivisions. Chris asked about page 121, physicals annual, asking if that was for full time or call firefighters. He learned that it was for all firefighters following the prior NFPA standard (intervals of years based upon age). There was acknowledgement that it was important to do these, but that following the new standard of annual physicals would be cost prohibitive. The Chief pointed out that no one can have the physical by their own doctor. They have to go to the LRGH Occupational Health doctor. Chris then asked, on salaries for call, what the year-end balance of money is that is split up. The TA said staff will get a history of the last five years. Jean asked what liability the Town has if someone gets injured. Dave replied that Primex covers us. Carter said if there is an issue in the physical, we then do a follow-up. If we didn't, perhaps then there might be some liability.

Chris asked and learned that the hose replacement is based on testing. The Chief said that the costs for the pressure washer (re: corrosion on old frame) were reduced by

possible department sharing with DPW (carrier to be bought from MFD 2014 budget, and current washer from DPW). If it doesn't work out as being cost effective due to a lot of equipment moving, then he may need the \$6,000 next year that was cut this year. Joel said he has spoken to John Schlemmer (Red Hill Fire Tower) who says they "caught" a fire in 2013 and where the tower is in Moultonborough it was important for us to fund it. The Chief suggested that Mr. Schlemmer come before the Selectmen. He said he has asked for the information sought (operations, funding, etc.) and has yet to receive it. Carter said the only thing received so far was an email that in mid-October \$2,200 had been spent and they wanted \$3,100 for FY 2014. This was out of balance with our sharing formula offer (25% but no more than \$5,000). It was agreed that John Schlemmer should come to the Selectmen as he wasn't going to convince Carter or the Chief. Carter asked this be done by 12/13 as it was our drive to have a budget adopted by then per ABC recommendation and the desire of the departments to have a budget for 01/01. Chris asked what the cost is for a full time paramedic and learned that when last looked at (2005+/-) it was \$80,000 +/- . The Chief said they should look at the types of calls we get and the need. Carter said that in the last renegotiation we did expand times of the year at which each ambulance must be staffed with a paramedic. There was discussion of putting the service out to bid and the value of them basing an ambulance at the PSB. Joel spoke to the recent bidding experience in local communities and the pricing being such that some towns were cutting back to having one dedicated ambulance and not two. Dave reminded the Selectmen that it isn't just Moultonborough, but that they are in a partnership with three other towns. Chris thought that maybe we need to look at what is best for our Town alone. There was discussion of whether we are experiencing a loss of patients or having delays in having an ambulance.

The Chief then went on to present a new on-line system for obtaining Open Burn Permits. Joel asked if the Fire Department Dispatchers can go to the web site and check it out as firefighters were responding to a call. The Chief said that this was under discussion. Right now the access is restricted to a Warden or an Agent. Carter said the benefit to users is they can obtain a permit 24/7 anywhere and it could reduce walk-in traffic. Dave said the impetus for the state was they wanted to reduce the paper permits they had to print. There is a \$3 service fee (in person permits remain free) and there was lengthy discussion of this. This system does not cover so-called commercial permits.

Chief Bengtson presented the Fire Apparatus Plan. This was a "clean sheet of paper" look at getting more "water on wheels", better flexibility, and fewer (by 2) vehicles. The new fleet would have multi-use vehicles and tankers with the same basic annual required contribution. Chris asked for a record of multiple calls for the past few years. The Selectmen were asked for comments over the next few weeks and then be sent to CIPC with an offer of presentation, looking for adoption. Chris commented that for EMS, there is a large percentage of calls, and he wanted to make sure we aren't backing away from that.

The Selectmen recessed and 10:55 a.m. and reconvened at 11:05 a.m.

2. Moultonborough Police Department: The MPD's budget is down 4.35% due to being down one police officer. From a practical standpoint they have been operating this way through 2013. Chief Wetherbee explained that he has been implementing a different philosophy and wanted to see how it would work. The prosecutor vacancy (\$70k+/-) has

been filled by the Sargent (\$5k stipend) and that is working extremely well. As to patrol officers, much more time is being spent on community policing. Motor vehicle stops and arrests are down 50%, but positive neighborhood interaction is up dramatically. Accident rates are not popping up. Road safety is all about Education, Engineering, and Enforcement. Once Enforcement maxes out (and he feels it has) everything after that just drives negatives about the police and their interactions and image with the community. Mileage on back roads has been doubled. Chief Wetherbee asked that the Selectmen to please bear in mind that the future may change and we may have to revisit this at some point. Carter said that while the public does not see it, this type of activity review is done at every job opening and annually. Chris commented that 50% less arrests is a good thing, but wondered if it was a bad thing when related to motor vehicle issues. The Chief said the arrests had been mostly drivers' license issues and the like.

Chief Wetherbee went on to say that he anticipated the police dog will be retired by the end of 2014. While he had promised a comprehensive study he felt he really did not need to once he saw the activity logs. He said that dogs are great when you need them, but our uses are in the low single numbers. He continued that going back to a specific handler on patrol with the dog goes back on the philosophy we are now employing. Also the dog needs a specific match with the personnel and their home life. He said the future might be different, but for now he just can't justify it based on usage. Chris asked and learned that if a dog is needed, the closest option is the State Police or Ossipee. Joel asked if the Board needed to go back to Town Meeting as they approved the program and Chris thought it wouldn't hurt. Chief Wetherbee said that if it is voted, then he is in the tough position of having to say to the meeting he doesn't want one. Other Board members felt this was in the BoS prerogative. The Town Administrator said that at the budget public hearing he would call attention to the cut in funding for the last quarter of the year as a way to let people know.

The Chief reported on the Substance Abuse Fund. While he had the Draft guidance together he couldn't move all the parties to making a formal request for a 2014 program. So we may still face the annual debate (prom transportation) in the spring of 2014. Carter spoke to the issue being larger than just police or just school children, but a community wide issue affecting all ages. He said there had been discussions of whether or not a larger effort was needed and who would undertake this. He said that it was clear there was a philosophical divide that needed to be dealt with. Joel suggested – and it was agreed by consensus – to try for a joint meeting with the School Board (2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday in January) to further discuss this.

12:00 p.m. the Selectmen took a lunch recess and reconvened at 12:35 p.m.

3. Office of Development Services: The budget is up .21%. Code Enforcement Officer Don Cahoon has reviewed the statistics on the building permits and they are about the same, though for larger projects and dollar values are up. Bruce Woodruff reviewed the several accounts and some movement of specific items between them. He also gave an overview of our continuing progress on the GIS system.

LRPC's Kimon Koulet thanked the Selectmen for all of their support over the years, as he is retiring end of 2013. Mr. Koulet gave a presentation of the overall scope of LRPC's mission and some specific projects from the fiscal year such as the preparation of the

recent Hazard Mitigation Plan (value of \$9,600). He spoke to the managing of the dues requests of members (FY 2014 is up 1.4% or \$140). Discussion then turned to a number of projects and policies.

Demolition Permit Guidance: Don reviewed the draft that would go with the application and on the website. There was a question on interior work and why we are not requiring holding to minimums, after getting other work with permits. The fee would be nominal, with a baseline now at \$30. It was the Board's consensus that it was ripe for action and asked that it be polished for the Selectmen to act upon it in the next few weeks.

Repeat Offenders of the Zoning/Planning Ordinances: There has been an increase in the number of high profile incidents of building without a permit or zoning approvals. There is no basis found in the statute or building code for "repeat offenders". It was the consensus of the Board that it would be good to polish what had been prepared to date for formal action.

Foundation Surveys: There had been problems over buildings being built and then finding they were in violation of the set-backs. Don spoke to the several levels of surveys and certifications. Bruce suggested that if we were going to do it we need to follow the mid-level of a foundation certificate. Discussion occurred about the varying circumstances under which one might or might not require a survey before issuing a building permit. Jon thought there was a responsibility here that the owners need to accept for themselves. After lengthy discussion it was the consensus for a letter to be sent to Ms. Coppinger, who had suggested a foundation survey requirement, that the Board will not require foundation surveys as it is the owner's personal responsibility, and will ask ODS to be clearer on their advice to undertake such a survey.

Lane Width Narrowing: Bruce said that this really starts with the idea from Chief Wetherbee that enforcement has reached its saturation point. The real question becomes, is this an issue (speeds) and that is up to the Board to decide. The proposal moves fog lines in, so lanes are 11'. Studies show it does have the effect of lowering speeds by 3-5 m.p.h. Chris said he struggles with the idea that narrowing lanes actually reduces speed. Joel was concerned over the conflict with mirrors (large trucks) for those walking or biking on the white line and in breakdown lane. Ed felt that anything that slows people down and reduces the speed is worthwhile and Russ said he wasn't sure it would solve any problems for us. Ed thought it was worth a try. Placed on hold for "Village" issue discussion (see below).

Conservation Commission: Chair Marie Samaha spoke to the commission's activities. Peter Jensen spoke to the work of the Town and IMA milfoil groups. Carter said the initial hope was that we could reduce the \$200,000 budget annually by \$5,000 to \$175,000 based upon progress that we made. However, based upon finding large new areas, the Town committee had asked for an increase from \$195,000 back to \$200,000 and he had honored that. Chris asked if every community on the lake was taking some type of action and learned that they were.

Heritage Commission: Chair Cristina Ashjian spoke on behalf of the commission. Carter spoke to the issue of do we have a village issue (some think we do) or don't we (as some think we don't), the role of government in implementing what it wanted to happen (as

reactor or active participant). Bruce spoke to the work flowing out of the Master Plan and the need for getting universal support at Town Meeting. Chris thought that the warrant articles for this year (Sidewalk Study and the Taylor property) may give the Board some guidance on the community's attitude toward the Village. Russ spoke to surveys and efforts now underway (Master Plan) as giving us much information and characterized much of the 2012 Village Charrette as "Pie in the Sky." Carter pointed out that Master Plans were really a function of the Planning Board and while there was often substantial input many were never formally submitted to the Town (meeting) for endorsement. Ed thought the role of government was to help people have a vision. Chris felt it was simply our job to make sure the needed infrastructure is there. Jon spoke to the results of the survey and agreed with Carter that there was a lot of disparity over what people think. He said that he believes that the only survey that counts is what the voters decide at Town Meeting. Paul Punturieri told the Selectmen what the Master Plan Implementation Committee was doing and the possibility of developing a plan for the village for adoption at Town Meeting in 2015. Bud Heinrich commented that we have a number of studies and said that he did not want to see more disparate cherry picking of ideas. Cristina Ashjian said she had been working on this since 2006 and agreed there had been a number of studies with no coordination. Carter said the issue is, does he Town believe there is a Village to revitalize and what is to be our role. He said that if people think the market place will deliver the vision they want on its own they may be unpleasantly surprised. There is a great risk of a lot of inappropriate development unless the Town works together to develop and deliver a vision. Carter asked the Selectmen what they wanted to do. Joel suggested the Board put the fund request for lane narrowing as a warrant article and it is up to the voters at town meeting. Russ said he understands what Carter is saying and said the question is if the Board wants to use some judgment or go to Town Meeting with the question. He thought they were stuck between a rock and a hard place. By consensus of 3 to 2 it was decided to put the funds for narrowing of lanes and signs. The TA asked if he had the Board's support to meet with Mr. Woodruff and Mr. Punturieri to see if we could develop a program and timeline such that the governing body, the Planning Board, and the community could come together on a consensus approach as to its position on the level of effort the community and staff would expend upon the future of the village. The Board agreed.

4. Miscellaneous: Joel asked that we calculate the impact of the proposed \$10 Minimum Wage for consideration when we discuss the proposed Thornton update in case that would impact the timing of the study. Jon Tolman advised the CIPC would like to present to the BoS. It was agreed they would do so at 8:30 a.m. on 12/13. Carter asked if the BoS would like to discuss the Taylor appraisal further given some concerns expressed on 12/05. It was agreed that this would follow the CIPC presentation. Joel asked if we could take advantage of the winter ice at States Landing to get some soil samples to make sure the dredging would produce a swimming area bottom (sand/gravel and not just more "muck") that was envisioned.

**VI. ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business the Chair adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

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Approved

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Respectfully Submitted  
Carter Terenzini

Date