

**New Durham Board of Selectmen
Minutes of Budget Meeting ~ January 5th, 2012
Fire Station Community Room**

Members Present: Theresa Jarvis, David Bickford, Jeffrey Kratovil

Also Present: Town Administrator (TA) Alison Webb, Chief Shawn Bernier, Katie Woods, Road Agent Mike Clarke, Equipment Mechanic (EM) David Valladares, Finance Officer Vickie Blackden, Deputy Fire Chief K.G. Lockwood

The meeting was **called to order** at 9:03am by Chair Jarvis. She stated that the Ethics Committee will be coming in at 11:30AM to review what they have done this year.

The Board will review the minutes of December 28th, 2011 on Monday, January 9th.

Budget Review:

The Board reviewed the proposed budget in totality and began the discussion on where to begin trimming it down.

They reviewed the Capital Reserve (CRF) and Expendable Trust funds (ETF), and Chief Bernier spoke to deferring the replacement of the 2005 Chevrolet Impala until 2013. EM Valladares concurred that it could be put off, although he would have to increase his budget slightly due to added maintenance of the vehicle. If the purchase were to be put off longer than a year, he would want to do some body work on the vehicle.

Chief Bernier offered a reduction to the Board, whereby he would freeze the full-time position that is currently vacant until May 1st reducing the wage line by approximately \$19,000, cut the Chances funding of \$2,000, and to defer the purchase of the cruiser, which will cost \$29,014. This would bring about a savings of approximately \$50,000. Chair Jarvis said she would prefer to see a new full time officer hired as of April 1st. Selectman Kratovil would like to see the funding for the cruiser kept in the budget. Selectman Bickford expressed interest in not filling the full-time position.

The Board went through all CRFs and ETFs and reduced many of the lines, bringing the total down from \$557,550 to \$455,050. This will bring a reduction of \$0.25 to the tax rate.

The Board discussed several budgets and identified different areas that could be reduced. They brought down the wage line of the new position at the Fire Department to 30 hours.

Motion to approve account # 4220 in the amount of \$174,511 made by Chair Jarvis, seconded by Selectman Bickford. 3-0

Selectman Bickford brought up the need to revisit the issue of fertilizer. As the cost has gone up, we need to determine if we should budget more next year. TA Webb will discuss with Road Agent Clarke, and come back to the Board. Selectman Bickford also brought up several areas for possible cuts that the Board could review if needed.

Motion to enter nonpublic session under RSA 91-A:3 II C- matters relating to another's reputation aside from one of the Selectmen, made by Selectman Kratovil, seconded by Selectman Bickford. Roll call vote, Jarvis- aye, Bickford- aye, Kratovil- aye. 3-0

Nonpublic session entered into at 12:24pm. Selectman Kratovil addressed the conversation he had with EM Valladares in regards to a concern he found while reviewing an invoice. After the situation was explained to Selectman Kratovil, he found it reasonable. He just wanted to follow up with the Board as he had expressed the issue in a nonpublic meeting. Selectman Bickford noted that this could have been brought forth in public session as it did not do hard to EM Valladares' reputation, it validated that he is doing his job well.

Motion by Chair Jarvis to come out of nonpublic session at 12:36pm, seconded by Selectman Kratovil. 3-0

TA Webb was directed to contact Town Counsel about charging a Capital Infrastructure fee to the school for fuel equipment maintenance. She will also check into financing for the Shirley pit.

Selectman Bickford noted that the total cost of the 2% increase in wages comes to \$34,321.46.

Motion to adjourn made by Chair Jarvis, seconded by Selectman Bickford. 3-0

Meeting adjourned at _____

Respectfully Submitted,

Alison Webb