

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
BUDGET WORK SESSION MINUTES
January 14th, 2008**

The Chairman, Ron Gehl, called to order a budget work session at 4:05 PM on Monday, January 14th, 2008 in the Upstairs Conference Room in the town hall.

Present:

Ron Gehl, Chairman
Peter Rhoades, Selectman
David Bickford, Selectman

Staff:

April Whittaker, Town Administrator
Vickie Blackden, Financial Assistant

Public Present

Arthur Hoover, Chair of the Milfoil Committee
Cathy Orlowicz, Chair of the Planning Board

General

The Chairman invited Mrs. Orlowicz to pose an early question regarding the originality of the three and four family home scenarios under the Planning Board's Site Plan review and why it was in the Site Plan Review regulations. Mr. Gehl advised that the regulations were well in place when he joined the board in 1996 so he had no background to offer. Mrs. Whittaker opined that because of the commercial aspect for multifamily homes, it generally invited site plan review for septic, water, traffic, parking, lighting, signage, etc. Mr. Hoover in his legal capacity concurred. It was suggested that it may be worthwhile investigating who was on the Planning Board for the inception of the regulations regarding multifamily homes and see if they are still available in the town for comment as to the background and history.

The Chair invited Mr. Hoover to address the board on behalf of the Milfoil and Invasive Weed Committee. Mr. Hoover advised the board that due to the lateness in the year re the formation of the committee they had regrettably missed the milfoil mitigation grant deadlines for 2008, but were "first in the queue" for 50% grant funding in 2009. He continued that the estimated total acreage affected by the weed equated to about 12 to 15 acres on the Jones Pond and upstream to the Fish Hatchery.

He asked the board to consider during budget deliberations to treat 4 to 5 acres of the very worst infestation at a cost of \$6,000 to \$7,000. He advised that the Committee would ask for draw down again next fall for the remaining acreage and would probably

need the same amount of money for the 2009 budget cycle i.e. \$6,000 to \$7,000 with back up grant money to fully fund the remaining infected acreage.

He advised that local divers had been contacted about “weed pulling”, and there may be some volunteerism in this effort.

The Committee had contacted Principal Barbara Reed to have one of the grades at the elementary school take on the project as a class project in terms of map plotting, abutter notices, and general information and fact finding. He advised that the school’s efforts would count as contributory in-kind donations to the grant request.

On another note, Mr. Hoover advised that the NHDOT will be contacted to request extension of the guardrail along Jones Pond to discourage boat launching thereby lessening the exposure to the weed infestation from boats that have not been properly cleaned.

Mr. Bickford advised that the Department of Environmental Services is beginning to move forward in supporting further treatments within a 5-year cycle. Currently, the cycle is one chemical treatment every 5 years.

Mr. Gehl advised Mr. Hoover that the board had already reached a body of support for \$7,000 for budget purposes, but were simply at the stage of making a determination as to whether or not to propose a Capital Reserve Fund or to make it a simple article for an appropriation request.

Mr. Hoover thanked the board and left the meeting at 4:40 PM.

Acct: 4915 Capital Reserve Funds

Mr. Gehl reviewed for the board those funds that were supported during the January 7th, 2008 meeting; noting that the board determined not to fund in fiscal '08 the following reserves:

- ❑ Master Plan
- ❑ Library Land Acquisition
- ❑ Construction of a satellite fire station

He felt the board now needed to concentrate efforts into actual dollars to go into the funding. At this point he invited Mr. Whittaker to make a presentation as to current tax rate calculation, and various dollar cuts that would be required to meet other goal tax rates ~ see enclosed attachment.

Mr. Gehl reviewed with fellow board members bar graph projections regarding what monies could be put into the reserves without upfront loading in the initial years while still maintaining the integrity of the Capital Improvement Plan.

The Board made the following determinations :~

Reserve	Proposed 2008 Funding
Library Facilities	\$3,000
Library Technology	\$3,000
Municipal Land Acquisition	\$25,000
Solid Waste Building Addition	\$7,500
Solid Waste Equipment	\$7,500
Smith Ballfield & Equipment	\$5,000
Meetinghouse Restoration	\$2,000
Dry Hydrants	\$2,500
Fire Trucks	\$25,000
Tax Maps	\$20,000
Highway Bldg Addition & Repair	\$10,000
Sidewalks	\$5,000
Revaluation	\$20,000

At this session, the board did not support any further funding for fiscal 2008 for the Davis Crossing Culvert given the funds already in the account and FEMA funds towards the project, and the Fire Station Construction noting that sufficient money had accrued for future planning re engineering and architectural design for such a project.

Remaining reserves continued for discussion with the relevant department heads :~

- Highway Equipment and Trucks
- Police Cruisers

It was noted by Mrs. Blackden that \$101,325 had been "cut" from the budget, during the work session. Noting that further cuts still needed to be made, various questions arose as to effects of further cuts on such issues as the capital paving account, highway truck replacement, cruiser replacement, numbers of cruisers, and police officer numbers given the current vacancy in the department. The board requested that the respective department supervisors be invited to their next meeting to assist with the questions raised. **Date of next meeting: January 21st, 2008 at 3:00 PM in the Town Hall.**

Mrs. Orlowicz in her capacity as Chairman of the Planning Board asked the board on behalf of her membership if they would consider encumbering a total \$5500 of unexpended planning board 2007 appropriations in order to further the impact fee wording and implementation of Public Safety Services Formula. Following discussion that this course of action would not impact the 2008 taxes the board supported the Planning Board's request.

Mrs. Whittaker indicated that a non-public session should be called as there were various compensation issues to be discussed. Motion Ron Gehl, second Peter Rhoades, to enter into non-public session at 8:10 PM under the terms and conditions of RSA 91-A:3 (a) Setting Compensation, vote 3 - 0.

Roll Call: Gehl ~ yes, Rhoades ~ yes, and Bickford ~ yes.
The Board returned to regular session at 8:40 PM.

The board determined to support a Cost of Living Adjustment raise for the Recreation Director and Mrs. Whittaker was requested to talk with the Recreation Commission.

Mrs. Whittaker will conduct a salary study for two positions and represent the same to the board.

Mr. Gehl left the meeting at this point due to an early morning meeting in Vermont.

Adjournment

There being no further business, motion Bickford, second Rhoades, to adjourn at 8:50 PM, vote 2 - 0.

Respectfully Submitted
April Whittaker

Next Meeting January 21st, 2008

3:00 PM Town Hall