

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN**  
**WORK SESSION PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES**  
**January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2008**

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Chairman Ron Gehl called to order a budget work session at 4:07 PM in the upper conference room in the Town Hall located off Main Street

**Present:**

Ron Gehl, Chairman  
Peter Rhoades, Selectman  
David Bickford, Selectman  
April Whittaker, Town Administrator

David Bickford advised that he had received a call from a former Fire Chief who had expressed his concerns regarding the proposed acquisition of a permanent nozzle mount for the ladder truck . It had been expressed by the fire officers that the ladder was not structurally sound enough to operate noting the past Ladder problems by the Rochester FD, and therefore the permanent mount was a required safety element for operation of the apparatus. Peter Varney advised that the nozzle from a prior truck had been refitted onto the current Ladder at the time that the Ladder was acquired, therefore new fixtures and brackets are also in order. Mr. Varney was requested to call the former Chief and explain the dynamics of the proposed acquisition and the necessity for safety reasons.

**Account 4916 Expendable Trust ~ Continued**

Chair Gehl recounted that the only fund to be resolved was the Town Buildings Improvement ETF and that the question at impasse between himself and Selectmen Bickford was the issue of supporting another \$50,000 to be utilized towards an addition, still to be determined, for the Fire Station to prolong life and activity at the current building.

Mr. Bickford opined that he felt that the Trust was not the right receptacle to put money into for a building addition. He felt that the money should be either placed in the CRF for a new Fire Station Addition or a stand-alone article. He referred to the original warrant article in 2000 noting that the article was called the "Town Hall Improvement ETF." Further the minutes denoted that a former selectmen had stated that the fund would provide monies for unanticipated maintenance issues. Therefore, he felt that the intent was to have monies for unanticipated maintenance. In 2003 the article was changed by the legislative body to encompass all town building i.e. Town Buildings Improvements ETF. Both Selectmen Rhoades and Gehl expressed that the term "improvement" implied to them refurbishment, and additions, and that if the trust meant "maintenance" then the term should have replaced the "improvement" notation.

Mr. Gehl went on to explain that the Trust mechanism provides some flexibility for the board and departments to finalize planning and could broadly be used to any building.

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Mr. Rhoades felt that the addition option at the Station provided a small reward for the departmental goals, which he felt were materializing. Mr. Bickford felt that a richer reward of a new station was more appropriate.

Mr. Bickford maintained his opinion that the article should be viewed as a maintenance interpretation, and not for additions etc.

Motion Rhoades, second Gehl to support \$50,000 being placed into the Town Buildings Improvements Expendable Trust Fund, vote 2 - 1, Bickford being the nay vote.

### **Continued Compensation Discussion**

The board focused on two outstanding employee compensation issues. The first item focused on equitable compensation for the Road Agent in light of the number of additional hours that the job demands, and current contract language that provides for comp time to be taken after 50 hours. Mr. Bickford expressed his opinion that the current scale should be adhered to and that he would prefer to wait until the salary Independent review scheduled for 2008 takes place. He advised of his earlier conversation with Mr. Fuller in 2007 regarding the delay re the Salary Scale review until 2008 and that Mr. Fuller had assured him that waiting would not be problem.

A long discussion focused on various increases and the effects thereof.

Motion Rhoades, second Gehl to propose another \$2.00 / hour in lieu of negating comp time after 50 hours, onto the 2008 rate, vote 2 - 1; Bickford voting in the negative because of the aforementioned reasons.

Mrs. Whittaker presented pay scale numbers of comparable towns re the land use assistant's position noting that the work that is performed in New Durham lends itself between a planner position and assistant position . Mr. Bickford once again stated his position on waiting for the Pay Scale review.

Motion Gehl, second Rhoades, to support an additional 2% increase to the Land Use Assistant's position, vote 2 - 1, Bickford voting in the negative.

### **Any Other Business**

Mrs. Whittaker presented legal counsel's written opinion, which had been received by fax at midday regarding reclassification of a road from Class VI to Class V. The Board requested that Mr. O'Reilly be invited to meet with them on Wednesday, January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2008 at 7 PM in the Town Hall.

There being no further business, motion Bickford, second Gehl to adjourn, vote 3 - 0. The meeting adjourned at 6:22 PM.

*Respectfully submitted, April Whittaker, Recorder*