

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN**  
**BUSINESS & BUDGET WORK SESSION**  
**November 24<sup>th</sup>, 2008**

\*\*\*\*\*

Chairman Peter Rhoades called a meeting to order at 7:07 PM in the upper floor Conference Room located at New Durham Town Hall.

**Present**

Peter Rhoades, Chairman  
Ron Gehl, Selectman

**Absent**

David Bickford, Selectman

**Also Present**

April Whittaker, Town Administrator & Recorder

**Budget Discussions**

**Town Clerk/ Tax Collector Ingham**

Carole Ingham met with the Board and requested a non public session to discuss personnel related issues.

**Motion Gehl, second Rhoades to enter into Non Public Session at 7:08 PM under the terms and conditions of RSA 91A: 3 II (a) & (c), vote 2 - 0.**

**Roll Call: Gehl ~ yes, Rhoades ~ yes.**

The board returned to regular session at 7:45 PM with no decisions being made in non public session.

**Motion Gehl, second Rhoades, to seal the non -public minutes as related to Mrs. Ingham's request, vote 2 - 0.**

**Police Chief Bernier**

The Board met with PC Bernier at 7:50 PM. Chair Rhoades advised the Chief that considering the size of the department, he had to compliment the low operational costs of the department noting that much of the budget is related to personnel costs. It was noted by both selectmen that the budget had been vetted at a prior meeting, therefore they would like to concentrate on particular areas of focus.

The board focused on overtime with the Chief and asked questions regarding the accumulation of overtime ~ Chief noted to the board that the biggest influence and inducers of overtime was court time. Unless the officer is scheduled for daytime duty, then court appearances become overtime when the officer is not scheduled for duty at the time that the case is being heard. The Chief commented that the court holds no set schedule and often officers can be consumed at the court for many hours unless a plea is negotiated at the beginning of the day.

It was also noted that since the approval of the fifth officer two years ago, the full complement of officers had not been achieved. It is hoped that 2009 would become the watershed year for a full complement and begin the basis of what overtime is accrued with said full complement.

With respect to the court appearances, Mrs. Whittaker queried if it would be possible to reschedule so that officers expected in court would then be scheduled for day duty in New Durham so as to not invoke overtime. The Chief pondered, and advised that he could try, but was not certain as to practicality.

Mrs. Whittaker noted that the line item in the budget does in fact, hold part time and overtime, and queried if the Chief had a breakdown of those figures. The Chief produced a breakdown for the board.

There was general discussion as to what direction the board might take with respect to the recent pay study, and how that might look re personnel costs for the department. The Board advised that no decisions had been made at this time.

It was generally agreed that the operational costs of the budget as presented were sound. The Chief advised that the Board may want to consider cutting \$5000 from the Police Cruiser Capital Reserve from the funding proposed for 2009 as equipment such as "Car 54" can be reutilized in the new cruiser slated for 2010.

#### **Fire Chief Varney & Captain Davenport**

The Board met with Fire Chief Varney and Captain Davenport. The board requested to review the proposed 2009 equipment purchases.

- ❑ **Master Stream:** Chair Rhoades queried the need and what the proposed acquisition could do. Captain Davenport advised that the Master Stream would be proposed for the new rescue truck and thereby making it an "attack" vehicle in partnership with the Ladder which also has a Master Stream device. He further explained that the equipment can be run remotely without it being manned thus freeing up fire fighters, and can be set up to run as a "curtain effect." Proposed Cost: \$2800
- ❑ As part of **hose replacement** schedules, the board noted the request for 1.75 inch hose approximately 300 feet. Proposed Cost: \$1425
- ❑ Noted **Foam**, which is far safer than water in the case of gasoline, fires such that occur in car accidents. Proposed Cost : \$982.50
- ❑ **Lift Kit for Mule:** used for forest fires and rescues: Noted that kit would provide essential ground clearance in rough terrain: Proposed Cost: \$1,800
- ❑ **Rehab/Decon Tent:** Requested in case of hazardous spills. Protection for Fire Fighters. Proposed Cost: \$790

- **Miscellaneous Equipment:** Defined as shovels, gloves, crash hooks, pipes, nozzles, weights, etc. Proposed Costs: \$1500
  
- **Air Exchanger:** Proposed in the Expendable Trust. Chief Varney advised that essentially the air exchanger is an exhaust removal system, and is requested now as the fire trucks all run on diesel whereas in the past the trucks were run on gasoline. Also dependent on pressure, some of the fumes would likely enter into the new addition at the back of the firehouse. As to questions as to operability of the exchanger the board was advised that the hose is directly connected to the tail pipes of the apparatus and sucked to the outside. Concerns were aired as to whether or not such an investment should go into the old firehouse. Captain Davenport noted the exchanger could be moved in the event of a new building. The Chief opined that the equipment is an investment in the personnel and would provide energy conservation as the garage doors would not need to be open. At this time Chief Varney and Captain Davenport opined that the current building is (i) ideally situated (ii) is functional for the community (iii) does not place a \$2 million dollar tax burden on the community, and (iv) that they are very much against any planning process that would make Route 11 as a potential future site for a new station. Captain Davenport again reiterated the current ideal situation and felt that a new future building, if the questions again come up, should be sited in the same spot following demolition of the old.

The Board then concentrated on "Compensation" for the department, and queried justification of the proposed \$10,000 increase. Fire Chief Varney advised that there is now a higher degree of training and that the 2009 roster will have nine (9) more people who are certified EMT's and Fire Fighters thus invoking higher pay for qualifications.

The board discussed briefly the uniform line noting that turn out gear consists of pants, jacket, boots, and helmet.

The board noted to the Chief that in common with all budgets with gasoline and diesel lines, the board was still working out gallonage pricing so therefore were just fine tuning gallons actually used.

On a non-budget issue the Chief advised that the Ford Expedition required a new transmission at a cost of \$3,698. The Chief noted that the Ford Mechanic had advised that the transmission oil needs to be changed on an annual basis. Following discussion, the board approved the repair rather than have the vehicle decommissioned for 6 weeks pending a new budget.

#### **Davis Crossing/ Culvert Reconstruction**

Per Board's request, Mrs. Whittaker presented materials to the board denoting continued applications to the next round of Hazard Mitigation Funding, and estimated cost per the Town's Engineers should the town have to reconstruct without any grant funding.

Mrs. Whittaker advised that the "Bridge Aid" program would still be the best possibility of outside funding but questions abound regarding whether the road could survive to 2012, which is the time frame for New Durham to be applicable for such bridge aid. Mr. Fuller is working up costs associated with varying degrees of temporary fixes in an effort to shore up the road pending the time lag for the bridge aid for the board's further consideration.

**Any Other Business:** The board approved timber billing per Mr. Thorell's (forestry consultant) review of the Red Oak Intents to Cut.

**Non Public Sessions ~ Tax Deeding Issue, Potential Litigation, and Personnel Related Budget Items**

**Motion Rhoades to enter into non public session at 9:45 PM under the terms and conditions of RSA 91-A: 3 II (a), (c) and (e)~ setting compensation, and protection of reputation, and potential litigation, vote 2 - 0.**

**Roll Call: Rhoades ~ yes, Gehl ~ yes.**

The board returned to regular session at 10:45 PM.

Mrs. Whittaker will draw up a letter of agreement with regards to a payment schedule for a property owner with a pending tax deeding situation.

Mrs. Whittaker was requested to draw up compensation numbers for the four positions as itemized in the pay plan at low and mid-point averages as prepared by Local Government Center personnel consultant. There were no decisions made with respect to any potential pay raises for other positions.

The Board requested Mrs. Whittaker to work up gasoline and diesel budget numbers for the departments using \$2.25 for gas and \$2.50 for diesel.

**Motion Gehl, second Rhoades, to adjourn, vote 2 - 0.**

The meeting adjourned at 10:46 PM.

*Respectfully submitted*  
*April Whittaker, Town Administrator & Recorder.*