

**MEETING      BOARD OF SELECTMEN/SEWER COMMISSION      MARCH 17, 2010**

Members present:      Kevin McCormick      Christopher Rucho  
                                 Valmore H. Pruneau      Steven Quist  
Members absent:      Allen R. Phillips

Mr. McCormick convened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. He jokingly announced that due to the fact that today is St. Patrick's Day, he is holding the meeting under protest as he feels today should be a holiday!

**Read and Acceptance of Minutes from Previous Meeting**

Motion Mr. Rucho to approve the meeting minutes for the March 3, 2010 regular session, seconded by Mr. Pruneau, all in favor.

Motion Mr. Pruneau to approve the executive session meeting minutes for the March 3, 2010 executive session, seconded by Mr. Quist, all in favor.

Motion Mr. Pruneau to approve the executive session meeting minutes for the February 3, 2010 regular session, seconded by Mr. Quist, all in favor.

**Walter Rotti, Rotti Construction Company**

Mr. Rotti is requesting permission to pass over town-owned property at the former town hall on 120 Prescott Street in order to work on the septic system of Dennis Smith, 116 Prescott Street. He explained that Mr. Smith has an old shed and if they move the shed it will likely collapse. If the Board would grant permission, he could access the septic area through the town's property. Mr. McCormick has no problem with the request, and should the area be damaged, he would require it being left as it was prior to being used for access. Mr. Rotti indicated that he has a bond with the town as he is a drain layer and he fully intends to repair any damage which may result in the use of the area.

Motion Mr. Pruneau to allow Mr. Rotti to go through town property at 120 Prescott Street to access the Smith property at 116 Prescott Street provided that he returns the area to its original condition, seconded by Mr. Rucho. Mr. Rotti intends to go in just before the tree line, about thirty feet over town property. Vote on the motion – all in favor.

**Senator Harriette Chandler**

Senator Chandler stated that she wished she had better news for the Board relative to our local aid numbers, which will be decreased by 4%. She noted that she waited a few days to send out the numbers to make sure they were stable as it is a dynamic process and it changes. Should we have more collections in April that percentage may change. Our Chapter 70 projection is \$2,844,146 and our local aid is \$673,921. The Senator encouraged everyone to attend a program on March 31<sup>st</sup> at 6:30 p.m. at the Worcester Technical High School at which Michael Widmer, President of the Massachusetts Taxpayers Foundation, will speak. She feels he is one of the best economists we have.

The Senator reported that the House budget is being worked on as we speak and will come out next month and then the Senate budget will follow. She feels we have hit the bottom. In the Governor's budget there were some projected reviews, and the Senator noted that they were careful on how they handled this one-time money. There is no stimulus money in this budget.

Mr. McCormick explained to the Senator that the pension reform issue is important to West Boylston. The Senator indicated that she feels it is going to happen. Mr. Gaumond noted that it is about a \$130,000 budget increase and this is the worst time for West Boylston to try to absorb that kind of increase. Together with a 4% cut in our local aid it would be a \$300,000 to \$400,000 impact. The

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Senator believes it is going to be accomplished and the question is more about the early retirement and what will be the terms. She has a sense they will probably offer early retirement with a little hitch such as giving back of sick and vacation time. Mr. Gaumond believes it is a fantastic tool for municipalities, however, he does not think West Boylston would take advantage of it due to the stipulation that you are unable to re-hire a certain percentage of those who retire. In our town most of our departments are run by one person.

Senator Chandler noted that the GIC is a savings but some towns do better on their own, and the deal should be that you do as well or better than the GIC with your health insurance. Mr. Gaumond indicated that he has outreached to the municipal coordinator on this and we could look at the option in 2012. He thanked both the Senator and Rep. Leary for allowing West Boylston to participate in the program. The Senator suggested that we look at the program more carefully to see how we would deal with it.

Mr. Quist asked the Senator what she thinks is going to turn the state around. Senator Chandler indicated jobs with a combination of manufacturing, life sciences and low-tech industry. It takes more to bring a new business into the state than it does to grow our own. She advised that they are looking into how we might be able to help small businesses with health insurance. One of the issues has been what has been the impact of our small group and individual markets. People are jumping and dumping – joining when they need to and dumping health insurance when they do not. Some feel it is better to pay the penalty than pay for health insurance for their employees. She believes the stimulus plan has helped with projects such as the new state hospital and a new building at U-Mass Memorial. People have to feel comfortable and confident that things are going to turn around before they start spending money and Massachusetts and it's no different from other states. Communities who have been careful and conservative with their funds have come out better. She knows that economic development is very important here and it is one business and one job at a time.

Mr. Gaumond asked the Senator or her staff get back to him on the pension issue and dealing in FY11 on that. He noted that the legislative draft budget local aid eliminates one-time costs. The Senator indicated that that they are in the House budget. Mr. Gaumond stated that the down turn in the economy has adversely impacted the town and the local aid cut was one of the reasons we were downgraded with our bond rating. He asked the Senator to carry the message of uncertainty of local aid.

Senator Chandler has been working with neighboring towns on alternative energy sources. Princeton has two wind mills on the mountain and Northborough received a grant to look and plan for wind generation. They have a wind meter up right now. Wachusett Regional High School is looking into a project and Clinton is looking into solar panels for low-cost housing. If this interests West Boylston at all this is a good time to look into it. It has to come from the Board of Selectmen and the legislature will help us. David Dunn of Lancaster heats his entire plant with geothermal at zero cost.

Mr. Pruneau noted that some of the highest points in West Boylston are properties under the control of DCR. Senator Chandler feels the town now has a much better relationship with that agency and she offered to assist us in that exploration. Mr. Rucho believes that the Municipal Light Plant has looked into this and Mr. McCormick suggested getting the Sustainability Committee involved. Mr. Gaumond feels that the Green Communities Act is a good tool for the community, however, when it was created it didn't take into account communities who have their own municipal light plants. The Senator suggested Mr. Gaumond have a conversation with John Fitch of the Princeton Light Plant.

Mr. McCormick noted that some of the land the state owns was protected land and now that the town has sewers perhaps we could look at turning the land back to the Town of West Boylston. Because most of the land is DCR owned, he would like to contact Commissioner Sullivan to see if there is any land we could sell off for development. The Senator suggested asking DCR if they might

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do a study of their land in West Boylston and if any land might be available that does not protect the reservoir it might help the town economically. Mr. McCormick pointed out that a lot of the land was purchased by DCR because it was not sewered. The Senator will send a letter to Commissioner Sullivan for DCR land and Mr. Perrini at DCAM for state-owned land.

**Finance Director Michael Daley**

Mr. Daley joined the Board to discuss several issues.

**1. Revolving Funds**

At a previous Selectmen's meeting and town meeting there was general discussion about revolving funds and whether or not they should be turned back to the town and discontinued. Mr. Daley provided the Board with a report through June of 2010. We had \$121,000 to carry over and we came out of 2009 with about \$137,000. In most cases we are in good shape and in some in really good shape. He is concerned with the ZBA as they have about \$1,350 and another \$400 is coming out of that fund. We moved the Health Board and Planning Board into the budget and if you look at the Health Board they have done very well. They began with \$18,000 and they are now just under \$40,000. They have spent the \$10,000 budgeted for them and Mr. Daley feels the Board may want to reconsider how they are budgeted in FY11. He will continue to provide the Board with updated reports. We have several inactive accounts which we may want to think about having town meeting close out. The Parks may be a discussion point at town meeting. Pay-as-you-throw is doing great. We do have statutory limits on how much one revolving fund can handle and we will have to continue to take a good look at pay-as-you-throw. Mr. Daley feels we will develop a surplus and we may want to start having town meeting use those funds for something else.

Mr. Daley noted that the Fire Alarm revolving fund did not take anything in last year. In checking with the language contained in the article which established this fund Mr. Gaumond advised that the funds cover the costs of purchasing and installing equipment, as well as the operation and maintenance associated with the municipal fire alarm system service, to fund administrative and wage expenses associated with the operation and maintenance of the municipal fire alarm system, including wage and salary expenses of part-time employees of the Fire Department, is the depository for fees charged to private property owners for use of the municipal fire alarm system by the Fire Department, has a limit on the total amount which may be spent at \$15,000 and the Fire Chief is the authority empowered to expend monies from the fund. He will request a report from the Fire Chief on the purpose of the fund. Mr. Daley noted that the balances stay in the revolving funds until town meeting says they do not want to fund them any more. Mr. Rucho suggested checking the past ten years. Mr. Daley feels this is a good process to do on an annual or semi-annual basis.

With regard to pay-as-you-throw, Mr. Gaumond noted that at the beginning of the program people purchased months worth of bags. We think we have sufficient bags in stores for the remainder for the fiscal year. Through seven months we have taken in \$89,000 and an additional \$14,000 in February for a total of \$103,000. Mr. Rucho recalled discussions on pay-as-you-throw about making this an offset and the difference was about \$120,000. Mr. Daley advised that \$127,500 is the maximum we can take out of this fund. Our collection costs are all paid for out of the budget and the disposal costs are paid from bag fees. We were being respectful of the override vote on trash. Mr. Rucho questioned what we would do if we took in \$160,000. Mr. Daley advised that it would be sitting in this fund and this will be a funding source for a warrant article which we could use if we are planning on purchasing larger trash bins. According to the statute we can only spend \$127,000. Mr. Rucho's understanding was the town was not going to make money on this. Mr. Gaumond noted that we are

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still in the immature stage and his approach is we need to look at this in one year to see what our business model is. In one year we may make a decision to discontinue the revolving fund. Mr. Rucho would like to look back at the numbers.

**2. Audit Reports**

Mr. Daley advised that the audits are all in and there is not a lot of news here. There was a single audit requirement, and a finding on the single audit which is common. It is a time and effort finding that all employees that are paid 100% from a federal grant must provide certifications that state they actually worked 100% on grant funded activities. Should the Board have any questions about the audits, they need to forward them to Mr. Gaumond who will provide them to Mr. Daley for answers.

**3. Sewer Rate Structures**

When the Board discussed the sewer budget they discussed rate design. Mr. Daley would like feedback on what the Board would like. We are on quarterly billing and 53% of the communities are on quarterly billing, 23% of the communities have a commercial rate different than the residential which is what West Boylston has. In addition 58% have a flat rate, which is what West Boylston has. There are 30% of the communities with a block rate. We have that for commercial, not residential. And 12% of the communities have a fixed annual fee. Most have a single block rate at 58% and a lot have a minimum charge or a service charge. We have a minimum bill for commercial for 120,000 gallons and the average they use less than 5,000 gallons annually.

Mr. Daley further explained that a lot of rate designs say everyone will pay a minimum ever quarterly. We have a minimum for inactive customers. He noted that you could have two or three rates. Commercial customers pay more as they do not get the 20% reduction on consumption which residential customers get. Should the Board go with 100% consumption it would bring the rate down. Mr. Rucho questioned how our average residential and commercial customer rates compare to other towns. Mr. Daley did not look at that. The systems are not the same so what this town pays is immaterial as we need to meet the budget on the system we have. Some systems may be doing something completely different. Mr. Rucho understands we have a different system. Mr. Daley needs to know how the Board would like the rate system structured and how the burden will be shared.

Mr. Rucho questioned how many communities are split at 80/20 for residential. Mr. Daley explained that the percentage is 1-2% and what is normal is everybody pays on their consumption, however, Worcester has the 80/20 split. Mr. Daley also found a community that bills on what you use between September to mid-March. Mr. McCormick would like to see 100% and 80% and a second tier for residential use. He thinks commercial should stay as it is with the two tiers. Mr. Daley will keep it around 26,000, come back with two rates, and the minimum bill will stay the way it is. Everything will remain per quarter.

Mr. McCormick asked if we need 26% to balance our budget, should we look at going to 27%, or should we review the rates on an annual basis. Mr. Daley explained that the key is what kind of spring and summer we have. The minute we have hot, steamy weather we have increased consumption to generate revenues. Then we built in surplus. He will look at a three-year rate and should something happen we may be back in another year.

Mr. Pruneau has an idea on where the additional flows are coming from. He is tracking infiltration into the system. Mr. Daley has analyzed twelve quarters of numbers from Worcester and he does not like what he is seeing. Mr. Pruneau is working on it.

Barbara Wyatt asked if we are getting all the sewerage in this system that we can get. Mr. Gaumond advised that we are at nearly 100% connected with less than ten remaining. Mr. Daley also

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noted that although there are not a lot, we have users on wells. She also questioned how much revenue the town gets from the septic going into Blackstone. Mr. Daley explained that the hauler pays at the septic facility. Mr. Pruneau noted that the town get a \$10 fee to the Board of Health for the permit.

**Economic Development Task Force**

Chairman John Hadley and members Barbara Wyatt and Maryann Schelin joined the Board. Mr. Rucho is the Selectmen's designee to the Economic Development Task Force. Mr. Hadley reported that his committee worked on having West Boylston designated as an Economic Target Area (ETA) which would give us the ability to give out TIFs. At their last meeting with Claire O'Neill of the Mass Office of Business Development, she indicated that we were not eligible. The committee thinks there should be a way to accomplish this and reported that the Town of Boylston is now an ETA. Ms. Wyatt explained the Hyatt was going into Boylston with a project so they had to do a real fast ETA. She noted that 240 of the 351 communities in Massachusetts have them. We were not formally turned down we were informed by Claire O'Neill that we did not meet the 20% vacancy requirement. Mr. Hadley expressed the need to have somebody who could write the program. Salter College indicated that they could write something but they did not. Mr. Gaumond feels that a consultant would need to be paid to complete the application and if the committee came forward with a request for funds, it is the wrong time to look for funds. The second need of the Economic Development Task Force is the creation of a web site just for economic development. Currently they are linked to the Town's web site. Mr. Hadley has information from Virtual Town Hall on web site set up; however, it has a cost associated with it. Mr. Hadley reported that they also discussed publishing a brochure. He has information from a company that does this service. They go around to the businesses in the town and it does not cost the town anything.

Other areas they are looking at include signage at both ends of Routes 12 and 140 welcoming people to West Boylston and repair the fencing at the former landfill. Mr. McCormick advised that the fence has been repaired. They are also looking at sidewalks and cleaning up of the Route 12 business area. Mr. Hadley feels that a professional web site would get the word out and it would be the least expensive option. They were able to advertise the Economic Development Task Force on some place mats. They are also looking at possible TV commercials.

Mr. Hadley asked the Board if they had any ideas they wanted the committee to pursue. Mr. Pruneau feels that signs coming into the town will enhance you are in West Boylston. Mr. Hadley suggested 'Welcome to our town we are here to help you'. Mr. Rucho suggested a subcommittee to work on signs. Mr. Gaumond advised that he is looking at Economic Development Task Forces in other communities. At their meeting on March 29<sup>th</sup> they will look at economic development plans and master plans from other communities. They will pull together best practices over a period of time and with some community volunteers we can pull something together. Mr. Rucho noted that one of the other ideas suggested was reestablishing a West Boylston Business Association. Mr. Hadley feels that is something the businesses should develop.

With regard to sidewalks along Route 12, Mr. McCormick suggested sending a letter to the state. Mr. Gaumond noted that we have outreached to the state and they are very happy to have sidewalks, however, they do not want to be responsible for them. They are willing to allow the town to install the sidewalks, however our annual sidewalk budget is \$40,000. Ms. Schelin asked about stimulus funds for sidewalks. Mr. Gaumond explained that in order to be eligible it would have to be part of the TIP Program and he doubts they would look at a project that would only benefit West Boylston as a stimulus fund project. They look to projects which impact many communities such as the Route 140 Project. Mr. McCormick suggested sending a letter. Mr. Hadley feels the most important

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items is the ETA and he is unsure what that cost would be. Ms. Schelin thinks it is \$10,000. Mr. Gaumond offered to look into it. The Board thanked the committee for coming in.

**Barbara Laughlin, Sovereign Consulting**

This item will be tabled.

**OLD BUSINESS**

1. Policy C-1 – Policy on Complaint Management & Response for the Board of Selectmen and the Town Administrator

This item will be tabled this evening.

2. Town Facility Needs

At a previous meeting the Board asked Mr. Gaumond to get a list of all municipal building needs. He has lists for the Public Safety Headquarters and the DPW. The information will also be shared with the Municipal Buildings Advisory Committee. If the Board would like to tour the facilities Mr. Gaumond will arrange a time. The Board agreed to hold off until the first meeting in June.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. Concurrence with the appointment of Steven Blake as the Park Commission designee on the Community Preservation Committee

Motion Mr. Rucho to concur with the appointment, seconded by Mr. Pruneau, all in favor.

2. Concurrence with the appointment of Dale Kierstead to the Cable TV Advisory Committee.

Mr. Gaumond met with Mr. Keirstead early today regarding his interest in serving on the Cable TV Advisory Committee. He intends to bring his name forward for appointment.

Motion Mr. Rucho to concur with the appointment, seconded by Mr. Pruneau, all in favor.

**Town Administrator Budget Presentation**

Mr. Gaumond has posted his FY11 Revenue Budget on the Town Administrator's web page for people to review. These are our revenues as of today.

He explained the town's revenues are divided in four categories. The first is state aid and using the legislators negative 4% number we have \$3,908,632. Our available funds, using our Reserve Policy, is at \$596,000. Local receipts, using the new Department of Revenue estimates, is \$1,848,500 and our tax levy including \$50,000 of new growth is \$13,062,076. We do get school building assistance money and we get \$602,000 for our watershed property from the MWRA. That payment cannot be decreased. Local receipts includes a variety of fees, permits, fines and licenses as well as interested earned on investments or paid by late taxpayers. Our largest source of funds within this category is motor vehicle excise taxes. We are a little off from last year, however, the good news is we projected that. We are still being cautious with our FY10 revenue stream. We will be using \$378,000 from our ambulance receipts and \$25,000 from the Wachusett Fund. In accordance with our new Reserve Police we will be using \$193,000 of the Free Cash, which is 1% of our budget. That leaves \$591,000 in available funds to balance the budget. Our total projected revenues are \$19,415,208. Mr. Gaumond's revenue numbers tie back to the legislators numbers. We are carrying \$80,000 in local estimated receipts up 4.5% due to the meals tax. The state may have overestimated what the numbers would be for West Boylston and we are confident in \$80,000.

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The operational budget is as follows.

General Government:

Moderator – will be level funded at \$51.

Board of Selectmen line item will be level funded at \$5,555.

Town Administrator has been reduced in the Purchased Services line item and there are no increases for the Municipal Assistant or the Town Administrator. Mr. Gaumond reminded the Board that his contract expires in November. He noted that any increases in salary line items are for required step increases.

Finance Committee funding will be eliminated.

Reserve Fund, will be funded at \$48,659.

Town Accountant – this line item will be level funded at \$158,150 and maintains one employee in the department.

Town Audit – this line item will be reduced from \$38,000 to \$26,000.

Assessors – decrease in this line item from \$79,488 to \$78,568.

Treasurer/Tax Collector – increase in this line item from \$143,763 to \$146,015 to include a step increased and \$2,000 for tax title enforcement.

Town Counsel – this line item is being reduced from \$81,500 to \$75,000.

Personnel Board – this line item will be eliminated.

Computer Services – this line item will be increased from \$60,690 to \$75,640 and includes some upgrades to our system which we can no longer put off.

Town Clerk – this will be increased from \$60,674 to \$61,033.

Elections – this line item will be increased from \$20,817 to \$23,600 to cover the cost for coding and postage should we have a special election.

Planning Board – will be funded at \$3,000 and in addition they will continue to maintain their revolving fund.

Public Safety Building – This line item will be reduced from \$61,440 to \$41,010. Mr. Gaumond intends to eliminate the previous practice of paying fire fighters to clean the building out of this line item. It sets aside \$6,900 for municipal building maintenance. The personnel costs will be transferred to the Fire Department line item. Mr. Gaumond intends to report building maintenance separately within the budget for public safety, library and the DPW. This will be for non-emergency building repairs and should the legislation pass we will have a mechanism place to deal with these situations.

Town Hall – this line item will be reduced from \$151,070 to \$151,058. It includes a step increase for the janitor and will pay rental costs for 127 Hartwell Street.

Town Report - line item will decreased from \$2,000 to \$1,500.

Total General Government is at \$1,057,114 down 1.9% over last year primarily due to the reduction in the Public Safety Building and Town Counsel.

Public Safety:

Police Department will be increased from \$1,170,219 to \$1,180,716 to include the last payment on a cruiser lease. This year we will need to purchase a new cruiser, which will be either a warrant article or a capital article. There are no raises for the union or non-union employees in this department. We are still in negotiations with the police union.

Fire Department – this budget is increasing from \$1,170,219 to \$1,180,716 and includes the money from the maintenance line item in it. Our radio and communications equipment is in deplorable conditions and needs to be considered a priority soon.

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Public Safety Communications – this line item will be increased from \$233,995 to \$243,000 due to an increase in our maintenance contract for our inefficient communications system.

Building Department – this line item will decreased from \$89,545 to \$89,160.

Sealer of Weights – this line item will be level funded.

Emergency Management – this line item will be level funded.

Animal Control – will be level funded.

Total Public Safety is up 3.1% due to moving money into the Fire Department line item for the Public Safety Headquarters budget.

**Education**

Education – Mr. Gaumond had the opportunity to review the education budget from the School Department. One of the things he said from day one was we have to fund all the departments. Our current revenue picture cannot support the increase the School Department has requested. Using the formula we previously used, the school would get 2/3<sup>rd</sup> and the town would get 1/3<sup>rd</sup>, he is recommending an increase of 2.3% over FY10. Hopefully we can bring them more money before town meeting is here.

Public Works – is being increased from \$515,920 to \$542,376 and includes a small increase per the union contract and a small increase in fuel. The bulk of the increases are in both the Tree Warden and road improvement line items of the budget.

Snow and Ice Removal – this line item will be increased from \$104,325 to \$105,371 due to higher personnel costs.

Street Lights – this line item will be level funded.

Trash and disposal will be reduced from \$313,000 to \$303,000 on the collection side. Mr. Gaumond intends to review this line item in the fall and we may move forward with the proposal Mr. Rucho was eluding to in being respectful to the town meeting vote and how we are going to use the revenues that come in.

Landfill Monitoring – this is a new line item. It does not need any funds this year.

Cemetery – this line item will be increased from \$35,910 to \$38,330.

Public Works is increased by 1.8% from last year mainly due to the increase in the tree and road repair budgets.

Board of Health – Mr. Gaumond may modify this budget as the Finance Director reported they are doing pretty well in their revolving fund.

Council on Aging – this is being reduced from \$46,110 to \$45,671.

Veterans' Services this line item will be increased from \$44,505 to \$50,181. The town is reimbursed 75% of the benefits paid out.

Total Human Services is increased by 5.2% due to the increase in Veterans Benefits.

**Cultural & Recreation:**

Library – this line item will be increased from \$272,200 to \$282,753. However, it is short of what they need to avoid obtaining a waiver for accreditation.

Historical Commission – there is no funding in this budget.

Celebrations - formerly the Memorial Day line item, it will be funded at \$0 due to successful fundraisers through private donations.

Arts Council – this line item was eliminated last year and will be funded at \$350.

Total Culture and Recreation is up 4% due to the modest increase at the Library.

**Debt Service:**

Debt Principal will be level funded.

Debt Interest will be reduced from \$413,450 to \$358,762.



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Short-term borrowing will be level funded.

Debt Services are down 3.5%.

Intergovernmental

Central Mass Regional Planning Commission assessment of \$1,509

Wachusett Earthday – a new line item due to the Wachusett Earthday Regional Recycling Program. Cost is based on population and comes to \$2,145.

Total Intergovernmental is up 142.1% primarily due to the addition of Wachusett Earthday Regional Recycling Program, which is a new line item.

Employee Benefits:

Retirement & Pension – this is a fixed cost, which Mr. Gaumond is level funding, however, there is debate over legislation to extend the pension funding formulas by ten years. If the legislation is not adopted we may need to adjust this line item accordingly, about \$150,000.

Workers' Compensation it is a fixed cost and will be increased from \$42,000 to \$45,000.

Unemployment is a fixed cost based upon our payroll and will be funded at \$175,000.

Group Health Insurance is a fixed cost to the town and there is a 6.5% increase in our health insurance rates. He credited the employees and the Insurance Advisory Committee for their work in this area. The line item will be reduced from \$3,101,704 to \$2,996,600

Life Insurance is a fixed cost and will be maintained.

Medicare is a fixed cost and will be increased from \$155,000 to \$160,000.

Total Employee Benefits at decreased 1.8% primarily due to health insurance contribution rate changes and employee concessions. Mr. Gaumond credited the School Department for their work in this area.

General Insurance

General Insurance is reduced by 1.4%. In 2005 that line item was at \$200,000 and we are now at \$138,000. We have done a tremendous amount of work to mitigate this cost. The budget does not rely on non-recurring funds. The Town Administrator worked with the department managers to return as many funds to the budget from FY09 and FY10 for FY11. The changes in health insurance and the Selectmen's vote to adopt meals taxes in West Boylston all attributed to the success of this year's budget. The total projected budget is \$19,415,208, a 1.32% increase.

Mr. Gaumond noted that this is the first draft and he hopes to see a little relief from the legislature and the Governor and on pension relief. As of right now, the best is a budget of \$19,400.00

Mr. Quist asked about Parks and Recreation. Mr. Gaumond advised that it falls under the DPW and it was level funded at \$1,400. With regard to streets lights, if the Street Light sub-committee wishes to pursue a reduction town-wide Mr. Gaumond is willing to reduce that budget. Mr. Pruneau noted that he and Mr. Phillips were going to speak with the Light Plant on this issue, however, if lights are not on we need to pay to have the fixtures taken down and they would need some direction on which lights should remain on. Mr. Gaumond noted that we would not be the first community to look at shutting off street lights. At this point our strategy is maintain the level funding of street lights we have in the town.

Next Wednesday night the Selectmen will be meeting with the Finance Committee and School Committee.

**MEETINGS, INVITATIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

1.March 24, 2010, 7:00 p.m. – Special Meeting of the Board to conduct FY2011 Budget Preparation Work Session

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2. April 10, 2010, 9-11:00 A.M. – Annual Coffee for all Appointees of the Town Administrator and Board of Selectmen
3. March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2010, 10:30-12:00 – at the Beaman Library there will be a public informational meeting with the USDA and DCR on the Asian Longhorned Beetle on what things will be done to eradicate the beetle.

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Mr. McCormick congratulated Mr. Pruneau's on his retirement from the Board of Selectmen and stated that he has appreciated his input and participation on the Board.

Motion Mr. Rucho at 9:40 p.m. for the Board to enter executive session under the provisions of MGL Chapter 39, Section 23b, Part 3 to discuss strategy with respect to contract negotiations, and the Board will not be going back into open session, seconded by Mr. Rucho. Roll call vote: Mr. Quist yes, Mr. Pruneau yes, Mr. Mr. McCormick yes, Mr. Rucho yes.

Motion Mr. Pruneau at 9:55 p.m. for the Board to come of executive session, seconded by Mr. Quist. Roll call vote: Mr. Quist yes, Mr. Pruneau yes, Mr. McCormick yes, Mr. Rucho yes.

With no further business to come before the Board, motion Mr. Rucho at 9:56 p.m. to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Pruneau, all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

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Nancy E. Lucier

Approved: April 7, 2010

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Kevin M. McCormick, Chairman

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Valmore H. Pruneau, Jr., Vice Chairman

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Christopher A. Rucho, Selectman

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Steven Quist, Selectman