

Members present: Kevin McCormick Christopher Rucho
 Allen R. Phillips Steven Quist
 John O'Brien

Mr. McCormick convened the meeting at 7:02 p.m.

Read and Acceptance of Minutes from Previous Meeting

Motion Mr. Rucho to approve the meeting minutes for the April 6, 2011 regular session, seconded by Mr. Quist. Vote on the motion – Messrs. McCormick, O'Brien, Rucho and Quist yes; Mr. Phillips abstains as he was not in attendance.

Motion Mr. Rucho to approve the executive session meeting minutes for the April 6, 2011 executive session, seconded by Mr. Quist. Vote on the motion – Messrs. McCormick, Rucho and Quist yes; Mr. Phillips abstains as he was not in attendance

Discussion with School Committee

Superintendent of Schools Tom Kane and School Committee members John Owanisian, Steven Paige and Jennifer Breen joined the Board to discuss their budget request. Mr. Kane reported that the School Committee met last week to decide what their strategy was in terms of an override and they felt that the timing to sell the community was not there. They also met with the Finance Committee last week and took a look at the \$550,000 budget gap and how they could close it. They budgeted for 29 vocational education students and only 26 have been accepted which reduces that line item just under \$50,000. The School Committee directed Mr. Kane to absorb the \$193,000 cut in federal grant monies and they cut \$180,000 in salaries as a number of positions will be reduced or eliminated. There is also a \$70,000 savings in Special Education costs due to the work of the Special Education Program in developing a program to keep a student in house. They have reduced their number by \$250,000 leaving a gap of \$258,000. Mr. Kane noted that last year they had a similar gap of about \$300,000 and we worked closely to try to close the gap and we looked at ways to try to find some monies to add to the School Department budget. The School Department looked everywhere they could look to make cuts and still hope that the number of students going to vocational schools will be reduced a little bit. The third thing they did was draft a warrant article to be placed on the warrant asking the towns people to make a determination on the gap that was left. The proposal is to try to work that strategy again this year and put an article on the warrant if the gap that is left can be filled with available funds. They are committed to working together to close that gap and Mr. Kane stated that last year we worked cooperatively together until town meeting and we ran out of time. He presented the Board with an article similar to the article from last year. He thinks we have a track record of making this work.

Mr. McCormick feels there is no reason why we couldn't work together. None of the Board members expressed an issue with Mr. Gaumond working with Mr. Kane to do the best we can. Mr. Gaumond stated that he has valued his relationship with Mr. Kane and he would not have any objection to doing this. He thinks there needs to be some involvement of the Board members as well. Last year it was working up to the last minute to get this done, however, at the end of the day he is not sure we a plan that the Board of Selectmen and School Committee agreed with or not. He recommends establishing a small working group to include the Superintendent, Finance Director, Town Administrator and one member of the School Committee and Board of Selectmen. The group would review what opportunity exists to help close the gap for the next fiscal year, which could include a review of the 1/3 and 2/3 formula used to split revenues, and what kinds of education would need to be

done on the School and Selectmen's side for an override. Mr. Gaumond feels all of these discussions needs to be done over the next three to seven months to avoid being in the same position next year. He recommends the process begin immediately.

Mr. Paige added that when the School Committee met with the Finance Committee the Finance Committee was concerned that we had made promises that we were going to try to work together and it would ease the Finance Committee's concern to have a standing committee. Mr. Gaumond stated that the bottom line is I can tell you today that next year if this is not fixed in some way, you will have a short fall in addition to the 2-1/2% we can raise. We have been talking about this and when you can only raise property taxes 2-1/2% and health insurance raises 10% everything else will decrease to cover those costs. We need a permanent fix or reduce budgets. We could establish a budget calendar of when we are going to do what and there needs to be a political conversation as to what is the most reasonable way to solve this. He thinks we all know the amount of money we will have next year in the budget is going to be short unless we dramatically cut budgets across the board. Mr. McCormick asked the Board if they had an issue with forming this new committee. The Board indicated that it would be a good idea. Mr. Owanisian questioned what would be the desired outcome for the group. Mr. Gaumond feels we need to look first at short-term issues and long-term issues. We have do something between now and town meeting for the short term. The Committee has a long-term goal of those issues that the School Committee raised this past year on the override and structural deficits at the school. One of the town goals this year from the Board of Selectmen was keep an open line of communication with the School Department. Mr. O'Brien thinks it is a good idea because the two years he has been doing this when we go through the budget process it is viewed as the Board of Selectmen against the School Committee and we all want a good school system. This will be the town seeing us working together and coming up with a solution together. He questioned whether the short-term goal would be to come away from this solving the budget gap without needing an article for town meeting. Mr. McCormick would like to start the discussion. Mr. Kane added that if we need the article the smallest amount of money would be the best optimal short term outcome. Mr. McCormick offered to serve on the working group as he has a more flexible schedule. Ms. Breen offered to serve on the School side.

Motion Mr. Philips to designate Mr. McCormick as the Board's designee on the school budget working group, seconded by Mr. Rucho, all in favor.

Motion Mr. Paige to designate Ms. Breen as the School Committee's designee on the school budget working group, seconded by Mr. Owanisian, all in favor.

Mr. Rucho questioned whether we have any pockets of money we could put towards the gap. Mr. Gaumond indicated that he does not know if we could fill the entire gap, however, we still have to talk about the municipal budget and warrant articles. Mr. Kane would like to go to town meeting and know that no stone has been unturned.

Mr. Kane submitted an article for the Capital Investment Committee for the floor tile replacement project at Major Edwards School. Of the six samples taken, they found a trace of asbestos in one. This is a \$24,000 project which has to be done as the condition of the floor is a safety issue. Mr. Gaumond noted that this is a critical need for the community and he put a placeholder in the capital plan for this item. Mr. McCormick addressed members of the Finance Committee who are in attendance this evening and offered them an opportunity to comment. Mr. Berglund stated that he thinks the committee is a great idea.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Consider April reappointments of the Board of Selectmen

Motion Mr. Phillips to re-appoint Matthew Colangelo and Philippe W. Chevalier to the Zoning Board of Appeals as full members for five-year terms, Paul Hennessey to the Zoning Board of Appeals as an Associate Member for a five-year term and Gregory Zarkarian and David Mercurio to the Bylaws Committee for a one-year term, seconded by Mr. Quist, all in favor. It was also noted that both the Chairs of the Board of Selectmen and the Planning Board sit on the Bylaw Committee.

2. Report on Board salaries

The Board requested Mr. Gaumond to outreach to the members of the various committees who received stipends from the town. Notification was sent to the Planning Board, Board of Health, Library, Board of Assessors and Moderator. The Planning Board and Board of Health indicated that they would remain at the reduced salary of \$1.00, which they do not take, and the Board of Assessors would prefer to return to the pre-cut salary of \$100. Library Director Louise Howland, who is in the audience this evening, indicated that the Library Trustees have never taken a salary and Cemetery Trustee John McCormick reports that the Cemetery Trustees will remain at \$1. Mr. Philips recommends review this again next year. Mr. Gaumond offered to include this on the Municipal Calendar in January of each year. Notification will be sent to all the Board of the Selectmen's decision and they will also be thanked for their offer to have their salary remain at \$1.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Request for Change of Manager on the Club Liquor License issued to the American Legion, 159 Hartwell Street

Mr. McCormick recused himself. John McCormick joined the Board with Michael Moore. The request is to change the manager from Ernest Neal to Michael Moore. All departments, including the Building Inspector, Board of Health, Treasurer/Collector, Police Chief and Fire Chief have indicated no issue with the request.

Motion Mr. O'Brien to approve the request for Change of Manager on the Club Liquor License issued to the American Legion, 159 Hartwell Street from Ernest Neal to Michael Moore, seconded by Mr. Quist.

Mr. Gaumond noted that one of the questions the town should ask of Mr. Moore is does he have any experience and is his TIPS Certified. Mr. Moore reports that he is TIPS certified and has 40 years of experience in the field. Mr. Rucho noticed the signs reflect that the bar is now open to the public and questioned whether this is a restricted license. Mr. Gaumond explained that it s a Club License and he spoke to the establishment. Mr. McCormick indicated that the sign making was a little overzealous and the signed was changed. Vote on the motion - all in favor.

2. Concurrence on the appointment of Joan Trottier, 57 Newton Street to the Town Scholarship Committee effective April 20, 2011 for a term to expire on April 30, 2013

Mr. McCormick returned to the meeting.

Motion Mr. Phillips to concur with the appointment, seconded by Mr. Quist, all in favor.

3. Concurrence on the appointment of Eric Johnson, 22 Main Street, Boylston as Assistant Plumbing/Gas Inspector effective April 20, 2011 for a term to expire on April 30, 2012

Motion Mr. Phillips to concur with the appointment, seconded by Mr. Quist, all in favor.

4. Review & approve warrant articles & vote to close warrant for the May 16, 2011 Semi-Annual Town Meeting

The articles are not in their final order.

Article 1 - Authorization to hear the reports of officers and committees of the town. This is an annual article.

Motion Mr. Phillips to include Article 1 on the warrant, seconded by Mr. Rucho, all in favor.

Article 2 - Authorization to borrow in anticipation of revenue and to enter into a compensating balance agreement with a bank. This is an annual article.

Motion Mr. Phillips to include Article 2 on the warrant, seconded by Mr. Quist, all in favor.

Article 3 - Authorization to re-establish a revolving fund for WBPA-TV.

Article 4 - authorization to re-establish a revolving fund for the Board of Health

Motion Mr. Rucho to include Articles 3 & 4 on the warrant, seconded by Mr. O'Brien, all in favor.

Article 5 - Authorization to re-establish a revolving fund for the Cemetery Trustees

Article 6 - Authorization to re-establish a revolving fund for the Council on Aging

Motion Mr. Phillips to include Articles 5 & 6 on the warrant, seconded by Mr. O'Brien, all in favor.

Article 7 - Authorization to re-establish a revolving fund for the Planning Board

Article 8 - Authorization to re-establish a revolving fund for the Zoning Board of Appeals

Article 9 - Authorization to re-establish a revolving fund for the Conservation Commission

Motion Mr. Phillips to include Articles 7, 8, & 9 on the warrant, seconded by Mr. Quist, all in favor.

Article 10 - Authorization to re-establish a parks, playground and fields revolving fund for the Park Commission

Article 11 - Authorization to re-establish a fire alarm revolving fund for the Fire Department

Article 12 - Authorization to re-establish a hazmat revolving fund for the Fire Department

Motion Mr. O'Brien to include Articles 10, 11 and 12 on the warrant, seconded by Mr. Quist. Vote on the motion – Messrs. McCormick, Rucho, O'Brien and Quist yes; Mr. Phillips abstains.

Article 13 - Authorization to re-establish a revolving fund for vocational transportation

Article 14 - Authorization to re-establish a revolving fund for recycling

Motion Mr. Phillips to include Articles 13 & 14 on the warrant, seconded by Mr. O'Brien, all in favor.

Article 15– Authorization to re-establish a revolving fund for Pay-As-You-Throw

The Board previously had a discussion with the Finance Director, Town Administrator and DPW Director back in the winter. It was suggested that this revolving fund should be dissolved and the bag revenues should flow into the General Fund. Mr. O'Brien questioned if the money flows into the General Fund could it be used for anything. Mr. Gaumond explained that it would be about \$140,000 and it would be revenue to the town. Mr. Phillips believes it is tax disguised as a fee. Mr. McCormick added that we make more money now that we need. Mr. Gaumond notes that our collection and disposal contracts have been beneficial to the town and we have revenues coming into the town through bag fees. Mr. McCormick states in order to not raise this we would have to lower the cost of the bags or eliminate pay-as-you-throw, however, in a couple of years this will catch up and we will have to institute pay-as-you-throw again. Mr. Phillips feels we should lower the fees and when we need to raise them do so down the road. He questioned if that is an option. Mr. Gaumond has not done an analysis on that and feels they are already low. Mr. Philips feels we are making a profit and that was not the intended purpose.

Mr. Gaumond advised that the \$140,000 is directly what funds the town budget for trash. At the last town meeting the people voted to use some of those funds to go to the school budget. The monies going to fund bags are funding trash collection and the money is being used for General Government purposes. Mr. Phillips recalled when this was brought up we said we would not let this get out of hand and raise fees every year. We said if we had that much money we would lower the bag fees and we need to lower the bag fees. Mr. Rucho stated that he asked the Finance Director if this was not making a lot of money what would you suggest and he said raise the bag fees. Then Mr. Rucho said, why when we are showing a profit, would we not lower the fees. If we have some money he suggested purchasing some totters, bins and stickers for the residents to use. Mr. Gaumond is hopeful we will be able to use some of the funds for recycling buckets. It is his intention to use some of the funds for that purpose. Mr. O'Brien questioned the limit on letting the fund grow. Mr. Phillips noted that the only items that the funds can be used for are to pay for expenses associated with the purchase of trash bags and the operation of the town's pay-as-you-throw trash program. He also questions what could come up as a big expense we would need the money for. Mr. Gaumond explained that there is a cumulative amount that can be spent in the revolving fund on an annual basis and in addition, there is also a certain amount that one person can have authority over. Mr. Rucho questioned whether there is a maximum dollar requirement on a revolving fund. Mr. Gaumond does not believe there is. Mr. O'Brien suggests growing the fund and then we have a pool of money. Mr. Gaumond added that at some point those monies would flow to Free Cash. Mr. Phillips would like to know if we do not dissolve the fund, is there a limit it can grow to. Mr. Gaumond is not sure.

Mr. McCormick pointed out that last year people took money from the trash line item. He added that we know why we established this and maybe we should ask the people how they want us to spend the money. Should we keep a fee and have the excess goes to the town's budget. Last year it was almost unanimous when they moved the money. Mr. Gaumond suggested leaving the article on and have a discussion on town meeting floor. We could ask the people if they want to dissolve it and have the funds flow to Free Cash or leave it alone. They could take \$140,000 out of trash and then we would have to use \$140,000 out of the revolving funds to fund trash. Mr. Rucho feels we should use it for what it was there for as we could do this with every fee and then just move the extra into the budget. Mr. McCormick recommends leaving as it is this year and see what the townspeople want to do. Mr. Rucho questioned when do we get to the point that the override should be an underide. Mr. Phillips suggested an underide 2-1/2 years ago. Mr. Rucho suggests keeping the revolving fund and if we need to purchase totters or anything else we could use the funds for that. He does not want to keep building the fund up.

Motion Mr. Rucho to include Article 15 on the warrant, seconded by Mr. Quist. Mr. Phillips recommends including the article on the warrant to give us an opportunity to have this discussion on town meeting floor. Vote on the motion – all in favor.

Article 16- Authorization to re-establish a revolving fund for Celebrations

Motion Mr. Phillips to include Article 16 on the warrant, seconded by Mr. Quist, all in favor.

Article 17 – Authorization to re-establish a revolving fund for the Beaman Memorial Library

Article 18 – Authorization to re-establish a revolving fund for the Economic Development Task Force

Motion Mr. Phillips to include Articles 17 & 18 on the warrant, seconded by Mr. Quist, all in favor.

Article 19 - Authorization to establish the recreation program revolving fund for the Park Commission

This article was previously entitled Summer Recreation Program Revolving Fund and will be

amended to reflect Recreation Program.

Motion Mr. Phillips to include Article 19 on the warrant, seconded by Mr. Quist, all in favor.

Article 20 – Authorization to expend funds in anticipation of reimbursement of state highway assistance aid

Motion Mr. Phillips to include Article 20 on the warrant, seconded by Mr. Quist, all in favor.

Article 21 – Authorization to amend the Personnel Bylaw and to review the classification and compensation plan so as to provide employees a cost –of-living pay increase (2%)

Mr. McCormick questioned whether there is a way to do this so that it does not have to be done each year. Mr. Gaumond advised that he is looking into it.

Motion Mr. Rucho to include Article 21 on the warrant, seconded by Mr. Quist. Vote on the motion – Messrs. McCormick, Quist, Rucho and O'Brien yes; Mr. Phillips abstains.

Article 22- Authorization to set the salary of elected officials

As the Municipal Light Plant Board is listed as getting \$300.00 each (3 members), Mr. Rucho questioned whether Mr. Gaumond asked them if they would be willing to reduce their salary to \$1. Mr. Gaumond advised that their salaries do not come out of our budget; it comes from the Light Plant's budget.

Motion Mr. Phillips to include Article 22 on the warrant, seconded by Mr. Quist, all in favor.

Article 23– Authorization to transfer unexpended funds from fiscal year 2011 appropriations and other necessary transfers to the fiscal year 2011 appropriations

Motion Mr. Phillips to include Article 23 on the warrant, seconded by Mr. Rucho, all in favor.

Article 24 – Authorization to pay bills from a previous fiscal year

Motion Mr. Phillips to include Article 24 on the warrant, seconded by Mr. Quist, all in favor.

Article 25 – Authorization to appropriate money to the sewer enterprise account for fiscal year 2012

Mr. Gaumond noted that this article is still being worked on.

Motion Mr. Phillips to include Article 25 on the warrant, seconded by Mr. Quist, all in favor.

Article 27 – Authorization to restate the sewer budget for fiscal year 2011

Mr. Gaumond explained that due to the recent sewer line break we are going to include this article to re-state the budget in case it is needed.

Motion Mr. Phillips to include Article 27 on the warrant, seconded by Mr. Quist, all in favor.

Article 28 – Authorization to appropriate ambulance receipts reserved for appropriation for E.M.S. administrative expenses

Mr. Gaumond took, which typically is presented in three articles, and combined it into one. This will cover ambulance billing services, paramedic on-call stipends and one new item. The Hospital Medical Direction Services is new this year due to a new regulation and we have entered into an agreement with Clinton Hospital for these services.

Motion Mr. Quist to include Article 28 on the warrant, seconded by Mr. Rucho. Vote on the motion – Messrs. McCormick, Quist, Rucho and O'Brien yes; Mr. Phillips abstains.

Article 29 – Authorization to transfer funds from the sale of lots account

Motion Mr. Phillips to include Article 29 on the warrant, seconded by Mr. Quist, all in favor.

Article 30– Appropriation to fund an elderly community services program

Motion Mr. Phillips to include Article 30 on the warrant, seconded by Mr. Quist. Mr. Rucho noted that a few years ago this line item was reduced. Mr. Gaumond explained that it was reduced because we had a carryover of funds from the previous appropriation. It was also noted that one year the program was provided half the funding it needed at the May meeting and the remainder at the October meeting. Vote on the motion – all in favor.

Article 31 – Vote to appropriate funds for capital improvement purchases

A	Police Cruiser (Police Department)	33,000	Capital Fund
B	Bulletproof vest program (Police Department)	6500	Town Operational Budget
C	Ambulance (Fire Department)	200,000	Ambulance receipts reserved
D	Roof repair (Public Safety Building)	100,000	Capital fund
E	Server (IT)	12,000	Town Operational Budget
F	Mower (DPW)	13,000	Town Operational Budget
G	Communications replacement (Police & fire: \$65,000 each)	130,000	Capital Fund

Mr. Gaumond explained that the new format will be easier for people to understand versus using separate articles. He intends to remove the server, which will be dealt with in the operating budget. Mr. Phillips questioned what we are replacing for the communication center. Mr. Gaumond explained that the item is for the radios and it will be needed unless we enter into a regional dispatch arrangement which includes radios.

Motion Mr. Phillips to include Article 31 on the warrant, seconded by Mr. Rucho, all in favor.

Article 32 – vote to appropriate funds for parks improvements which include bleacher replacement project completion of \$7,000, Safety fencing at Goodale Park \$6,000 and repair of Goodale Summer House roof \$2,300. Mr. Gaumond explained that he is trying to get the free labor for the roof repair.

Motion Mr. Rucho to include Article 32 on the warrant, seconded by Mr. Phillips, all in favor.

Article 33 – Authorization to appropriate funds from the community preservation revenues

Article 34 – Vote to appropriate funds for community preservation fund projects

Motion Mr. Phillips to include Articles 33 & 34 on the warrant, seconded by Mr. Quist, all in favor.

The first is the annual appropriation article and the second will pay the principle and interest for the Goodale Park Restoration Project.

Article 35 – Authorization to establish an other post employment benefits (opeb) trust fund

This article is being established as a result of a presentation made to the Board

Motion Mr. Phillips to include Articles 35 on the warrant, seconded by Mr. Quist, all in favor.

Article 36 – Authorization to amend the zoning bylaws section 1.4 non-conformity

This is a Planning Board request

Motion Mr. Phillips to include Article 36 on the warrant, seconded by Mr. Rucho, all in favor.

Article 37 – Authorization to amend the zoning bylaws to update section 3.10 incentive zoning

Motion Mr. Phillips to include Article 36 on the warrant, seconded by Mr. Rucho, all in favor.

It was noted that the entire text will be on the website. In order to save only paper, only the new text will be included in the article.

Article 38 – Authorization to amend the zoning bylaws to update the flood plain overlay district

This is an item the Board of Selectmen forwarded to the Planning Board for their review.

Motion Mr. Phillips to include Article 38 on the warrant, seconded by Mr. Quist, all in favor.

Article 39 – Authorization to transfer funds to the Stabilization Fund

Motion Mr. Phillips to include Article 39 on the warrant, seconded by Mr. Rucho, all in favor.

Mr. Gaumond noted that the School Committee came in and asked for an article to be added to fund money out of Stabilization Fund.

Motion Mr. Rucho to include the article requested by the School Committee on the warrant, seconded by Mr. Quist, all in favor.

Article 40 – Authorization to raise and appropriate funds to the Capital Investment Fund

Motion Mr. Phillips to include Article 40 on the warrant, seconded by Mr. Rucho, all in favor

Article 26- fiscal year 2012 omnibus budget appropriation article

Mr. Gaumond reports that there is good news on the revenue side. We used the Governor's budget number and both the House and Senate have concurred with those numbers. The operational budget has not changed since the last time we discussed it and the revenues remain the same. He reviewed his line item budget with the Board.

General Government:

Moderator – this line item will be level funded from last year.

Board of Selectmen – this line item will be level funded from last year.

Town Administrator – this line item includes a town-wide cost of living adjustment for Municipal Assistant and a contractual raise for the Town Administrator. In addition it includes \$1,000 of new monies to continue our Wellness Programming for next year.

Finance Committee – the funding for this line item will continue to be eliminated.

Reserve Fund – this line item will be reduced to \$45,000.

Finance Department – this line item will be increased by \$10,000. This maintains one employee and provides some overlap of funds to deal with a transition period as our Assistant Town Accountant will be retiring. It also includes a contractual increase for FAA our financial consultant who has declined their contractual increase for each of the last five years.

Town Audit – this line item will be increased from \$26,000 to \$38,000 due to our GASB 45 actuarial study, however, we will continue to negotiate a lower rate for this service.

Assessors' department –this line item will be reduced due to the hiring of new Administrative Assessors at a lower cost.

Treasurer/Tax Collector – increase this line item for step increases, cost of living adjustments and additional funds for tax title enforcement.

Town Counsel – this line item is being reduced to \$66,000.

Personnel –this line item will not be funded again this year.

Computer Services – will be increased to include the purchase of needed equipment, an increase in our computer maintenance contract and the cost of the Online GIS system.

Town Clerk – small increase to include step increase and cost of living adjustments.

Elections – this will be decreased, however, should there be a special election, and this line item will need additional funding.

Planning Board – this line item will be funded at \$3,060 to cover the cost of their secretary and they will continue to use their revolving fund.

Public Safety Building – this item will be increased and also sets aside \$9,900 for the Municipal Building Maintenance.

Town Hall – this line item will be decreased due to the reduction in hours of the custodian and additional savings through the work of the Municipal Assistance in the consolidated supplies budget.

Town Report- line item will remain the same due to the work of the Municipal Assistant in reducing the printing costs of this report.

Total General Government is at \$1,104,438 up 2.2%.

Public Safety:

Police Department – this line item will be increased to include contractual increases to the union personnel, and a cost of living adjustment for non-union employees. It does not include a new cruiser which will be funded in our Capital article.

Fire Department – this line item will be increased to include cost of living adjustments.

Emergency Management – this line item will be maintained

Public Safety Communications – this item will be decreased due to some changes in some of the communication contracts. We are trying to regionalize these services and Mr. Gaumond hopes to have something by the beginning of the fiscal year.

Building Department – this line item will be decreased due to our continuing partnership with the Town of Sterling.

Sealer of Weights – this line item is being level funded.

Emergency Management – this line item will be increased to the level it was at a couple years ago.

Animal Control – this item will be level funded. We do need to find a replacement vehicle for this department and Mr. Gaumond is working with the Police Chief to obtain a donated vehicle.

Total public safety is \$2,158,354 up 2.1%.

Education – this line item will increase 5.2% based on the operating budget not including the extra warrant article from town meeting last May. Vocational education has also been broken out.

Total education is \$9,574,817

Public Works

Public Works - this line item will be increased to include cost of living allowances, increases to the DPW union and an increase in municipal fuel costs. It maintains the reduced staff level and Mr. Gaumond expressed his concern over the continual deterioration of the DPW's support for the tree warden and road improvement lines in the budget. There is little ability to accomplish either task well or at all. The budget also includes \$9,900 for the municipal building fund.

Snow and Ice Removal – this line item will be increased to compensate for higher personnel costs. This budget cannot be reduced below level funding in order to allow for overspending in the event of emergency situations.

Street Lights are level funded.

Trash and disposal will be increased per the Proposition 2-1/2 override. We have done very well on this for the town.

Landfill Monitoring will be funded at \$4,000 in a new line item. Previously this was funded through a warrant article; however, this should be a budget amount as it is an annual expense. We have funds remaining in an old warrant article which will be used first and next year this figure will be higher.

Cemeteries will be increased to pay of the salary of the Superintendent, which will increase to 40 hours per week.

Total public works is \$1,117,629, an increase of 4%

Human Services

Board of Health will be increased by \$200 and they will continue to operate their revolving

account to cover the remainder of their operating expenses. Salaries for the members of the Board will be \$1.

Council on Aging is increased due to cost of living adjustments.

Veterans' Services is increased to include a cost of living adjustment for the Veteran's Agent. The town is reimbursed 75% for any benefits provided to our Veterans

Total Human Services is \$108,122, an increase of 1%.

Culture and Recreation

Recreation - this line item will be eliminated. Last year we included funds to provide seed money for new programs. Mr. Rucho questioned whether they have expended their \$6,000 line item. Mr. Gaumond advised that it is used for materials and not to pay salaries.

Library – this item will be increased, however, they will need to seek a waiver from the Municipal Appropriation Requirement. We will maintain the \$9,900 municipal buildings line item.

Historical Commission – this line item will not be funded again this year.

Celebrations – this line item will not be funded again this year.

Arts Council – will be level funded.

Total Culture & Recreation is \$302,660, an increase of 4.3%

Debt Service

Debt Principal is a fixed cost to the town and will be decreased.

Debt Interest is also a fixed cost to the town and will be reduced.

Short-term borrowing will be level funded.

Total Debt Service is \$1,445,078, a 4.3% decrease.

Intergovernmental

Regional Planning Assessment is based on the town's population and comes in at \$1,509.

Wachusett Earthday, is also based on the town's population and it is \$1,945.

Total Intergovernmental is \$3,454, a decrease of 5.5%

Employee Benefits

Retirement & Pensions is a fixed cost and we pre-pay to save money.

Worker's Compensation is a fixed cost and we will increase this by \$3,000.

Unemployment Insurance will be reduced to \$50,000 as the unemployment trust will be used to balance this budget.

Group Health Insurance will be increased. This is a 10% increase in our health insurance rates. The change in contribution rates will absorb a lot of that increase. This morning there was a Press Event in Revere at which MMA along with the Mass. Association of School Committees and the Mass. Superintendent's Association spoke in favor of the strong municipal health insurance reform proposal filed this week by Speaker DeLeo and Chairman Dempsey's.

Group Life Insurance is a fixed cost and should not be lowered.

Medicare is a fixed cost and will be maintained.

Total Employee Benefits is \$3,986,688, an increase of 1.1%.

General Insurance will be reduced from \$138,000 to \$125,000, \$55,000 less than what we historically had been paying before moving over to MIIA, a reduction of 1.4% from last year. We have established a Safety Committee with goals and objectives and training programs.

Mr. Gaumond noted that this budget does not rely on non-reoccurring funds to achieve balance. It is a balanced budget. He worked with the department managers to return as many funds to the

town's budget from the previous fiscal year and the changes in health insurance contributions have contributed to the success of this budget. The total budget is \$19,926,240, an increase of 2.1%. Mr. Gaumond thanked the members of the Finance Committee for their diligence in working through this process. He announced that we have a vacancy on the Finance Committee if anybody would like to provide assistance to the town.

Motion Mr. Philips to add Article 26 to the warrant, seconded by Mr. Rucho, all in favor.

MEETINGS, INVITATIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. April 23 – Earth Day Clean up of West Boylston, rain or shine – 10:00 –noon; meet at DCR on Route 140 to get trash bags & gloves; questions call Julianne deRivera at 508.835.8830 or Judy Doherty at 508.835.0962 – Mr. Gaumond noted that we have not had a town clean up for several years and he thanked the group of volunteers who have come together to make the town more beautiful
2. April 28 – 7:00 p.m. Municipal Buildings Advisory Committee Meeting
3. April 30 – Yard Waste Recycling Facility on Laurel Street will be open from 7-noon. Recycle leaves, grass clippings and other easily raked materials or brush/branches under 6" in diameter. Full schedule posted on website – Mr. Gaumond noted that a permit is not needed for access.
4. May 1 – Little League/Softball Parade, 1:00 p.m.
5. May 3 – 7:00 p.m. Town-wide Planning Committee Meeting
6. Mr. Gaumond received notification from the Department of Conservation and recreation that their Public Access Plan Update has been completed. They received 327 completed surveys and the deadline to submit comments is May 20th. On May 31 they will hold a public meeting on the Plan at the DCR regional office. They welcome comments from the general public and Mr. Gaumond will ask the Town Clerk's office to maintain a copy of the plan send to the Selectmen's Office.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

There are no items this evening.

With no further business to come before the Board, motion Mr. Phillips at 9:05 p.m. to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Rucho, all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy E. Lucier

Approved: May 4, 2011

Kevin M. McCormick, Chairman

Allen R. Phillips, Vice Chairman

Steven J. Quist, Clerk

Christopher A. Rucho, Selectman

John J. O'Brien, Selectman