

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

**JANUARY 15, 2009**

**MEMORIAL BUILDING**

**12:00 p.m.**

*The following are to be considered draft minutes only until approved by the Board at their next meeting.*

Present: John Chiarella, Don Hill, and Neal Huntoon.

This meeting was a continuation of the Selectmen's meeting of Tuesday, January 13, 2009 for the purpose of budget review.

The meeting was not called to order until 12:30 p.m.

Space Needs:

The Selectmen discussed issues regarding space needs for the Police Department. Engineering fees budgeted for 2008 included review of the highway/safety complex as the first site to study for possible expansion of the Police Department. The site was found to be unsuitable for a police department building. The Selectmen did not have this information early enough in the year to begin looking at other sites. The Board is interested in keeping the town center concept and discussed ways this might be accomplished.

Highway Department:

In follow up to the Budget Committee meeting of January 6, 2009, the Board discussed cost of living adjustments. Brad has requested raises for his highway employees, and would like the Board to reconsider their decision to hold all wages at their current level. The Board discussed making cuts in other areas of the highway budget to accommodate employee wage increases. Neal moved to adjust wages for the highway employees as recommended by Brad, with cuts being made to gravel and reclamation in the highway budget. These raises would become effective as of Town Meeting. The motion was seconded by Don and unanimously approved.

The Board reviewed the need for a plow truck update for the highway department. They are in agreement that they do not want to look at a new truck for this coming year, but will look for something newer to replace the black truck, which was purchased to replace contract plowing. The Board agreed to appropriate \$30,000 in the highway operating budget for this purpose. They are hoping to find a vehicle in the \$25,000 range with \$5,000 for equipment necessary to set the truck up for plowing.

Police Department:

Selectmen discussed replacing the police cruiser. The Board agreed it makes sense to enter into a lease agreement to replace the Explorer. This will be proposed through a warrant article.

Tim has spoken to Board members regarding an increase in wages for Officer Beaulieu. Following discussion of the police department budget, John moved to give Officer Beaulieu an increase in pay, effective as of Town Meeting, seconded by Don and unanimously approved.

**Personnel Administration:**

Neal reported he has spoken to office staff members regarding holding the line on increased wages for the office staff. Adjustments have been made in the past for these positions. The Selectmen agreed not to recommend additional increases this year.

**Recreation Department:**

The Selectmen discussed recreation appropriations for swimming, summer camp, and other recreation opportunities. The Board adjusted the summer wage appropriation as they have been unable to find anyone to keep the summer camp program running.

**Grounds and Buildings:**

The Selectmen discussed the project list for grounds and buildings and a suggested appropriation. They will do further review of the list and prioritize projects.

The Board voted to adjourn this meeting to Monday, January 19, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. to perform employee evaluations of Department Heads.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Janet Roberts,  
Administrative Assistant