

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 20, 2009

Present: Selectmen Ives, Bowles, and Maxfield.

Chairman Ives called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

- I. Selectman Bowles moved to accept the Selectmen's Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, January 13, 2009 as presented. Seconded by Selectman Maxfield. All in favor. Motion carried. Selectman Maxfield moved to approve the Budget Meeting Minutes of Thursday, January 15, 2009 as presented. Seconded by Selectman Bowles. All in favor. Motion carried.
- II. The Board began their review of weekly correspondence.
 - a. The Board received copies of litigation filed regarding the Greenview Drive petition. The Board agreed to forward this information to Town Counsel for review.
 - b. The Board received a request for reimbursement of the McNeil/Cummings Scholarship to an individual student. The Board stated that the monies would need to be paid to the College/University or the lending institution.
 - c. The Board received a request to place the proposed warrant articles and budget into the next issue of the Loudon Ledger. The Board agreed to forward the information and noted that all the information is subject to revisions.
 - d. The Board received notice that the NHMA dues have been reduced due to the current economic times.
 - e. The Board received notice of the January 30, 2009 NHMA full membership meeting to discuss the State revenue deficit.
 - f. The Board received correspondence regarding highway safety needs.
 - g. The Board received correspondence from Congressman Hodes on Federal Stimulus proposal for review.
 - h. The Board discussed the issue of responding in writing to the State regarding the bridge postings. The Board agreed to have Road Agent David Rice prepare the listing and have the office staff type it up.
 - i. The Board received copies of an e-mail from Engineer Judy Houston regarding grant availability.
 - j. The Board received information from NH Retirement System regarding proposed assessments.
 - k. The Board received copies of NHMA Legislative Bulletin #3 for review.
 - l. The Board received a newsletter from Councilor Shea for review.
 - m. The Board received copies of the January 8, 2009 Trustees of the Trust Funds Meeting Minutes for review.
- III. Chairman Ives opened the Public Hearing to discuss the proposed 2009 – 2010 Budget and Warrant Articles for the Town of Loudon.

- a. Chairman Ives gave a brief overview of how the public hearing was going to be run.
- b. Chairman Ives began review of the 2009 – 2010 proposed budget. He stated that the Board had agreed on a 2.5% COLA for town employees. Fire Chief Jeff Burr noted that the State of NH set their COLA at 5.5% and Social Security is at 5.8%. He said it appeared that this is the third year in a row that the town has not met what the State and SS has set for their increases. Chief Burr went on to say that by not keeping up with the standard COLA, the town is getting further and further behind, so when the town decides to bring the employees salaries up to be competitive with surrounding towns/cities it will cost the town an astronomical amount of money at once. Chairman Ives stated the Board had reviewed information from NHMA and stated that the Town of Loudon is lagging a little bit behind and are on the low side for employee salaries. He said the Board felt that with the current economic issues the 2.5% was a compromise. Chairman Ives went on to say that the State of NH increase was due to contract negotiations a few years ago, and even though Governor Lynch did not want to give any increases this year, he was bound by the contract to give the 5.5% and he felt it was unfair to compare the town with Social Security. Chief Burr asked if the Selectmen knew what the Merrimack Valley School District employees were receiving for a COLA. Selectman Maxfield stated that the School District also had a contract. Selectman Bowles said he was not in favor of any COLA due to the economy and stated that was his opinion, not the Board's.
- c. Chairman Ives reviewed the proposed budget and noted the lines that had significant increases or decreases as follows:
 - Selectmen – Data Processing: decreased by 18.51% due to the new computer and technology is now up to speed.
 - Selectmen – Printing: decreased by 5.88%.
 - Selectmen – Office Equipment: decreased by 12.5%.
 - Selectmen – Publication: decreased by 50% as the Town has opted to access the State Statutes on-line instead of purchasing the printed hard copies. Chairman Ives stated the Selectmen's Budget has a decrease of 9.21%.
 - Landfill Testing: decreased by 5.73% as the Board feels there will be enough funds for the testing with this reduction.
 - Town Clerk – Deputy Town Clerk – Wages: decreased by 34.91% due to the positions of Deputy Town Clerk and Deputy Tax Collector being combined and at a reduced hourly rate. Chairman Ives stated the Town Clerk's Budget has a decrease of 8.99%.
 - Election – Printing: decreased by 50% due to the Presidential Election being over and there not being as many elections scheduled during this budget year.
 - Election – Expenses: decrease by 38.91% due to there not being as many elections scheduled during this budget year. Chairman Ives stated the Election Budget has a decrease of 24.86%.
 - Trust Funds – Trustees Salary: increased by 33.33% to bring the salaries up to meet with other positions. Chairman Ives stated the Trust Funds Budget has an increase of 30.76%.

Assessments/Maps – Assessments: increased by 7.14% as the Town is working on an eighteen month contract with Cross Country Appraisal Group, LLC to get the fiscal year cycle in sync. He said that the contract has actually gone down, but it appears that there is the 7.14% increase due to the extended timeframe.

Assessments/Maps – Engineering Fees: decreased by 23.07%.

Chairman Ives stated the Assessments/Maps Budget has an increase of 4.11%.

Tax Collector – Deputy Tax Collector: decreased by 52.44% due to the combined position with the Deputy Town Clerk and a reduced hourly rate.

Tax Collector – Dues: increased by 50% due to projected increase.

Chairman Ives stated this increase is only \$60.00. Trudy Mott-Smith asked what the Tax Collector – Dues line was for. Chairman Ives stated that the Tax Collector is part of the NH Tax Collector's Association and there is a yearly fee. He said the Association keeps the Tax Collectors informed of changes in laws and hold seminars throughout the year. Mary Ann Steele stated that the Town is required by law to participate in the Association.

Tax Collector – Postage: increased by 6.66%.

Tax Collector – Registry Deeds: increased by 20%.

Tax Collector – Seminars/Training: increased by 15.38%.

Chairman Ives stated the Tax Collector's Budget has a decrease of 4.28%.

Treasurer – Office Supplies: increased by 50% or \$100.00.

Treasurer – Data Processing: decreased by 33.33%.

Chairman Ives stated the Treasurer's Budget has a decrease of 1.09%.

Employee Benefits – FICA – Town Share: increased by 26.89% due to the new computer software combining the FICA and Medicare – Town share together in one line. Chairman Ives stated that the Town's share of FICA and Medicare will be combined in this one line and the Employee Benefits – Medicare – Town Share line will be zeroed out. He said that overall this line is technically down but does not appear that way on the report.

Employee Benefits – NH Retirement System: increased by 36.79%.

Chairman Ives stated that increase is an amount that is determined by the State Retirement System. He stated the Employee Benefits Budget has an increase of 17.60%.

Planning Board – Mileage: increased by 25% which is equal to \$25.00.

Planning Board – Printing: decreased by 34.78%.

Chairman Ives stated the Planning Board Budget has a decrease of 1.19%.

Zoning Board – Legal Consultants: decreased by 28.57%.

Zoning Board – Office Supplies: decreased by 16.66%.

Chairman Ives stated the Zoning Board Budget has a decrease of 2.62%.

General Government Building – Town Office – Electricity: increased by 11.11%. Chairman Ives stated the reason for the increase in electricity is that PSNH has advised the Selectmen of an increase between 9 – 12%.

General Government Building – Town – Street Lighting: increased by 5.4% due to information from PSNH of their intended increase, but at a reduced rate.

General Government Building – Town Offices/Community Building Repairs: decreased by 28.57%. Chairman Ives stated that the Town Office

Building has undergone repairs to include: new windows, new roof, a new boiler, and some of the carpets have been replaced. He said the Community Building is in pretty good shape and the Selectmen have agreed to keep \$25,000.00 in this budget line for emergencies.

General Government Building – Town Building Expenses: decreased by 15.78%.

General Government Building – Town Hall – Electricity: increased by 9.09%.

General Government Building – Town Hall – Heating: increased by 33.33% or \$100.00.

General Government Building – Town Hall Repairs: increased by 163.15%. Chairman Ives stated there are major renovations to be done to the building to include replacing the fire escape; new siding on the East and North side of the building and the foundation needs to be repaired. He stated that the Loudon Freewill Baptist Church will pay for half of the bills for this project. Chairman Ives stated this is a historic building. Trudy Mott-Smith asked if there was any historical preservation money available for this project. Chairman Ives said the Board was not aware of any funding available and said it was an avenue that could be explored.

Chairman Ives stated the General Government Building Budget has an increase of 5.29%.

Cemeteries – Town Cemeteries: decreased by 63.15%. Chairman Ives stated this line had been increased last year to repair the fence next to the Fire Station, which has been completed. He stated the contract for cemetery mowing has been signed and there is no increase for this service.

Chairman Ives stated the Cemeteries Budget has a decrease of 63.15%.

Employee Benefits – Town Health and Dental Insurance: increased by 50.85%. Chairman Ives stated that the projected increase for the health and dental premium is estimated to be at 12 - 14% and there has been an increase in the number of town employees who have opted to take the health and dental insurance this past year, plus the cost of one new family plan. He said that the combined information comes to the \$306,985.00.

Employee Benefits – Unemployment: increased by 20%.

Town Insurance: increased by 20%.

Chairman Ives stated the Employee Benefits Budget has an increase of 37.27%. Discussion ensued regarding the number of family plans as well as single plans. Chairman Ives stated the single plans are covered 100%, and with the family plans the employee pays a portion of the premium which is approximately \$700.00 per year. The Board will have the breakdown of the number of single and family health and dental insurance participants for the next budget hearing.

Police – Electricity/Lights: increased by 11.11%.

Police – Gasoline: increased by 7.14%. Chairman Ives stated that with the fuel prices fluctuating so much the Board wanted to be prepared.

Police – Ammunition: increased by 50% due to training requirements and an increase in cost for the ammunition.

Police – Tires: increased by 40% due to the increase in costs.

Chairman Ives stated the Police Budget has an increase of 2.51%.

Special Events – Police Department: increased by 2.4%.

Special Events – Fire Department: increased by 7.14%.

Chairman Ives stated that this is an in-out account and that it has an increase of 2.79%. Peter Pitman asked why there was an increase in this line if it is an in-out account. Chairman Ives stated that the increase is due to salary increases and that the funding has to be in and available so that payroll can be met. He said the Town forwards a bill to the Track for reimbursement. Trudy Mott-Smith asked about the Special Events - Police Department – Witness Fees. Selectman Maxfield stated that depending on the cases that the police department is dealing with, they may need to call witnesses. Ms. Mott-Smith stated it appears to be a bigger allocation than needs to be. She said she thought that it might be for overtime pay for police. The Board said no. Chairman Ives said when the police officers go to court they are paid out of the regular payroll line, not the witness fee line. Ms. Mott-Smith stated that witnesses are generally paid mileage so she thinks that this line is one that could be reduced. Chairman Ives stated he would speak with Chief Fiske regarding his opinion on this line.

Chairman Ives stated the Special Events Budget has an increase of 2.79%.

Visiting Nurse – Health – Concord VNA: increased by 5.88%. Chairman Ives stated this figure is based on population. He said for the \$4,500.00 budgeted, the town gets an incredible amount of services for residents.

Ambulance – Wages – FF/EMTS: increased by 3.8% due to COLA and a merit increase for one employee.

Ambulance – Billing Fees: increased by 14.28%. Chairman Ives stated this is for billing of ambulance related services.

Ambulance – Paramedic Service: increased by 31.25%. Chairman Ives stated that there is no set amount of times when a Paramedic Intercept is called for, it is based on the determination of the treating EMTs at a medical emergency. He said that the patients insurance is billed for the additional service, and it is an in-out account.

Chairman Ives stated the Ambulance Budget is increased by 4.67%.

Fire – Fire Code Enforcement: increased by 6.66% or \$100.00.

Fire – Dispatch: increased by 9.58%. Chairman Ives stated the Selectmen have no control over this increase as it is direct billed.

Fire – Telephone: increased by 3.89% or \$150.00.

Fire – Medical Expenses: increased by 5.55%. Chairman Ives stated this is for restocking the ambulance from Concord Hospital.

Fire – Electricity: increased by 13.33%.

Fire – Building Maintenance: increased by 20%. Chairman Ives stated this line has not been increased for a number of years. He said there are two buildings that have to be covered by this line.

Fire – Gas/Oil: increased by 25%. Chairman Ives stated this increase is due to an increase in the number of emergency calls as well as the issue with the price fluctuation.

Fire – Truck Maintenance: increased by 6.25%.

Fire – Hose and Fittings: increased by 20%.

Fire - Equipment Maintenance: increased by 25%. Chairman Ives stated that this line was for the small equipment on the trucks.

Fire – Equipment Testing: increased by 35%. Chairman Ives stated this line is for the testing of the ladders, ladder truck, SCBA's, etc.

Chairman Ives stated the Fire Department Budget has an increase of 5.53%.

Compliance – Code Assistant Wages: increased by 10.81%. Chairman Ives stated this increase is due in part by the COLA as well as a merit raise.

Peter Pitman asked if there was less building going on in town, why would there be an increase in this workload. Chairman Ives stated that there are new ordinances that are going to be in place that will fall on the Code Enforcement Department which will increase their workload. He discussed the new Windmill Ordinance and stated that the Code Enforcement Office has increased their efficiency in dealing with the Impact Fees and are looking at restructuring the Impact Fee. Chairman Ives stated this position is sixteen hours per week. Selectman Bowles stated the number of hours for this position actually started last year.

Chairman Ives stated the Compliance Budget has an increase of 4.22%.

Highway – Parts #1, #2, #3, and #4: each increased by 21.73%. Chairman Ives stated this is an increase of \$500.00 per vehicle due to the increase in costs.

Highway – Parts Loader: increased by 20%. He said the Road Agent had asked for more funding but the Board agreed on the \$500.00 increase.

Highway – Parts #5 and #6: increased by 21.73% or \$500.00 each.

Highway – Gas and Oil: increased by 5.26%.

Highway – Repair Truck #1, #2, #3, #4, and #6: each increased by 20% or \$300.00 each. Chairman Ives stated this line is used when the trucks have to be sent out for repairs that cannot be done by the Highway Department.

Highway – Repair Loader: increased by 20%.

Highway – Road Maintenance and Repairs: increased by 18.18%.

Chairman Ives stated this increase was for the cost of gravel and repair of dirt roads.

Chairman Ives stated the Highway Department Budget has an increase of 5.23%.

Highway Block Grant – Salt: increased by 13.63%. Chairman Ives stated this is Block Grant money that the Town receives from the State of NH and is an in-out account. He stated that Road Agent David Rice was able to lock in to a better price than the State for the salt this year.

Chairman Ives stated the Block Grant Budget has an increase of 3.63%.

Solid Waste/Landfill – Telephone: increased by 33.33%. Chairman Ives stated this line was previously underfunded and the increase is a direct result of the actual bills.

Solid Waste/Landfill – Electricity: increased by 16.66%.

Solid Waste/Landfill – Diesel/Propane Fuel: increased by 150%. Chairman Ives stated that this line was over expended during the last budget and the reason for the increase is to cover the increase in costs. Selectman Bowles stated that part of the increase is due to filling the Loader and Grader if they are being used in the vicinity of the Transfer Station. He said part of the reason the Board did not increase this line in the Highway Department Budget is because of the Loader and Grader fueling more often at the Transfer Station.

Solid Waste/Landfill – Repair Skid Steer: increased by 66.66% or \$400.00. Chairman Ives stated that while this piece of equipment is aging, it appears to be more cost efficient to repair versus purchase new equipment.

Solid Waste/Landfill – Repair Tractor #7: increased by 25%.

Solid Waste/Landfill – Committee Expenses: increased by 170% or \$850.00. Steve Bennett, Transfer Station Manager stated that this increase is partially due to reclassification of expenses such as recertification expenses.

Solid Waste/Landfill – Tipping Fees: increased by 26.93%. Chairman Ives stated this is for the fees the town pays to Wheelabrator to accept the town's trash. Discussion ensued regarding the GAT and projected costs for the future. Carol Soule asked why there was such a large increase. Selectman Bowles said that the cost per ton is changing from \$45.00 to \$60.00 per ton as of July 1. It was discussed that the tonnage has been declining each year due to the recycling efforts of the town; however, the cost per ton delivered is increasing. The Board stated that the recycling revenue has gone down and there are items that the town has to pay to dispose of. Peter Pitman asked if recycling costs were becoming such that it was getting to be cost prohibitive to recycle. Steve Bennett stated that some towns have made changes in their recycling; however, Loudon has been able to stay ahead with recycling. He said that metal has rebounded recently to be over \$100.00 per ton. Mr. Bennett said that it costs the town approximately \$25.00 per ton to have mixed paper recycled, but it would cost \$45.00 to haul it to Wheelabrator. He said most of the other recyclables generate revenue. Chairman Ives stated that Mr. Bennett does a fabulous job keeping on top of these issues.

Solid Waste/Landfill – Demolition: increased by 7.14%.

Chairman Ives stated the Solid Waste/Landfill Budget has an increase of 19.39%.

Community Action Program: increased by 5.07%.

J. O. Cate Van – Operating Expense: increased by 6.43%. Chairman Ives stated that this increase is due to the new building expenses.

Welfare – Fuel: increased by 19.04%.

Welfare – Rent: increased by 6.66%.

Welfare – Other: increased by 150%. Trudy Mott-Smith asked what the Welfare – Other line was for. Selectman Maxfield stated that he would get the exact answer.

Chairman Ives stated the Welfare Budget has an increase of 8.06%.

Recreation – Swim Lesson Wages: increased by 25% due to an increase in participation and the increase in instruction costs.

Recreation – Lifeguard/Recreation Wages: increased by 17.44%. Chairman Ives stated this increase is due to the fact that the current lifeguard has not received the COLA increase in approximately four years.

Chairman Ives discussed the Porta John Rental line. He stated that this line is level funded and while there will be a decrease in the need at the Recreation Field since the Ice Rink will not be up, there is the addition of the new soccer fields by the Loudon Elementary School. Carol Soule asked if the Board considered purchasing Porta Johns. Chairman Ives stated that

the units would need to be serviced and there are the issues with vandalism to consider as well as storage of the units. Currently, everything is handled through the contracted company.

Recreation – Park Maintenance Supplies and Equipment: increased by 50% or \$500.00. Chairman Ives stated this increase is due to a request from the Recreation Committee to upgrade the picnic tables and work on upgrading the equipment.

Recreation – Special Events: decreased by 19.16%. Chairman Ives stated this is due to some changes within this line. He said there is a new line created for Bicycle Safety in the amount of \$2,300.00, which had been part of the Special Events line in the past. Chairman Ives went on to say that the Recreation Committee felt it was important to have this function on its own. He said the previous Special Events line was \$12,000.00 and has now been adjusted to \$9,700.00 with the \$2,300.00 in the Bicycle Safety line to equal \$12,000.00.

Chairman Ives stated the Recreation Budget has an increase of 5.42%.

Selectman Maxfield stated that he wanted to answer Trudy Mott-Smith's question regarding the "Welfare – Other" line. He said the line is to pay for miscellaneous things such as repairing a furnace for someone receiving welfare or repairing a door. Selectman Maxfield said it is used for things that do not fall into the other categories.

Library – Salary and Wages lines: increased by 2.5%. Library Trustee Sandra Blanchard stated that the Trustees had requested to have their budget returned to what it was last year and asked for an increase for the Library Director. She discussed other pay increases for town employees within this budget as well as in years past. Ms. Blanchard stated that the Library cut back to 30 hours per week due to the budget cuts at last year's town meeting and feels that with the economic changes there will be more of a need for the library services. Ms. Blanchard said she would like to see the Board reconsider the Trustees request. Peter Pitman said with the economic times the way they are, he feels the Library budget increases are more than adequate. He said if the funding that was cut at last year's meeting is returned to their budget, plus an increase in the salary line, it will be a lot of money that the townspeople have to come up with. Chairman Ives reviewed the budget figures from the Library for fiscal year 2007 – 2008 in the amount of \$186,388.86, the 2008 – 2009 fiscal year in the amount of \$134,952.00, and the proposed budget for fiscal year 2009 – 2010 in the amount of \$169,143.00. He said that the proposed budget is somewhere in the middle of the previous years. Chairman Ives stated that the Board put the Library wages at the 2.5% just the same as the other town employees. Selectman Bowles stated that he wanted to clarify that the Trustees of the Trust Funds did not see an actual increase; it is due to the additional withholding costs. He said it is not a raise. Trudy Mott-Smith asked if the figures for the Library wages were based on the current number of hours worked per week. Chairman Ives stated the Library Director and the Children's Librarian are salaried positions and they set their hours. Ms. Mott-Smith asked if the Board was saying that there are existing salaried positions that the Board has increased at the same rate of all the other town

employees but it does not impact the number of hours the library services are available to the citizens. Chairman Ives stated the Board has increased the salary/wages but the Library dictates the number of hours they work. He said the Selectmen control the bottom line. Selectman Bowles stated the Board has proposed the same 2.5% COLA. Ms. Mott-Smith asked for the original amount that the Trustees submitted for the Library Director's Salary. Chairman Ives stated the amount requested for the Library Director was \$42,990.45. Selectman Bowles stated that is a 15% increase. Chairman Ives said the Children's Librarian request was \$30,498.30 which is a 5% increase, and the Part Time Wages original request was \$56,784.00. Deb Kardaseski stated that the Library cut the number of hours they were open last year but did not cut either the Library Director or Children's Librarian's salaries. She said that they received their full salaries last year and either worked the additional hours while the Library was closed, or they received their full salaries and worked fewer hours per week. Chairman Ives stated that this Budget Hearing was not going to be a debate, that the Library Trustees have made a request and the Board is going to take it under advisement. He said there is another Budget Hearing scheduled. Library Trustee Susan Kowalski stated that the Trustees had proposed a higher amount for the Part Time Wages so that the Library could operate at forty hours per week. She stated that it appeared the Selectmen took the Part Time Wage line that was currently in place and increased it by the 2.5%, which would not be enough funding to cover the forty hours per week that they are trying to get back to. Mrs. Kowalski stated both the Library Director and Children's Librarian have duties that take them away from their desks so the hours of operation do not necessarily correlate to the hours that they are working. Deb Kardaseski stated that Merrimack Valley School District has a policy by which a student must have a certain number of community service hours to graduate. She asked if the students could fill in some of the Part Time Wage hours without pay. Ms. Kardaseski stated that last year the taxpayers tried to send a message to the Library Trustees that they felt the Library spending was out of control and it appears that the message has not been received. Chairman Ives said he does not want to turn this meeting into a debate and asked that individuals who have questions regarding the budget items to speak. Mary Ann Steele discussed the increase in the Library Reference Materials line as well as the Library Elevator Maintenance line. Chairman Ives stated that the Elevator Maintenance line is a contract amount that is set for the yearly inspection. Mrs. Steele asked why the Library buys passes and if they are well used. Selectman Bowles said it is one service that the Library provides to townspeople to go to Shaker Village and Christa McAuliffe Planetarium, etc. He said it is a good service for the community and he does not feel that it is a very large amount of money for the service it provides. Mrs. Steele stated the Library References line appears to be a large jump. Selectman Maxfield stated that the Selectmen agreed that this budget was going to town meeting. Carol Soule asked if the Part Time Wage line was not increased to the original figure that the Library Trustees requested, did that mean that the Library would not go back to being open forty hours per

week. Chairman Ives stated he felt that is what the Trustees had said. Roy Merrill reviewed the 2008 – 2009 Library Budget relative to the amount budgeted versus the amount spent to date and asked if the Library was going to slow down their spending during the second half of the year or would they over expend their bottom line. Chairman Ives said if the Trustees choose to answer that question they may, but it is the proposed 2009 – 2010 Budget Hearing. Mrs. Kowalski stated she did not know where the figures were coming from because this report does not correspond with what the Trustees work with. Peter Pitman asked if the Board would ask the Trustees if they could obtain the information and have it available for the next budget hearing so the question can be answered prior to town meeting. The Board said that this was the forum for these types of questions so they can be addressed. Selectman Bowles stated Nancy Hendy nodded in response to having the information for the next budget hearing. Selectman Maxfield stated that reviewing a current budget is difficult at the half-way mark as some lines may have been expended early on in the year while others may not be expended until the end of the year.

Chairman Ives stated that the Library budget has an increase of 25.33%. Chairman Ives stated the Contingency Fund line was level funded at \$10,000.00. Chief Burr asked if the contingency fund would be enough considering all of the unexpected events that have taken place in recent years. The Board stated that they have discussed this issue and feel that while they know there can be things that unexpectedly happen, they agreed on the level funding. Chief Burr stated that his concern was when the emergency generator needed to be replaced it cost \$15,000.00. The Board discussed ways they can deal with emergency issues if needed. Trudy Mott-Smith asked the Board if they had a cost estimate for a Special Town Meeting. Discussion ensued regarding the last Special Town Meeting for Loudon as well as cost estimates.

Loudon Communications Council budget is level funded at \$12,000.00. Carol Soule asked if there was a breakdown of how the Communications Council plans to spend the money. Chairman Ives read through the proposed budget information from the Communications Council for a total cost to publish a year of the Ledger at \$24,215.00. He said the total advertising income received was \$11,297.60, with a \$40.00 donation combined with the Town Budget of \$12,000.00 came to a total revenue of \$23,337.60, for a deficit of \$877.40 for July 1, 2007 – June 30, 2008. Carol Soule asked why the Communications Council Budget was under the Contingency category. The Board said it was just the way it fell in the accounting category. Ms. Soule said she felt that with the need to cut back and “think green”, this might be one area that is looked at. She said this is not good for the landfills.

Chairman Ives reviewed the lines for the Payments to Capital Reserves and stated that they have all been level funded.

Chairman Ives stated that the total proposed budget for 2009 – 2010 has an increase of 8.43%.

- d. Chairman Ives began the review of the proposed Warrant Articles and read the draft warrant for those present.

ARTICLE__: To see if the Town will vote to discontinue completely a portion of the Old Staniels Road, beginning at the Route 106 Right-of-way adjacent to Tax Map 1, Lot 049 and continuing for a distance of 435 feet. The Board stated that the current landowner has asked that this warrant article be included. Discussion ensued regarding why some of the articles stated the Selectmen recommend or do not recommend the article. Chairman Ives stated that the Selectmen's recommendation only have to be listed if it is an article that pertains to money. Trudy Mott-Smith asked if there were any homes on this portion of Old Staniels Road. Chairman Ives said there were not. He said that there is one driveway permit on that property and Cascade Park Campground has a 50-foot right-of-way across the back of Tax Map 1, Lot 049. Discussion ensued regarding the State owning the property on the other side of the road.

ARTICLE__: To see if the Town will vote to establish a Recreation Revolving Fund pursuant to RSA 35-B:2 11. The money received from fees and charges for recreation park services and facilities shall be allowed to accumulate from year to year, and shall not be considered to be part of the town's general fund unreserved fund balance. The Town Treasurer shall have custody of all monies in the fund, and shall pay out the same only upon order of the recreation director (no further town meeting approval required). These funds may be expended only for recreation purposes as stated in RSA 35-B, and no expenditures shall be made in such a way as to require the expenditure of other town funds that have not been appropriated for that purpose. Further to raise and appropriate \$1,000.00 from the unreserved fund balance for this purpose. The Selectmen recommend this article.

Chairman Ives stated that this fund will allow the Recreation Committee to deposit any monies collected from Special Events over and above the cost of a program into this fund to be used for future program costs. He said currently any monies collected over and above the cost of the program gets deposited into the general fund and the Recreation Committee does not have access to those funds. Recreation Committee Chairman Alicia Grimaldi stated this is to build the Recreation Program.

Selectman Maxfield read: **ARTICLE__**: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to establish or amend fees or charges pursuant to RSA 41:9a. If approved, this authorization will remain in effect until rescinded. The Selectmen recommend this article. Selectman Maxfield stated this deals with fees such as parking fee violations, rental fees of the buildings, and other fees. He said this will give the Board the authority to make those changes.

Selectman Bowles read: **ARTICLE__**: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000.00 to participate in a bi-annual Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day in the Spring of 2010. This article would affect the tax rate by 2 cents per \$1,000.00 value. The Selectmen recommend this article. Selectman Bowles stated the Town held a collection day this past fall and it was a huge turnout and people were even turned away. He said the Board felt there was a need to do this again. He said the \$5,000.00 was not enough to pay for the whole event and that is why the Selectmen have increased the figure to \$10,000.00. Selectman Bowles said it was \$8,700.00

and the Board had to find money within the budget to cover the unexpected increase. Discussion ensued regarding placing this item in the budget and having its own line item versus placing it on the warrant.

Chairman Ives read: **ARTICLE __**: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$44,030.00 for the purpose of hiring one additional full time Firefighter/Emergency Medical Technician, and further to raise and appropriate the sum of \$30,695.00 for the fiscal year 2009 – 2010. Such sum representing the town's portion of expenses attributed to increase in salary, benefits, and equipment included in posted budget for current staffing level. This article would affect the tax rate by 13 cents per \$1,000.00 value.

Chairman Ives stated this is an article that the Board will have to put their recommendation or not on, and the Board has chosen to leave it blank for now as they have just received it and want to have time to discuss it with Chief Burr to get all the information. Mrs. Steele asked why the article was written with the two dollar amounts broken out instead of having the total amount. Chief Burr stated this was the way he was requested to submit the article so the taxpayers could see how the funding would be split out. Mrs. Steele suggested that the two amounts be specified as salary and benefits to alleviate confusion. Chief Burr stated this article was modeled after a previous article to hire a new police officer for the police department. Chairman Ives stated he commended Chief Burr for being as transparent as possible with this article. Mrs. Steele agreed. Ms. Mott-Smith asked what type of equipment was included in this article. Chief Burr said uniforms, pagers, protective gear, etc. It was stated that this article would allow for full time coverage, seven days per week from six in the morning to six in the evening with the combination of this position and the per diem position. Chief Burr gave a breakdown of the costs associated with this position.

Selectman Maxfield read: **ARTICLE __**: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$186,000.00, for the purchase of an Ambulance and Equipment, with said funds to be withdrawn from the Ambulance/Rescue Equipment Capital Reserve Fund, and to appoint the Board of Selectmen as agents to carry said purpose into effect. The Selectmen recommend this article. This Ambulance is listed in the 2009-2010 Capitol Improvements Program as proposed by the Fire Department. Just after the 2008 town meeting a committee was formed to look at replacing the current Ambulance, a 1999 PL Custom. This committee looked at the needs of the department, viewed ambulances from four manufacturers and then wrote a set of specifications. Those specifications were then sent out to four ambulance manufacturers.

Selectman Bowles read: **ARTICLE __**: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$148,500.00 for the purpose of resurfacing Soucook Lane, Lovering Avenue, and Hollow Route Road. \$100,000.00 to be withdrawn from the Roadway Improvement Capital Reserve Fund and the balance to be raised from taxes. This article will affect the tax rate by 9 cents per \$1,000.00 value. Selectman Bowles stated the Board just received this article and has not had time to really discuss it with the Road Agent further. Chairman Ives said that is why there is no recommendation from the Selectmen listed yet. Discussion ensued. Mary Ann Steele asked if the Board

could provide the list of roads in town for the next budget hearing and talked about issues with Lower Ridge Road. Selectman Bowles said he is not in favor of this article as written. He said it was his suggestion that no road is done this year and that the resources and manpower are utilized to do preparation for projects next year. Selectman Bowles said he did not want to raise and appropriate any money this year. He said he would like to see ditch work done, culverts changed, brush cut back, etc., because every time the town goes to pave a road we find out there is a culvert or issue that does not get fixed because the pavers are on their way. Selectman Bowles went on to discuss his suggestions for Lower Ridge Road. Selectman Maxfield said that Upper City Road was addressed last year and ten culverts were replaced. He said he thought the Highway Department did a good job. Chairman Ives said it is an issue that has to be kept after and the town cannot let it slide. He said he does agree there may be a need to do the preparation work this year, it is something that the Board has to look at. Carol Soule asked about any federal money that could be available for this type of project. The Board said they have received information today regarding the stimulus plan but would need to look at this as a possibility. Chief Burr cautioned people when looking to the grants for funding as many of the grants available come with a matching or percentage of matching funds clause. He said in many instances the Town would have to pay for the project upfront and then put in for reimbursement from the federal government.

- e. Selectman Maxfield began the review of the 2009 – 2010 Estimated Revenues.

Selectman Maxfield stated that the revenues will help offset the budget and gave a brief overview of how the estimated revenues are derived. He reviewed the Estimated Revenues noting that the Estimated Revenues for Other Taxes – HCF is at \$75,000.00. He said this HCF fee is from ESMI. Estimated Revenues for Commercial Hauler Tonnage Fees were from the companies that haul trash from Loudon to Wheelabrator in Penacook and it is at \$80,000.00. Estimated Revenues for Fire Special Events is at \$87,000.00 and Police Special Events is at \$485,000.00 which is revenue received from the Race Track. Estimated Revenues for Police Witness Fees is at 4,000.00. Mary Ann Steele asked about the Witness Fee line as the budget line is set at \$6,000.00 and the revenue line is only at \$4,000.00. It was discussed that the estimated revenue line might need to be adjusted to \$6,000.00. The Selectmen will look at this line. Estimated Revenues for Impact Fees is at zero. Janice Morin asked why the Impact Fee line is at zero when they are collecting Impact Fees. Discussion ensued. Estimated Revenues for Recreation Special Events is at \$9,700.00. Ms. Mott-Smith asked if this line would disappear when the Revolving Fund is established. The Board stated they did not think so as this is for the established Special Events Program and is an in-out account. Estimated Revenues for Sale of Town Property is at \$4,000.00. Ms. Mott-Smith asked what this was. The Board said it is for sale of any town property such as vehicles and equipment sold at the Surplus Auction. Selectman Maxfield stated the total Estimated Revenues for 2009 – 2010 is \$2,638,497.00, the proposed Budget is at \$4,597,410.00, which leaves a balance of \$1,958,913.00. He said the overall budget is up \$357,529.00.

Chairman Ives thanked everyone for attending the Budget Hearing and reminded them of the School District Budget Hearing scheduled for Tuesday, January 27, 2009. He stated the Selectmen's Meeting will be changed from Tuesday, January 27, 2009 to Wednesday, January 28, 2009 so the Selectmen can attend the School District Budget Hearing.

Selectman Bowles moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:06 PM. Seconded by Selectman Maxfield. All in favor. Meeting adjourned.

THE LOUDON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Steven R. Ives, Chairman

Dustin J. Bowles, Selectman

Roger A. Maxfield, Selectman