

## Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

### Final Budget Hearing

Wednesday, February 7, 2007

**Present: Selectman Bowles, Maxfield, and Ives.**

**Chairman Bowles opened the meeting at 7:00 PM.**

- I. Chairman Bowles stated this is the final budget hearing for the 2007 – 2008 budget. He stated there are two new Warrant Articles to be included on the Warrant and reviewed the changes to the budget that have occurred since the last budget hearing.
  - a. The Landfill Testing line has been reduced to \$24,400.00 due to the revised proposal with The Louis Berger Group due to the change from calendar year to fiscal year.
  - b. The Town Office cleaning line has been increased to \$3,000.00. Chairman Bowles explained that there has not been any increase in this line since 1999.
  - c. The Town Office/Community Building repair line has been increased to \$35,000.00. Chairman Bowles said that the cupola at the Community Building is showing signs of rot near the bottom next to the roof.
  - d. The Special Events Emergency Management line has been deleted. Chairman Bowles said that there have been talks with the State Emergency Management and it appears that this line would not be needed in this year's budget. He said that several other lines for this department have been deleted due to the same reason. Chairman Bowles said they have increased the main budget line to \$1,200.00 and the training and seminars line remains at \$500.00. He stated that the Board would address this department relative to budget increases if there were a change in need. Chairman Bowles said that the Board would be meeting with Chris Pope from NH Home Land Security to review Emergency Management.
  - e. The Recreation Park Maintenance and Supplies line increase to \$8,100.00. Chairman Bowles said this increase is due to a request by LYAA for dugouts and fencing for the Recreation Field in the Village. He said this is a safety issue and LYAA has many volunteers that are willing to do the labor if the materials are supplied. Rick Broider, President of LYAA stated the fence would be 242 feet long.
  - f. Ray Cummings asked about the Tax Collector's line for File Clerk. Chairman Bowles stated that this line has been increased due to the

training of new staff in the Tax Collector's office. Mr. Cummings stated he felt the Board should look at what the File Clerk's responsibilities are and what the Treasurer's responsibilities are. He said he felt that the increase in the File Clerk line should be moved to the Treasurer's salary line. Chairman Bowles said that during the budget meetings with department heads, no one discussed any issues with the Treasurer's salary line; therefore, the Board was not aware that there was an issue.

- g. Mr. Cummings asked about the new budget reports relative to not showing prior years information. Chairman Bowles said that it is due to the new software. He said that next year it would show prior years history because this year's information will be there.
- h. Mr. Cummings discussed the ESMI Host Community Fee line under the Estimated Revenues. Mr. Cummings encouraged the Board to look at the collected Host Community Fees for the year to be sure that ESMI is forwarding the payment on time.
- i. Discussion ensued regarding the File Clerk line under Tax Collector not being an increase for the current position, but to also fund a second position if the current Deputy Tax Collector retires. The Board agreed to adjust the Treasurer's Salary line to \$10,236.00, which is a \$3,000.00 increase. Mr. Cummings asked if the Board was going to reduce the amount in the Tax Collectors File Clerk line. The Board said no, that the intent is to have the current Deputy Tax Collector, the current File Clerk whose salary from this line was \$1,246.00 last year, and a new position to train someone to become Deputy Tax Collector in this budget.
- j. Selectman Maxfield stated there are no changes to the 2007 – 2008 Estimated Revenues since the last Budget Hearing. He said the 2007 – 2008 Estimated Revenue figure is \$7,040,770.00.

- II. The Board began their review the proposed Warrant Articles for Town Meeting.
  - a. Selectman Maxfield read Warrant Article #3 and said that it is for the additional cost associated with paving a portion of Clough Pond Road/Old Shaker Road. He said based on the circumstances of the two bridge washouts and flooding, DRA advised the Board to put this project on hold. The additional money is due to the increase in paving costs and that the money, which was appropriated at last year's Town Meeting, will be utilized along with these additional funds.
  - b. Selectman Ives read Warrant Article #4 and said this is to replace a truck, which was purchased 17 years ago. He went on to say that this truck has had numerous repairs and is getting costly to maintain. Mr. Cummings asked if the sander in the truck that is to be replaced was stainless steel. Chairman Bowles stated the intent is to rebuild the existing sander to have it on hand in case one breaks down. Mr. Cummings asked about welding a new bottom onto the existing sander and using that one instead of purchasing a new one. Selectman Ives said that with the growth of the Town and the increase in miles of road, the Board agreed it would be a

- good idea to keep the old sander for a backup and to purchase the new sander with the new truck.
- c. Selectman Maxfield stated that Warrant Article #5 would be explained by the petitioners at Town Meeting.
  - d. Selectman Ives read Warrant Article #6 and read a letter from Conservation Commission Chairman Julie Robinson giving the reasoning for this Warrant Article. Mrs. Robinson's letter said this article is to purchase the rights to the Davies (Herron Hill Farm) property on Route 129, consisting of 65 acres. Natural Resource Conservation Service will be contributing \$163,500.00 (which was originally allocated for the purchase of the rights to the Brown property who opted out of the agreement) and the Loudon Conservation Commission would need to contribute \$81,750.00 to meet the 25% match of the total value of the development rights. This land would be open forever for recreation opportunities like hunting, biking, cross-country skiing, etc. Jeff Burr asked why this has to go before Town Meeting if the money is coming out of the Conservation Commission Expendable Trust. Discussion ensued regarding the expendable trust.
  - e. Selectman Maxfield read Warrant Article #7 relative to drainage issues on Berry Road and removal of sediment from Clough Pond. Selectman Maxfield stated DES has ordered the Town to control sediment into Clough Pond. He said that the Engineers from the Louis Berger Group have provided the Board with a plan to address these issues. Selectman Maxfield said that the Highway Department would be involved in doing much of the work.
  - f. Selectman Ives moved to adopt the 2007 – 2008 operating budget in the amount of \$4,190,002.50 from July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008. Seconded by Selectman Maxfield. All in favor. Motion carried.

Selectman Maxfield moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:43 PM. Seconded by Selectman Ives. All in favor. Meeting adjourned.

#### THE LOUDON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

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Dustin J. Bowles, Chairman

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Roger A. Maxfield, Selectman

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Steven R. Ives, Selectman