

**SELECTMEN'S MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, MARCH 25, 2008**

PRESENT: Selectmen Ives, Bowles, and Maxfield. Also present were Police Chief/Code Enforcement Officer Robert Fiske, Fire Chief Jeff Burr, Deputy Fire Chief Bob Bottcher, Road Agent David Rice, Library Trustees Susan Kowalski, Greg Silva, Sandra Blanchard, and Library Director Nancy Hendy.

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

- I. Selectman Maxfield moved to accept the Selectmen's Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, March 18, 2008 as printed. Second by Selectman Bowles. All in favor. Motion carried.
- II. Chairman Ives asked that all cell phones be turned off so as not to cause disruption to the meeting. He also stated this is a meeting, not a public hearing, explaining that those present have a right to be here, but do not have the right to speak or comment unless recognized by the Chairman. Disruptions to the meeting will not be tolerated.
- III. The Board met with Road Agent David Rice.
 - a. Mr. Rice presented a list of projected road projects for the coming season. He also noted the work on Youngs Hill Road must be completed by the end of June. Selectman Bowles said the work to be done by the Town will be restricted to what is stated in the Planning Board approval. Chairman Ives asked about the bridge repairs such as Wales Bridge Road. Mr. Rice said he has some funding encumbered from the prior fiscal year that is intended for this project. Mr. Rice said work will be continued on the dirt roads weather permitting. Selectman Maxfield asked if the block grant monies were included in this projection. Mr. Rice said they were.
 - b. Mr. Rice asked the Board if he had permission to utilize outside one ton trucks to plow the dirt roads if the need arises. The Board concurred.
- IV. The Board met with Fire Chief Jeff Burr.
 - a. Chief Burr asked about the proposed executive session. Chairman Ives said that discussion will take place at a later date.
- V. The Board met with Police Chief/Code Enforcement Officer Bob Fiske.
 - a. Chief Fiske said the annual bicycle race will be held Sunday, April 13 from 8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. School Street and Oak Hill Roads will be part of the route and law enforcement personnel will be on duty in these areas.
 - b. Mr. Fiske advised the Board he had pro-rated the number of building permits available for 2008, based on the passage of the Zoning Amendment relative to the Growth Management Ordinance. The number of permits available will be 33 for the remaining 10 months of 2008.
 - c. Chairman Ives advised Mr. Fiske that there was a request for clarification on the Police Department Special Detail Billing. Chief Fiske explained the procedure, by which the Officer handling the detail completes the invoice, signs

it, and obtains an authorized signature from the company or organization requesting the detail. At that time the invoice is given to the authorized individual and a copy is forwarded to the Selectmen's Office. He said the Police Department does not forward a confirming copy to the billing office as that would be duplication. Chairman Ives asked if the Selectmen were to mail out a bill. Chief Fiske said no, only if the payment is not received, then it is the responsibility of the Selectmen's Office to follow up on the collection. Chairman Ives said he would review this information with Office Manager Jean Lee.

d. Mr. Fiske discussed the Volunteers of America project. He stated that he had been in conversation with Julia Wilcock regarding the 5,000 gallon cistern issue. Ms. Wilcock has stated there is no way VOA will install the cistern, as it was not part of the approval. Mr. Fiske said he asked if Ms. Wilcock would put this information in writing. He said he also brought the impact fee, which is \$15,000, to her attention. Ms. Wilcock responded she was not aware of the impact fee requirement, and asked when VOA would be billed for this fee. Mr. Fiske said he explained the procedure to her, but is unsure of where this will stay at this time. Mr. Fiske said he is also looking for guidance from the Selectmen in regards to requiring a bond to be posted for the remaining work to be done, such as final paving and landscaping. Mr. Fiske referenced a bond in the amount of \$30,000. Mr. Fiske said he is hesitant to go forward with issuing the certificate of occupancy until these issues are settled. Chairman Ives said he feels a bond should be posted to ensure the project requirements are met. Selectman Bowles asked where the certificate of occupancy stands, aside from the cistern and impact fee issues. Mr. Fiske said he visited the site together with the Fire Department. He said there is a page long punch list, but there is nothing of significance on the punch list. Mr. Fiske said he provided a copy of the punch list to the contractor who assured him it would be taken care of. Selectman Maxfield asked when Mr. Fiske thought the paving and landscaping would be completed. Mr. Fiske said not until the asphalt plants open for the season, so it could be late April or May before those issues are addressed. He said there is a lot of outside work to be done and given the weather; it could even be June before this is completed. Chairman Ives stated the impact fee must be paid before the C.O. is issued. Mr. Fiske said he had a conversation with Bob Ordway regarding the cistern issue. He said the building has a sprinkler system installed, to code, stamped approved. He said he knows, without fail, the system requires water. Selectman Maxfield asked about the water source for the sprinklers. Mr. Fiske said there are two 2500 gallon tanks inside the pump room for water storage for the sprinkler system and a five thousand gallon storage tank outside for domestic water. Fire Chief Jeff Burr explained this is a residential sprinkler system designed to allow time for people to escape the structure, it is not designed to fully protect the building. Bob Ordway said he did not want to see the building sitting empty and 32 residents waiting to get in. He said 16 residents were qualified now and additional interviews are being conducted. He said there is a misunderstanding of terms between the project engineer and the fire department. Mr. Ordway said the building as it is built meets all the stipulations that were required. Selectman Maxfield asked whose decision it is now. Mr. Ordway said he feels it is the Selectmen's decision on whether to issue the certificate of occupancy or not. Chief Fiske said he would like to

read one paragraph from the Planning Board minutes. “Mr. Prescott asked whether the original cistern that was going to be out back is the same size as the new one. Tony Marcotte stated the fire department is requesting 5,000 gallons per day, which is less than initially mentioned. Mr. Prescott asked if there is a letter from the fire department stating they concur with that. Mr. Marcotte stated no, he can provide that prior to signature. Mr. Prescott stated since there is a difference the board should have a letter from the fire department. Mr. Marcotte stated the architect has been working with the fire department and as part of the process the fire department would have the last say.” Chairman Ives said the fire department’s last say is they want the cistern. Chief Burr agreed. Chairman Ives said he felt it is necessary to hold off on the C.O. until this is resolved. Mr. Ordway said the cistern would not be available right away. He said you are dealing with the Federal Government, the money has been allocated and there isn’t any more money. He said this reflects badly on everyone involved to be haggling over a misunderstanding. Mr. Ordway said he is not the only one who thinks this is a misunderstanding. He said he does feel there was ever a commitment to put a fire suppression cistern into the project. Selectman Bowles said it is his understanding the architect, engineer or someone was to get in contact with the fire department. He said that never took place, and the fire department never had the opportunity to give final approval of what was required for fire suppression. He said then there was discussion on using the domestic water storage for fire suppression in an effort to resolve this issue. He said obviously no one is willing to work with that direction so now it is back to square one. Mr. Ordway said the Board should not lose site of the fact that all of the safety requirements have been met. He said he would love to see 30,000 or 100,000 gallon water supply at that end of the village, but it isn’t going to happen. Selectman Maxfield suggested the Selectmen, Code Enforcement, Fire Chief get together and try to resolve this issue. Chairman Ives agreed and said no decision will be reached this evening. Mr. Fiske asked to make one more suggestion and asked if the monies required to install the cistern could be incorporated into the bond requirement that was discussed earlier. Chairman Ives said that may be a feasible idea. Selectman Bowles asked Mr. Fiske about the back-flow preventer which had been discussed at earlier meetings. Mr. Fiske said Department of Environmental Services will not allow a back-flow prevention device on the domestic water storage tank so it could be used as a water source for fire suppression. He said he does not feel DES is an authority on fire suppression systems and there are products available that could be utilized. Mr. Fiske said he had a couple of alternatives that could be investigated. Chairman Ives asked if Mr. Fiske could research his ideas and be prepared to discuss them further on April 8. He also asked when VOA was expecting the Certificate of Occupancy. Mr. Fiske said they would like to have had the C.O. right after the last meeting. Mr. Ordway said he does not feel the bond should include an amount for the cistern as there are no funds to install one. He said the remaining budget does include funds for the final paving and the landscaping. Selectman Bowles said VOA has stated they have no funds available for the impact fees either but those will have to be paid before the C.O. is issued. Mr. Ordway said VOA does have the option of appealing the impact fee requirement. Selectman Bowles asked Mr. Fiske if he has been in contact the contractor. Mr. Fiske said he had, and although Mr. Spain

sympathizes with the parties on the cistern issue, he is on the outside looking in. Mr. Fiske said he also feels bad for the contractor because if the C.O. is held up, the contractor will not get his funds. Selectman Maxfield said he feels the Selectmen should try to resolve this issue, maybe next week.

VI. The Board began their appointment with the Trustees of the Maxfield Public Library. Susan Kowalski, newly elected Trustee addressed the Board. She stated the Trustees submitted a letter to the Selectmen on March 21, 2008, which she would like read into the record: To the Selectmen: Saturday's Town Meeting on March 15, 2008 voted a 30% reduction in the Library budget for fiscal year 2008-2009. This comes out to close to \$58,000. The Trustees carefully prepared a budget in accordance with New Hampshire state law **RSA 202-A: 11 Powers and Duties** - *Prepare an annual budget indicating what support and maintenance of the free public library will be required out of the public funds for submission to the appropriate agency of the municipality.* The budget was submitted to the Selectmen with the justifications for each line. The Trustees met with the Selectmen at a separate meeting and went to the Budget Hearing to answer all questions. A mutual agreement was met on reductions in line items. There was no opposition to the proposed budget until Town Meeting.

According to the **RSA 202-A: 4 Maintenance**. – *Any city or town having a public library shall annually raise and appropriate a sum of money sufficient to provide and maintain adequate public library service therein or to supplement funds otherwise provided.* The Trustees believe that 70% of a well thought through budget is not adequate to maintain the Library. This reduction will result in layoffs of personnel and partial closure of the Library. It can be interpreted as a violation of law, based on RSA 202-A, to inadequately fund the Library.

The citizens of Loudon who rely on the resources of the Library – whether to do research, borrow books, attend story time, access the Internet, or attend many of the community meetings in the building – are the ones who will be harmed if the Maxfield Library is forced to cut its budget by 30%.

A vote at Town Meeting, although important and meaningful, is only advisory and is not binding on the Selectmen **RSA 32:10 (e) Transfer of Appropriations** -*The town or district meeting may vote separately on individual purposes of appropriation contained within any warrant article or budget, but such a separate vote shall not affect the governing body's legal authority to transfer appropriations.* The Selectmen have the option of reducing the overall town budget by the amount instead of a line item. The Library Trustees realize as much as everyone the pressures of a declining economy and will do their utmost to decrease the Library budget while maintaining the current level of services.

The Town has a responsibility by law to support the Library. We hope the Selectmen can find a way to uphold the Town's obligation. Sincerely, Board of Library Trustees

- a. Mrs. Kowalski presented a fact sheet for the Board's review. In addition, a petition signed by 160 residents was presented to the Board

and reads as follows: “We, the undersigned, pledge our support for the Maxfield Public Library. We do not believe the Library should withstand a 30% budget cut as was voted at Town Meeting on March 15. We feel the loss of services caused by such a drastic reduction in the budget would be unfair to the citizens of Loudon. The Maxfield Library is a valuable resource in our community and deserves the town’s current level of support.” Mrs. Kowalski said the Trustees feel a mistake was made at Town Meeting on March 15 that will affect the whole town and that it can be corrected. Chairman Ives said although the vote may not be accepted by everybody, it was a legal vote. The Selectmen contacted the town’s auditor, Jamie Dow at Department of Revenue Administration, for an opinion on this action and was told it was entirely in the way it was written; the minutes of town meeting reflect that. He said while 30% may seem high, who decides what is adequate funding. No one can answer that. He said until someone can answer what is adequate; he doesn’t know how the Selectmen will resolve that question. Chairman Ives said the Trustees are asking for the bottom line to be reduced by \$58,000 +/- . He said speaking for himself, not as the entire Board, the town (the Legislative Body) voted to reduce the Library’s budget by \$58,000. He said that also reduces the “bottom line” of the town. He said if the Selectmen were to put that money back into the Library budget, where would they take it from? Whose budget would they dip into? He asked if the Trustees had any ideas on that. Mrs. Kowalski said that comes to .1% of the total town budget. Chairman Ives said everyone prepared a tight budget. He said each department had their budget requests scrutinized. He said DRA had given the Selectmen this scenario; If the town voted to not buy a new fire engine and then the Selectmen decided they wanted to buy the new fire engine and took the money out of the recreation department and bought the fire engine anyway, that would be legal to do, but would the Selectmen be crucified, yes they would. He said it would not be fair to the other departments to make them suffer because of a legal vote at town meeting. Selectman Bowles said the Board had tried to prepare a conservative budget during the budgeting process. He said increases for the employee cost of living allowance, fuel, utilities, etc were kept to a minimum and there are items that just cannot be trimmed, and still keep the other departments operating. Selectman Bowles said the town will not postpone road projects that are scheduled nor will they tell Chief Fiske that he cannot purchase the new police cruiser that was budgeted for, or tell Chief Burr that he cannot respond to fire calls, or cut the recreation budget so there are no programs for the kids, just so the 30% Library cut can be reinstated. He said this was a legal vote of the people and until proven otherwise; his opinion is that he will stand by that vote. Selectman Maxfield said he felt the only thing the Trustees were asking is that under RSA 32:10 (e), which gives the governing body the authority to

transfer funds, is the Selectmen look at the budget to see if there are any funds that can be transferred to the Library.

- b. Chairman Ives recognized Rebecca Osgood of Bear Hill Road from the audience. She asked what other department's budgets or lines were cut other than the Library, and why the Library was targeted. Selectman Bowles said he didn't have an answer for that, but other lines were brought up and discussed. He said several amendments were put on the floor and voted down. Chairman Ives said the line for the police cruiser was brought forward in an amendment to delete that line and the amendment was voted down. There was an amendment to reduce the computer line in the Selectmen's budget by \$4,000, which was voted down. There was an amendment to reduce the Town Cemeteries line, which was also voted down. He said the Library amendment was the only one passed. Mrs. Osgood said she felt this was a very vindictive vote by whoever brought this forward. She said she felt this was a very juvenile thing to do and everyone will suffer. Chairman Ives said from his personal view, he read the emails that had been circulating around town, one of which stated the Selectmen were involved in this issue. He stated the Selectmen were not involved, in any way, shape or form in this vote.
- c. Peter Pitman of Lovejoy Road was recognized. He stated he wanted to speak on the emails that were circulated. He said the Selectmen had nothing to do with the amendment. He said he was the one who brought the amendment forward and the reason he made the amendment to the budget is that in looking through the budgets from 2000 to 2008, the Library has had budgets that total \$765,000, not including the \$58,000 removed at town meeting, for a library of a town of 5,000 people. He said he thinks this is a bit excessive. He said this was not vindictive, but it was something that should have been done a long time ago.

Chairman Ives recognized Sarah Chalsma from the audience. She read the following statement into the minutes: My name is Sarah Chalsma, N. Village Road. I spoke at the Town Meeting this year in favor of the library and I am here this evening to do the same.

An amendment was proposed and, as we are well aware, passed by a vote of the townspeople to cut the budget of the library by 30% or approximately \$58,000. Since Town Meeting, I have spoken with town residents, done research, and learned some of the hows, whys, facts and fictions of the issue of the library budget.

First of all, with this budget cut, library employees will not only be losing hours from their jobs, but will possibly have to take cuts in pay as well, therefore losing income used to support themselves and their families. In this day of an unstable economic future it is disheartening to know that your neighbors are cutting your hours and wages. A townswoman recently wrote, "Do you realize that the library has more employees than the Fire Department?" And while the numbers may support this statement, the reality of

the situation justifies the number of employees. The library employs many part-time employees, including high-school and college students. Some of these employees only work on an as-needed basis – covering for vacations and sicknesses. Some of the employees only work 8 or so hours a week. Hiring a larger number of part-time employees is actually a way for the library to save money by not having to provide health benefit for full-time employees. There are many duties that library employees carry out on a daily basis – much more than the belief that they stand around stamping books and chatting all day – and a loyal employee pool is required to provide services to the public.

The library is open 40 hours a week, including hours in the evening. If it is not open for those hours, community functions such as evening meetings, story time, and summer reading program for the children may not be available to the citizens of this town. Alexander Graham Bell once wrote “A library that is not accessible out of business hours is of as little value as gold hoarded in a vault and withdrawn from circulation.” The budget cuts will put those evening hours in jeopardy.

The number of books, movies, music and periodicals that were to be purchased will be cut. Updated information may no longer be available. It was said at Town Meeting that “the Library is full” but indeed a library is never full – by means of its design and purpose – a library is meant to grow and be refreshed. Literally speaking, this statement is also not true – many empty spaces can still be found on the shelves in the library. It was written recently, “Is there any reason they need to spend \$7,000 a year on books?” Obviously this person does not buy many books, as the average price of a hardcover book is somewhere around \$25.00. (Which equals out to below 300 new book acquisitions per year.) Without continued infusion of new materials, the libraries collection will grow stale.

The budget proposed by the library Trustees for the fiscal year of 2008-2009 was 3.15% above the budget for the library’s last fiscal year. In fact, referencing the Annual Report, the average increase requested by other town departments and offices was approximately 14.92% yet only the library budget was cut. Why did this happen? The answer may be found in some more fact and fiction stories.

It is a fact that the day-to-day operations of the library are overseen by the Library Trustees. These trustees are elected by the voters of this town, same as the Selectmen – it is not a secret club. It is fiction that the Library Trustees are not held accountable for the spending of their funds. These funds are (usually) approved by the townspeople to be used in ways that are explained in meetings held between the Trustees and the Selectmen. If there is special funding needed for projects, such as for the Children’s Room, it is proposed and voted on by the citizens of this town. It is false to say that the taxpayers are spending more money on the Children’s room than was voted on. At town meeting one townspeople stated that “the sign in front of the library says it all, money in the back of a dump truck being dumped down the drain.” The fact is that the money totaled on that sign is all privately raised money through donations and book sales. It is fact that the Library funds are held in an account controlled by the Trustees, no longer by the Selectmen, and also fact that this change of procedure will not cost the taxpayers

additional money. The Library Trustees will hire a bookkeeper and pay this employee with interest earned from the Library Trust Fund. It is fiction that the trust fund has anything to do with taxpayer money. The trust fund was set up many years ago by Mr. Maxfield with his private money. The fund is held intact and only the interest is used on necessary occasions.

So what can one conclude from this collection of fact and fiction? It appears to be fact that the town of Loudon has had a long, on-going, emotionally-wrought feud with it's library. It is fact that some feelings appear so hateful towards the library that townspeople actually cheered at Town Meeting when the library budget was cut. A statement written by a member of the community recently seems to sum up the Library opponents' feelings: "The cutting of their budget seemed to be our only way to send them a message: enough is enough. It's time to learn how to "play well with others" and become more open and upfront in your dealings with the Town." Are we all to pay for the fighting of a few? While a life-time resident of NH, I'm a relative new-comer to town, having lived here for only 7 years. Am I to lose out on library services because of a bad case of "he-said, she-said"? I am not particularly concerned with supposed occurrences of wrong-doing that happened 15, 10, 5 years ago. I want to be able to enjoy everything the library has to offer – from books, to community service, to a sanctuary of learning, as a center of my community. I do not wish to be punished because some "don't play nicely." – whatever that really means. When is enough really enough? How many more years shall the library and its patrons continue to be punished?

I'd like to end with 2 more quotes. The first is from news anchor Walter Cronkite: "Whatever the cost of our libraries, the price is cheap compared to that of an ignorant nation." And my final quote is a recitation of the Declaration of Policy regarding Public Libraries which can be found in NH RSA 202-A:1 – "Mindful that, as the constitution declares, "knowledge and learning, generally diffused through a community" are "essential to the preservation of a free government" the legislature recognizes its duty to encourage the people of NH to extend their education during and beyond the years of formal education. To this end, it hereby declares that the public library is a valuable supplement to the formal system of free public education and as such deserves adequate financial support from government at all levels." Thank you for allowing me to speak.

- d. Chairman Ives recognized Debra Carbone from the audience. Ms. Carbone said she was the one who sent the email and wanted to apologize to the Selectmen for the misinformation contained in the email.

Chairman Ives recognized Louise Greenfield from the audience. Mrs. Greenfield read the following into the minutes: A library is a collection of information, sources, resources, and services ...The collection and services are used by people who choose not to—or cannot afford to—purchase an extensive collection themselves, who need material no individual can reasonably be expected to have, or who require professional assistance with their research. To cut the library budget in a town such a Loudon can

have considerable impact on its children, its students, its senior citizens—in fact, on all of its residents. In this age of electronic, instantaneous information, it is crucial that our students have access to current and accurate facts and events. We are all affected by the high cost of fuel for commuting and for home heating. These days, we think twice about taking a leisurely drive, and often opt for staying at home instead. By lending books and other reading materials, by offering access to information for educational and personal use, and with the use of videos and DVDs for family entertainment, the library is a valued resource and financial help to Loudon families. Use of the library saves the cost of a commute to a bookstore or movie theater. During these uncertain economic times, this can offer some hope to families. Indeed, it can even be a valuable teaching tool for our children; showing them intelligent and alternative ways to budget resources. I have always found our library staff to be incredibly knowledgeable and helpful whenever I have needed assistance. In fact, I often brag to non-Loudon residents how small, but wonderfully effective, our library is. We have only recently had a computer in our home. For years, I would have been at a loss without the use of the library's computers. We do not have a choice of paying our taxes or not. We pay our taxes to support our town and all of its assets—making a huge cut solely to the library's budget seems unreasonable and unfair. Loudon is a town of modest means. We have an obligation to maintain and support the wealth we have, and Maxfield Public Library is one of Loudon's riches.

- e. Chairman Ives said the Board has given ample opportunity for the public to offer their comments. He said the bottom line is the vote was taken at town meeting, is a legal vote and he does not believe the Selectmen are going to take any legal action on the final tally of the vote. The \$58,000 reduction is going to come out of the Library's budget. He said one reason he was happy to have the public here and to allow the comments to be made, is that these comments will be part of the Selectmen's minutes, which appear in the *Loudon Ledger*, the rest of the town will have access to read these minutes and maybe at town meeting next year, if you have the support you have here tonight, your budget will fly through without any attack. He said the budget as it stands now is what the Trustees will have to live with for this year.
- f. Chairman Ives recognized Trustee Greg Silva. Mr. Silva said it is the Trustees' opinion that the results of the vote at town meeting would have been opposite had the whole town voted. Mr. Silva asked if it was possible to hold a special town meeting to re-vote on the budget. Chairman Ives advised Mr. Silva that the Trustees would have to petition to Superior Court to hold a special town meeting. Chairman Ives said he did not think this would be granted as the grounds do not seem sufficient for the Court to grant the request. Selectman Bowles said there is also a cost involved with holding a special meeting and it is not a cheap procedure. Chairman Ives said his personal opinion is the Trustees could fight the town legally, no one would win, and monies would be spent. He said the Trustees are going to need to live with the budget as it was voted. Mr. Silva said he would like to see the Trustees, the Selectmen and the Department Heads get together to see

if any adjustments could be made to possibly lessen the impact on the Library's budget. Chairman Ives said this would be a very positive thing. Chairman Ives said the current budget is in effect until June 30th so there is time to try to accomplish something in that respect. The Board agreed this would be something positive.

- g. Chairman Ives recognized Deb Kardaseski from the audience. Ms. Kardaseski said she found it interesting a vote such as this has finally gotten the Library Trustees to try and work with the other town departments. Chairman Ives said he would not comment to that statement but felt this was a step in the right direction.
- h. Chairman Ives recognized Roy Merrill from the audience. Mr. Merrill said he feels the Trustees and everyone else in the room needs to look at the fact that the people have spoken and they would like to see their taxes cut. He said he went to the Library today and roughly figured the Library is open 40 hours per week, and the town is spending \$63.00 per hour in labor to keep the Library open. He said personally he does not feel this is necessary. He said the librarian gets more paid vacation time than any other employee of the town. He said he feels there are many places where the Trustees could cut their budget. He said he doesn't think it will set well with the town to cut other departments budgets to reinstate the Library's. He said if there is so much support for the Library maybe those that use the library the most should pick up the 30% that was cut.
- i. Chairman Ives said he would not entertain any further comments tonight but he does feel it is a good idea for the Selectmen to meet with the Trustees and see if there is a solution. He said he does not feel the Selectmen can find \$58,000 from other departments but could possibly look at other options such as a fee schedule, rental fees for the meeting room at the library, etc. Selectman Maxfield said he agrees it is a good idea to get together to discuss available options. Chairman Ives congratulated Susan Kowalski on her election as Trustee and wished her well. Selectman Bowles asked the Library supporters if they could move out quickly and quietly to allow the Selectmen to continue with their regular meeting.

VII. The Board began their review of weekly correspondence.

- a. The Board reviewed a memo from Office Manager Jean Lee requesting a waiver of the usual report fee for a list of veterans for the American Legion Post 88. Selectman Bowles moved to waive the usual report fee of \$25.00 for the veteran's credit list. Second by Selectman Maxfield. All in favor. Motion carried.
- b. Chairman Ives reviewed a memo from assessor David Wiley requesting authorization to act of behalf of the Selectmen to settle appeal cases before the Board of Tax and Land Appeals. Selectman Bowles moved to authorize Dave Wiley to act on behalf of the

- Selectmen to settle appeals before the Board of Tax and Land Appeals. Second by Selectman Maxfield. All in favor. Motion carried.
- c. The Board reviewed a memo from Office Manager Jean Lee regarding the acceptance letter from Alicen Twardosky in regards to the Trustee of the Trust Fund vacancy. The Board will wait for additional information on the length of the appointment before proceeding.
 - d. The Board acknowledged receipt of an invitation from Fire Chief Jeff Burr to a table top exercise at NH Motor Speedway on April 17. Chairman Ives said the Selectmen would be acting as observers and the exercise will be a mass casualty situation and will be an all day exercise.
 - e. The Board noted receipt of congratulatory letters to the Police Department for the DARE Pizza Night activity. Selectman Bowles said the department puts a lot of work and energy into the affair and it worked out well that it was held at the school this year.
 - f. Selectman Maxfield was presented with a letter from Senator Judd Gregg congratulating him on his re-election.
 - g. Chairman Ives recognized Mike Labonte from the audience. Mr. Labonte said he was representing Loudon Old Home Day Association and requesting the Selectmen shut down South Village Road from Route 129 to Wales Bridge for Old Home Day on August 9 to local traffic only. This would be for the entire day. The Selectmen asked for Chief Fiske's input. Chief Fiske said he concurred the road should be shut down for the parade, but does not feel it is justified to shut the road down for the entire day. It was suggested the time frame would be from 9:00 A.M. until 12:30 P.M. Once this is confirmed the Board will give their approval.

Selectman Maxfield moved to adjourn at 7:56 P.M. Second by Selectman Bowles. All in favor. Motion carried.

LOUDON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Steven R. Ives, *Chairman*

Dustin J. Bowles, *Selectman*

Roger A. Maxfield, *Selectman*