

May 15, 2012

Special Budget Meeting

Chairman Michael Jackson called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the proposed Budget for the 2012-2013 year with regard to additional funding for road construction, as well as to review the status resulting from the of the recent fire at the Town Garage site on Blackville Road.

Present:

Board: Michael Jackson, Craig Schoon, Barbara Brown

Alternate: Liddy Adams

Selectmen: Mark Lyon, Tony Bedini, Richard Carey Liddy Adams was seated for the meeting.

Town Garage Fire:

Mark Lyon reported things are progressing at the garage site following the recent fire. State investigation has thus far indicated that the fire was not maliciously set, but the exact cause is still under investigation. Representatives from the Town's insurance carrier, CIRMA (CT Interlocal Risk Management Agency), have been visiting the site and working with the Town on the replacement value and schedule of the covered trucks, equipment and building. Discussion of truck replacement noted that it would be in the best interest of the Town to continue to keep its schedule of purchasing one new truck each year rather than purchasing six new trucks at one time. Used vehicles are also being investigated. Many towns have generously offered the loan of their vehicles, etc. to the Town for the summer months for which the Town is extremely appreciative. Mark noted the Town is operationally okay for now and will borrow one or two trucks for the summer. A combination of new and used vehicles will be needed for the snowplowing fleet by October or November. The Highway Department is currently inventorying all tools and equipment in conjunction with the insurance providers..

Town Meeting:

Michael Jackson noted in addition to voting on the proposed General and Nonrecurring Capital Fund budgets, an additional and separate appropriation of \$600,000 will be considered from the Nonrecurring Capital Fund for the repair and reconstruction of town roads. This suggested appropriation has resulted from discussion of the ever-increasing costs of road materials. It is felt that if more miles of roadway were repaved or replaced annually it would be in the best future interest of the Town and its residents. It was also agreed that replacement of Town Highway vehicles due to the recent fire be included with this appropriation.

Education:

Region 12 Board member Tony Bedini updated the Board on major projects facing the Region, including the septic system at the middle-high school and the upgrading of technology. Since the elementary schools are properties of the three towns, the Board agreed it would be in the best interest of the towns to insure that these properties are also addressed. He noted the importance that the Boards of Selectmen and Finance of the three towns meet to quantify costs and long-range plans; and that the Superintendent and Board of Education be asked to include these important items on their future agendas.

Meetings:

It was noted that the next Board of Finance meeting will immediately follow the May 17th Town Meeting. There will not be a meeting on May 21st.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Gollow
Secretary