

February 4, 2008

Vice-Chairman Jack Field called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Present: Regular Members: Jack Boyer, Barbara Brown, Jack Field, Craig Schoon, Rex Swain

Alternates Members: Liddy Adams, John Allen

Selectman: Mark Lyon, Jim Brinton, Richard Sears

Tax Collector: Tanya Wescott

Treasurer: Linda McGarr

Treasurer's Report: Tanya Wescott reported 94% of the estimated taxes receivable had been collected at the end of January. She estimated 99% will be collected by the end of June. Collectibles remain in effect for fifteen years. The Town currently owns an unbuildable lot due to foreclosure. The possibility of selling this lot to adjoining landowners was discussed. The future of this property will be reviewed by the Selectmen. It will remain on the tax rolls while the Town retains ownership. All other collectibles are on a payment plan. There remains approximately \$100,000 in uncollected taxes.

Minutes: Tabled for consideration at the February meeting.

Treasurer: Linda McGarr submitted the Treasurer's report for December. She noted STIF funds had been transferred into T-bills and a money market account at the FNBL needed for transfers. The T-bill interest rates will fluctuate because of different term lengths. FNBL has provided a flexible interest rate for the money market account, currently at 4.33%. The Board acknowledged the trade-off for moving funds from the STIF accounts will result in a lower interest rate, but felt the trade was being done to err on the side of safety. Jack Field noted it was the Town's exposure that had been the chairman's concern. Linda reported fees for the T-bills are estimated to be \$20,000 on \$5,000,000. the Board felt these fees were too high and asked the Treasurer to investigate how the fees are based. The Board asked to be reminded to review this at their next meeting.

Selectman's Report: The Selectman's Report was added as #6.5 to the Agenda.

Financials: Financials on all Town accounts were reviewed. Winter salt and overtime will exceed budget due to the number of storms and their occurrences on weekends and evenings. A request was made by the Secretary that the financial process and the duties covered in the Selectman's area be reviewed. John Allen suggested the entire management picture be reviewed. Selectman Jim Brinton agreed to contact CCM for consultants qualified and experienced in these areas for review. He will report at the March meeting.

Audit: Rex suggested the Board consider extending an invitation to bid on next year's audit. The Board is pleased with the current auditor. This will be discussed further at the next meeting after discussion with the chairman.

Pension: Rex suggested the pension consultant be asked to quantify the pension contribution in time for the coming year's budget deliberations.

Old Business:

Vacancy - Alternate Position: It has been past policy of the Board to maintain equal representation from the Republican and Democratic parties to remain bipartisan. The Republican Town Committee had been asked to suggest candidates for the current vacancy. Rex suggested unaffiliated voters also be considered as they comprise one-third of the Town's voters. He felt the Boards of Finance and Selectmen should also make recommendations. Mark Lyon reported in recent years the Board of Selectmen have requested recommendations through the town political committees. He agreed with Rex that unaffiliated voters should be tapped and that the RTC has done so on occasion. While he would encourage this in the future, he was hesitant about changing the current process, noting it still remains with the Board of Finance to make the ultimate decision. Rex felt the Selectmen are in touch with more people than the Board of Finance and that this would not cut the town committees out. Linda McGarr suggested that by going with a particular party you would know what a person stands for while with an individual you would have no idea. Mark noted this could become controversial since it is an elected position. It was agreed to review the statutory process. Linda McGarr offered to find out the requirements and will bring this information to the next meeting. Those recommended for the current vacancy will be asked to attend the next meeting.

School Building Committee: Jack Field reported the Building Committee's objective is to come up with a way in which the public can make a decision between the best case for a single or a 3-school presentation by May. CREC is evaluating these scenarios for consistency with costs and specifications, as there is a wide discrepancy in costs as they relate to the education specs. Three engineers have indicated while the proposed consolidated site has particular problems they can be solved through engineering. Opponents of this proposal have not come up with a study.

Selectman's Report:

Fire Vehicle: Mark reported the new fire vehicle will replace fire truck #7- a 1983 International Harvester Model F2575 pumper-tanker. A decision had not been made as to the disposition of this vehicle. It was agreed that an invitation to bid would be extended and the WVFD would be asked to review the bids and forward their recommendations to the Selectmen. The Selectmen recommended the proceeds from the sale be used by the WVFD toward the completion of the new vehicle. This was agreeable to the Board. Payment will be remitted directly to the Town. The Town will then forward this to the WVFD. Any balance due on the vehicle will be the responsibility of the WVFD. Rex Swain so moved. Barbara Brown seconded the motion. All in favor.

Ex-Budget Appropriation Requests:

WPS Education Revaluation: Mark reported question has been raised about the cost of building a new school in the Depot as compared to renovating the current school. The Board agreed that funds remaining in the WPS Education Revaluation Ex-Budget appropriation may be used to proceed to review this proposal.

Probate Computer: Due to the State requirement that the Probate Judge's office be separate from her Hearing Room, it is necessary to purchase a second computer. This must be purchased through the State and will cost \$1,375. As this is an unanticipated expense in the Probate area, the Board agreed to an ex-budget appropriation. Jack Boyer made a motion to approve \$1,375 toward the purchase of a computer for the Probate Office. Barbara Brown seconded the motion. Motion unanimously passed.

Church Street Water Cistern: Mark reported there is a \$5,700 shortfall in funding to complete this project. A fiberglass tank was chosen as opposed to a concrete tank, which would have required more extensive excavation, as well as specialized equipment for installation. The project also required concrete blocks for positioning the cistern and additional stone, which was taken from the Town highway supply. Town employees and equipment were used to help defray costs. The Board of Selectmen had agreed to

request an ex-budget appropriation. Jack Boyer made a motion to approve the \$5,700 as requested from the General Fund to complete this project. Barbara Brown seconded the motion. Motion unanimously passed. (Estimated cost sheet provided to Board.)

Boat Launch: Through the course of construction, engineered elevations were questioned to determine if they would prove sufficient to keep the boat launch and parking area out of the water. Theoretical engineering using elevations off the weir of the Lake had suggested additional fill would not be required. As the project progressed, it was found that additional fill would be required, as well as another course of pre-cast block, spacers for the catch basins and another two layers of fabric. The State D.O.T. also requested two additional catch basins that were not in the original plan. Having discussed the entire situation with the project engineer, construction engineer and Town's Highway Department Director, it was agreed it was best to address these changes for the long-term good of the project and that the changes were necessary. Costs will exceed budget by \$19,500. Jack Boyer made a motion to approve \$19,500 for necessary work in this project. Barbara Brown seconded the motion. Motion unanimously passed. Application has been made to the State D.E.P. for the \$100,00 grant. (Estimated cost sheet provided to Board.)

Budget: Jack Field requested assumption sheets be updated. Financials will be requested from outside agencies. The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Gollow, Secretary