

• April 30, 2007

Present:

Finance Board: Jack Boyer, Barbara Brown, Michael Jackson, Jack Field, Craig Schoon, Rex Swain

Alternates: Liddy Adams, John Allen, Jim Brinton

Selectmen: Richard Sears, Mark Lyon, Nicholas Solley

Budget:

The Selectmen submitted their revised proposed budget as follows:

General Fund Expense: \$3,809,804 +3.6%

Net Capital Expense: \$1,069,603 +15.4%

Education Expense: \$8,676,950 +5.7%

Overall: \$13,556,357 +5.8%

Capital Fund: The Selectmen reported a net reduction had been made to the previously discussed capital budget reducing the net number from \$1,149,000 to \$1,069,603. The following changes were made:

- Increased Town Aid Road Funds from \$200,000 to \$225,000 to further offset the Highway Capital Projects.
- Reduced Bridge Repairs to Walker Brook from \$100,000 to \$50,000. They anticipate another \$100,000 for the 2009 budget will be needed for total completion of both this and the Nettleton Hollow Road bridge.
- Plumb Hill Road Project: \$390,000. 2 year project - to replace drainage system under roadway, relieving problems from drainage entering residential properties.
- Cistern - Church Street. Reduced from \$40,000 to \$30,000 after securing firmer pricing. Assuming WCHT will pay half. Jack Boyer reported the WCHT had initially agreed to pay \$10,000, which was half of the price quoted when the project was planned and was not sure if they have a commitment to fund it at the higher price since it is not on their land. This will be clarified further.
- Boat Launch/Boathouse/Beach: A Committee is being formed to discuss the entire plan for this property. The Town will proceed with the reconstruction of the boat launch area using the \$200,000 previously approved in the 2006-07 capital budget. These funds will be reimbursed through state grants.

Funding for the remainder of the project will be requested over a two year period.

- A \$200,000 gross cost in the 2007-08 budget will result in a net cost of \$50,000, using another LoCIP grant of \$100,000, as well as private funding of \$50,000 from the Lake Waramaug Task Force and private donations to assist in supporting this project.
- The following year will require another \$200,000-225,000 to complete the project. Question was raised if Kent or Warren would offer any assistance toward the boat launch. Dick noted until their budgets are

passed, there are no commitments. However, Kent has included \$5,000 and Warren has included \$25,000 toward the boat launch for consideration in their budget request for 2007-08. Mark Lyon suggested a complete plan be developed and felt it should be presented before some type of town meeting, perhaps an informational meeting. Rex felt this since this has turned into such a large project it should be taken before the voters at a town meeting. He was concerned that if the funding were approved, there would be the opportunity to proceed with the project without it being presented before the various commissions and town meeting. Mark reported his goal as a member of the Committee is to have a complete plan for the property before proceeding. Because it is a large capital expense the Selectmen have requested half of the funds this year and half next year. Michael suggested a complete plan be developed by the Committee using the \$200,000 already approved. Jack Boyer made a motion that a future opportunity be established for the Town to approve expenditures specific to a plan. Michael Jackson seconded the motion. Motion passed. Rex reiterated he would like that decision to be made at a town meeting.

General Fund:

Salaries: An overall 3.5% increase in salaries is proposed. However, due to changes in personnel, this will equate to an overall 1.7%.

Health Insurance: The Selectmen await actual health insurance costs. It was agreed to enter a 6% increase in this line item.

Dental Insurance: It was agreed to self insure the dental program as follows:

Single employee: Maximum of \$500 for all dental costs. (7)

Couple: Maximum of \$500/person or \$1,000/family for all costs. (8)

Family: Maximum of \$500/person or \$1,500/family of 3 or \$2,000/family of 4 or more for all costs. (7)

The maximum per couple or family may be used for a single individual or to cover all family members. Total cost to the Town will be \$25,500. Funds would be transferred to the Town's health insurance fund. In order to follow HIPPA guidelines, expenses will be approved by the Town's agent prior to being paid by Town. Self insurance will provide no risk to the Town and should result in a savings if all funds are not used.

Budget Publication: Rex reported the Republican Town Committee had requested the proposed expenditure budget be published in area newspapers. It was agreed to continue the Town's policy of posting a legal notice for both the budget hearing and town budget meeting in the newspaper, posting the budget expenditures in front of the town hall and having detailed copies available in the Offices of the Town Clerk and First Selectman prior to the hearing.

Appointment of Auditor: Michael Jackson made a motion to appoint Charles Heaven & Co., Inc. of Waterbury to complete the audit for the 2006-2007 fiscal year. Jack Boyer seconded the motion. Motion unanimously passed.

Suspense List: It was agreed to table review of the Tax Collector's suspense list until the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Gollow, Secretary

