

• **May 3, 2004**

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

Present: Board: Jack Boyer, Jack Field, Michael Jackson, Mark Lyon, Craig Schoon, Rex Swain

Alternates: Liddy Adams, John Allen

Selectmen: Richard Sears, Nicholas Solley

Treasurer: Linda McGarr

Press: John Addyman, VOICES

Guests: Valerie Friedman, Dorothy Hill, Candy Korzenko, John Millington, Peter Tagley

2004-2005 Proposed General Fund Budget: The Selectmen outlined the changes made to their budget as requested at the previous Finance Board's meeting. These resulted in a decrease of \$20,105, which reduces the proposed expenditures to \$3,311,788 (+2.1% over the 2003/04 budget). Increases were made for additional hours for the wetlands enforcement officer and the senior van driver, with reductions in legal and consultant fees, computer support, tree work, playing field fertilization and the 225th Town anniversary celebration as follows:

Inland Wetlands: Increased assistance needed with enforcement, documentation and application review in order to reduce time spent at meetings and excessive hours needed of volunteer commissioners. The Commission has been fortunate to have volunteer chairpersons who have assisted with the work required; however, current commissioners do not have this time available. The Selectmen increased the enforcement line item to 18 hours per week.

Tree Work: The tree work anticipated for the 2004-05 will be completed as planned. Some funding will be taken from the Town Aid Road account for tree work on town roads.

Legal Fees: The Selectmen recognized the benefit that legal counsel plays in assisting the Land Use Commissions, as well as other Town offices; however, these areas were reduced in an attempt to lower budget costs. It was understood that if the need arises for additional hours beyond those budgeted, it will be provided.

The Board arrived at a final General Fund budget expenditure of \$3,232,051, indicating a 3.6% increase over last year's budget. Adding the \$79,733 debt service line, the total proposed gross General Fund Expenditures amount to \$3,311,788, an increase of 2.1%.

Nonrecurring Capital Expenditures: The following changes were made:

- \$30,000 was reduced from the Road section of this budget. The Town Aid Road Fund will be used for these projects.
- Various methods of financing the fire truck were discussed, recognizing that to postpone this purchase could increase the cost. The current proposal of \$275,000 will be extended over two years, i.e. \$137,500 in the 04/05 fiscal year and \$137,500 in the 05/06 fiscal year capital budgets.
- Computer acquisition line item was reduced from \$8,500 to \$4,500.
- Land Acquisition line items remained at \$25,000 each for Open Space and Housing. While these amounts do not address the complete purchase of land as the Plan of Development suggested (\$300,000 for Open Space and \$250,000 for Housing) the importance of discussing these items by all the citizens was recognized and there was the implied understanding that these discussions will continue on all

aspects of Town expenditures.

The changes to the proposed capital expenditures resulted in a revised capital fund budget of \$1,847,974. With anticipated grants of \$994,920, a net capital budget of \$711,554 (-20.1% from the previous year) was presented by the Selectmen.

Whether to make a transfer of funds from the General to the Nonrecurring Capital Fund remains to be considered.

Town Aid Road Budget: The Town Aid Road fund grant has been used for road projects and materials annually. A balance has been maintained for emergency situations. Discussion was held that suggested all road projects be shown in the General and Capital fund budgets and alternate means of covering emergency expenses could be investigated.

Appointment of Auditor: Michael Jackson made a motion to appoint Charles Heaven & Co., Inc. of Waterbury, CT as the Town auditor for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2004. Motion seconded by Jack Field and unanimously passed.

Education Budget: The Board of Finance went on record as supporting the budget proposed by the Region #12 Board of Education for the referendum vote on May 4.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Gollow, Secretary