

# August 21, 2006

## **Present:**

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

Alternates: Liddy Adams, John Allen

Selectmen: Richard Sears, Mark Lyon

Guest: Building Inspector: Bill Jenks

Valerie Friedman

**Building Inspector:** Dick Sears introduced William Jenks, who provides contracted building inspection services for the Town. Costs for these services are currently based on 74% of the income received by the Town from building permits. The Town retains 26% of the income, which offsets clerical and benefit costs for town personnel, as well as office expense. This contract is up for renewal as of October 1, 2006. Mr. Jenks has served the town for sixteen years.

Mr. Jenks reported statistics from the Building and Fire Departments are reviewed every five years by the ISO for insurance purposes. The significance of the ISO rating is based on each town's scores, which set the rates that consumers pay for their insurance. He is pleased to report the Town has the highest score in the State. The ISO suggests towns use the enterprise system of establishing a separate fund for all Building Department income and expenses. This would make budgeting in this area unnecessary, as the fund would never be a negative amount. Fees are intended to substantially cover costs of operating the department. He suggested excess funds could be used to upgrade the building, especially the land use area, which is sorely lacking in space. He noted the current phone system provides problems as cell phone service is not available in town, which sometimes causes missing of inspections. Mr. Jenks compensates his employees for continuing their education to upgrade their certifications. The Board appreciated Mr. Jenks report and will take his suggestions under advisement for future budgeting.

**Minutes:** Minutes of the July 17th meeting were accepted as submitted.

**Treasurer's Report:** Accepted as submitted.

**Financials:** Accepted as submitted.

**Ex-Budget:** Jack Boyer made a motion that funds remaining from the following ex-budget expenditures approved in the 2005-06 fiscal year be continued into the 2006-07 fiscal year budget: Hydrants: \$4,981. Education Steering: \$3,101. Michael Jackson seconded the motion. Motion unanimously passed.

**Transfer to Capital Account:** Jack Boyer made a motion that the net amount of \$927,050., as approved at the May, 2006 town meeting, be transferred from the General Fund to the Nonrecurring Capital Fund for capital projects as outlined in this year's budget. Michael Jackson seconded the motion. Motion unanimously approved.

**Selectman's Report:** Dick Sears reported a savings in electric costs of 26% has been realized from the Town's joining with Bay State Consultants for electrical services. This amounts to approximately \$5,000 for the past year.

**Executive Session:** Jack Boyer made a motion to enter executive session to discuss real estate considerations. Michael Jackson seconded the motion. The Board entered executive session at 6:15 p.m.

The Board reentered the Regular Meeting at 6:45 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Gollow, Secretary