

# September 17, 2006

## **Present:**

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

Alternates: Liddy Adams, John Allen

Selectmen: Richard Sears, Nicholas Solley, Mark Lyon

Treasurer: Linda McGarr

**Minutes:** Minutes of the 8/21/06 meeting were corrected to read as follows:

**Building Inspector:** He is pleased to report the Town (delete: "has the highest score in the State.") (add: "has one of the best ratings in the State.") Minutes accepted as corrected.

**Treasurer's Report:** Accepted as submitted. Linda reported interest rates remain good.

**Tax Collector's Report:** Accepted as submitted. The Tax Collector will be asked to provide a monthly report showing any variance in bank deposits and the monthly collections report.

## **Financials:**

**General Fund:** Income and expenses were reviewed and accepted.

**Capital Fund:** Income and expenses were reviewed. Anticipated grants for approved projects will be added to Capital Fund report. It was understood by all that grant-funded projects would not be undertaken until it is assured the grants will be forthcoming. For that reason, the approved net amount, as opposed to the approved gross amount of the projects, is transferred annually from the General Fund to the Nonrecurring Capital account. Report accepted.

**Old Business:** Jack Field updated the Board on estimated costs of renovating the three elementary school buildings, the build to suit option, the two-school combination and the single school in Roxbury. If each town were to construct its own building, the towns would not be eligible for reimbursement, nor responsible for the efficiency or cost of building space. According to the Superintendent's recent estimates, the total "head to head" cost savings for a single school vs. operating the three elementary schools based on 2006-07 salary and benefit figures would be approximately \$865,602. It is estimated this amount would escalate each year at a rate of 4.5%. It is important to keep in mind that operating costs would dwarf construction costs over the years. Michael questioned if an economic impact analysis had been done on what it would cost to lose a school. The Board of Education will continue deliberating on this issue.

## **Selectman's Report:**

**Town Projects:** Two bids have been awarded for projects that will begin this fall: the Town Garage Building & Site Work project and the Senior Center Bridge & Canoe Brook Stream Stabilization project. Bids were higher than anticipated and the Selectmen recommended an additional appropriation of \$20,000 be considered at the October 3rd town meeting to offset the Town Garage project cost. The Board of Finance agreed with this recommendation, which will be included on the agenda for the town meeting.

**Highway Department Personnel:** Dick reported the Board of Selectmen is considering reorganization in the Highway Department. The management skills and responsibilities necessary in running this department have increased measurably over the years. The Selectmen have reviewed the current organization with the Road Foreman to address these issues, and it was agreed to establish the position of Highway Director. The position of Road Foreman will continue. Two recent retirements will allow funding within the current budget for the new position, as well as funds for snowplowing for winter storms. A minimum of 10 years experience for this position will be required. Dick has spoken with DOT officials at length regarding the proposed position. They agree a professional will be most beneficial to the Town. Michael suggested a standard be established to measure the efficiency of the highway department, with reports provided to the Selectmen.

**Building Official:** Dick reported the Selectmen met with the Building Official regarding the renewal of his contract. The current agreement for 74% of building fees collected will continue; however, Mr. Jenks will provide an additional 16 hours/week for clerical service to the Town. The Board supported this arrangement.

**Executive Session:** The Board unanimously voted to enter Executive Session at 6:25 p.m. The Board reentered the regular meeting at 7 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Gollow

Secretary