

FINAL



**WEARE BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
November 6, 2006**

PRESENT: HELEEN KURK, CHAIRMAN; JOSEPH M. FIALA, VICE CHAIRMAN; DONNA M. OSBORNE, SELECTMAN; TOM CLOW, SELECTMAN; CRAIG SLATTUM, SELECTMAN

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR: Fred Ventresco

RECORDING SECRETARY: Cherry Palmisano

GUESTS: Frank Campana, George Malette, Gregory Begin, Laura Buono, Peter Buono, Forrest Esenwine, Ginger Esenwine, Richard Butt, Evelyn Connor, Kevin Petriell, David Petriell, Officer Cox, Jim Carney, Lou Clater, Joe Kelley, Catherine Sweeney, Morgan Sweeney, Donna Mathieson, Bill Quigley, Frank Hebert, Thomas Downing, Theresa DeLamater, Arielle Turcotte, Chris Hague, Jack Munn, Paul Morin, Betty Straw, Loren Clement, Mark Bodanza, Bob Peterson, Chuck Bolton, Dan Aiken, Bill Tiffany, Dave Hewey, Newell Bailey, Chief Richards

Chairman Kurk moved, Vice Chairman Fiala seconded to enter into non public session @ 6:00 p.m. pursuant to the authority granted in RSA 91-A:3II (b). A roll call vote was taken. Selectman Slattum – yes; Selectman Clow - yes; Selectman Osborne - yes; Vice Chairman Fiala – yes; Chairman Kurk - yes. Passed 5-0-0.

Chief Begin introduced the Board to Rob Harvey, his choice to fill a vacant full-time officer position for the Town of Weare. Mr. Harvey is a 20-year veteran of the NYC Police Department who has just recently relocated to New Hampshire.

The Board conducted a short interview with Mr. Harvey and took into consideration Chief Begin's high recommendation of him for the position

Selectman Slattum moved, Selectman Osborne seconded to come out of nonpublic session @ 6:17 p.m. A roll call vote was taken. Selectman Slattum – yes; Selectman Clow - yes; Selectman Osborne - yes; Vice Chairman Fiala – yes; Chairman Kurk - yes. Passed 5-0-0.

6:20 p.m. Chairman Kurk called the meeting to order.

1. SWEARING IN OFFICER ROB HARVEY

Vice Chairman Fiala moved, Selectman Osborne seconded to hire Rob Harvey as a full time Police Officer for the Town of Weare at an annual salary of \$42,000. Passed 5-0-0.

Mr. Harvey is a former 20 year decorated NYC Police Officer currently residing in Concord, NH.

Ms. Evelyn Connor swore in Rob Harvey as a full-time Police Officer for the Town of Weare.

2. PUBLIC HEARING - For the purpose of hearing public testimony and comment on the town accepting donations for the implementation of a police canine unit as follows: (1) the donation of a 3 year old German Shepard from Bill Sweeney and family, value of the dog is in excess of \$5,000. (2) the donation of veterinarian services from Dr. Michael Dutton of the Weare Animal Hospital for the

FINAL

duration the canine works for the town. The value of the services for this period of time is estimated to be over \$5,000. (3) the donation of food and training supplies from Rocco's Pet Supplies, LLC of 429 S. Stark Highway, Weare for the duration the canine works for the town. The value of the donation is expected to be around \$5,000.

Chairman Kurk opened the public hearing at 6:30 p.m.

Chief Begin said when he was elected he said he would do what was best for the Weare Police Department and feels this is an important tool for the department. Chief Begin informed the Board last week they responded to a call for a lost 3 year old boy and in this situation the canine would had been an asset. Officer Joe Kelley will continue training with the Working Dog Foundation. The dog has been donated, Dr. Dutton has agreed to provide free health care, and Rocco's will feed and provide training supplies for the dog. Chairman Kurk asked for background on any additional cost. Officer Kelly has 100 hours of training that does not cost the town, the cage is the only cost \$2,500 and can come out of the drug forfeiture fund. Chief Begin does not see any cost to the town. Vice Chairman Fiala said the cost of converting cruiser and Officer Kelly taking the car home will cost the town. Chief Begin said it is minimal and once Officer Kelly hits town line he is on duty.

Mr. Frank Campana commented that the last Selectman's meeting made a segway as to what would happen tonight in asking the Selectman to be sensitive to the tax rate and keeping it affordable. Mr. Campana questioned Chief Begin on being formerly from the New Boston Police Department and not having established a canine unit there, then why have one in Weare. Chief Begin said the difference was the size of the town Weare is twice the size of New Boston and has a higher call volume and there are more drug calls in Weare. Mr. Campana commented on the dog being used for demonstrations, apprehensions and drug searches at the High School and asked Chief Begin how many items the dog can be trained for. Chief Begin said tracking, apprehension and drugs and the dog can handle all 3 tasks. Mr. Campana said in the booklet passed out last meeting it referred to coverage of expenses with after hour emergencies, from Capital Area Vet in Concord. Chief Begin said it has been confirmed Capital Area Vet will be free of charge. Mr. Campana would like handler compensation and home care clarified. Chief Begin said the requirement for compensation is 30 minutes a day 7 days a week which they will allow Officer Kelley to be relieved from his shift ½ early because they have double coverage.

Mr. Campana said the program was presented as a free for all for the town, but wants to know what the expense really is to the town and the dollar amount attached to the proposal. Mr. Campana said there is an excess of \$15,000 of freebies and what happens if these freebies someday end. Chairman Kurk said the \$5,000 is the estimated value of donated dog. Mr. Campana said he is concerned with the Selectman approving a program and not knowing how much it will cost the town in the future.

Chief Begin said there are a number of places that will donate dogs in the future if there is a need. If Rocco's goes out of business they have Petco, so there are other means available. Mr. Campana said if the funds run out the program won't necessarily stop so it will have to be funded. Mr. Campana said last years Police Department Budget was a proposed \$1 million; we have a department that is increasing by \$100,000 a year. Mr. Campana said he realizes the town is growing and the Police Department is growing and how much is too much. He said he is not saying the dog is not worth it but at what cost and does the dog lead to ATV's, snowmobiles and motorcycles and the Selectmen will have a precedence to say yes to everything. Mr. Campana said he is not being sarcastic but said precedence will be set tonight as to what the Board agrees too.

Mr. Campana asked if they are now trading cruisers in at 50,000 miles instead of 100,000 miles and he has always been concerned with the free rides home. How many miles to the officers home, maintenance costs on the vehicle, know for sure cars go home with the officers and what are the expenses really going to be. Mr. Campana feels the Selectman do not know the true expenses. Mr. Campana said he feels the Board will approve this because they have a hard time saying no. He said having the canine could be a great thing but where does

FINAL

the need line end. Mr. Campana feels the Board wants to approve this to make a popular decision because they won't want to be the bad guys to the Police Department, but what about the taxpayers. Mr. Campana said the presentation is always great at proposal time to get the foot in the door but what happens in the future. Mr. Campana would like to know the real expenses, if the Board knows the actual amount before voting.

Vice Chairman Fiala said there are expenses but they have already been included, ½ hour for handler compensation is already in Officer Kelley's salary and there will be no additional cost for Officer Kelley to take the car home from just over the town line. Officer Kelley does 100 miles per shift, so the mileage accumulated in patrol time will not increase. Chairman Kurk said Mr. Campana is referring to the extra mileage from the town line to Officer Kelley's home. Officer Kelley said it is roughly 6 miles each way from the town line and 10-12 miles from the Police Department to his home. Vice Chairman Fiala said the only additional cost he can figure out is the extra 6 miles each way to the officer's home on the cruiser.

Selectman Slattum asked if when an Officer takes a cruiser home they are the back up officer. Officer Kelly said he is on duty 4 days a week and if the dog is needed he would be one of the officers called. Selectman Osborne asked what about emergency situations like a lost child. Chief Begin commented that there is a clause that he can request from Chief to Chief to send Officer Kelley to another town if needed and the Officer's compensation will come out of the other town's budget. Selectman Clow said if for some reason this dog does not work out or something happens, and a donation was not available, he feels the Board will have to make a decision if the dog was beneficial and a new dog should be purchased or not and this cannot be decided until or if it happens. Selectman Clow said he does not see accepting this dog as influencing his decision on accepting any other proposal of any kind that would come before the Board.

Officer Carney said he has been on the Department for 14 years and there have been many times they could have requested a canine unit. Officer Carney said the State Police brought in a dog to locate two felons and 2 guns. Officer Carney said it is important to look at the safety of the officers and how this dog can assist in helping the whole department and be beneficial for drug searches. He said there have been at least 12-13 times the department could have used the dog this year alone. As Police Officers they are trying to make the community safer and he feels the benefits the dog will provide will far exceed any cost it could occur. Officer Carney said there is \$30,000 in seized drug money this year alone. Chairman Kurk asked where the drug seizure money goes and if they could possibly use this fund for any unexpected expenditures from the canine. Chief Begin said the money can be used for anything related to drugs, including the dog.

Mr. Forrest Esenwine, would like to speak in favor of accepting the dog. Mr. Esenwine said any Police Department that has the capability to have a canine unit is a better department. Mr. Esenwine feels the dog will bring an expertise to the department that cannot be done by any human officer and makes him extremely beneficial to the department and the town. He feels the expense to the town is minimal and any additional expense would be minimal to the benefit they will receive. The dog is extremely beneficial to the town and the lives of the children in our community and no figure can be put on that.

Officer Bob Peterson, resident and Officer at John Stark, said the benefits outweigh the cost and he would have to write them all down to provide a list. He said any time they have to call for a dog it usually extends their shift and therefore overtime occurs. Officer Peterson said as a resident and an officer he can think of no reason not to accept the dog.

Officer Mark Bodanza, 8 years on the Weare Police Force, said at least 120 of the calls they received this year they could have used the dog to assist the officers with the safety of the community. Officer Bodanza said Weare is a town of 65 square miles with 10,000 residents and this would be a huge savings to the town to have their own canine unit and not have to call for an outside canine unit. Officer Bodanza feels there is a cost factor involved but feels the benefit is well above any cost.

FINAL

Donna Mathieson, Police Department employee and resident, said if the officer is on duty he will be patrolling in that car no matter where the officer is. She said if a child is lost in the town we can listen for them screaming, but there are nonverbal children in this town and a dog is needed.

Vice Chairman Fiala commented on Chief Begin referring to the dog as a tool and Mr. Esenwine referring to the dog as an officer. Vice Chairman Fiala recalls Chief Begin saying they need 17 Officers and if they can have a canine officer that does not get paid then he is all for it.

Chairman Kurk closed the public hearing at 7:14 p.m.

Selectman Slattum moved, Selectman Clow seconded to accept a 3 year old German Shepard from Bill Sweeney and family with a value in excess of \$5,000, Veterinarian services from the Weare Animal Hospital for the duration the canine works for the town at a value of over \$5,000, donation of food and training supplies from Rocco's Pet Supplies for the duration the canine works for the town with a value of approximately \$5,000. Passed 5-0-0.

3. PROPOSAL FOR CIRCUIT RIDER PROGRAM

Mr. Paul Morin said he is here to discuss the Circuit Rider Program through the Southern New Hampshire Planning Commission with the Board. Mr. Morin introduced Mr. John Mund from the Southern New Hampshire Planning Commission. Mr. Morin said the last couple of months he has brought this forth at the Planning Board and the general consensus of the Board was in favor of the program. Mr. Morin said Ms. Naomi Bolton is now full time to the Land Use and things are more efficient and are under control. But this does not change the fact that the Planning Board lacks training and they are limited for what the true function of a Planning Board should be to the Master Plan. Mr. Morin said if this one year contract for a Circuit Rider does not work out they don't have to continue. A Planner comes to town once a week and is available for the Planning Board meetings. All the information this Planner would have available will be beneficial to the Planning Board. The Planning Board is in the middle of considering new zoning ordinances and a professional rider could give them enormous support. Mr. Morin said there would be technical support of plans and someone who can give an eye on what should be supported by the Planning Board, to guide them with their subdivision regulations and ordinances. Mr. Morin said the cost is \$1,800 per month which would come to \$21,000 per year and feels this is a wise investment for the Town. A Planner could assist with large companies coming to town.

Chairman Kurk said they have discussed having a town planner in the past but her first reaction is that this is the wrong time to hire a planner. Mr. Mund said the greatest benefit of working with a Planner is to help guide your town in the right direction for the future. Chairman Kurk asked Mr. Mund how many towns use the Circuit Rider Program. Mr. Mund said Raymond was the last town to use the Circuit Rider, but he is working with Candia and New Boston under different programs. He said the program can be tailored to the needs of the town.

Selectman Clow asked if the tailoring of the program to meet the needs of the town will also tailor the cost. Mr. Mund can be customized to the needs of the town. The program is called a Circuit Rider Program because that's what the planners do; they go from town to town helping with the planning of the town. The advantage is that a town does not have to hire a full time planner and the cost is less expensive than sharing a planner with another town. The downside would be the number of hours the planner would be limited to review plans, guide with ordinances, review site plan regulations, and working with the Planning Board so the Planning Board does not get behind with citizen petitions. Mr. Mund said the Planning Boards do not get the outside support they need and that is what the planner provides.

Selectman Slattum asked if there is another program where consulting is offered, like specifically rewriting the ordinances, guiding with big companies coming into town and site plan regulations. Mr. Mund said all Planning Boards have the authority to hire planners and architects at the applicant's expense. Mr. Morin said when a

FINAL

planner spends specific time on a specific applicants plans then the expense of the planner would be to the applicant not the town so there would be some offset. Besides the Circuit Rider Program there is a program for a planner at a cost of \$3,500 a year but the planner does not come directly to the town.

Selectman Clow asked if having a planner would offset any legal fees with some issues not having to go through an attorney. Mr. Morin said other services are provided to the town because of fees they already pay. Mr. Morin said the experience of the planner would help them determine if legal opinions were necessary. Mr. Morin asked when Chairman Kurk said it was the wrong time; he is assuming it is financially not the right time. Mr. Morin said after a period of rapid growth throughout the town, such as Police Department, the many needs of the Fire Department and a new station for the police this seems to him that the town cannot afford to go forward without the assistance of a planner. Mr. Morin said people will look at the cost on their taxes to hire a planner but he feels they would get much more out of a planner to assist the town.

Chairman Kurk said this year they are extremely concerned with the budget. Chairman Kurk said she went online to compile a list of what a planner would do and commented on Ms. Bolton becoming full time 2 years ago to fulfill some of these needs to eliminate the need for a planner. Chairman Kurk said when the Planning Board needs an opinion they contact Bill Drescher. Mr. Morin said Bill Drescher will tell you when you're going to get sued and lose. Vice Chairman Fiala said he can see a lot of benefits but to a certain extent agrees with Chairman Kurk with budget costs. Vice Chairman Fiala said he sees the need for the town and how the experience of the members of the Planning Board could benefit by having a planner and wonders if they had a planner a couple of years ago this could have helped the town with the GMO. Vice Chairman Fiala said if they had someone close giving them advice it could have spared the town thousands of dollars in legal expenses. Selectmen Osborne would like the expense of \$1,800 a month broken down and said this should possibly be a warrant article.

Mr. Morin said you need to target the planner to certain issues where the need is the greatest. A flat fee of \$1,800 is based on 36 hours. The tasks would vary on specific tasks the Planning Board decides what they need assistance with. Mr. Morin said he is not suggesting that this one person could take on the task of the Master Plan, but specific tasks could be done. Mr. Morin said the volunteers cannot do all of the work. He feels there are people in town that feel the Planning Board is not accomplishing things fast enough, said it is not lack of trying it is lack of tools. Selectman Clow said the amount of time it takes the Planning Board to revise an ordinance/regulation is very long. Selectman Clow said with more expertise the Planning Board could get things accomplished in a timelier manner. Mr. Morin said the knowledge would be there from the planner before they sit at the table to review a subdivision and the planner will already get them to the point they need to make logical decisions.

Mr. Mund suggested the Selectman contact Candia, Raymond and New Boston Planning Boards to ask the benefits.

Vice Chairman Fiala said a Planner would help the Planning Board by giving them confidence in writing warrant articles as well and feels a planner can better guide and inform the town of the right direction. Mr. Mund feels it is a great program and told the Board they will be hearing of the Circuit Rider Program used more throughout the State. Selectman Slattum feels this conversation is being held too early in the budget season and feels it should be discussed at the end of the budget season.

Mr. George Malette informed the Board of the great need of the Circuit Rider Program for the Planning Board. Mr. Malette reminded the Board keeping up with the Master Plan is a requirement of the town not an option. Mr. Malette said the Town Center Advisory committee is great, but a professional planner is beneficial to work with the Conservation Commission in protecting town ordinances. The planner could also help the Open Space and Economic Committees for long term plans of the town.

FINAL

Mr. Chuck Bolton said when this was first mentioned to him by Mr. Morin and he visited surrounding Planning Boards, Henniker had a planner and he was very impressed with the planner and felt a planner was worth pursuing for the Town of Weare. Mr. Bolton said they are a much diversified Board and he does support the need.

Mr. Neal Kurk, alternate member of the Planning Board, feels the Circuit Planner would be beneficial but cannot be afforded at this time. Mr. Kurk feels some of the things done by a circuit planner can be obtained through Local Government Center and Southern New Hampshire Planning Commission. Mr. Kurk said he feels that at some point a Planner is needed but this is not the time.

4. OPENING BIDS FOR THE TOWN REPORT AND THE MAILER

Chairman Kurk said they received 3 bids on time and 2 bids late, which will not be included.

Echo Communications, New London \$8,638 for reports \$1,646 for mailer \$155 for sorting and delivery \$10,437, plus \$8.00 per scan and \$50.00 per hour for corrections.

Selectman Clow asked what \$8.00 for scan means; anything that is not camera ready will be an additional \$8.00.

Riendeau Printing, Hudson, NH, used last year, town mailer \$3,829.50, town report \$5,985.70, per book \$4.56, then add \$200 for electronic file for web, \$15.00 for additional photo, \$20.00 for each additional metal plate.

Commonwealth Printing, Newburyport, MA, total price \$7,000 not broken down \$45.00 per hour supplemental costs. List of references 3 NH towns others Mass.

Chairman Kurk feels it would be appropriate for Fred Ventresco to review the bids and then present them to the Board at the next meeting in 2 weeks.

Selectman Slattum asked about the School combining their report with the town. Chairman Kurk said they contacted the school and the school prefers to keep it separated. Vice Chairman Fiala said he thinks they prefer to be separated because of the Henniker school district.

Chairman Kurk said last year they used Riendeau for \$9,197.50 for town report and mailer.

5. ACCEPTANCE OF WINTERBERRY LANE AS A CLASS V TOWN MAINTAINED ROAD

Chairman Kurk reminded everyone the Public Hearing concerning this road was held on October 2, 2006. Mr. Carl Knapp said all criteria was met except for the silk fence which he prefers be removed in the spring.

Selectman Clow moved, Selectman Osborne seconded to accept Winterberry Lane as a Class V Town Maintained Road. Passed 3-0-2. Vice Chairman Fiala and Selectman Slattum abstained.

Chairman Kurk said the Board fully relies on the recommendation of Mr. Knapp.

Vice Chairman Fiala asked Mr. Knapp about the status of the work being performed on Peacock Hill. Mr. Knapp said they are just waiting for the guardrail before they remove the closed road sign. Mr. Knapp said costs are really close to the allotment from FEMA which was 75% of the cost.

6. STONE MEMORIAL BUILDING DISCUSSION

Chairman Kurk stepped down from the discussion. Vice Chairman Fiala gave a brief summary of previous discussions of maintenance and utilities at the Stone Memorial Building. There is a history of payments made by the Historical Society from restoration to town buildings. Mrs. Betty Straw spoke of a sheet given to the board members previously of things the Historical Society has paid for. Mrs. Straw said records seem to indicate that when the furnace was installed in 1991 or 1992 that the town paid for it.

FINAL

It was discussed in researching past records from 1995 and 1996 the budget of the Historical Society was running in an negative and that all the money goes back into the town for Historical buildings. Selectman Slattum asked what the electrical and heating expenses were for the Stone Building. It was discussed \$2,000 for oil and \$500 for electric. Vice Chairman Fiala said it is very clear that the Historical Society was given charge of the Stone Memorial Building in 1981. Clearly the Historical Society has taken care of maintenance and the town has taken care of utility costs. Selectman Slattum said it appears the Historical Society made those payments for 8 years. Mrs. Straw said the 2005 electrical bill was \$600.29 which seems high but they have had continuous problems with the furnace and the fuel bill for 2005 was \$2,729 due to problems with the furnace which have been fixed. The Historical Society has discussed this and what they should do. Ms. Straw said whoever is responsible for these bills the temperature has to be kept at least at 55 degrees because of the damage to the ceiling in the rotunda which they paid \$16,000 to refurbish.

Selectman Slattum said rescinding/reversing the article from 1982 seems to be the answer. Mr. Malcolm Wright said he is a member of the Society and he is very concerned and he is the maintenance person for the town. When he started with the Society there was confusion on the possession of the building. After he started to work for the town he researched the situation. Speaking as a member of the Society would like to see them go forward and have the past erased or put aside and start new and feels the town has a vested interest in the building as well as the Historical Society. Selectman Clow would like to find a solution where the Historical Society is able to stay with the Stone Memorial Building without breaking their bank. He feels the only way to rescind the previous article would be to write a new article. Selectmen Clow feels the Selectman who approved this in the past did not have the right to do so. Selectman Clow said they need to change or rescind that article before they can move on.

Vice Chairman Fiala said in reading the article it states giving the Town charge of the Stone Memorial Building. Vice Chairman Fiala feels they need to research further. Vice Chairman Fiala asked Mrs. Straw if the town owns the building where does this put the Historical Society. Mrs. Straw said the Town still owns the building, pays the insurance on the building, the Historical Society pays the insurance on the contents and the Historical Society has been given the permission to use the building. Mrs. Straw said the wording in the article is very unclear.

Vice Chairman Fiala said in researching, if it is public benefit to the entire town then a case could be made that the town pays the utilities, because of the public benefit. Selectman Osborne asked if they could check into this further with Local Government Center. It was discussed Clinton Grove belongs to the town and Osborne Hall belongs to the South Weare Improvement Society. Mrs. Straw said the tramp house is owned by the town, but the Historical Society put a new roof on it. Selectman Clow said this could be the exchange because they are helping to maintain other town historical buildings. Mrs. Straw said it would be ideal if they could work out something that is affordable. Mrs. Straw said they feel they are doing a service to the town in preserving its history. Selectman Slattum said that it seems to him that the maintenance is cleaning. Selectman Clow said if you look at the past 20 years the town has been paying the utilities on the building so this would not change the budget. Selectmen Osborne said she sees maintenance as repairs on things that are broken and in need of repair not just cleaning and janitorial. Mrs. Straw said the Historical Society paid to have ultraviolet shades in the building.

Vice Chairman Fiala said at this point he would like to contact the Local Government Center and feels the town should continue to pay the utilities on the Stone Memorial Building because it is the obligation of the town to preserve the building and its contents. Mrs. Straw said the warrant article needs to be dealt with so in the future all intentions are defined.

7. MEETING MINUTES

FINAL

Selectman Clow moved, Selectman Osborne seconded to accept the minutes of October 16, 2006 as amended. Passed 4-0-1. Selectman Slattum abstained.

The Board discussed the minutes from October 23, 2006 need further research concerning the 1982 town report because when researched Articles 31 and 33 did not refer to the Stone Building.

8. MANIFESTS

Chairman Kurk moved, Selectman Osborne seconded to authorize the Board of Selectmen to sign Manifest and order the Treasurer to sign checks dated November 9, 2006. Passed 5-0-0.

Accounts payable	\$138,314.82
Gross Payrolls	<u>\$43,749.53</u>
Total	\$182,064.35

Chairman Kurk said Vachon Clukay finished the MS5 form and compiled the financial statement for DRA. Chairman Kurk reminded the Board this is really the 2005 unreserved fund balance \$794,527.00. Chairman Kurk said this is not high and wants the Board to be cautious and said last year they took \$230,000 (\$140,000 for Avitar) to pay for things like Avitar reevaluation, and DRA wants them to keep a certain amount in the Unreserved Fund. Selectman Slattum asked if the balance of \$794,527.00 minus the \$230,000 which brings them to \$560,000 was acceptable to DRA. It was discussed that DRA like to see between 8-17% and this amount falls below 5%.

Selectman Clow asked what the timeline is for when the MS5 is submitted to when the tax rate is set. Chairman Kurk hopes they get an appointment next week. Vice Chairman Fiala asked when they would get the auditors written report. Chairman Kurk said it does take some time.

9. CORRESPONDENCE – Mr. Ventresco said he was asked what the projected health insurance increase would be, he said official word from the Local Government Center would be no more than 8% increase.

Mr. Ventresco discussed money for Hazmat in the operating budget. The last 4 years the State has picked up this cost, no bill will be coming for 2006 and they are unsure for 2007. They were asked to use some of their hazmat funds to update hazmat equipment. Chief Richards said he would like to purchase supplies that are billable if they are ever used, so they will expend the money but if the items are used they will be billed out. These funds were not spent last year.

Mr. Ventresco informed the Board that the owner of Cutting Blade had come in to speak with him regarding the problem with trash at Ineson field. They discussed that Cutting Blades is unable to perform his cutting because of the trash. Cutting Blade discussed that part of the contract is to do the gazebo area, which will take him a full day, and would like this be put off until next spring. Chairman Kurk would like to see this performed this year. Cutting Blade received a request regarding Bolton Field for him to mow further out of the perimeter of the fields. Cutting Blade discussed this damages his blades, there needs to be some landscaping done to alleviate this problem. It was discussed WAC usually picks up the trash at Ineson field. Vice Chairman Fiala said he will go over and pick up the trash within the next couple of days.

Vice Chairman Fiala said he ordered the State flag for the front of the Town Office Building and he will pay for it and hang it up when it arrives.

Chairman Kurk said she has a continuing concern for residents to understand the reassessment, so residents understand the effects of the assessment and articles being voted upon.

Chairman Kurk said they received a note from Judy Rogers from Assessing; the Board needs to have some money in the budget for an Assessor. Chairman Kurk said the state requires the town be reevaluated every 5 years. Chairman Kurk said if they want to have an individual Assessor, instead of Avitar, then they need to move forward and hire one now. The Board discussed contacting Paula Clemente from DRA for assistance.

FINAL

Chairman Kurk informed the public that the High School has a pathway/trail to walk and that they will be recognizing the Veterans.

Chairman Kurk informed the Board the CERT team came out on Sunday to redirect traffic when a tree came down. Chairman Kurk told the Board the CERT team needs a place to gather in emergency situations other than the Safety Complex. The Board agreed they can utilize the Conservation Room at the Town Office Building.

10. FIRE DEPARTMENT BUDGET

The following are increases in the Fire Department Budget:

Chiefs Salary +.\$74.00
Commissioner Salary +\$63.00
Officers Stipend +53.00
Firefighters \$1,638.00 (2.5% increase 12 months)
Medicare \$30.00
FICA \$135.00
Telephone \$180.00
Dispatch \$191.00
Food \$20.00
Building Maintenance \$1,500.00
Printing \$100.00
Dues \$6,000.00 (supplemental life insurance – warrant article that was passed)
Office Supplies \$940.00 (new copier lease for 9 months)
Vehicle Fuel \$2.093
Safety/Med Gear \$1,790.00 (additional supplies for the ambulance – mandated by NH Dept of Safety)
Vehicle Maintenance Ambulance \$500.00
Books and Updates \$350.00
Radio Equipment Repair \$240.00
Miscellaneous \$250.00
Equipment \$17,500.00 (replacement protective clothing – 10 sets)
Equipment Repair - \$400.00
Vehicle Maintenance – Ambulance 2 \$500.00
Fuel Sugar Hill \$500.00
Workmans Comp \$9.00
Unemployment \$73.00
Vehicle Maintenance – Engine 5 \$500.00
Vehicle Maintenance – Rescue 1 \$250.00
Vehicle Maintenance – Forestry 1 \$550.00

Chairman Kurk said in looking at the default budget it reflects increases in salaries, increases in salaries cannot be included in the default budget. Vice Chairman Fiala questioned the increase in radio equipment. Chief Richards said that is actually for Knox Box key release systems for the trucks. Chairman Kurk said the fuel increase can not appear in the default budget.

Mr. Matt Esenwine commented on the roof and door issue at the Safety Complex, and asked why the construction company isn't paying for the bills. Chairman Kurk said the building was signed off. Mr. Esenwine asked about janitorial care at the Safety Complex and the cleanliness. Mr. Esenwine asked Chief Richards about possibly combining copier expenses/maintenance with the Police Department.

FINAL

Discussion on electrical expenses being paid by the Police Department and heating expenses being paid by the Fire Department.

Chairman Kurk said they may possibly take the \$17,500, for replacement protective clothing, out of the Capital Reserve Fund.

Discussion on staffing the ambulance 7 days a week with 2 people, per instruction of the Board of Fire Wards.

Newell Bailey, Captain of the Rescue Squad, informed the Board they just put 8 people through a first responder course, which was never been included in the budget.

Discussion on repairing the doors and where the money will come from, 7 doors at \$190.00 each totaling \$1,330.00.

Selectman Clow told Chief Richards the bottom line of the budget is in really good shape. The percentage looks good but if you look at it line by line it's not that great.

Chairman Kurk asked what direction to send Chief Richards regarding the repairs on the doors.

Selectman Clow moved, Selectman Slattum seconded to authorize the expenditure of \$1,400 for the repair of the overhead doors at the Fire Station with the money to be taken from the Building Maintenance Fund. Passed 5-0-0.

The Board discussed the increase in the tax rate. Mr. Richard Butt said in reviewing the chart produced by Chairman Kurk the numbers might possibly scare taxpayers and it needs to be adjusted.

11. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr. Butt commented on the \$17,000 approved for expenditure from the Capital Reserve Fund. Mr. Butt feels this is an expenditure that should come out of the operational budget not the Capital Reserve Fund. Chairman Kurk said in a discussion last year a large expenditure should come out of the Capital Reserve Fund. Chairman Kurk said from her perspective it is such a large amount of money and she feels the item is needed but the cost of the item is too large for the budget.

Mr. Butt reminded the Board of the General Fund Surplus, there was a warrant article approved by the voters, for \$140,000 which is a one time expense that will not appear in the 2007 budget. Mr. Butt said the amendment to the warrant article to give back the \$140,000 to the voters failed. The only way to expend the \$140,000 is to use it to help reduce taxes.

Mr. Butt asked how much was going to be put into the overlay. Chairman Kurk said Avitar suggested \$100,000 be put into the overlay.

Motion to adjourn at 11:33 p.m.

12. ADJOURNMENT

A True Record.

Cherry Palmisano, Recording Secretary