

FINAL



**WEARE BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES 01/07/08**

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

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR: Fred Ventresco

RECORDING SECRETARY: Cherry Palmisano

GUESTS: Tina Pelletier, Steve Najjar, Will Ottery, Evelyn Connor, Gregory Begin, Sherry Burdick, Frank Campana, Margaret Colburn, Jon Osborne, Dick Butt, Chief Richards, Chester Colburn, Christopher Colburn, Jill Colburn, Laurie Gordon, Margaret Gordon, Joe Kelley, Sharon DeStefano, William Tiffany, Scott Dinsmore, Michael Emerson, Newell Bailey, Jr., Jane Snyder, Ian McSweeney

6:00 p.m. Chairman Clow called the meeting to order.

1. BOSTON POST CANE AWARD TO OLDEST RESIDENT OF WEARE, NH – Ms. Evelyn Connor gave some history of the Boston Post Cane. At the time of its origin the Boston Post Cane was designated to the towns eldest male citizen; woman were not allowed to be designators of the cane. In 1930 a letter was written to the editor of the Boston Post Newspaper requesting woman be allowed to be holders on the cane. The oldest citizen in the town must have resided in that town for 5 or more years.

Ms. Evelyn Connor presented the Boston Post Cane to Ms. Margaret G. Colburn to signify she is the eldest citizen in the Town of Weare. Ms. Colburn was born on July 13, 1908 in Brattleboro, VT; she is 99 years old. Ms. Colburn married the late Chester W. Colburn on August 7, 1938. They have 3 children, 10 grandchildren, 17 great grandchildren and 3 great-great grandchildren. Ms. Colburn was a school teacher.

Chairman Clow said the Board will be going into a short non public session to interview a candidate for police officer.

Chairman Clow moved, Selectman Kurk seconded to enter into non public session at 6:08 p.m. under RSA 91-A:3, II (b). A roll call vote was taken, Vice Chairman Osborne – yes, Selectman Fiala – yes, Selectman Kurk – yes Chairman Clow – yes. Passed 4-0-0.

Chief Begin introduced Mr. Joe Fussell to the Board. The Chief said that he is recommending hiring him at \$17.30/hr, since he currently makes \$20.00 in New Boston. When asked why he chose Weare, Mr. Fussell said that he was impressed with the Weare PD and the Town. In addition this will allow him a more consistent schedule. He also currently works full time for the State Liquor commission.

Chairman Clow moved, Selectman Kurk seconded to come out of non public session at 6:20 p.m. A roll call vote was taken, Selectmen Clark – yes, Vice Chairman Osborne – yes, Selectman Fiala – yes, Selectman Kurk – yes Chairman Clow – yes. Passed 4-0-0.

Chairman Clow moved, Selectman Fiala seconded to appoint Joseph Fussell as a part time Weare Police Officer at a rate of \$17.30 per hour. Passed 4-0-0.

Ms. Connor swore in Officer Joseph Fussell as a part time Weare Police Officer.

Chairman Clow motioned to enter into a Public Hearing at 8:27 p.m.

FINAL

2. PUBLIC HEARING For the purpose of hearing public testimony and comment on the renewal of the Cable Franchise for the Town of Weare, NH – Chairman Clow recapped the process with Comcast and said there are still some minor issues that need to be cleared. They have held 3 public hearings for this cable franchise contract. The contract was originally signed in 1990. The new contract will be for 7 years and expires in December 2014. Residents will have a standard free installation of up to 150 feet into their homes. Comcast will be giving \$30,000 towards cable equipment. Comcast will submit 3% of their annual gross from the Town of Weare into the town's General Fund. Comcast liability insurance is \$100,000. The Board discussed requests will be made for an annual review between Comcast and the Town of Weare. The agreement contains Customer Service Regulations.

Chairman Clow discussed the outstanding issues. The Board would like plaques on all vehicles that work for Comcast in the area; Comcast says they sub contract some of their services. The Board wants an annual report form from Comcast to the Board of Selectman; Comcast is willing to have yearly reviews but not submit anything writing. The Board would like "reasonable" location specified for where the drop line/cable enters a resident's home; Comcast is flexible of the location but will not write that in the contract. Chairman Clow said these are the 3 items they still need to resolve before the contract is signed. Selectman Kurk mentioned receiving a letter from Walter Bohlin stating that great care should be taken to make sure Comcast fulfills all items in the present contract. Mr. Bouhlin's letter also states that there is a federal law that authorizes the town's access fees are to be intended to fund cable access television. Mr. Bohlin proposes the franchise fee be the equivalent cost to run the cable access channel and that the balance not be deposited in the General Fund.

Chairman Clow closed the public hearing at 6:41 p.m.

Chairman Clow opened the public hearing at 6:41 p.m.

3. PUBLIC HEARING For acceptance of a grant of equipment and/or funds totaling approximately \$6,000.00 for equipment for the Fire Department to assist in interoperability. This equipment will convert all radio channels utilized in our mutual aid system to a common channel that can be used by all responding units. The Grant is jointly provided by a grant from the Federal Fire Act and BAE Systems – Chief Richards said the Southegan Mutual Aid System for common frequency. Chief Richards described an incident in which the frequencies were different and they were unable to communicate directly. Chief Richards said they contacted BAE to get a system that was useful to all towns. Grant was approved by the Federal Fire Act and BAE Systems is going to pay the town's portion. Selectman Kurk asked about the up keep cost. Chief Richards said there would be no additional costs; no yearly cost. The reprogramming is being taken care of by Southegan Mutual Aid. 80 from government 20/ from town but BAE systems picked up the 20% cost.

Mr. Frank Campana if and when the day comes that this system needs to be updated or revised and there is no grant funds available what will this cost the town. Chief Richards does not know what the cost would be. Mr. Campana said grants are great, but there is not always a free ride. Selectman Fiala said he thinks of it as a supplement. Chief Richards said the equipment will be installed in February or March. Chief Richards said this equipment does not connect into their current equipment; it stands alone. Vice Chairman Osborne asked if there are any matching funds needed and Chief Richards said no.

Chairman Clow closed the public hearing at 6:46 p.m.

Chairman Clow moved, Selectman Kurk seconded to accept the grant of equipment or funds for approximately 6,000 for the Fire Department to assist in interoperability. Passed 4-0-0.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT – Mr. Steve Najjar here as a resident to comment on the petitioned article to reduce the Current Use Fees that go into the Conservation Commission from 75%/25% to 50%/50%. Mr. Najjar said these funds are used to help eliminate future development, help to properly maintain town forests, outdoor recreation, hunting and wildlife habitat. Mr. Najjar would like the Board to consider placing a Board sponsored article on the warrant to increase the portion of the Current Use Land Tax that goes into the Conservation Commission up to 80%. Mr. Najjar commented on properties that were recently placed into conservation and

FINAL

said that 800 acres has been preserved with those funds. Mr. Najjar asked if anything would be accomplished by having this money go into the General Fund instead of the Conservation Fund. Mr. Najjar said the Conservation money is also seed money to help bring other funds into the town. Mr. Najjar said the land purchases they have made last forever and would really like the Board to consider this article. The Board will discuss this later in the meeting. Chairman Clow said last year they ran into a problem that an article was worded in such a way that it impacted another article.

Mr. Dick Butt asked about the status of the 2006 audit. Chairman Clow said the in-house portion of the audit has been completed. Ms. Tina Pelletier said the head auditor has been on vacation for the last 2 weeks and still needs to gather some small pieces of information. Ms. Pelletier said she was waiting for the ambulance billing fees, which she just received. Mr. Butt said it seems like a long process. Chairman Clow said the auditors were here for the in-house auditing in late November. Mr. Butt said it was supposed to be done earlier. Selectman Kurk said the auditors were supposed to be in-house in September but the process was delayed.

Mr. Butt commented on the salary for the elected Police Chief position which is ending its term. The election for Police Chief will be in March. Chairman Clow said they have not made a decision on the salary. Mr. Butt asked if this information will be made public for candidates. Mr. Ventresco said it will be posted along with all elected positions. Chairman Clow said they have not directly discussed the Police Chief salary. Selectman Kurk mentioned that the Board spoke about discussing this. Mr. Butt asked if there was a job description and salary range for this position. Chairman Clow has a recommendation from Benefit Review for all salaried employees, including elected officials. Chairman Clow said it is listed in weekly pay not salary; has increased approximately \$2,000 to reflect the salaries in similar towns. Chairman Clow said they picked 4 similar towns and averaged each salary range on each position and tried to stay within the economics and size of the town as well. Chairman Clow said they have made a commitment but have not determined the wording. Mr. Butt said there might be people running against the current Police Chief and the information should be made available. Mr. Butt said the window of posting this is coming soon and the position is up for reelection. Chairman Clow said he thinks they have to post the present salary because they do not have the power to change it. Mr. Butt said interested candidates will want to know the salary range. Mr. Butt hopes the warrant will be posted on the website prior to the Deliberative Session.

Mr. Butt asked the Board if the \$39,000 kept in the budget inadvertently for the Transfer Station is going to be in the default. Chairman Clow said they decided not to have it in the default budget.

Mr. Butt mentioned Benefit Review and asked what the bottom line represented. Chairman Clow said they will present a bottom line figure that will put everyone in line with surrounding area salaries. Mr. Butt asked if the budget will or will not reflect increases. Chairman Clow said it will not. Mr. Butt commented that the request to increase the employee's pay scale to reflect area towns will be a separate warrant article. Mr. Butt said if this article fails the Board will not be able to provide any raise. Chairman Clow said if they get another default budget it will not be possible for the employees to receive raises. Chairman Clow said unless they get a proposed budget passed and if the article to have employee's at an appropriate wage fails, they do not have a fall back plan. Chairman Clow said they have informally agreed but no motion has been made.

5. DEPARTMENT HEADS – Ms. Connor reminding the public that Tuesday, January 8th is the Primary Election and said whatever party you are registered under is the Ballot you will be given. Ms. Connor said the voting will be quick but they expect lines to be long.

On February 5, 2008 they will be having a Primary for State Representative to replace Bruce Hunter who has passed away. There are 2 candidates running, the ballot will be paper and be hand counted to help keep down costs.

There will be 5 elections this year. The actual vote for State Representative will be in March. Selectman Kurk commented on 2 candidates running on the Democratic ticket and only 1 for Republican.

FINAL

Chief Richards asked the Board if the article to request the transfer of funds from the Ambulance Revenue Account to Capital Reserve has been thought out yet. Mr. Ventresco commented on there being 2 funds that were named the same. Chief Richards said the transfer of funds from the Ambulance Revenue Account to the Capital Reserve has to be voted upon and then the Board is the authorized to expend. Chairman Clow said they discussed the amount. Chairman Clow said it would save the town money for Chief Richards to have access to these funds to make the purchase in January 2009 instead of March when the prices increase. Chief Richards said if this transfer is not made these funds will have to be raised in 2009 to purchase the vehicle.

Chief Richards said the fire extinguishers at the egress at the Safety Complex have been inspected. Selectman Kurk asked how often these are inspected. Chief Richards said every year.

Chief Richards commented that the lease payment comes from the Ambulance Revenue Account. Mr. Ventresco commented on this not being recommending by CIP. Chief Richards said CIP needs to know how much money they need to raise and appropriate. Chief Richards does not have the dollar figure of the funds to be transferred and said CIP should know this amount.

6. AMBULANCE BILLING – Chairman Clow said initially some parts of this discussion were to be handled in non public; the Board received legal advice and was told it would be best to be in public session. Chairman Clow said he knows there is disagreement but asks that there be a no fault discussion. Chairman Clow asked the Board of Firewards or member of the Fire Department to discuss how ambulance billing fees are handled.

Mr. Newell Bailey, Captain, said that on August 2006 they entered into a new contract with Interclaim Billing. Mr. Bailey said they approached the Board about transferring to a new company. Mr. Bailey said they entered into the contract, which was signed by Chief Richards. They determined the rates for residents and non residents; the resident rate reflects a discount. Mr. Bailey said there is a statement on the bill that says to call if there is a problem with the bill and speak to the billing agency. Mr. Bailey said if a person qualifies for free care at the hospital with proof they would waive the bill. Mr. Bailey said they also put into affect that if the bill was not paid at the end the Board would vote of whether it went out into collections or was waived. Chairman Clow asked if this was a change. Mr. Bailey said in 2006 with the new contract; Comstar used to send out a bill when there was a waiver. Mr. Bailey said the procedure should be to go through the Billing Company not through the town. If the person qualifies for free care then it will be arranged. Mr. Bailey said if they can't pay the bill then it gets sent back to the Board of Firewards.

Selectman Kurk remembers something coming before them to be signed when something was waived. Mr. Bailey said that would have been with Comstar and he is unfamiliar with that contract. Mr. Bailey said they copy the records, record them and send them to Ms. Pelletier. Chairman Clow asked whose responsibility is it to determine the free care. Mr. Bailey said they have to qualify for free care with the Hospital then they qualify for a waiver for the ambulance fee.

Mr. Emerson, representing Interclaim, said they use the policy based on free care (income chart) from the Federal Government to determine what should be written off or what should not. Mr. Emerson said they have never sent any patient from Weare for Collections. Chairman Clow is still cloudy on the income chart fitting into the billing. Mr. Emerson said they bill everyone per Medicare protocol no matter what the income or insurance situation the family is responsible. If their income falls under the federal guidelines then they would ask the Board to waive the fees. He said if people call about not being able to afford their bill the agency asks if they can set up a payment schedule and if they have no means to pay they would contact the Board of Firewards.

Mr. Bailey said the Board of Firewards wants to know why the procedure was not followed.

Mr. Ventresco said he thought they sent 2 bills out and if after that if no payment was received the bill gets written off. Mr. Bailey said they have been getting an account of accounts that have not been paid, instead of not going to collections, the Board of Firewards writes off the bill. Mr. Bailey said basically if insurance pays

FINAL

80% and leaves a balance the client is billed and if the bill is not paid they are billed again, and when up for review if not paid it will come back to the Board of Firewards and discussed if it will be written off.

Chairman Clow said there was a check that came in from a client who was transported and when the Finance Administrator, Ms. Pelletier, saw this payment she held onto the payment instead of depositing it and that is why they are having this discussion.

Ms. Pelletier said she considers this the straw that broke the camels back. She asked this question a year ago when she saw checks coming in from residents, she was told 2 billings were going out and then waived if not paid. Ms. Pelletier said knowing this policy, and in this case was someone she knew that could not afford payment. She contacted the resident and asked them if they were ever informed of the billing process. Ms. Pelletier said this could have all been avoided if she got the information requested from the Fire Department. Since then, the resident has received another ambulance ride and another bill which was waived. Ms. Pelletier said she has never been informed and when she had to call the Fire Department when the auditors were here to get information she was told she was not allowed to get the information.

Mr. Bailey said first of all when making the statement that tax payers and non tax payers would not pay he was talking about a discounted rate, not no payment. The rules are they need to bill everyone. Mr. Bailey said as far as waiving the bill it is apparent that the second bill was waived because they did receive the information. Ms. Pelletier said they got the information from her. Mr. Bailey said the phone number to contact for billing was right on the bill and if the resident called then it would of come back to the Board of Firewards for a waiver.

Vice Chairman Osborne stepped down from the Board. Mrs. Osborne said her 80 year old father was transported and received a bill, then after 2 weeks received another bill stating he was going into collections. This was extremely upsetting to her father. Mrs. Osborne said she did call the 800 number and then spoke with Mr. Emerson who told her they have the right to waive the bill. Mr. Emerson stated he will speak with Sharon DeStefano at the Fire Department but has not had a response. Vice Chairman Osborne returned to the Board

Chairman Clow said they need to take a look at the policy to see if they can keep this from happening again. Ms. Pelletier asked if they all agreed if the second bill was waived then the first bill should have been waived. Mr. Bailey said it should have been waived through the correct process. The Board of Firewards never sent it to collection.

Mr. Emerson said the patient gets 3 invoices, the first invoice is to ask about insurance, the second invoice would say this is your balance after your insurance payment which is your responsibility, the next one would say you're your balance is overdue please call the agency, the final invoice would say if you do not respond then it will go to the Board of Firewards.

Selectman Kurk said she hears everything and is trying to put herself into the good neighbor situation, if she was aware of a neighbor in need she would wonder how to assist. She is seeing this issue as a good neighbor situation. Selectman Kurk said sometimes to the elderly this is all very confusing and they do not like conflicting situations. Selectman Kurk is wondering if they could separate the issues and commented on Ms. Pelletier saying she contacted the Fire Department in a sense as a good neighbor and she does not know where the problem is. Mr. Bailey said there was a breakdown in communication and the Board did not get informed that the check was not deposited. Selectman Kurk asked Ms. Pelletier if she called the Fire Department. Ms. Pelletier said she did and was told the discussion was on an agenda.

Chairman Clow asked how does Ms. Pelletier balance good neighbor with professional responsibility.

Mr. Bailey said they need to have a written policy available to residents. Ms. Pelletier said she was waiting for feedback and a response from the Fire Department. Chairman Clow said if people had the knowledge of the policy and salary information then they would know if they could qualify for a waiver. Mr. Bailey said this would be a considerable cost to the town. Chairman Clow said if you take for example free lunch, then every family is aware if their income is at a certain level then they can apply and feels this is a similar situation.

FINAL

Chairman Clow said a chart that they go by for free care, to full payment and other places in between, he said everyone has a range to qualify and is not sure that the statement on the bottom of the bill clarifies this. Mr. Bailey said this appears to him that the Board of Firewards needs to draft the policy in writing and needs to make it available to the town. Mr. Bailey said you have to be careful how you can get the information out.

Ms. Jane Snyder said those were funds that were sent to the Board of Selectman and then turned over to the Treasurer; no one is under the impression that this should have not been waived. Ms. Snyder feels the check should have gone through and then be reimbursed if that was the case.

Ms. Pelletier said the check came forward; she then contacted the Fire Department and did not get a response. Ms. Pelletier said these people would have been out the money for as long as this procedure has taken. Ms. Snyder said the waivers stopped in 2003. Ms. Snyder and Mr. Bailer said there has never been a waiver under the Interclaim contract.

Vice Chairman Osborne commented on when they signed with Interclaim she thought the rate would be determined according zip code.

Mr. Bailey said they need to clarify the procedure and have it on hand to give residents and follow the procedure. Chairman Clow asked where the check was. Ms. Pelletier said she has the check. It was discussed the second ambulance ride has been waived but the first ambulance ride will be reviewed for reimbursement.

Chairman Clow said the Deputy Treasurer stated it should have been deposited and then requested for reimbursement.

Ms. Snyder said as Deputy Treasurer she would recommend the billing received from Interclaim has a listing of who paid and what the checks are for, then the list goes to Ms. DeStefano and be entered into her books, copied and then checks be sent to Ms. Pelletier. Ms. Pelletier said they never balance out. Ms. Snyder is saying the slip that got deposited at the bank would not match what actually got deposited because Ms. Pelletier held the check. Mr. Bailey commented that Interclaims books show the check came in; the Fire Department shows the check came in, but the check was not deposited. Ms. Pelletier said she has not been receiving reports and she has been asking for reports for 2 months. Ms. Pelletier said she just gets checks with no reporting. Ms. Snyder asked if Ms. Pelletier signs anything from Ms. DeStefano. Ms. Pelletier said she has never been asked to sign. Chairman Clow said if Ms. Pelletier did not know the person then the check would have been deposited. Chairman Clow said they then have to separate neighbors from professionalism. Ms. Pelletier said she thought the waiver was being done in November.

It was discussed there are HIPPA laws that prevent information from being released.

Selectman Kurk asked Mr. Emerson if there was anything they could send out to the recipient of the bill in regards to the need of financial assistance. Mr. Emerson said Medicare does not recommend advertising waivers. Mr. Emerson said Interclaim does say the town can set recommendations for who receives waivers. Selectman Kurk said the problem is that Ms. Pelletier knows this one person, and what about the people she doesn't know who are dealing with great hardship. Selectman Kurk said they should be giving this information to people. Mr. Emerson said if there was a written policy from the Board of Firewards and the Board of Selectman to authorize this information going out with the bill it could be done. Selectman Kurk said asked what happens when the recipients call Interclaim after they receive the 3rd bill and inform them of their financial hardship. Mr. Emerson said they are told the bill will go before the Board of Firewards.

Chairman Clow said they need to bring this to a close and go back to the Board of Firewards and work this out. Chairman Clow said the check should be deposited and then request reimbursement.

Mr. Bailey will put on the agenda to review the current policy and have it in writing. Mr. Bailey said as far as the refund, it will be put on Monday night's agenda.

Mr. Ventresco said he was going to take care of this issue internally but the Board of Firewards wanted the discussion with the Board of Selectman.

FINAL

7. MEETING MINUTES

Selectman Kurk moved, Chairman Clow seconded to accept the minutes from December 15, 2007 as recorded. Passed 3-0-1. Selectman Fiala abstained.

Chairman Clow moved, Vice Chairman Osborne seconded to accept the minutes of December 17, 2007 as amended. Passed 4-0-0.

Chairman Clow moved, Selectman Kurk seconded to accept the minutes of Saturday, December 22, 2007 as amended. Passed 3-0-1. Selectman Fiala abstained.

Selectman Fiala moved, Chairman Clow seconded to accept he minutes of December 28, 2007 as written. Passed 3-0-1. Selectman Kurk abstained.

8. MANIFESTS

Chairman Clow moved, Selectman Kurk seconded, to authorize the Board of Selectmen to sign Manifest and order the Deputy Treasurer to sign checks dated January 10, 2008. Passed 4-0-0.

Accounts payable	\$349,859.91	(John Stark \$200,000.00)
Gross Payrolls	\$45,619.86	(includes Credit Union, Taxes)
	<u>\$3,863.75</u>	(Fire Dept. Monthly)
Total	\$399,343.52	

9. CORRESPONDENCE – Mr. Ventresco commented on receiving a reply from GeoInsight regarding the bill they received. Mr. Ventresco said the letter from GeoInsight explains the charge for the additional copies. Mr. Ventresco said this is a Change Order which came in after the fact usually it comes in before the fact so you know the anticipated costs. The bill is for \$776.75 over the original contracted amount of \$12,000 for 9 additional copies. Chairman Clow said they should obtain a recommendation from PARC. Selectman Fiala said he is in the minority of PARC and feels they should pay the bill. Selectman Fiala said they need GeoInsight to be present at the Deliberative Session. He feels they did extraordinary work and feels in other aspects they went above the expectations of the contract. Chairman Clow asked if there was a request from PARC specifically asking about additional copies. Selectman Fiala said he was sure there was a discussion and knows everyone wanted a copy of the plan. Selectman Fiala feels they more then fulfilled their agreement. Vice Chairman Osborne wants to know if PARC ordered the extra copies. Selectman Kurk asked if it would be wise to check the PARC meeting minutes. PARC is on the calendar to meet Tuesday, January 8th.

Mr. Ventresco said they started the server replacement and most of the material is here. Mr. Ventresco said the contract states when the work is at 90% completion of labor/materials that portion would be paid. Mr. Ventresco discussed they would not be shutting down the whole building. It was discussed that if the system is down then there would be signs to inform the public.

Chairman Clow moved, Selectman Kurk seconded to authorize the expenditure of \$7,582.50 from the Computer System Replacement Fund which is 90% of the project. Passed 4-0-0.

Mr. Ventresco said on January 18th at 7:00 p.m. at the Dunbarton Elementary School there is going to be a celebration to commemorate the completion of the town lines. The Governor has been invited.

10. WARRANTS – The Board discussed transferring funds from the Ambulance Special Revenue Fund into the Capital Reserve. The money has to be moved, approved and available for January 2009. \$220,000 is the estimate of what can be transferred. The Board discussed changing the name of the Capital Reserve Fund. Selectman Kurk said to make sure the public knows that they are just changing the name for clarification purposes.

Shall the town place 80% of the Current Use Change Tax in the Conservation Fund and if approved this article supersedes all other warrant articles pertaining to the Current Use Change Tax. Selectman Fiala thinks they should put forth one article and let people decide on the percentages. Chairman Clow said they have no choice

FINAL

on the petitioned article. Selectman Kurk said once a petitioned article is in and cannot be withdrawn but could be modified at Deliberative Session. Selectman Kurk said she is fine with 75% and 25% because she does not feel a lot of money would be coming in this year anyway. Selectman Kurk feels this would allow the Conservation Commission funds not to dwindle and be able to find the properties that are in the best interest of the town to purchase and then negotiate. It was discussed over \$200,000 came in. Chairman Clow said the money they are talking about is money that is actually a part of a 3 year spread and the town's 25% portion was quite favorable. Jan Snyder said they just moved \$214,000. Chairman Clow commented that the savings of \$40,000 represents .04\$ on your tax bill. Selectman Kurk said it would cost the town a lot more if this land that is good for conservation is used for building homes. Vice Chairman Osborne said .04 cents is .04 cents and we need to get a tax relief somewhere. Chairman Clow said the purpose of this when this was voted 75% and 25% was to keep in order to balance land with open space and to help keep the town closer to what it is now. Selectman Fiala said he doesn't think they should put forth an article of their own, because he does not see a need to change things. Selectman Fiala said there should be the only one article and let the debate take place at Deliberative Session. Chairman Clow said he does tend to agree, he does not want them to be in the position that each time a petitioned article comes up they write one to replace it because they don't favor it as a Board.

Mr. Najjar suggests the Board put an article on the Warrant. Mr. Najjar said the submitted petitioned warrant article has no recommendation and the Board would be able to recommend their own warrant article. Mr. Najjar feels the Board's recommendation does carry weight.

Mr. McSweeney said the town of Henniker is 50%/50% and are just finishing their first land purchase. Mr. McSweeney discussed the \$40,000 and because most purchases require matching funds that \$40,000 could actually turn into \$80,000 from matching grants. Mr. McSweeney said the 80/20% is a good way to help manage growth. He thinks this is a way for the Board to help alleviate future taxes.

Chairman Clow said if they were to consider placing an article on the warrant they would have to start with legal opinion. Vice Chairman Osborne feels it should go through Deliberative Session and they will have legal representation at the Deliberative Session. Selectman Fiala said they have to pay for legal opinion. Selectman Kurk said if the amount was to increase or decrease then there is certainly a way to change it for next year. Selectman Fiala said he feels the majority of the Board is in favor of Conservation. Mr. Najjar understands the issue and would only like the warrant article placed on if the Board is going to support it. Mr. Najjar said most people don't like to modify a petitioned warrant article. Mr. Najjar feels most people would vote for the 80%/20% if it was recommended by the Board.

Mr. Ventresco said the Board has to put a recommendation on all spending articles. The Board discussed only if it is tax generated revenue (appropriated).

Mr. Najjar asked what would happen if at Deliberative Session the petitioned article stayed the same and then went to vote and did not pass would everything stay the same. The Board said yes.

Ms. Snyder said to take \$220,000 out of the Ambulance Special Revenue which leaves enough to fund the ambulance lease payment.

11. BUDGETS – Ms. Pelletier made changes according to the Boards decision on vehicle fuel. Ms. Pelletier said she took the adopted balance, subtracted out the \$39,000 then on each page made notations and anything that is an approved or accepted increase on the adopted will be in the default. Ms. Pelletier said the bottom line is \$4,511,353.00 but they still have \$989.00 which needs to be removed from the default budget. Ms. Pelletier said they still have to take in consider the 3.5% increases that were given. Chairman Clow said scattered through the departments there are reductions to make up the difference of the 3.5% wage increase and the \$39,000 and they still need to find \$989.00. Ms. Pelletier explained the columns of the budget:

1 year prior adopted – is what was voted on

1 year prior revised – is what was adopted with any budget journal entries made during the year for accepting

FINAL

FEMA or grants or moving within department lines (reflection of change)

1 year prior actual – is what was spent in 2007

2008 default for 08 is being initially bounced against the first column

Ms. Pelletier said because of the difference with the 53 weeks and having to make up the 3.5% and \$39,000 she made notations in the software recorded for history.

Selectman Kurk commented on the 3% difference between the proposed and the default. Ms. Pelletier said this reflects contractual obligations.

Selectman Kurk said she had mentioned the custodial issue, if the \$15,000 should be under the town buildings not under the Police Department. Mr. Ventresco said the Fire and Police Departments need to come together to cover the custodial needs. Selectman Kurk commented on the cost just being in the Police Department budget and not the Fire Department budget. Selectman Kurk said the \$15,000 being in the Police budget says that the \$15,000 is for the Police Department to utilize. Chairman Clow commented on the custodial person being responsible for the whole building and not just one department. Selectman Fiala said he thought he based his estimate on the Police Department usage. Chairman Clow said what if they were to let it go the way it is in the budget and then it can be worked on by the departments. Selectman Fiala feels they should get a contracted cleaning company. Selectman Kurk feels it is not right to have the \$15,000 in the Police Department Budget. Selectman Kurk said it does not change the bottom line.

Ms. Pelletier said she has to have a discussion with Mr. Ventresco regarding what department/s the \$989 will come from. Selectman Fiala discussed the Health Officer and Welfare Officer one being stipend and one being salaried. It was discussed the Welfare is weekly / Health is monthly. Selectman Fiala just wanted clarification.

Chairman Clow asked Ms. Pelletier and Mr. Ventresco to find the \$989 throughout the budget.

Selectman Kurk commented on the default line and the total which will be 8% more than this year's adopted. 3% more between the default and proposed. Selectman Kurk commented on the pay scale. Chairman Clow discussed \$18,000 which covers all employees except the Police Employees in the Union. Selectman Kurk is trying to get a sense of what the total impact of necessary requests will be. Mr. Ventresco reminded the Board that all monies to be spent have to be posted Monday.

12. ARTICLES – Mr. Ventresco said once the budget hearing closes you cannot make any changes unless they were discussed in the meeting. This includes anything that spends money.

Selectman Kurk said at the last meeting they did not come to a decision on the Bolton Field Bond because they were waiting for Selectman Clark. The Board discussed making the decision on the \$900,000 Public Works Building and \$1.4 for Bolton Field. Selectman Fiala said when PARC started to discuss Bolton Field project he feels PARC was planning on not doing the paving portion of the project. Chairman Clow commented on CIP having it broken down originally into 2 separate parts. Chairman Clow commented on Paul Morin saying if you choose to separate the project into phases the bonds will overlap and after the 3 years you will be paying for the remainder of the whole project. Selectman Kurk said there was a discussion about possibly never paving the parking area. Selectman Kurk said the big issue is the parking spaces. Selectman Fiala said he would prefer that the parking area was not paved.

Selectman Kurk asked how much will the actual use to the Weare residents be, she feels the parking is necessary, but wonders if this is the best way to spend \$1.4 million dollars of the tax payers money. Selectman Fiala discussed phasing the project and issues that brings forth because of re-phasing.

Selectman Kurk asked if they need to discuss the Police Chief salary before the 14th. Mr. Ventresco said it will be at the Selectman's discretion. The Board discussed possibly paying someone without the qualifications the same as someone with all the qualifications and need to just set a range. Chairman Clow said there is a raised

FINAL

proposed in that package. Selectman Fiala said they should be able to set a range. Mr. Ventresco will ask for legal advice. Chairman Clow said upon hiring someone they could discuss the salary within the range.

It was discussed whatever figures the Board is going to use have to stay the same at the Budget Hearing. Their recommendations need to be made by January 28, 2008 when the warrant is posted.

The Board will meet on Sunday, January 13th at 5:00 p.m. for the discussion of budget and warrant articles.

Selectman Kurk would like to see the tax impact on all spending warrant articles.

13. APPOINTMENT OF VOLUNTEERS

Selectman Fiala moved, Selectman Kurk seconded to appoint Walter Bouhlin to the Cable Committee. Passed 3-1-0. Vice Chairman Osborne said no.

Selectman Fiala moved, Vice Chairman Osborne seconded to appoint Lisa Johnson to the Cable Committee. Passed 4-0-0.

The Board had discussed at a previous meeting who would monitor the CMO when the CMO is no longer effective. It was mentioned that Mr. Paul Morin said it is the intention of the Planning Board to monitor.

Motion to adjourn 10:51 p.m.

14. ADJOURNMENT

A True Record.

Cherry Palmisano, Recording Secretary