

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
TOWN OF JEFFERSON
January 26, 2009**

The regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen for the Town of Jefferson was held at the Selectmen's Office Monday, January 12, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Bruce Hicks, Chairman, Norman Brown, and Kevin Meehan members comprising a quorum of the Board.

ALSO PRESENT: Paul Couture, Road Agent; Linda Cushman, Assistant to Selectmen, Peter & Esther Estabrooks, Ron Demers, Rupert Corrigan, Chris Milligan, Fire Chief, Debbie Dubois, Library Trustee, Charlene Wheeler, Jim & Kathy Glidden, Lucille Cameron, Mary Gross, Sherry Merrow

Bruce Hicks opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. The Board reviewed and approved the bills for payment next week and signed the warrants. Wendy Wells will be in Tuesday to pickup the signed warrants and sign checks. All correspondences were reviewed. The Highway report was reviewed.

Bruce said that he suggest making the following changes to the funding of the Capital Reserve Funds: decrease the Highway Maintenance to \$5,000; the Building to \$20,000 and the Cemetery Trust Fund to \$2000. This would decrease the overall budget by \$13,000 and hold expenses to the same figure as 2008. The Board approved these changes.

Bruce opened the Budget Hearing at 7:10 p.m.

The regular meeting reconvened at 8:00 p.m.

Jim Glidden said that he has attempted to get his property cleaned up. He has had numerous problems, equipment breakdowns, and financial problems. Jim said that he couldn't sell any of the property because the Town has a lien on the property. Norman Brown told Jim that if he was to sell a portion of the property that the lien would be prorated on that portion of the property. Jim asked what the sub-division requirements are. Two acres with two-hundred foot frontage is the minimum. Jim says that he doesn't know what to do now. He has spent all his savings and retirement. He has not been able to take a job because he has been working on cleaning up the property. Bruce stated that if Jim had a plan to put it in writing, submit it to the lawyer, and bring it to court. Jim asked if there were other legal cases that the Town had. Yes, you and Mr. Estabrooks. Jim was told that the position of the Board was to protect the citizens of Jefferson. It is an issue of public safety. The Town is not trying to punish anyone. Norman told Jim to come up with a plan. In the plan he should state what he started with and what is there now. Norman said that if Jim drafted a memorandum of understanding and submitted it to the lawyer the Board would be glad to review it.

Peter Estabrooks suggested that the Board could facilitate with the attorney. Bruce said that the Board has outlined what needs to be done. Peter says that Jim could run a yard sale throughout the summer.

Norman told Jim that since he had been on the Board this is the first time that you (Jim) have come to the Board to talk. Once it goes to court the legal system dictates what has to be done. The Board's objective is to recover the cost to the Town. They had been willing to waive the penalty charges. You need to put together a memorandum of understanding, including a timeline to show when and how you intend to accomplish the clean up.

Jim was told that if he is interested in sub-dividing his property he should talk with Linda Cushman and she will see that he has the information he needs.

The service agreement with Nobis Engineering to continue the monitoring of the closed landfill was signed.

Linda told the Board the Randall Northrop of Corrette & Associates would be in on February 2nd to go over the plans for the 2008 audit.

Norman made the motion to accept the minutes of the January 12th meeting as written. Kevin Meehan seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The Board accepted the budget and warrants as presented tonight.

The Board voted to cancel the Selectmen's meeting for February 2, 2009 so to attend the WMRSD deliberation session to be held on the 2nd.

Being no further business the meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Town of Jefferson
Budget Hearing
January 26, 2009

Bruce Hicks opened the Budget Hearing at 7:10 p.m.

Bruce started by reviewing the purposed budget figures for the general government. The increase in the Executive budget is due to salary increases and joining the NHRS. The Financial Admin increase is due to the cost of having an outside audit. Peter Estabrooks passed out a flow chart that he had designed for the period of 1997 thur 2009. Peter suggests that the general government expenditures be reduced by \$50,000 or at least \$30,000. Peter states that the legal expenses should be reduced to the 97-02 levels. Bruce stated that the legal budget is pertinent in today's world. There are two cases that are pending. The Board only goes to court in the best interest of the Town. It was stated that the legal cost also include opinions that are needed. Ron Demers said that the Planning Board is reviewing their regulations and that when complete they will be getting a legal opinion. Jim Glidden asked if the graph that Peter Estabrooks presented was correct. He was told that the Board would only assume it was. Peter stated that he took the information from the Town Reports. Mr. Glidden started to discuss his case with the Town. He was told that this was not the time to discuss the issue. If he wanted to stay after the hearing was closed the Board would be glad to talk with him.

The Public Safety budget was reviewed next. Bruce explained that the fire department budget was able to be reduced because some purchases were made from the 08 budget at the end of the year.

The Highway budget has increased due to the cost of fuel. The Solid Waste budget has been kept at the same amount because of the low return on recyclables.

The Health Agencies are the agencies such as Littleton Hospital, Weeks Home Health, CAP, Cabel, and White Mt. Mental Health. There has been a small increase in their request.

The Library budget stayed the same. The Library Committee has request additional funds because they are planning on having engineering done this year. These funds will come from the Trust Fund. Peter Estabrooks asked why the amount spent does not agree with what he has been told has been expended. Mary Gross stated that \$1900 has not been paid yet. It is a 2009 expense.

Bruce reviewed the warrant articles. Chris Milligan stated that supporting the request from Red Cross would be a good idea. The Red Cross does respond to any need within the Town.

Peter Estabrooks asked where he could find the balance of the Capital Reserve funds. He was told that the balances are shown in the Trustee of Trust Funds report in the Town Reports.

Peter suggests that in the future that the Board prepares a graphic display, as it would be more enlightening to the actual expenses.

Ron Demers stated that on the analysis that Mr. Estabrooks has prepared does not show any inflation data.

The Budget hearing closed at 7:50 p.m.

