

1. Call Meeting to Order

Chairman Bob Eastman convened the Board at 7:00 PM in the Nowak Room of the Town Office and introduced other members of the Board: Ms. Julie Gilman, Mr. Lionel Ingram, Mr. Joe Pace, Mr. Bill Campbell and Mr. Russell Dean, Town Manager.

2. Public Comment

None.

3. Minutes

In the minutes of November 26, 2007, Mr. Eastman notes a correction in the footer. Mr. Campbell moves to approve these minutes as amended; second by Ms. Gilman. VOTE: Unanimous.

4. Appointments

None.

5. Discussion/Action Items

- a. FY08 Budget and Warrant Articles- Mr. Dean explained to the Board his summary of the budget (attached) and the tax impact of the proposed warrant articles. The Board discussed the implication of using different amounts of the Fund Balance to offset taxes. Mr. Eastman asked each of the Town Department Heads if they were satisfied with the final budgets after the Budget Committee process. Each of the Department Heads present stated that they were satisfied. Mr. Campbell expressed his concern that the Town should increase the budget to accommodate water line replacement effort and increase the rate at which the lines are replaced. Mr. Dean is concerned that if there is a large budget increase, the voters may not be aware of the reason for the increase and not vote for the budget. Mr. Ingram thinks that the planning of increased water line replacement should begin in advance of the budget review. Mr. Dean also distributed an informational sheet to clarify the increase in the FY08 Budget (attached). Mr. Campbell asked if the Board would support an amended Warrant article for the Raynes Farm project. The original Warrant Article included \$15,000 for NoChar fire retardant and \$30,000 for a fire Master Box and continued restoration. Mr. Campbell would like to have the new Warrant Article not including the NoChar item. The Board agreed to look at a new Warrant Article at the next meeting. The Budget will be discussed again on December 17, 2007. Mr. Ingram also noted that the Transportation Committee in the surrounding towns will be asking for help with elderly housing issues. The idea for this program will be to raise funds for elderly transportation through motor vehicle registration fees. Mr. Campbell asks for clarification on Warrant Article regarding the funds for Town land and suggests rewording of the Warrant Article.
- b. Downtown Project Presentation – Joanne Fryer of CLD Engineers appeared to update the Board with revised cost of the Downtown Project. Mr. Dean notes that the increased costs are based on utility company estimates. Ms. Fryer reviewed the cost estimates for the Board (attached). Ms. Fryer notes that the increase is much larger than expected. Mr. Ingram asked

what the cost would be if the utility poles were left in place and Ms. Fryer states that the cost would be \$875,000.

6. Public Hearings

- a. Fees – Planning/ Building- Sylvia von Aulock, Town Planner and Doug Eastman, Building Inspector appeared to answer any questions regarding the proposed changes to the Fee Schedule. Mr. Campbell asks why the fees need to be paid by residents that already pay for the employee time. Mr. Eastman says that the County charges a fee to the Town for recording, and that the resident fees are not being increased; only the developers and larger building projects will be affected. Mr. Eastman also notes that the Historic District Commission is also removing their resident fees in an effort to unburden the residents. Ms. Gilman says the timing of the fee changes may need to be adjusted for the needs of the HDC and Zoning Board.

7. Permits & Approvals

a) Abatements & Exemptions-

None.

b) Permits

None.

8. Reports

a) Town Manager’s Report-

Mr. Dean addressed cancellation of trash pickup due to the snow. Monday’s trash will be picked up on Saturday. Mr. Pace would like to clarify and possible adjust the Waste Management procedure for snow days.

b) Selectmen’s Committee Reports

Ms. Gilman: The Planning Board met last Thursday and discussed Zoning amendments and asks the public to ask questions at the Planning Department.

Mr. Pace: Nothing to report.

Mr. Ingram: Nothing to report.

Mr. Campbell: The Planning Board met last Thursday and discussed Zoning amendments.

Mr. Eastman: The Water/Sewer Advisory Committee will be meeting on Thursday.

9. Public Comment

None.

10. Non Public Session-

None.

11. Adjournment- At 8:18 PM Mr. Pace moved to adjourn; second by Mr. Campbell.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly Geis
AA