APPROVED PROPOSED 2008 SELECTMEN'S PUBLIC BUDGET MEETING Saturday, September 8, 2007

Attendance: Chairman Fred Kelley, Vice-Chair Tom Giffen, Selectman James Brennan, Selectman Richard Lazott, Selectman Joe Duarte, Director Carolyn Emerson and Secretary Dawn Chabot.

9:05 a.m. Chairman Kelley opened the Public Meeting and immediately followed with the Pledge of Allegiance. .

The Board decided to address the budgets of those in attendance first.

Cemetery: Superintendent Richard Anderson advised he was proposing the same as last year. Selectman Brennan/overseer of the Cemetery Department informed Mr. Anderson he was in favor of adding funds for a project previously discussed which would involve the clearing of trees and the installation of additional gravel roadways in effort to prepare for necessary, future lots within the Holbrook Cemetery. It was noted that Road Agent Lewis had been consulted on the project. Road Agent Lewis stated he had a contractor willing to do the 2-day clearing job for free in exchange for the wood removed from the property. Road Agent Lewis thought the value of the wood was approx. \$250.00. The Board and the Road Agent discussed the wood value verses the price the Town would pay a contractor for the job and determined the free offer was a great deal for the Town. After some discussion the following was determined: The cemetery project would commence in 2007 in a two or three stage contract process some of which would take place in 2008, and by doing it that way no funds would be encumbered. Selectman Brennan increased the 2008 cemetery maintenance line from \$2,500 to \$3,500 and instructed Director Emerson to note that the \$1,000 increase was for the continued upgrade for new lots within the Holbrook Cemetery. Selectman Giffen questioned why the \$1,275 Gravesite Corner Marker line had not been expended as of yet. Cemetery Superintendent Anderson and Director Emerson informed work had been done throughout the year however the Town is waiting for a bill.

Town Clerk: Town Clerk Chris Dupere reported that most lines remained the same. Town Clerk Dupere noted increases on the following: Motor Vehicle Supplies-from \$2,335 to \$2,500 due to a BMSI interware increase, and Postage-from \$700 to \$1,000 due to increase absentee ballot requests as a result of four elections this year. Town Clerk Dupere noted a \$1,300 reduction under the E-Reg line noting the program is still fairly new and based upon the 2007 expenditure she felt comfortable with the reduction. Town Clerk Dupere pointed out that funds under Fee lines and the E-Reg line were considered wash items. Town Clerk Dupere noted that the Restoring of Documents line had not been expended as of yet but would be as she intended on delivering the items prior to the end of the year. Selectman Brennan questioned the anticipated expenditures for 2007 under the Conference/Dues/Mileage line. Town Clerk Dupere informed there were a couple more Conferences they would attend before year-end. Selectman Lazott stated as far as Conferences, he as Selectman heard complaints from citizens on the Town Clerks Office being closed while both Clerk and Deputy attend trainings or conferences. Selectman Lazott informed he would like to see the Deputy keep the office open while the Clerk attends and brings back the information. Town Clerk Dupere advised on the last training they attended the daytime office hours were reduced by one hour and the evening hours were reduced as well but they stayed open later. Town Clerk Dupere stated they both need to attend an important yearly training held in the Spring but further stated they may be able to stagger some in the future. Selectman Lazott said if at all possible please do as complaints have been received.

Highway Department: Road Agent Lewis noted an overall 5% unavoidable increase. Road Agent Lewis reported on increases within the equipment maintenance line due to high costs on steel affecting the prices of cutting edges and also due to the overdue need for roof repair on the salt shed. Road Agent Lewis advised due to the costs associated with the storm in the spring of 2007, many projects were placed on hold until more FEMA re-imbursement funds are received. Selectman Duarte questioned the amount of money expended during that storm. Road Agent Lewis advised \$68,000.00 just on the Roads compared to \$27,000.00 for road repair during the Mother's Day Storm of 2006. Selectman Lazott asked if the Road Agent planned on cleaning up brush in 2007 because some areas may cause problems when plowing. Road Agent Lewis informed it would be done before winter and that was one of the projects placed on hold awaiting the FEMA funds. After some discussion on Roads, Selectman Brennan asked Director Emerson to place a note on the salt line indicating the reason for the increase was due to (1) new road a year. Road Agent Lewis stated the need for more salt had increased over the years as there is more traffic and the roads get packed down too quickly.

Solid Waste: Facility Operator Chuck Whitcher presented the budget noting a lot of lines remained the same with a few changes. Facility Operator Whitcher noted it was very difficult to prepare for a budget for a facility that they haven't even broken ground on. Facility Operator Whitcher noted an unavoidable increase of \$20,800 under the landfill disposal line due to the fact that they will no longer be incinerating at the future facility and it is cheaper to burn than landfill. Facility Operator Whitcher noted a decrease under the propane line in anticipation of closing the incinerator. Facility Operator Whitcher stated disposal costs and hauling charges would increase significantly at the new facility. Facility Operator Whitcher noted a \$1,500 increase under the Loader O&M line because they are changing the filters on the loader more frequently. Selectman Giffen noted the clothing allowance line was under expended. Facility Operator Whitcher advised funds would soon be expended under that line as he was preparing an order for winter clothing. Facility Operator Whitcher felt it was unfortunate that people look at the under expended lines and feel if you haven't used it then you don't need it. Facility Operator Whitcher felt with that view point it causes people to spend money in fear of losing the funding the next time around. Selectman Kelley asked about the \$5,000 Special Projects line. Facility Operator Whitcher stated that was for signage at the new facility. Funding for the closure of the incinerator was discussed. After some discussion, Selectman Giffen asked Director Emerson to check on the wording of the incinerator maintenance fund as the Board wanted to change the purpose of the fund to cover closure expenses which would be addressed during the warrant article process. Selectman Giffen mentioned the Solid Waste Committee was looking into separating and recycling for the future specifically plastics and glass. Facility Operator Whitcher discussed the benefits of having a pick-up truck available for hauling recyclables instead of having to pay hauling fees. Selectman Giffen mentioned that \$12,000 had been received thus far in 2007 for Recyclables at Harding Metals. Selectman Giffen was in favor of locating a used pick up truck for a reasonable price. After some discussion the Board determined they would consider re-discussing the pick-up truck proposal in the event there is money left over in the budget and also in the event a reasonably priced vehicle is located.

Household Hazardous Waste Day Events: Facility Operator Whitcher and the Board discussed an upcoming warrant article in the amount of \$12,000 with the intent of holding two

Household Hazardous Waste Days in the spring and fall of 2008. The Board agreed the program was important to support and noted many calls were fielded after the decision was made not to hold the event in 2007.

Tax Collector: Tax Collector Sanders noted an increase under the postage line due to postal increases. Tax Collector Sanders noted a \$416 increase under the Deputy Tax Collector line because she is having a hard time finding someone to work 3 hours a week. Tax Collector Sanders advised she had some potential prospects but when they find out about the money they back away. Selectman Brennan questioned why she was leaving the \$700.00 amount under the Identifying Mortgagees line based upon the last discussion she had with the Board. Collector Sanders stated she sent out her criteria to many companies and had received one that indicated \$75.00 per search and another that indicated \$95.00 per search. Selectman Lazott asked her what about the third. Tax Collector Sanders answered \$17.00 per search. Collector Sanders stated she did not know the persons qualifications. Director Emerson advised the Board they would still need to budget accordingly. Tax Collector Sanders said she would not know how many searches would need to be done. Selectman Giffen discussed that not all Towns hire out for Mortgagee searches if they have a Tax Collector that is willing to do them and is qualified to do so. Selectman Giffen stated by taking advantage of Tax Collector Sanders offer they may have someone more thorough at a lower price. Tax Collector Sanders stated she was unaware if there were Companies out there that would do a better job. Selectman Lazott wasn't sure if her concerns with last year's Company were truly a problem and that in the past there was one problem that the Town had to wait out five-years not ten. Selectman Giffen thought it would be beneficial to keep it off the backs of the Board since they have a person on staff that is experienced in that field. Tax Collector Sanders informed she's worked in the title search field since 1989. Selectman Lazott felt the Tax Collector should not get paid more than what the Town would pay an outside vendor. Selectman Lazott stated the Board went with a Company last year that Tax Collector Sanders said was used by Rochester and Dover and they do not have a problem with them. Tax Collector Sanders advised she double checked their work and noted in cases if mistakes are made and the Town ends up with the property the title could be null and void. Selectman Lazott stated even Town Counsel finds the RSA to be ambiguous in regards to the definition of Mortgagee. Selectman Giffen in regards to having the Tax Collector do the searches he felt it was a good idea to find a fair rate to serve the Town's needs and also felt it was a good idea to limit the Town's risk. Tax Collector Sanders stated she was proposing to conduct the mortgagee searches for a flat rate no matter how many there are, line currently at \$700.00 (54 searches done in 2007). Selectman Brennan asked what if there are only two. Tax Collector Sanders stated there are typically more but it could be addressed at the time if it were to happen. Chairman Kelley asked if the Board wanted to leave the line at \$700.00. Director Emerson cautioned the Board that they should cover the line in the event the Tax Collector is unable to do work for whatever reason. The Board flagged the line for 09/24/07 meeting and instructed Tax Collector Sanders to get back to the Board with a more appropriate figure under the Mortgagee line. Tax Collector Sanders noted a slight increase under membership fees do to slight increases on hotels and the tax collector association dues.

Fire Department: Fire Chief Rudy Cartier presented the attached budget noting most were historical expenditures. Fire Chief Cartier noted he would order protective clothing in September. Fire Chief Cartier noted the biggest increase was the Building Maintenance line from \$4,500 to \$10,000 as the 2007 expenditures under that line was currently at \$6,315.77 due to unforeseen problems. Director Emerson questioned the Plan Review and Inspection wages line containing \$2,000. Fire Chief Cartier stated that was a new line he wanted to speak to the

Board about. It was noted that 10-cents a square foot for plan review and inspections would be charged. Selectman Lazott stated he researched the matter and found out the average charge was 2 to 4 cents, maybe 5-cents tops and he thought Candia's rate was very much on the high end. Fire Chief Cartier stated it was a good point but mentioned some Towns were having their plans reviewed by their Engineers at a much higher rate them what he would charge. Fire Chief Cartier also mentioned in some Towns the employees conducting the inspections are full-time and the charge would offset a little but in Candia's case they are not paid at all. After much discussion the following was determined: the Board would remove the \$2,000 Plan Review & Inspection Wages line, flag the item for the 09/24/07 meeting pending the outcome of a meeting to be held between Planning Board Chair Girard, Selectman Duarte, Director Emerson and Fire Chief Cartier to determine the appropriate way to account for the fees within the Planning Board's fund. Selectman Brennan questioned the new \$2,400 medical evaluations line. Fire Chief Cartier explained it was for the required Hepatitis shots which the Town has not done and also for medical evaluations which Workers Comp. looks for when processing claims. Fire Chief Cartier stated when possible they have their employees go through their primary care physicians first but in some cases they do not have health insurance. Fire Chief Cartier mentioned a waiver could be signed if the fireman does not want the hepatitis shot.

Forestry: The Budget remained the same and the Board was in favor as presented.

Health & Welfare: Selectman Giffen stated he was proposing an increase under the stipend line from \$8,500 to \$10,000, which would cover both positions. Selectman Giffen noted a new line labeled Insect Born Disease Control. Selectman Giffen and Health Director Mary Hall thought it was important to have some funding for the purpose of being pro-active in regards to concerns with EEE and West Nile Virus. Chairman Kelley thought the Town should be prepared noting his Cousin from Newton is currently in the hospital with EEE. Selectman Duarte was concerned that spraying would kill off Dragon Flies, mosquito's natural enemy. Selectman Lazott mentioned some funding could be used to buy mosquito dunks to kill off the larvae. Selectman Giffen stated perhaps the Town could spot spray areas that children frequents. Selectman Giffen thought it was important to do something on prevention. Selectman Duarte suggested the Town buy dragon fly larvae. Selectman Lazott agreed that Candia did not want to be the Community that a child contracts EEE from. Health Director Hall mentioned the \$10,600 line was not excessive compare to what other Communities were spending on spraying. The possibility of a warrant article was mentioned. Director Hall said she was not aware of any Communities that had warrant articles for the purpose of spraying or prevention. The Board members agreed it was their responsibility to provide funding within the health budget for the purpose of being proactive considering the seriousness and recent EEE cases in Rockingham County. Selectman Brennan mentioned that CYAA spot sprayed their field for approx. \$300.00. After some discussion the Board flagged the line for an upcoming budget meeting requesting Director Hall to provide a breakdown on the \$10.000 figure meaning how much would be spent on dunks, spot spraying and/or dragon fly larvae. Selectman Lazott asked Director Hall if she would prefer a cell phone to a pager. Director Hall advised she preferred to keep her pager. Selectman Brennan asked Director Hall to provide the Budget Committee with a break down on the Direct Assistance line and noted they were not asking for names or specifics just the breakout of the numbers. Selectman Brennan asked the Board if they were okay with the proposed stipend increase. The Board unanimously agreed on the increase. Director Hall noted she had a large heart and wished she could afford to do the things she does for the Town at no costs but the reality is that things cost money and her whole family suffers as she takes time away from them to run out at night. The Board agreed and was more than aware of the value of her time. Selectman Giffen noted the \$900.00 Computer & Software line. Director Hall informed she was requesting a computer for offsite perhaps a laptop because of the amount of work she does at home or on the road and further informed she receives large amounts of emailed information from the State as a result of reoccurring health issues. The Board instructed Director Hall to obtain pricing for a computer, printer, software and a mouse; and to provide the Board with the information at their budget meeting on 09/24/07. Director Emerson stated she would contact the Town's current vendor Divine Systems to price out the requested items as well. Director Hall mentioned that she thought the Direct Assistance line would be over expended by yearend.

Heritage Commission: Selectman Brennan stated they were asking for a \$400.00 budget instead of \$200.00 because they wanted to purchase the molding for the rifle at \$200.00 on the recently restored soldier's monument. Selectman Brennan stated the Commission was also looking for archive the restoration records, which would need to be done on special acid free paper. Selectman Brennan informed that the Commission would probably present a warrant article in effort to finish around the Soldier's Monument by removing the concrete steps and installing granite steps. **The Board approved the budget as presented.**

Conservation Commission: Selectman Brennan questioned the increase under the secretarial wages line from \$455.00 to \$700.00. Selectman Giffen thought it was in effort to be more reflective of what is being spent as the expended line is currently at \$441.00. After a couple more questions Selectmen Giffen (Conservation member) advised he was not prepared to answer questions and would prefer Conservation Commission Chair Ed Fowler to be present at the next budget meeting. **The Board agreed to flag the budget until Chair Fowler is able to be present.**

Zoning: Director Emerson advised the budget remained the same at \$2,000. Selectman Brennan advised he had some questions for Chair Chivers who was not in attendance. Selectman Lazott thought they might want to increase their budget as the current Building Inspector is sending more applicants. **The Board flagged the budget until Chair Chivers is able to be present for the discussion.**

Planning Board: Director Emerson advised the budget was the same as last year at \$1,780. Selectman Brennan stated he had a question for Chair Girard on the \$100.00 Microfilming line. Director Emerson informed microfilming was required unless you can keep your records clean, protected and store them indefinitely. The Board agreed this was not possible with the current basement storage. Director Emerson stated the funding had not been expended in 2007 as the office staff had not had time to compile the documents. The Board questioned the \$50.00 mileage line as no funds had been expended. Director Emerson stated the funds are there in cases when the Land Use Administrative Assistant needs to deliver items such as large items to be copied typically done at yearend. Director Emerson stated the last item the Land Use Assistant needed to deliver an item to Stantec in Manchester her spouse (Dir. Emerson's) did it at no expense to the Town. The Board approved the budget as presented.

Treasurer: Director Emerson presented the budget noting a small increase within the Misc (Postage & Mileage) line as in the past the line was over expended. **The Board was okay with the budget as presented.**

Emergency Management: Director Emerson stated that Emergency Management Director Panit was unable to attend. Director Emerson stated the proposed budget was back to \$3,000. Selectman Brennan noted the Budget Committee was okay with the \$3,000 budget last year however the Board made the decision to reduce it to \$1,500. **The Board was okay with the budget as presented.**

Animal Control: The Board removed the Cats, Kennel & Shots line which contained zero dollars. Director Emerson related a late request was received from Chief McGillen to add \$50.00 for a booster rabies shots for the Animal Control Officer. Selectman Lazott questioned the post card reminders for the dog licensing requirements. Director Emerson stated she would obtain the RSAs on the dog licensing requirements for the Board's review. After some discussion the Board approved the budget as presented.

Parks & Recreation: Ski Program/Director Emerson informed the line would need to be flagged as she had been unable to find out who is running the program or any details on it. Summer Rec/Selectman Brennan mentioned a slight increase from \$15,060 to \$15,600 under the Summer Rec.-Wages line due to small increases for returning Staff. Park Maintenance/Selectman Brennan mentioned a slight increase to the line and a slight decrease to the Opening/Closing Park Baths line as a result of a readjustment between the lines because it was broken out last year. Selectman Brennan mentioned the Town was paying \$35.00 per section for the mowing and found it to be a very good rate. Selectman Brennan mentioned an increase of \$500.00 to the Supplies/Repairs line due to upcoming repairs needed on the playground equipment, broken picnic tables and chain link fencing repairs around the playground. Selectman Lazott questioned how the Board could cover the Town from liability. Director Emerson stated the liability insurance carrier could conduct another risk assessment. Pond Project/Selectman Brennan stated this was a new line for discussion. Selectman Brennan noted there were federal requirements attached to the reimbursement funding which means the Town is obligated to maintain the area. Director Emerson read wording from the Federal Grant paperwork indicating the maintenance requirement. Selectman Brennan stated in addition to mowing there would be a need to have funding for signage. Selectman Brennan asked how the Board felt about paying someone to shovel the pond for skating. The Board was not in favor as it could get expensive and felt the individuals wishing to use the pond could shovel it. Selectman Brennan stated he would continue to work on a figure for the new Pond Project line and report back to the Board for their consideration.

Ambulance: Same as last year and the Board in favor of the budget.

Insurance: Director Emerson stated some of the lines include police and fire. Director Emerson asked the Board to keep in mind on the increase because the insurance lines came out of the fire department budget. Director Emerson stated a 10% increase was factored in due to the upcoming Transfer Station. Selectman Lazott question the worker's compensation requirements for subcontractors. The Board asked Director Emerson to obtain a letter of explanation from Primex on the workers compensation requirements for subcontractors. The Board was okay with the budget as presented.

Interest on TAN's: Director Emerson stated the line would remain at zero for this year.

Interest on Bans for Transfer Station: Director Emerson noted the line had to be in place legally in accordance with the bond requirements.

Legal Expenses: After some discussion the Board agreed to keep the line at \$35,000. Selectman Brennan asked the Board if they realized the decision they made at the recommendation of Counsel on the Blevens case meant the Town would only recoup \$23,000.00 out of the \$45,000.00 costs for the clean up. Selectman Brennan stated on many occasions in the past the Budget Committee questioned the money that was suppose to come back. Selectman Brennan stated when the warrant article for the clean up was presented it was explained that the money would come back to the Town. The Board members agreed but noted at the Court level an agreement with Mr. Blevens was considered and Town Counsel then recommended the agreement Board as he felt it was in the overall best interest of the Town.

Property Appraisal: Director Emerson noted the line remained the same however the Board would need to consider future funding for an upcoming State of New Hampshire DRA required re-evaluation in 2009. Selectman Lazott suggested establishing a capital reserve fund for the re-evaluation funding. **The Board requested Director Emerson to work on a warrant article for the next 3-years containing \$25,000 each year.**

Regional Planning Commission: Same as last year. The Board was in favor of the budget.

Street Lighting: Same as last year. The Board was in favor of the budget.

Election & Registration: Director Emerson advised the lines were up due to four elections this year compared to two last year. Director Emerson stated Supervisor of the Checklist Stamatelos worked on the budget. Director Emerson also noted an increase of the wages due to the increase on the minimum wage. The Board discussed the meal line increase. Director Emerson stated the increase was due to four elections. Selectman Lazott questioned utilizing Pasquale's for the meals as he felt it could be pricey. Director Emerson stated when it was originally set up with Pasquale's the prices were comparable however the arrangement had changed slightly since its inception. It was noted that the workers were happy with the meal arrangement and over the years finding someone to make everyone happy had been very difficult. Selectman Giffen felt it was a small amount of money to keep people happy, especially considering the workers work from morning to night at minimum wage. The Board majority was okay with the meals line and Selectman Lazott was opposed. The Board was okay with the Budget as presented. Chairman Kelley mentioned the Town was able to save a large amount of money as Director Emerson was able to located additional voting booths at no expense to the Town.

Town Building Expenses: Selectman Lazott mentioned a recent discovery that some of the pine boards at the Town Office building were rotting. Chairman Kelley advised he would obtain an estimate for the rotten wood problem. Selectman Brennan mentioned the bulk head basement leak problem. After some discussion the line was flagged in order for Chairman Kelley to obtaining pricing for the repair of the rotten wood at the Town Building and also to obtain pricing to repair the bulk head. The Board mentioned there was still funding available to utilize towards the relocation of the Tax Collector's Office. The Board unanimously agreed they were in favor of proceeding with the plan. It was noted the item would be discussed at the meeting on 09/10/07. The Board agreed to flag the Old Library line as Chairman Kelley looks into the expenditures and Director Emerson would provide detail on the expenditures for the budget committee. The Board mentioned they would be in favor of mulching the gardens within the Town grounds as the Garden Club was willing to spread the mulch at no expense to the Town. Selectman Lazott suggested getting a grand total for all that is spent in the

various areas of the Town as there may come a point in time when it is cheaper to hire a parttime employee for ground maintenance instead of contracting out.

Town Officers' Expenses: Director Emerson noted a \$1,900 increase under the Auditing Services line as the auditors are putting in more time because of a couple of groups do not submit their information in a timely fashion. Director Emerson indicated it was the same two groups every year. Selectman Lazott suggested that the Board send a public letter of reprimand to The Trustees of the Trust Fund and the Smyth Public Library as they are costing the taxpayers money. Director Emerson noted an increase under the postage line due to increased postal costs and deliberative session mailings. Exit 3-Property Marketing Expense/The Board discussed funding for an updated appraisal or not on the Exit 3 Property. The Board determined they were not in favor of spending money to have it appraised at this time. The Board discussed the need to have some funding for the Exit 3 Committee. After some discussion the Board decided to change the line to read "Paperwork, Mailings and Minutes" and to place \$1,000 within the line. Road Research/The Board decided to table the Road Research to 2009. Director Emerson noted a slight increase under the Town Report line as the Board had some different ideas on the dedication page. Web Maintenance: Selectman Giffen advised the Town obtained a new website for free as the prior site was not user friendly. Selectman Giffen advised Joe Miele was currently acting as the webmaster at approx. 2 hours per week on a volunteer basis. Selectman Giffen thought it was actually more than Joe Miele was calculating. Selectman Giffen stated the website committee was able to find a hosting agency for \$300.00 a years. Selectman Giffen advised he was proposing a stipend for Joe Miele as the Webmaster for \$1,000 a year which breaks out to be approx. 104 hours a year at \$10.00 per hour. The Board was in favor of the proposal. The Board directed Director Emerson to remove existing lines and add two lines as follows: Hosting Fee & Domain Name/with \$300.00 under the line and Webmaster Stipend/with \$1,000 under the line.

Need for a new line: Selectman Lazott suggested budgeting \$500.00 under a line for the purpose of complying with ADA requirements, for example, expenses related to interpreters for the deaf or if the Town is asked by a blind individual to place their minutes in brail. Secretary Chabot offered to contact the Governor's Council on Disabilities for direction on the politically correct way to label the line.

Staff Wages: Chairman Kelley stated he was happy that the Board planned on re-proposing the Assessing Clerk position as he was aware that the current office staff was overloaded and needed help as the Town continues to grow around the two person office.

The Board ended the Budget Meeting and agreed to continue the meeting at the next Selectmen's Meeting on Monday, 09/10/07.

Any other business

Recent Emailed Document: The Board discussed their concerns with the emailed document sent by Amanda Soares which was mentioned at their last meeting on 08/27/07. Selectman Lazott suggested sending a letter to the Planning Board and the Zoning Board regarding their concerns for legal liability if Amanda Soares continues to serve on those Boards. After much discussion the Board decided to send Counsel a copy of the emailed document, a copy of Attorney Craven's letter placing the Town on notice, a list of the positions currently held by Amanda Soares and a request for him to identify the risk for the Town involving this situation.

2:10 p.m. Chairman Kelley motioned to close the Public Meeting. Seconded by Selectman Giffen. All in favor. Motion carried.