

Selectmen's Meeting
February 6, 2006

The Selectmen met for their weekly meeting at 7 p.m. Present were Selectmen James McGarr, Donald Johnson, Jr. Charles Wheeler and Jon Homer. Selectman Cheney had to work tonight. The Board spent the first 15 minutes reviewing and signing the manifest. They also signed a pole permit, an Intent to Build, and a sign permit.

At 7:15 p.m. Town Clerk/Tax Collector Hannah Joyce met with the Board to give them her revised budget. She had made the changes the Board had requested last week by adjusting the wages for her deputy and herself to a 2% increase, and an additional one dollar an hour for her part-time person. She also advised the Board that the Supervisors of the Checklist had revised their portion of the budget to reflect four elections, instead of three.

At 7:30 p.m. Police Chief Christopher Warn came in to introduce his new officer, Joseph McComiskey. The Board signed his appointment, and Town Clerk Hannah Joyce administered the oath of office to him. Chief Warn also ask Hannah to do the honors, and pin Officer McComiskey's badge on. Chief Warn gave a few brief remarks welcoming the Campton resident to the Campton PD. Sgt. Hill, and Officers Shortt and McGhee were in attendance as well. Officer McComiskey was congratulated, and the Board continued with their meeting.

Chief Warn had come in to present the second draft of his budget. He had adjusted his salary totals to reflect an increase based on his new patrolman's rate of pay. He also reduced his janitorial down to \$500.00. He indicated that the department does their own cleaning and rubbish removal. He also had to up his recruitment/retention line item based on the incurred costs to date. The Chief also indicated that he had looked at the pricing for 4 wheel drive vehicles, and found that the Chevy Tahoe he was considering has gone up in price significantly the past year, and it would cost \$40,000 for the vehicle including fully equipping it. He indicated that the base price for the Tahoe is now \$33,000, and the Explorer runs \$25,000 to \$28,000. He decided to stick with the Crown Vic cruiser for this year, and would recommend the amount of the warrant article to be \$28,000. The Chief also mentioned that it would only cost about \$650.00 to outfit his new officer as he already has his own vest.

The Board then proceeded to look over the figures that architect Mike Piazza had dropped off on Friday for the municipal building project. Chairman Wheeler asked if the Chief had seen the figures, and he indicated that he spoken with Ann Marie but had not seen the breakdown. He was given a copy of the breakdown and one was also given to Hannah as well. Unfortunately, Mike was out of state, and unable to attend tonight. Ann Marie explained that he indicated that the cost also included sprinkling for the Town Office and Fire Department and an emergency generator for the Fire Department. The total for the project was \$4,731,450 breaking down as follows: Town Offices - \$1,694,000, Fire

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Station \$2,088,900, 175 Sub-Station - \$317,900, and the Police Station Addition \$630,650. The Board was shocked at the cost, and indicated that they did not feel that they could support such a high figure. Selectman Homer commented that he did not feel that the voters would support this kind of figure either. Chief Warn indicated that the cost of his addition seemed a lot more than he would have thought, and there was some question as to whether the square footage was accurate. The Board agreed that they would meet with Mike on Monday to get a better idea of what these figures represent, and see what could be done to bring this price down and explore our options. Chief Warn was going to do some research and look at some options for his building's addition.

The Board and Ann Marie then reviewed the rest of the proposed 2006 budget. Ann Marie went through the line items and explained to the Board the different figures. Under the Selectmen's budget, she had increased the moderator and meals to allow for the additional elections scheduled. She explained that she had not put in for a raise for herself, but would like to request that the Board consider changing her title from Administrative Assistant to Town Administrator. She indicated that most of the area Towns are now using this title, and last year when they looked at her salary, they compared it to neighboring Towns that use this title as well. She also advised the Board that the change in title would not give her any more authority than whatever the Selectmen deem she should have, and indicated that she did not expect an answer from them tonight. The next item looked at was under Financial Administration, and she indicated that computer services had decreased because we did not have the extra costs associated with the merge, offices supplies were up due to an increase in the amount of paper we use, and the cost of toner for the computer printers. She also adjusted her part-time help in line with Hannah's to the additional \$1.00 and hour, and had done the same with the Compliance Officer as this is also a part-time position, plus he uses his own vehicle, and does not charge mileage. The retirement and payroll taxes expenses were not figured yet as she was waiting for the Board to finalize wages tonight. She also recommended a 2% increase for her assistant, and ask to have the amount increased by three cents an hour to make it the same as a comparable position in another department. At this point, Chairman Wheeler indicated that since Ann Marie had a bad cold, and could hardly talk that they would read along, and ask if they had any questions. Other items discussed Humane Society, an additional \$1,000 was added to cover the ACO officer. Health Officer will stay the same. Park and Recreations may have a figure next week. Nancy Benedix is going to get back to Ann Marie by end of week. She had heard that Waterville Estates was not having a program this summer, and was going to see if the program could be held there. If the school's building project is approved next month, the school would be under construction for the summer months, and Nancy is looking at an alternative site for the summer program. Under the Library budget, Selectman McGarr indicated that he would like to see a letter going to the Library Trustees expressing disappointment that they were not following with our 2% guideline.

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Selectman Wheeler agreed, but suggested that we call them first to see if they had reconsidered doing this. Ann Marie indicated that she is waiting to get the lease price for the highway truck for the first year. Selectman Wheeler indicated that he wanted to go back to the first page, and indicated that he thought that Ann Marie should also receive a 2% increase regardless of what the Board decides about the title change. The Board agreed. Discussion returned back to the building project. All the Board Members agreed that we needed to secure the land this year, and whether any buildings go forward or not, they will discuss this further next week with Mike. Selectman Johnson indicated that the Town needs to get some kind of building for the Town Garage. He indicated that he has a disassembled 40 x 60 steel building that he will give the Highway Department, and if we get the land, it could be placed on the site, and assembled and used until a permanent structure could be determined.

The Board then reviewed their correspondence. Attorney Bates has received a request from Attorney Cowie to ask for continuance of the court hearing set for next week with his client. The Attorney General is waiting to hear from the court about his petition to have a budget hearing and annual meeting for the District, and this may have some bearing on the case with Attorney Cowie's client. The Board agreed to take Attorney Bates' suggestion, and agree to the continuance. Mad River Power sent an updated emergency plan for the Campton Dam. The minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed, and with a motion from Selectman McGarr and seconded by Selectman Wheeler, voted in the affirmative by all.

The meeting adjourned at 9 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Marie Foote
Administrative Assistant