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**February 2, 2010
Budget Meeting**

Present: Mark Richardson, Chairman, A. Richards, C. Guiry and A. A. Milkovits
F.A.C.: I. Cook, Chairman, R. Larochelle, P. McGinnity and D. Profit
Also present: Moderator Catherine Schwenk, Police Chief Barry Hutchins and two residents

Meeting opened at 7:30 PM.

Selectmen and Committee reviewed the 2010 proposed budget. Mr. McGinnity made a recommendation for 3-5% raises for the full-time workers. He cited the economic climate improvement this year. Last year was a difficult one for many so the decision for no raises was necessary. Selectmen stated that the full-time workers will be getting a 3% raise.

Warrant articles were reviewed and explained. Chairman Richardson would like to have firm numbers for annual lease costs for the backhoe and cruiser, for Town Meeting. Review of some of the Conservation and Forestry 2009 expenses were discussed. All Forestry expenses are reimbursed to the Town from the Forestry Fund. Anything over the \$2,000 Conservation appropriation is reimbursed from the Conservation Fund. Chairman Richardson will note this at Town Meeting. Mention was also made that the long term borrowing is reduced for 2010 as the fire truck bond was paid in full in 2009. The fire tanker will be paid in full this year.

Two changes were made to the Board of Adjustment budget: reduce salaries from \$720 to \$660 and advertising from \$600 to \$420. The Board of Adjustment only had two meetings last year. The advertising is reimbursed by the applicant.

The final operating budget for 2010 is \$1,553,423, a one percent increase over 2009. The operating budget and capital expenses are \$1,774,098; an increase of 10% over 2009. Capital expenses include the full costs of the backhoe and cruiser not just the annual payment.

After more discussion and review Mr. McGinnity made a motion that the Financial Advisory Committee endorse the 2010 budget. His motion was seconded and voted by majority.

Chairman Richardson asked for public input. The two residents asked many questions on the warrant articles and the entire budget. SB 2 was also explained. The required public hearing on the petitioned article for SB 2 will take place on Tuesday, February 9th at 7:30 PM.

Selectmen set the election hours for Tuesday, March 9th from 11 AM to 7 PM.

The final public budget meeting will be Tuesday, February 10th at 7:30 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM.

*Barbara H. Milkovits
Admin. Assistant*