

**Budget Finance Committee Meeting Minutes
With the Selectmen on the 2000-2001 Budget
December 13, 1999**

ATTENDANCE: Rolf Olsen, Chairman of the Budget Finance Committee; Ralph Bartholomew; Howard Williams; Louise Murray; Jane Jordan; Robert Jones; Louise Lester; Phil Hamilton; Tim Pomerleau, Chairman of the Selectmen; Ada Brown; Betty McDermott; Michael McClellan; Mark Acker; Nathan White, Road Commissioner; Jack Cooper, Code Enforcement Officer; and Nathan Poore, Town Manager.

Call to order. Rolf Olsen called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm at the Town Hall.

Presentation and discussion regarding proposed budget as recommended by the board of Selectmen and the Town Manager.

a. Public Works Department

DISCUSSION: Mr. Poore said this version reflected the changes from the first draft. He felt that Nathan White and he had the safety issue under control and that Mr. White would not be doing anything which would put him in jeopardy when he was alone on the job. He continued that the savings from all aspects of employing two men would greatly offset the expense of hiring private contractors. Mrs. Lester asked about how the warrant article would appear. Mr. Poore answered that it would be for a dollar amount and that the use of that money would be up to the Selectmen, Town Manager, and Road Commissioner.

b. Other changes to the first draft.

Mr. Poore reviewed the budget as presented as the final draft.

c. Potential added items.

1) Cable Access Plan - Mr. Poore said that if the contract with Time Warner didn't reach finalization, that the Town might want to finance the equipment to have in house programming. 2) Fire Station and Town Hall building studies - Money might be needed to continue the studies.

d. In house mechanic for the Town garage and the school bus garage.

Mr. Poore said that the research found that it would not be cost effective to have our own mechanic.

e. TIF Budget.

Mr. Poore announced that the DECD office in Augusta has now decided that the money set aside for the Bicentennial Celebration would not be acceptable for the TIF money.

3. Communications and other business.

NEXT MEETING: January 4, 2000 to vote on the 2000-2001 Town Budget at 7:00 pm at the Town Office.

MOTION: Phil Hamilton motioned to increase the Selectmen's salary to \$1200 per year. Seconded by Ralph Bartholomew for discussion.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Poore said that the Selectmen had mentioned being compensated for mileage and felt that it could be subsidized through the Administration budget. Mr. Hamilton wanted to pay them a set figure so that it could be planned on. He felt with mileage it would be open ended and hard to budget for. A straw poll of the Selectmen indicated that they would accept mileage but felt that they did not want to put a raise in the budget for themselves. Mr. Olsen asked for information as to what other towns are doing.

AMENDMENT: Jane Jordan motioned to table this until the next meeting. Seconded by Howard Williams.

VOTE: 7 in favor (Jordan, Williams, Olsen, Murray, Jones, Lester, Bartholomew) 1 in opposition (Hamilton)

4. Adjourn.

ADJOURNMENT: Rolf Olsen adjourned the meeting at 8:11 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Louise H. Lester
Acting Secretary