

MINUTES OF HAVERHILL TOWN BUDGET HEARING
Wednesday, February 11, 2015
Draft Subject to Review, Correction and Approval at Following Meeting

Board Members Present: Wayne Fortier, Tom Friel, Lynn Wheeler, Rick Ladd and Robert Roudebush

Town Manager: Glenn English

Administrative Assistant/Finance Officer: Jo Lacaillade

Clerk: Karen Hyde

Advisory Budget Committee Members: Dick McDanolds, Laraine King, Chris Luurtsema, Jon Hobbs, Dick Fabrizio, Dan Brady, and Howard Hatch

Members of the Public Present: John Landrigan, Dave Moore, Sandy Willoughby, Melissa Gould, Ethel Woodard, Tina Hebert, Steve Robbins, Jane Stimson, Linda O. Smith, Rich Clifford, Diane Keith, Debra English, Raelene Tautic, Christopher Demers, Homer May, Kenneth King, Jim Marshall, Darwin Clogston, David McKee, Doug Henson, Martha Trott, Chief Byron Charles, Wallace Trott, and Maria Van Beuren

Call Hearing to Order: Chairman Fortier called the Public Hearing on the proposed 2015 budget to order at 7:00 PM.

Review of proposed 2015 Town Budget:

Chairman Fortier thanked everyone for coming. For the record, the Haverhill Board of Selectmen is opening a Public Hearing and the purpose of the Public Hearing is to discuss the proposed budget. He warmly thanked the work of the Advisory Budget Committee. They spent many hours going over the budget line-by-line, had good discussions and came up with recommendations for the Selectboard. The Board met on Monday, February 9, 2015, to discuss those recommendations as proposed and made some further cuts to the budget. The current budget is \$4,163,269, which represents a \$10,284 increase, which is a .025% increase. The amount to be raised by taxes has increased a little over \$19,000, which represents 5½ cents per \$1,000 on the tax rate. The Board cut \$113,651 at the Monday meeting. The purpose is to receive public input for the proposed budget. At the conclusion of the Hearing, the Board will deliberate and make a final decision of what they will support.

Chairman Fortier started going page by page with the budget. On Page 1, the Board of Selectmen budget did not change except for some of the items. There was an assessment for gravel roads but it was taken out. There were no questions. The next item is Town Administration, which is the salary for the Town Manager and the associated benefits that go with it. There were no questions. On Page 2, the first item was Town Meeting, which was the salary for the Town Moderator and that budget remains flat. The next item was Trustees of the Trust Funds, which includes Marie Bigelow and Scott Horne, and that also remains flat. The Town Clerk is Christina Hebert and the Deputy Town Clerk is Leigh Reney. These are the salary items with benefits for the full-time employee, plus supplies, postage, and meetings and trainings. There were no questions. On Page 3, the first item is Voter Registration/Elections. These are the folks when you come to vote that check you in and check you out. They are Carol Norcross, Charlene Aldrich and Regis Roy. A little more was budgeted in 2014 because there were more elections. The next section is Accounting & Auditing, which includes the salaries for the Financial Administrator Jo Lacaillade and Karen Hyde, who is the Assistant, plus benefits for the full-time employee. On Page 4, the first item is Tax Collection and the Tax Collector is Sandy Roy. These numbers are for Sandy's salary, with no benefits, as she is part-time. The Treasurer is Robert Miller, who has been the Treasurer

for many years, and his salary is always the same. The next item is Information Technology. Jim Marshall, the IT Director, maintains all the computers, the website, assistance with same. Homer May suggested that the IT Budget be put out to bid as there are people who know how to do this. It would possibly save money. Jim did an overview of what his responsibilities were. He maintains the servers, equipment, wiring, computer integrity, and backup. Homer then wanted to know what Jim's background was. Jim's background was computer technology at the Grafton County IT Department and currently, he works at Cottage Hospital IT Department. He has been doing Information Technology for 9 years. The next item was Revaluation of Property. The current appraiser is M&N Associates. They switched to this contracting service about 3 years ago and the Board has had a lot less complaints about evaluations and less appeals. It is going very well with this company. The representative is in the office every Thursday and people do come in and ask him questions. TM English stated that this appropriation also includes another assessing company who handles the utilities properties, which is a very highly technical discipline. He went on to explain that the utility companies, who have stockholders and are for-profit, are suing just about every town in New Hampshire to have their assessments lowered significantly. The Town is defending itself in cooperation with a number of other towns. They have hired an attorney and are splitting the costs to fight this. If the utilities prevail, a tremendous amount of tax burden will be shifted from them to the taxpayers. This is worth fighting for. AA Lacaillade stated to Chairman Fortier that the Town is mandated to do a revaluation every five years and they are complying with the requirements.

On Page 5, the first item is legal expense. This item is for the utilities' counsel that TM English explained about and also the Town's local counsel. There were no questions. The next item is for the Planning Board, an active group that meets regularly and chaired by Don Hammond. This is a standard budget. Chris Luurtsema asked about the Training line item, which is \$500. He noted that the Planning Board doesn't normally spend that amount. Lynn Wheeler explained that she was on the Planning Board several years ago, when it was the boom time, and they did attend a lot of trainings. This is just the standard figure for trainings. The next item is Zoning Board of Adjustment, which only meets when an issue arises. Dick Guy, Denise Russell and James Graham are on that Board and Rick Ladd is the Selectboard Rep. On Page 6, the first item is the Robert E. Clifford Memorial Building, which is the old Woodsville Armory. The main full-time person, who devotes 10 hours a week, is Richard Clifford. There are salaries, benefits for the full-time person and utilities. The Board has come a long way with this building; they actually generate a little revenue. It is not self-sustaining, but the improvements that have been made are electrical lighting, painted it and the past year, taken out outside fuel tanks, reconverted steel tanks on the inside. They have rented the building out and there is a fee schedule for that. There have been a few weddings there and Archie Steenburgh on a regular basis for his auctions. The Good Shepherd Ecumenical Food Pantry is going to be signing a lease and paying rent. There is revenue being generated, but it doesn't offset the operational costs to keep the building open at this time. Laraine King questioned the Retirement line item and the change made there. Lynn Wheeler commented that she had pointed out the error at the Selectboard meeting and the number was now correct. The next item is the JRM Building. Rich Clifford works 40 hours a week – 10 hours at the Robert E. Clifford Memorial Building, 28 hours at the JRM Building and 2 at either the Pool or for Recreation. On Page 7, the first item is the Haverhill-Bath Covered Bridge. There is a telephone line on the bridge because there are cameras set up for security reasons and lights on both ends of the bridge and that is the cost to maintain their agreement with the Town of Bath. Cemeteries have been pretty flat for several years. Insurance is the \$2,000 deductible and it has not been utilized for several years. The next item is Regional Associations. Chairman Fortier explained that the Town does belong to North Country Council (NCC) and these are the dues. The Town also belongs to the New Hampshire Municipal Association (NHMA), which is a state organization. The Town utilizes this organization on a daily basis, whether it is for legal questions or questions on how to formulate a budget. The next item is Sewer/Business Park. This budget is for utilities and the possibility of any hook-ups to which half of a hook-up would need to be paid to Woodsville.

On Page 8 is the Police Department. In this budget, there is funding for an eighth officer. The thinking behind this is that by taking on the eighth officer then they would create a full-time detective position. There are several Advisory Budget Committee members, himself included, who have questioned this for 10 years. Working for the County Attorney's Office, he knows the dynamics of current-day felony-level investigation and that they take time. An example is a sexual assault case where a patrolman can no longer do an initial interview of a child, either from infancy or age 18. It has to be done by a forensic interviewer. Those forensic interviewers are located in Littleton, Lebanon, and Laconia. If a police officer takes the initial disclosure and is assigned to investigate this, he works shift work, possibly the night shift, and a Child Advocacy Center (CAC) interview is scheduled for the next morning, he has to drive to one of those three places and monitor that. When the interviewer does that interview, the police agency must have a representative there because they know about the case, which could incur overtime. If there is a full-time investigator, his or her primary duty would be to investigate crime at a felony level and follow up. Chairman Fortier stated that he had spoken with Chief Charles that day and they would know in a year or so, what kind of savings there would be in overtime. Chief Charles stated that the detective would not be a detective until the new officer was fully trained. Lynn asked the Chief of the last 4 hires, how many were brand new and how many were fully trained. Chief Charles stated that it was 1 officer that was fully trained. Dave Moore from North Haverhill commented that he has had positive interaction with the Haverhill Police Department over the years. He was in favor of the new position. Chief Charles stated that the Police Department was doing roughly 80-85 cases over the last three years. Chairman Fortier said out of the Haverhill Police Department's felony cases, Haverhill ranks three in quantity in the County. Chief Charles stated that that was correct. Homer May asked about figures on the drug problems in Town. Chief Charles stated that there is a heroin problem in this area. Last year, there were 2 drug deaths. There are drug problems on both sides of the river. He stated that there were drugs and needles at Wal-Mart and drug paraphernalia on the streets in areas where it has never shown up before. Martha Trott asked when the last time was that there was an increase in personnel and Chief Charles stated that it was 1997. Chris Luurtsema stated that he was in support of adding another officer, but his concern was that by adding another officer it was more a medication to a symptom rather than fixing the underlying cause. Melissa Gould was in favor of adding another officer. Darwin Clogston stated that since 1997, there have been 7 officers. TM English interjected that it has been very difficult until recently to stay staffed at seven. There were many, many years that they couldn't fill positions and were running with four, five or six officers. It was only when the townspeople and the Selectboard stepped up and brought the salary scale up to a reasonable level that the attrition stopped. They were constantly losing officers to the County, Littleton, Hanover and to other areas that were recruiting. When they got realistic about salary levels, they were able to hold on to their officers. They have consistently been at seven for about three years now. But Hanover and Littleton are looking for officers. There is pressure out there on the Town's officers. He feels that the officers are dedicated, happy and compensated well. He's hoping that they can hang on to them because to replace a position is a huge investment in training and in lost time. Since 1997, it was very rare that the Department ran at seven officers. The Chief is one of those seven officers. The Chief works the day shift, but he also provides a lot of administrative support. In the last two years, he has been working very hard on security issues at the schools. There are really not seven patrol officers. Jon Hobbs commented that he was in support of the additional position. Officer Trott commented that he was the seventh officer hired in 1997. He also commented that the Department has come a long way under the leadership of Chief Charles.

On Page 9, the first item is Police-Special Duty, which has been moved to a special Revenue account. The next item is the Woodsville Ambulance Service, which has been flat for a number of years but is up slightly this year. The next item was the Fire Departments. Chairman Fortier stated that a year ago, the Town took over the financing of the Fire Departments. It is no longer financed by the Precincts; it is a Townwide function financially. Two years ago, a Fire Committee was established that looks at the acquisition of new rolling stock. It's a little different way of looking at existing equipment, what is needed and how to finance it. The Prof Services-Inspector line is for the Life Safety/Fire Code Inspector.

It was tried a few years back and it didn't work so the Board did away with it, but now it's back. The reason for that is that there are two- and multi- family dwellings that exist in Town that do not meet the basic Life Safety Code. The Board started out funding this position for \$20,000, but has cut it to \$16,600. They believe they have a person who has been examined by the three Fire Chiefs and he will start on a temporary basis and start doing some of these inspections. It will be a contracted service. The Fire Chiefs will relinquish most of the inspections to the new Inspector, but the Chiefs will conduct ordinary inspections themselves and that is also included in that line item. The Board thinks that the Town has come a long way in how they address the Fire Departments. He wanted to add that there wasn't a full-time Fire Department; it was all volunteer Fire Departments. The response time is as good or better than a full-time response. The next item was Emergency Management. Mr. Steve Robbins is the Emergency Manager and the line item remains pretty flat.

On Page 10 is the Airport. The Airport is really self-sufficient. It gets its revenue from rental fees of the buildings and the hangars that sit on the Town's property. The Town does own one hangar and houses two planes there. They get fees from pilots who come in and buy fuel. Fuel is a big income generator. Basically, it is a self-sufficient entity. They have to budget for it, but the Town doesn't outlay any money for it.

On Page 11 is the Highway budget. Chairman Fortier stated that there was a Bond Hearing earlier in the evening concerning a bond issue. The Board has not made a definitive decision on whether to go for a bond or use the other option of pay-as-you-go. Laraine asked about the culvert line item and the Stonecrest culvert project. She was told that the project had been taken out of the budget. Chairman Fortier stated that the Board was not going to ignore the issue. He thinks that a Highway Committee needs to be formed that is made up of people who are qualified enough to give the Board guidance on what the best way is to attack that culvert and other special projects that come up with road building. The culvert would be addressed and prepared with a recommendation for next year. Darwin Clogston asked if there were a Warrant Article about closing part of Airport Road. TM English stated that it was not a money issue, but it is on the Warrant. Mr. Clogston wanted to know where the Board stood on closing Airport Road. Chairman Fortier stated that the Board hasn't made a decision on that issue and they really haven't discussed it intimately for any length. The Board has taken no position as of then. Chairman Fortier then went back to the Highway budget and stated that there were 24 miles of paved roads and 55 miles of gravel road. There is an appropriation in this budget for a new truck and that appropriation is in the budget for \$105,000. It is a truck that the Road Agent will handle and hoping that the equipment purchased along with the truck can address the plowing in the wintertime of Mountain Lakes' roads and get it done more expeditiously by having a side wing put on the side of the truck. There has been much discussion about the truck, but the Advisory Budget Committee recommended \$105,000 and the Board has agreed with it. Rick Ladd asked where the Town stood on road salt and TM English stated that they were okay because most of the weather has been cold weather, where salt is ineffective so they have used more sand than salt.

On Page 12, the first item is Highway Reimbursement. The appropriation is \$335,511 and that is the portion of the money that is allocated for Woodsville Highway Department. There is a formula that was discussed earlier. There is a certain percentage of Highway funding that Woodsville needs to be reimbursed for because they run a Highway Department as well. The Highway Vehicle was already discussed. The next item is Solid Waste Cleanup which has been cut for this year. The Hazardous Waste Cleanup Day has also been cut. The next item is Health Officer. The Town's Health Officer is Steve Robbins and this remains pretty flat. The next item is Animal Control. The Center Haverhill Armory houses stray dogs. This item also remains pretty flat.

On Page 13 is General Assistance. The Welfare Director is Leslie Ramsay. Leslie has an eagle eye for the program; she actually generates revenue for the Town. If someone comes in asking for assistance, they are screened by Leslie and then if appropriate, assistance is given.

On Page 14 is Parks & Recreation. Chairman Fortier commented that there is a summer program for children, which is called the HARP program. There are about 6 counselors who are engaged in that. Chairman Fortier did not have the figures on how many children attended last summer, but in past

summers, there has been as many as 80 children. It is a program that keeps young people busy and happy during the summer. In order to run that program, the Town has had a Recreation Director for several years. The current Director is Sherri Sargent, who does a very good job. She provides a number of programs, not only for youth, but all ages. Sherri is in charge of the Pool in Woodsville; she has outside activities, such as snowshoeing, summer soccer or baseball camp. The Pool does generate some revenue. On Page 15, the first item is other activities of Parks & Recreation, such as concerts at Railroad Park. The next item is the Libraries. Ethel Woodard spoke for the Woodsville Library. She commented that the Woodsville Library could use a little extra funding. Chairman Fortier stated that these were the allocations that were requested and what was recommended. Maria Van Beuren spoke for the Patten Library and how valuable it was to her. Sandy Willoughby spoke in support of Patten Library. The next item was Patriotic Purposes. This included the 4th of July participation and flags at the cemeteries. The next item was Culture & Heritage. There is a Heritage Commission and the allocation is level funded. The Chairman of that Commission is James Hobbs, who has been very involved with the Hazen property. The Town also has a Conservation Commission, which also remains level funded. The next item was Economic Development. There is an Economic Board Committee, which assisted the Town in a survey recently. The Town is also a member of the Lower Cohase Chamber of Commerce. Homer May commented that he has been on the Committee since it was founded and when it was started, there were approximately 30 people who volunteered to be on the Committee. Ever since then, attendance has dropped. It was his feeling that the Minutes taken were not accurate and caused attendance to drop. He suggested that TM English, the current recording secretary, be replaced with a new person. Chairman Fortier stated that he didn't think it was fair to attribute the lack of attendance by the Committee, or the diminishing of its members, on TM English. It was totally unfair. Rick Ladd also stated that Homer was out of line. Homer was correct that the first meeting had 30 people, but those people didn't drop off because of TM English, but because of their own lack of interest. In some cases, they felt the Committee wasn't going anywhere. The current Committee is four or five and Chairman Fortier's opinion was that TM English took accurate notes of the Committee. The Committee is energetic and they want to see economic development. They have instituted a survey and inquired what the Town has done with that survey since then. Their focus is still viable even though they are small in numbers. He again stated that it was unfair to level a charge against TM English.

On Page 16, the first item is Debt Service. This is the interest on the Tax Anticipation Note (TAN). There are two outstanding debts, one for French Pond Road and the other for the sewer line. As a Town, there really isn't a lot of debt. That takes care of the operating portion of the budget. There are a number of Warrant Articles that are going to appear on the Warrant. These are requests by agencies. CASA is an advocate for children and the request is \$500, which is money well spent. There is \$16,500 to continue the Recycling agreement with Newbury, VT. Ammonoosuc Community Health, No. Country Home Health, RSVP, Horse Meadow Senior Center, White Mt. Mental Health, Tri-County CAP, Burch House, and Court Street Arts at Alumni Hall have all previously been funded and will continue to be so this year. All of these agencies have provided services to citizens of all ages throughout the Town. The only item left is the Reserves. The three Reserves (Vehicle, Fire Vehicles, and Buildings) remain flat. Laraine King asked to revisit Page 1. She was requesting that the \$5,000 for the gravel road study be reconsidered and put back into the budget. Chairman Fortier stated that they would take that into consideration. TM English commented that he would like to answer Howard Hatch and Joe Maccini's question about Capital Reserves for Roads. The statutes had been checked and a Capital Reserve for Road Construction could be established and there was still time to do that this year because the Warrant hasn't been finalized. If the Selectmen so choose, they could have a Warrant Article to establish a Capital Reserve Account for Road Reconstruction and an amount could be appropriated. Usually, when a Reserve is established, there is an initial appropriation into that account in the same Article.

Chairman Fortier asked that people look over the Revenues and if there were any questions, to please ask. There was a comment by David McKee regarding the new position for the Police Department. He totally appreciates what the Department does and supports the addition of another officer. Chairman

Fortier thanked everyone for attending the Hearing and also thanked the efforts of the Advisory Budget Committee, who has worked very hard this year.

Chairman Fortier closed the public hearing at 8:35 PM.

Chairman Fortier called a regular meeting to order at 8:35 PM.

Chairman Fortier stated that the Board would discuss the bond first. He asked what the Board's thoughts were about the bond. He learned from TM English that the Board would have to identify whether or not they support the bond. Rick Ladd, Robert Roudebush, and Tom Friel liked the pay-as-you-go methodology. Lynn Wheeler commented that she would go along with pay-as-you-go, but the Board has to be realistic that all the roads might not get done. Chairman Fortier stated if they go with pay-as-you-go, the time frame will change each year. Tom Friel stated he suggests pay-as-you-go but if it falls apart, they will have to come back next year and revisit a bond. Chairman Fortier stated that the Board learned that they could establish a Capital Reserve for Road Construction; they could establish an amount of money that would be dedicated to highway reconstruction. TM English stated that the Board could create the Reserve and make an initial appropriation in the same Warrant article and it could be done this year. Robert Roudebush asked if the townspeople would have to agree to the amount every year and TM English stated that the Town would appropriate an amount to do the work. Chris Luurtsema asked if the Board would have to go to the Town to ask to use the funds. TM English stated that they would. It wouldn't be a Warrant Article, but it would be in the budget on the revenue side. Lynn asked Jon Hobbs what he thought as he was a "money man". Jon thought that the idea of the Capital Reserve was a good idea and if it worked, that is great. His concern is what would happen if they didn't get the funding, but at this juncture, the Capital Reserve is the best shot at fixing the roads. There would not be enough support for the bond. Rick Ladd stated that having to appropriate each year a sum of money to put into this Reserve, it's going to put more caution on what the Board is doing with the general operating budget. They are not going to be so anxious to keep expanding. They are then going to be forced to make priorities and decisions. He thinks the Capital Reserve is a great idea. TM English stated that the priority is always the school system because they have the votes. If the townspeople want the Town to do something, they need to come out and support the Town budget. The Town gets unbelievable scrutiny through the budget process and the school system gets none. Robert Roudebush stated that they could not control the school budget here at this meeting at this time at this Board, but they are discussing a pragmatic way to get dollars saved for the needed road repairs. Rick Ladd stated that he had received the revenue figures for the State for FY 2016-2017 and they were looking at less than 1% increase from 2016 to 2017. The State's budgets are going to be built on those revenue estimates. Looking at that, they are not going to get any additional money for anything from the State. He also stated that if the Board was going for the bond, he was not going to support the Police Officer. Knowing that they are not going that way and if they are going to be doing it from the reality picture, he recognizes the need for that position. Chairman Fortier stated that on February 9 before the Board made their cuts, they were looking at an increase of 35 cents per \$1,000. As a result of the cuts and some duplication that AA Lacaillade found, they were at an increase of 5½ cents per \$1,000. The Board cut \$113,651 out of the budget. Chris Luurtsema commented that if they appropriate \$150,000 this year for the Reserve Fund, it would be up approximately 42 cents. Darwin Clogston stated that he was in favor of pay-as-you-go, but if \$150,000 is appropriated this year and another \$150,000 next year, what happens next year when the Stonecrest culvert project, Recycling, and full-time officer comes back around. Chairman Fortier asked Darwin what his position was now. Darwin stated that he was still in favor of pay-as-you-go. Chris Luurtsema commented that if he were going to pay a dollar, he would rather pay it to the Town rather than to interest. Chairman Fortier again asked if the Board supported the bond or not. It was the unanimous decision of the Board to not support the bond. TM English asked if the Board still wanted to put it on the Warrant and let the voters decide. Robert Roudebush stated that they had just discussed the establishment of a Reserve fund for the specific purpose of road improvements. This is something that

the Board must propose and let the voters decide. Chairman Fortier stated that that was correct. TM English stated that Joe Maccini's idea was to appropriate for two years and then do construction and then let it build for another couple of years and then do more construction. This will happen with the Reserve Fund. The Board did not want to put the bond issue on the Warrant. Chairman Fortier asked if the Board endorsed the idea of pay-as-you-go and it was unanimous. Then he asked if they endorsed the idea of creating a Capital Reserve Fund for Highway Improvements and it was again unanimous. This would be put on the Warrant for the voters to approve. The amount appropriated for the Reserve Fund would be \$150,000. Rick Ladd asked what the total tax increase would be. TM English stated that it would be approximately 49-50 cents. Rick Ladd stated that he wanted clarification on the Woodsville reimbursement issue. TM English stated that the Woodsville road money does not get appropriated until it is spent. Chairman Fortier asked if the \$150,000 was appropriated in the Reserve this year, if it could be used. AA Lacaillade stated that if it was going to be expended, it needed to show in the budget. Lynn stated that she didn't think the Board wanted to do this this year because they needed to work out priorities. Robert Roudebush made a motion to establish a Highway Construction & Reconstruction Capital Reserve Fund with \$150,000; seconded by Tom Friel and carried unanimously.

Chairman Fortier stated that the current budget, which reflects the cuts from the February 9 meeting, is \$4,163,269. He asked if there were any other changes to be made to that budget. Robert Roudebush asked that the \$5,000 for the gravel road study be put back into the budget. The rest of the Board could not support that. Robert then asked if it could be discussed again next year and Lynn stated that they had discussed putting it back on next year. The Board would have intimate discussion about this issue at the next Selectboard meeting on February 23, 2015. Robert wanted to go on record as asking for the study to be put in the budget. The cuts the Board made totaled \$113,651, but then the \$150,000 for the Reserve Fund needed to be added back in as a Warrant Article. The budget total is now \$4,313,269. Rick and Lynn both felt that this was a big budget. Robert felt the same way as Rick and Lynn; he didn't want it, but this is what it is. Tom Friel felt that they were choking. Rick wanted to take 10% out of every department and TM English stated that he couldn't do it; he needed specific cuts. Rick asked if the Town could afford the extra police officer as that amount is \$60,000 for three-quarters of this year and \$80,000-85,000 after that annually. TM English asked if he had listened to the public input. Chairman Fortier stated that the Board had decided to create a Capital Reserve Fund for Highway Improvements in the amount of \$150,000 and it was up to the public to vote it up or down. TM English stated that it could be amended as well. In fact, the voters have a say on the whole budget. Tom stated that they had public input and they had responded to public input. Now the Board has agreed and it needs to go to Town Meeting. Robert Roudebush made the motion to recommend the budget of \$4,313,269; seconded by Tom Friel. There was further discussion. Rick thought that they might be better to make the amount that goes into the Reserve Fund \$100,000 annually and then there was the new Highway truck. He thought they were chewing up too much, too fast and they needed to make priorities in the budget. Rick then asked about the Police Department overtime and now they are going to add another officer and keep the \$40,000 in overtime. In reality, Chairman Fortier believed that the overtime would be reduced somewhat after a year or so because the detective position would be a daytime position. The detective can attend to all the court hearings and the CAC interviews, whereby the patrol officer doesn't have to do that. If they don't have the detective position, the patrol officer will have to do it, incurring overtime. TM English stated that another reason for overtime is on a felony case, 3 officers may have to go to court and cool their heels while waiting to testify on that case and with the detective position, there would only be one (1). Robert Roudebush stated that there was a motion on the table and he moved the question; seconded by Tom Friel. Rick stated that they were in discussion and at this time, he would get up and leave and the other four could make a decision. Chairman Fortier stated that he wasn't going anywhere; they were close. They needed to vote to move the question to stop discussion. The motion to move the question failed and discussion continued. Chairman Fortier stated that the budget was up 3.8% from what could be approved. The whole budget is going up 9%. Rick stated that the townspeople who were at the hearing were the ones that supported the budget. Chairman Fortier asked if there were any further discussion on the motion to recommend the budget of \$4,313,269. Tom Friel stated that if they cut the

budget 1%, that would be \$431,132 and if they looked at all departments and cut it a certain percentage point. TM English stated that it couldn't be done. If the Board wanted to do a 10% cut, they needed to do it and not put it on him. If they wanted to cut something, cut it. Chairman Fortier reminded everyone that they were a good team and have always been a good team since they were elected. Chris Luurtsema stated that he agreed that 10% across the board probably is not effective. From his experience at his employment, they have been doing the 5%, 6% and 10% cuts across the board for four years and they are now \$30 million behind gross revenues. It is his feeling that, notwithstanding the Capital Reserve Fund, the 5 cent increase is a good one. If the Town doesn't invest in the infrastructure and keeps doing the cuts, they will keep ending up at this point again and again. Lynn stated that it is up to the voters; they are the bottom line. TM English stated that the Town roads are not going to get any better by cutting the Town budget. If the voters don't want better roads, they can vote the Reserve Fund down. The Board then voted on the motion to recommend the \$4,313,269 budget; there were four votes in the affirmative, Rick Ladd opposed; the motion carried. Chairman Fortier asked the Board how they felt about the petition on the Airport issue. They took no position.

Rick Ladd made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Robert Roudebush and all approved. Chairman Fortier adjourned at 9:26 pm.

Minutes transcribed by Karen Hyde