

~~UNAPPROVED~~**APPROVED**  
**PROPOSED 2013 SELECTMEN'S PUBLIC BUDGET MEETING**  
**Saturday, October 13, 2012**

**Attendance:** Chairman Joe Duarte, Selectman Dick Snow, Selectman Fred Kelley, Selectman Amanda Soares, Selectman David DePuy, Selectmen's Assistant Cheryl Eastman, and Administrative Assistant Andria Hansen.

**9:00 a.m.** Chairman Kelley opened the Public Meeting and immediately followed with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Selectman Snow said they were going to take input from the Department Heads to see what they would like to do this year.

**Heritage Commission:** Selectman Soares said normally they have a budget of \$600. They are looking for an increase, because of what might come about if the warrant article passes. There may be some extra expenses that are incurred. Selectman Soares motioned to accept the Heritage Commissions budget at \$1,000. Seconded by Selectman Kelley. All were in favor. Motion carried.

**ZBA:** Selectman Soares noted it is same as last year. Selectman Soares moved to accept the ZBA's budget at \$1,751. Seconded by Selectman Kelley. All were in favor. Motion carried.

**Planning Board:** Selectman Kelley noted that there was a slight increase in the Planning Board's presented budget. *Selectman Kelley motioned to accept the Planning Board's budget as submitted at \$1,876. Seconded by Selectman Soares.* Chairman Duarte asked what the percentage of increase is. Selectman Snow replied 14.95%. Chairman Duarte asked is this increase necessary. He thought they were trying to level fund. Selectman Snow explained the dollar amounts are small; you are looking at an increase that's large for the percentage. Tax Collector Candy Stamatelos asked what the mileage was to Registry of Deeds, because that's one of the increases. Selectmen's Assistant Eastman explained that it's the Administrative Assistant Sharon Robichaud's mileage to go and have the deeds recorded. Selectman Kelley explained she needs to be paid for her mileage. Selectman Snow said the costs would be reimbursed out of the expenses that were paid by the applicant. Tax Collector Candy Stamatelos asked if she does it for more than one department. Selectman Kelley replied just for the Planning Board. Selectman Snow called for a vote. *All were in favor. Motion carried.*

**Budget Committee:** Budget Committee Chairman Matt Broadhead said they are requesting just a modest increase in their budget. They have two goals; one is to increase the transparency of the Board and to increase the awareness of the role the Budget Committee plays. They have developed a flyer that they would like to have sent out to all of the residents of Candia. They will be doing this within the next week or so and the idea is for this to be a continuing expense. It would serve as a valuable purpose and give awareness of what the committee does and doesn't do. Selectman Kelley motioned to accept the Budget Committee's budget as submitted at \$2,104. Seconded by Selectman Soares. All were in favor. Motion carried.

**Conservation Commission:** Conservation Commission Chair Betsy was present. She explained they haven't had full secretarial support consistently, so this may be a misleading item. There have been unexpected expenses i.e. the map rack. They put out the newsletter every year in addition to the flyer for the Town Report. Selectman Kelley asked if it was the same budget as last year. CCC Chair Kruse replied pretty much. Selectman Soares asked if it comes out of the education line. CCC Chair Kruse replied it comes out of the communications section. Chairman Duarte asked about secretarial wages and as of October 11<sup>th</sup> they spent \$342, so why are they asking for \$700. CCC Chair Kruse explained they have not had consistent secretarial support. This item is not reflective of what it would be if they had consistent secretarial support. Chairman Duarte asked about the administration line and as of October 11<sup>th</sup> they spent \$261 and why are they asking for \$900. Selectman Snow explained part of the administration line is because the Conservation Commission picked up someone to help them with their website and the Town is using them as a backup for our website. There is an additional cost for that and that is part of the increase for that line. This is a real benefit, because we have a part time website person and he needs someone to cover when she goes on vacation. This is a benefit to the Town that they have two people. Chairman Duarte asked for any comments from Budget Committee. Budget Committee Chairman Matt Broadhead replied he can't comment on it until the Selectmen have finalized it. Selectman Snow said they are trying to keep a reasonably level tax rate, so the Selectmen are doing their job. Chairman Duarte asked if the Board has any comments. Selectman Soares said she was not in favor of the increase to \$900 for the administration line. They had to go with the default budget last year and managed to do their work within their budget. CCC Chair Kruse said they have currently over expended a couple of items by \$250, so it will need to be made up from somewhere else. She said it may look exorbitant to have a \$900 item, so perhaps they should have reallocated this to some of the items that have been over expended. CCC Chair Kruse noted they didn't adjust this in the request for 2013 and perhaps they should have. Road Agent Lewis (and CCC member) noted this is the same budget we've had and we do move numbers around on occasion when we are over expended, but they try to be as thrifty as they can. Selectman Snow would prefer they leave it at the \$2,400. They started out 5 or 6 years ago at \$4,000 - \$5,000 and it's been coming down since then. There are things that need to be done that require expenses. Chairman Duarte felt unless it's absolutely essential they need to stay where they are. If they keep going with increases he doesn't know how they are going to hold their bottom line. He's not ready to make a decision on this budget and he has a few more questions. He didn't know if the increase for the administration line was merited. He would like more information on this. Selectman Snow informed CCC Chair Kruse that they weren't making final decisions today. They will make final decisions at the October 22<sup>nd</sup> Selectmen's meeting. CCC Chair Kruse said they could make a revision to the budget at the next CCC meeting. It was the consensus of the Board to wait to make a decision on this budget.

**Parks & Recreation/ Other Culture & Recreation:** Selectman Snow explained this budget has been coming down over the past few years. He has attempted to maintain a maintenance budget. He doesn't do anything in the parks that they don't absolutely need to do. What he does to keep the actual expenditures down is volunteer work. If you look at some of the lines like opening and closing the bathrooms, he does it personally and he doesn't charge the town. It's in the budget, because if he can't do it someone else will have to. They paid the person before \$10.00 a day, before he started doing it. He explained they used to have a ski program and it was a wash. They would do the fundraising and pay it back. There was always a little bit that didn't

get raised and they ended up paying for one of the buses. Last year the CYAA took over the program and ran the whole thing. There was one bus bill they paid and what he is going to attempt to do is CYAA does it and send them \$300 as a contract to run the ski program. The budget for Parks & Recreation/Other Culture is lower than it was two or three years ago. It is a maintenance budget and at some point in time you are going to see an increase when we want to do something in the parks. He asked the Board if they have any questions. Selectman Kelley asked why he waits so long to mow the park, it becomes a hayfield. They have the money, so mow the park. If you keep the grass cut low, we probably wouldn't have so many bugs. Let's get it done, do it right and stop playing games with money. Selectman Snow said he would accept the comment, but we need to focus on the budget. Tax Collector Candy Stamatelos asked if Selectman Snow planned on spending another \$3,000 by the end of the year. Selectman Snow replied he is not going to spend everything he has, because he volunteers to do it. If the money is not there and he can't do it the town is going to have to spend it. Tax Collector Candy Stamatelos thought it was like a slush fund. We are raising and appropriating another \$3,000 that never truly gets spent on parks and rec. Selectman Snow replied if there is money in the budget he will spend it on something else that is necessary to do. The budget is down considerably. It's a maintenance budget. Road Agent Lewis agreed with Selectman Kelley and Tax Collector Stamatelos the park looks terrible. It looks like we abandoned it a couple of years ago. There is plenty of wild land in town that Conservation Commission has. We don't need to keep the park as one of them. He thought it should be kept manicured and look good along with other town buildings. If they are going to put the money in the budget and not use it, it's not right to have it in the budget. If we are never going to maintain the park why are we setting the money aside to do it? Selectman Snow replied this is a discussion he doesn't see as part of the budget. Road Agent Lewis said it is because it's what we are budgeting for. Selectman Snow said he understood and there are two sides to the issue. Selectman Soares didn't like the parks and rec budget. She felt \$10.00 to open the park bathrooms everyday is ridiculous and highway robbery to the tax payers. She understood for mowing and trimming and maybe repairs to the equipment, but \$1,000 for opening and closing the bathrooms. She felt \$3,000 for parks and rec was more appropriate instead of \$6,000. She would rather spend the money on new playground equipment instead of useless stuff like opening and closing the bathrooms. She reiterated that she would like to see the parks and rec budget at \$3,000 instead of \$6,000. She is not comfortable asking the taxpayers for \$6,000 for the parks and rec budget. She thought Selectman Snow was saving the town money it was still too high. Selectman Snow explained they were paying the \$10.00 per day previously, because Steve Ableson was coming over and doing it. The \$10.00 per day is what it cost but that includes the cleaning once a week and any maintenance. He felt that was reasonable to open and close the bathrooms and maintain them. Selectman Soares replied that was then, but now it's not reasonable. Selectman Snow noted that's what it costs to hire outside help. Selectman Kelley agreed with the cost to have someone open the park bathrooms, he thought \$10.00 was cheap. If they have it in the budget then let's get someone to do it, instead of Selectman Snow doing it. If we are budgeting the money then we should have someone do it. He thanked Selectman Snow for doing it for nothing, but we have the money in the budget. Let's have someone else do it. If we are going to use the money for something else in the park then we need to change that line to zero. He thought they could use it on some new equipment or on maintenance. Selectman Snow asked if they should go with the \$6,000 or should they reallocate it. If they reallocate the money then it's not properly accounting for it. He felt \$6,000 is the amount this is necessary to maintain the park. He plans

on using \$500 out of other culture and recreation to sponsor one of the programs. Selectman Kelley thought the library did that. Selectman Snow replied no, the town could sponsor one in the park. Selectman Soares reiterated that the number should be lower for parks and rec. Selectman DePuy noticed the electricity is over for this year and you have it budgeted for the same thing next year. He question is this because of the audit that was done. Selectman Snow replied it's because we picked up a couple of extra meters over there and the cost should be adjusted. Selectman Kelley clarified you took the meters that the CYAA was paying for. Selectman Snow said we pay for the one CYAA was paying for and the scout cabin. Selectman DePuy agreed with Road Agent Lewis that they have the money budgeted so they should be using it. He thought the citizens would appreciate the park looking decent and it would be money well spent. Chairman Duarte asked how long we have had \$6,000 budget. Selectman Snow said they've actually brought it down it was up around \$8,000. Chairman Duarte asked how many years. Selectman Snow replied about 3 ½ years. Chairman Duarte said the point is lets spruce up the park and have someone come in and start doing this. Then they can determine how much they need to budget. He felt instead of having Selectman Snow do the work, they should pay someone to come in and do it. If they do this they'll get a better feel on how much to budget for next year. He would recommend leaving the budget the way it is. Selectman Kelley asked if this was the same budget as last year. Selectman Snow replied yes. Selectman Kelley said if they utilize it they can have someone come in and clean up the park. Also, have someone open, close, and clean the park bathrooms. Selectman Soares asked if the park supplies/repair line was for equipment and mulch. Selectman Snow said the expenses for the playground come out of the playground fund. The rest of it is for the repairs and equipment on the park. Selectman Soares would like to see how much is in the playground fund. Selectman Kelley asked why the ski program was in the budget, because the CYAA does that now. Selectman Snow replied in the past there has always been a certain amount of money that is necessary and the ski program is a town function. There has always been a certain amount that the town has had to fund. The CYAA takes the administration off of us. Selectman Snow said they have \$1.00 in the summer rec line if they can get a contract with someone to run the program. He would like to do field trips with the summer rec program. Selectman Kelley motioned to approve the Other Culture & Recreation budget at \$850 and Parks & Recreation budget at \$6,050. Seconded by Selectman DePuy. Chairman Duarte, Selectman Snow, Selectman DePuy, Selectman Kelley were in favor and Selectman Soares was opposed. Motion carried on a vote of 4 to 1.

**Treasurer:** Selectman Soares motioned to approved Treasurer's budget at \$8,996. Seconded by Chairman Duarte. All were in favor. Motion carried.

**Tax Collector:** Tax Collector Stamatelos noted the stipend showed the 3% increase. It was noted that the Deputy's stipend did not reflect the 3% COLA increase. Selectman Snow asked if she could live with the change in that line. Tax Collector Stamatelos said the Deputy would work with in the hours she'd get paid. The line was changed to \$3,477 and the FICA & Medi line was changed to \$1,205. Selectman Kelley motioned to accept the Tax Collectors budget at \$22,488. Seconded by Selectman Soares. All were in favor. Motion carried.

**Election and Voter registration:** Selectmen's Assistant Eastman said it's the same budget as last year. Tax Collector Stamatelos said she had a question about the wages and does this

department get the 3% increase. Selectmen's Assistant Eastman replied yes and she didn't put any numbers in because she was waiting for them from Candy. She noted there are a different amount of elections next year, so she doesn't know what the wages are going to be. She transferred over the same budget as last year and was waiting for numbers from Candy. Tax Collector Stamatelos noted this budget was cut prior to the default budget. Selectmen's Assistant Eastman replied she didn't know what she wanted to do for 2013. Tax Collector Stamatelos said she wasn't looking to increase it, because there wasn't much to do. She asked where the \$3,495 came from. She wasn't sure about the budget we've budgeted this number for three years. Selectmen's Assistant Eastman pointed out that as of October 10<sup>th</sup> you've spent \$2,726 and they've had three elections so far. So you can do one election less than \$3,495 next year and that would include the 3% increase to the wages. Tax Collector Stamatelos said they haven't submitted their wages for the last elections. Selectman Soares noted they still have time before they finalize the budget, so she could figure out what the wages would be with the increase and then come back to the Board with a definite number. Selectman Snow said since you have less elections next year the implication would be that you reduce that number. Tax Collector Stamatelos understood, but she hasn't submitted all of her expenses. Selectmen's Assistant Eastman explained right now all of your expenses through the March Town Meeting are already in there. It was the consensus of the Board to wait to make a decision on this budget.

**Cemetery:** Selectman Snow said he spoke with Superintendent of Cemeteries Jerry Becker and they suggested going back to what they were last year which is \$26,948. *Selectman Soares motioned to accept the Cemeteries budget at \$26,948. Seconded by Chairman Duarte.* Selectman Kelley asked about a possible wage increase and did he talk to Jerry about that. Selectman Snow said he did talk to Jerry about it. Selectman Kelley asked if Jerry was agreeable to the wage line going back to where it was. Selectman Snow explained part of the work that was done this year probably should have gone through maintenance, because it went beyond just mowing the grass. Selectman Snow called for a vote. *All were in favor. Motion carried.*

**Election Administration:** Selectmen's Assistant Eastman noted there is only one election coming this year. Selectman Kelley motioned to accept the Election Administration budget at \$1,950. Seconded by Selectman DePuy. All were in favor. Motion carried.

**Town Clerk:** Selectman Soares asked about the increase in the Deputy's line. Town Clerk Chris Dupere said she requested an extra \$1,000 for the Deputy. There is very little increase in the rest of the lines. She is requesting more for the ballots because every year it's been over expended. This is because of the amount of pages they have on our ballots and the cost of the printing and collating. The only election that comes out of her budget is the town election. She increased the motor vehicle supplies, because she has the opportunity to do the boat agent program. There are so many people in town that have boats. She will be going for the boat agent training. She has to order dog license supplies every year so they can be issued after January 1<sup>st</sup> and the cost goes up every year. Everything else has gone down. Selectman Kelley asked why is the Deputy getting a raise. Town Clerk Dupere replied this is the fifth year she has put in a raise and this is the fifth year she hasn't gotten one. She noted that the Deputy has attended every single training program and everything that has been offered by the state. The Deputy has worked really hard and she uses her a lot. Selectman Snow said he mentioned that the Selectmen were going to look at a merit pool that would allow us to provide any of the

employee with compensation that deserve it. They will discuss this when they get to the Town Officers budget. They can note that they have a request from the Town Clerk to increase the Deputy Town Clerk's wages, because she is meritorious as opposed to the COLA. This would be suitable for discussion and they can reduce this line and discuss it for the wage pool. He asked the Board how they wanted to handle it. Selectman Kelley said no one else is getting \$1,000 raise, but he doesn't think it was fair. He knows she does all of the work, but the Town Clerk is going to have to step up to the plate and do more of the work herself. He noted everyone just got a 3% COLA. Chairman Duarte thought it would be hard to give it to one and not another. Selectman Soares asked about the restoration of official documents line. Town Clerk Dupere explained the line was cut before and she couldn't afford to have the documents restored. The line was increased last year. She'll bring the book to the annual conference, because the guy who restores them will be there. There is a charge to have the documents picked up, so she will drop them off. This line will be expended next week. Selectman Soares asked what Accuvote was. Town Clerk Dupere explained it's the machine we use at the elections and we have to pay for the programming. Selectman Soares asked how old is the machine? Town Clerk Dupere replied that machine is 10 years and it's been revamped. The state comes in and updates it every year. Selectman Soares asked about BMSI/Interware software for the boat registrations and is it necessary. Town Clerk Dupere replied the boat registrations don't have to be done, but it's an extra service and increased revenue for the town. Selectman DePuy motioned to approve the Town Clerk's budget as revised at \$62,004. Seconded by Chairman Duarte. Chairman Duarte, Selectman Snow, Selectman DePuy, Selectman Kelley were in favor and Selectman Soares was opposed. Motion carried on a vote of 4 to 1.

**Building Inspection:** Building Inspector Murray explained there weren't any changes in the Building Departments budget. Selectman DePuy asked about the vehicle-fuel, repairs, and maintenance line and was he sure he wanted to keep it at \$2,000. Building Inspector Murray replied they just put a lot of work into the car and it should be good for another year. Selectman Soares motioned to accept the Building Inspectors budget as presented at \$68,560. Seconded by Selectman Kelley. All were in favor. Motion carried.

**Health Officer:** Selectman Snow asked when we have to put in the application for spraying. He thought it was the 1<sup>st</sup> of the year, so if we have expenses with that we'll put it in this year's budget since we haven't spent it. Dragon Mosquito's estimate didn't come in with any cost to submit the application. He thought maybe they could get it done for the \$600. Selectman Kelley said if they do that they are committing to Dragon Mosquito. He questioned if they could get a company that would do that for a more reasonable price. Selectman Snow said Dragon seems to be the one that is available. We are committed to them if the warrant article passes. He asked Building Inspector Murray if they are going to have a warrant article for spraying next year. He's looking to have an estimate of the warrant articles for the October 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting as well as what is on the operating budget. The goal for this year is going to be trying to keep us at a stable tax rate. He asked Building Inspector Murray if he wanted to look at the possibility of doing this. Selectman Kelley said he had no problem with submitting an application, but he wasn't sure if they should go with Dragon. Chairman Duarte thought they should get Selectman Soares input since she is the liaison for the department. Selectman Soares explained they can have Dragon submit the application, it doesn't mean we are "in bed" with Dragon. We are registered with the state and we submit an application for anything to do with spraying and mosquito

control. They have the means to do this and they know the process. They get our foot in the door by submitting our application and they hope that you continue the process with them. It doesn't mean we have to sign a contract with Dragon. We can always look at other options. They put a line in the Health Officer budget for \$600. This is normally in the budget. She noted that Dragon is favored by the state, but they have the option to go with whoever they want. She will check with Dragon on the timeframe. She thought they would have to submit the application at the end of the year. They don't have to go into great depth to prepare for spraying. In the past they would test the larvae and determine the possibility for EEE. They didn't have to spray when they started the program, but they also had a very dry summer. She explained they didn't need a \$39,000 warrant article, you have to plan accordingly. You don't have to plan ahead for spraying, because you may not have to spray. Selectman Snow asked about the cost of the application. Selectman Soares replied they submit the application and send us a bill. Selectman Snow asked if Dragon's name show up on the application. Selectman Soares replied no. Selectmen Kelley said this is what he was worried about and he didn't want to commit to one company. Selectman Snow clarified this would be for the application in 2013 for 2014. Selectman Soares replied no and the application and permit only cover one year. You have to reapply every year and they don't do extended year contracts. Selectman Snow said this year they have \$600 and they are trying to get the license for 2013. If we sign with Dragon part of the contract will be that there is \$600 so they can apply at the end of 2013 for 2014. Selectman Soares said they will leave the \$600 in the Health Officer's budget. It's always in there so they always have it. It wouldn't be part of the contract. Selectman Soares motioned to approve Health Officer's budget at \$1,400. Seconded by Selectman Kelley. All were in favor. Motion carried. Chairman Duarte commented that Building Inspector Murray was doing a good job and appreciated it.

**Ambulance:** Selectman Kelley motioned to accept the Ambulance budget at \$1.00. Seconded by Selectman Soares. All were in favor. Motion carried.

**Emergency Management:** *Selectman Kelley motioned to accept the Emergency Management budget at \$3,000. Seconded by Selectman Soares.* Citizen Todd Allen asked how is the new generator at the Moore School being maintained from year to year. Selectman Soares replied that contract says the town pays for the fuel and the school pays for the maintenance. Mr. Allen said he saw \$1.00 was budgeted for the fuel line and he was wondering what the budgeted number was. Selectman Snow clarified we would be paying for the fuel if it opened as an emergency shelter and FEMA would reimburse us. It would be a wash, but you need a number in there to appropriate. Selectman Snow noted that the defibrillator in the hall needed a cabinet. Selectman Soares thought Dean Young was going to build one. She will talk to him and it will not cost us anything. Selectman Snow called for a vote. *All were in favor. Motion carried.*

**Fire/Forestry:** Selectman Soares motioned to accept the Fire/Forestry budget at \$139,050. Seconded by Selectman Kelley. All were in favor. Motion carried. Selectman Snow asked if the Fire Department anticipated going for a warrant article for the Fire Apparatus Capital Reserve fund. Selectman Kelley said he hasn't heard anything, but would ask.

**Solid Waste:** Selectman DePuy noted there are some changes to the budget. The permanent wage line should be \$82,400 instead of \$85,000. The landfill disposal line was reduced from

\$132,000 to \$128,000. Selectman Kelley asked if that amount would cover the landfill disposal line. Facility Operator Chuck Whitcher explained last year they did the ash and they came real close. It was about \$6,000. He mentioned they would be signing a new contract for hauling next year and he felt they would save some money depending on who they go with. It was noted the part time wage line was increased because of hours not wages. Selectman Kelley asked how many hours are the part timers working. Facility Operator Whither replied as needed. Selectman Kelley asked if they needed them every Saturday and Sunday. Facility Operator Whitcher explained in the 5 or 10 minutes that someone comes through they don't see what we do in an 8 hour day. We can't predict how many people are going to come through in a day. The coverage is for the times that we are busy. Selectman Soares asked what they spent for Household Hazardous Waste Day this year. Selectman DePuy replied just under \$10,000. Selectman Kelley asked if that included the wages of the three employees they had working it. Facility Operator Whither said the way they could address that is to have it at the Town Hall instead of Recycling Center. If you don't want to pay to have people work it have it here. Selectman Kelley said for years they had volunteers running it. Facility Operator Whitcher replied it was the Solid Waste Committee which we don't have any more. Selectman DePuy noted he did have a volunteer there, but he's got mixed messages on if they should have volunteers or not. He thought it ran as well as it could have run. Selectman Kelley felt they should have had volunteers running it instead of the employees. Selectman DePuy was sure it could be improved. Facility Operator Whitcher noted they wrote out 150 dump stickers that day as well. Selectman DePuy explained the loader o & m line was budgeted for \$9,000 instead of \$7,000 this year. They are almost \$4,000 over budget. It's had some problems and next year it's going to need tires. Selectman Kelley said the equipment down there is getting old. The loader is close to 10 years old. Facility Operator Whitcher noted that Facility Attendant Joe Lamarche is good at fixing the basic things and when minor things break he can fix them. Selectman Snow said if they need new equipment they could set up something in the Capital Improvement Plan or they could do a warrant article. Selectman Soares asked on average how much do you spend a year on clothing. Facility Operator Whitcher said it's usually right at \$1,000. Selectman Kelley thought they should be keep it where it is. Chairman Duarte thought that HHW Day went well and they didn't run out of money. His only concern the volunteers handling the hazardous waste. Selectmen's Assistant Eastman noted the bottom line with the changes is \$294,437. Chairman Duarte motioned to accept the Solid Waste budget at \$294,437. Seconded by Selectman Kelley. All were in favor. Motion carried.

**Highway:** Road Agent Lewis noted he left the budget the same. He didn't know if the state was going to change the pay rates this year. The state sets our rate for the equipment i.e. backhoe, plow truck, grader. The rate is very low and most towns around us don't use it anymore. We earn \$20.00 per hour under the surrounding towns for plow trucks. If they do change it there may be some difference there. The winter plow line would most likely be affected. If this was the case they would have their \$75,000 warrant article to absorb the difference. He didn't see that happening this year. They haven't changed the rates in 8 or 9 years. The asphalt maintenance line is underfunded. They should be paving 3 miles per year. Selectman Kelley asked if he wanted to increase it. Road Agent Lewis said he would love to increase it, but the way the economy is and with the other budgets the way they are he doesn't want to. Selectman Soares asked how much per yard was asphalt. Road Agent Lewis replied \$73.40 per ton in place. If he goes up and buys it the price is \$65.00 per ton. The real issue is at some point the



town is going to have to play catch up. They have 42 miles of paved road and they only do  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile a year. If you do the math it's going to take quite a while to get around town once. Selectman Kelley asked what if you put a warrant article in for a section of road somewhere. He asked if he was thinking about doing Lane Road. Road Agent Lewis explained they have to do a wearing course on Patten Hill Road. He hasn't done the math because they didn't give him a quote on what it will cost per ton. He is going to write a warrant article so it will either do two things, all of the money that gets used on Patten Hill gets used on Patten Hill. If there is an additional amount left in the \$150,000 they will go down Green Road to the town line and we'll use additional money to go down Lane Road. It's too early to tell if he can do them all for \$150,000. Selectman Kelley asked if he would like to increase the amount to \$200,000 to see what happens. Road Agent Lewis thought they would get nothing if they do that. He would rather do it as a separate warrant article and pick a specific road. Selectman Kelley noted this budget is making it hard to get the work done. Road Agent Lewis noted they had three storm years which took all of our money and that put us three years behind. Even though we got reimbursed by FEMA we still put our money into storm damage. Selectman Soares said she knew he had a plan for the roads he wanted to pave so each year figure out the cost and name the road in the warrant article. At least people know which road you are doing and where the money is going to. People like to know where the money is going. Road Agent Lewis explained they had a mud issue this year on Currier Road. He would like to put in a warrant article to pave Currier Road. The only reason he is thinking of doing this is because he gets both sides of the argument. This year he is going to do the numbers, put in a warrant article, and let the people decide. He hears both sides and if it's not a muddy year no one bothers him with it, but on the flip side the mud was so bad last year it was almost impassable. Selectman Snow mentioned that's where you saw the cost for the gravel and it all went into Currier Road. It was designed to be spread out for different things. He would like some rough numbers for what the warrant article might be by the October 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting. Road Agent Lewis replied he can't get a paving number out of anyone until December. Selectman Snow replied we need a number. Road Agent Lewis said he could give a number with in \$10,000 - \$20,000 and when December/January rolls around he can get a definite number. Selectman Snow replied that's fine he needs an idea of what the impact on the tax rate will be. Selectman Soares said you can't accurately do the tax rate because warrant articles are due until January 8<sup>th</sup>. She didn't know how he was determining the tax rate, because people haven't submitted their warrant articles yet. She felt he needed to account for curve balls. You're not going to have the tax rate figured out on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Selectman Snow replied that he understood, but he didn't vote on SB2. It's passed and they have to live with it. They have to make decisions from now until the end of the year and what we want to do with the unreserved fund balance. Selectman Kelley told him to leave the unreserved fund balance alone. He needs numbers to give you an idea of what we want on the warrant next year. Road Agent Lewis said you can anticipate Currier Road as an additional warrant article. Selectman Kelley motioned to approve the Highway budget as written at \$364,643. Seconded by Selectman Soares. All were in favor. Motion carried.

**Street lighting:** Selectman Kelley motioned to approve the Street Lighting budget at \$6,000. Seconded by Selectman Soares. All were in favor. Motion carried.

**Advertising and Regional:** Chairman Kelley motion to accept the Advertising and Regional budget at \$2,497. Seconded by Selectman DePuy. Chairman Duarte, Selectman Snow,

Selectman Kelley, Selectman DePuy were in favor and Selectman Soares was opposed. Motion carried on a vote of 4 to 1.

**Property Appraisal:** Selectman Soares motioned to accept the Property Appraisal budget at \$7,500. Seconded by Selectman Kelley. All were in favor. Motion carried.

**Auditing Services:** Selectman Kelley motioned to accept the Auditing Services budget at \$17,500. Seconded by Selectman Soares. All were in favor. Motion carried.

**Legal Expenses:** Selectman Kelley motioned to accept the Legal Expenses budget at \$35,000. Seconded by Selectman Soares. All were in favor. Motion carried.

**Insurance:** The Board tabled this until the October 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting.

**Principal - Long Term Bonds & Notes:** Selectman Kelley motioned to accept the budgeted amount for Principal – Long Term Bonds & Notes in the amount of \$184,500. Seconded by Soares. All were in favor. Motion carried.

**Animal Control:** Selectman Soares asked if the COLA increase was included in the wage line. She questioned that averaged out to 9 hours per week and she thought he was only paid for 8 hours. Chief McGillen said they have gone way over budget on that line and if his average is 9 hours per week, so they might as well change it instead of being in the red next year. The trend shows he has been busier. Selectman Soares asked doesn't it specify in his job description that he's not to work more than 8 hours. Chief McGillen noted that it's a minimum of 8 hours and he has been going over. Selectman Snow stated the 8 hour minimum is an informal agreement between the Police Chief and the ACO based on a point in time when they had Ray Rodier doing it. Selectman Soares pointed out if he doesn't get any calls during the week he gets paid 8 hours. Selectman Snow asked if that was an issue. Selectman Soares said he has a part time job and he does his hours at night. She has an issue with that. Selectman Snow questioned if the agreement that they made with Ray Rodier years ago still hold. Do we want an 8 hour minimum or pay him for the hours that he works. Chief McGillen explained then you have a revolving door. You're not going to pay someone \$20 or \$30 per week to do the job. Selectman Kelley asked if the ACO isn't going out on any calls why are we paying him for 8 hours. He asked when someone calls in to report something the ACO charges us to make phone calls. It's the same as paying an officer to make phone calls, if they're not in a cruiser we are still paying them. Chief McGillen said he could check to see what other towns are doing, but he felt this was a good deal. Chairman Duarte noted the budget is close to what they anticipated. He wasn't sure they could get someone to be on call. If they have a guideline of 8 hours he felt they should stick to that. He questioned if it was written down. Chief McGillen explained it wasn't written down it's been that way for 20 years. Chairman Duarte thought they would have a difficult time changing this midstream without input from the Chief and the community. Selectman Kelley asked if they were going to leave the ACO at 8 hours per week minimum. Chief McGillen thought the amount budgeted for a new van might be low. They have been pricing used vans in the \$12,000 - \$13,000 range and those have mileage in the 50,000 to 60,000 range. Selectman Kelley said it depends on what you are going to buy. He didn't think they needed another van maybe a caravan with a cage in the back. He agreed they're not going to get a fairly new vehicle for

\$10,000. Selectman Snow thought they could take the \$10,000 and put in a warrant article. Selectman Kelley would like to work with Chief McGillen on this and see what they can come up with. Chief McGillen thought they could talk to Car World, because they used to buy cars at auction. He mentioned in years past Car World used to donate a DARE car. Selectman Kelley noted the van passed inspection in March, so between now and next March the van isn't going to become disabled. Selectman Snow heard the van was about to fall apart. Chief McGillen was told by the mechanic that he won't put a sticker on it come March. Selectman Kelley would like to talk with Transmission Man so he knows exactly what is wrong with it. He said if the springs are going to come up through the floor than they don't want the van. Chief McGillen noted the rear springs did come up through the floor. Selectman Kelley replied that's normal. He would like to talk with the mechanic and get of list of exactly what the van needs. Selectman Snow would like to solve this problem before the end of the year, so they can pull it out of the operating budget. If they can find money available by the end of the year then they could set some aside. Chief McGillen noted they still have to talk about cruiser. Selectman Kelley would like permission from the Board to find out exactly what is wrong with this ACO van and what it would cost to get something in better condition. Selectman Snow suggested pulling the \$10,000 out of the budget. Selectman DePuy thought if it was something we absolutely need it seems that it should be in the operating budget and not left to whether town approves it or not in a warrant article. Citizen Todd Allen asked if they looked at the cost of how much it would cost if we outsourced to a vendor. Could it be potentially cheaper than having the labor issue and other stuff? Chief McGillen said they could check with some private companies if the Board would like him to. Selectman Kelley thought they looked into this cost before and it was ridiculous. Chief McGillen noted they can get assistance from the ACO in Raymond and there is no charge. It's just like mutual aid. Citizen Todd Allen explained there are a number of different ways of fulfilling the need of the ACO. Selectman Snow said they are looking at a \$8,500 budget for an ACO, he didn't think they wanted to go outside of town. Citizen suggested they research three different options and see what the cost is. Selectman Soares said she gets the weekly market bulletin and they have advertised a Ford F150 van for \$5,500. Chief McGillen asked her to send him the information on this. Selectman Snow said the issue is they have \$10,000 sitting in the operating budget. Selectman Kelley would like to leave it in the operating budget. Selectman Kelley motioned to leave the \$10,000, leave the ACO's hours at 8 hours per week, and accept the budget as submitted at \$18,605. Selectman Soares noted the total won't be \$18,605 if the hours stay at 8 hours per week. Chairman Duarte would like to get more information before they finalize this budget. It was the consensus of the Board to continue this discussion at the October 22<sup>nd</sup> Selectmen's meeting.

**Police:** Chief McGillen said one of the big issues was gas. Selectman Soares mentioned last year Chief McGillen asked for \$22,000. She noted the budget went to default and the number went back to \$17,000. If the proposed budget had been passed you only would have been \$549 over (year to date). She thought he projected it pretty close to the mark. She felt the fuel request of \$24,000 wasn't a ridiculous request. Chairman Duarte thought the fuel prices were close to peaking. Selectman Soares thought \$24,000 was a reasonable request. Chief McGillen thought they might want to increase it. He thought the budget was a work in progress and they may want to come back to the fuel. Selectman Soares said he does have wiggle room in his budget. The fuel line is always a concern, but he can move stuff around in his budget. Chief McGillen replied they need the wiggle room they are a large department. Selectman Soares reiterated \$24,000 is a good number and it should stay where it is. Chairman Duarte said they don't need

to finalize a specific item, because things are going to change. Selectman Kelley agreed with Chief McGillen and didn't think that \$24,000 was going to cut it. Chairman Duarte didn't want to make a decision on this now. Selectman Snow explained on October 22<sup>nd</sup> the Board is going to put together a bottom line number for the operating budget that will go to the Budget Committee. They do not want to go back in February and argue with the Budget Committee that we need more money because we didn't do it right the first time. If you want to bring the fuel line up \$2,000 they should do that now. Once we put this out on the street as this is what the Board of Selectmen voted on as an operating budget it's a firm number. Chief McGillen asked if they are finalizing the budget on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Selectman Snow replied they will have a firm bottom line number on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of October. Selectmen's Assistant Eastman said they can't because she won't have insurance figures. Selectman Snow replied the estimate they have should theoretically be big enough to say we have savings for you when we go to the Budget Committee. Selectman Kelley wanted clarification as to why they need to have the budget finalized so early. Why does it have to go to the Budget Committee so early? Selectman Snow said the Budget Committee is asking for the inputs this month. This is why they were talking about doing this in September. Selectmen's Assistant Eastman explained you can give the Budget Committee what we think at that time and make adjustments to that going forward when we get more information. Selectman Snow replied we may change right up to the point we go to deliberative session. We can amend it based on information that we have. He doesn't want to go into the deliberative session with a different budget than the Budget Committee. He would like to go to the Budget Committee with a number that is big enough but not too big. The number they vote on the 22<sup>nd</sup> is the number that is going to the Budget Committee, because that is when they want it. Selectman Soares noted if you are outvoted then you are outvoted. If we feel that we don't want to vote on this on the 22<sup>nd</sup> then you have to go along with what we say. She felt they were rushing this. Selectman Snow replied this is not the discussion and if she wants to fight with the Budget Committee then they can address it. He is attempting to bring this budget to the Budget Committee and let them know this is the Selectmen's input. He would prefer to vote on a bottom line on October 22<sup>nd</sup>. Selectman Soares said she wasn't going to argue with the Budget Committee, but you can't tell us we need to get this finalized by the 22<sup>nd</sup>. They need to get this done effectively with the help of our department heads and getting it done by the 22<sup>nd</sup> is not in our best interest. It is not feasible and we are not going to tick off the Budget Committee. They are going to understand that we are trying to do our due diligence and get the best budget we can. You can't just rush us. Chairman Duarte said if they turn this into the Budget Committee we can let them know that the gasoline line may change and we approve the budget contingent upon that. Selectman Snow agreed and we have a responsible to get the budget to Budget Committee. If they don't do this they are going to catch flack. Selectman Kelley asked who told Selectman Snow it has to be finalized on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Selectman Snow said the Budget Committee said they needed it by a certain date and the 22<sup>nd</sup> is the last meeting the Selectmen will meet before November. Citizen Todd Allen (and Budget Committee member) felt it was more accurate to say the Budget Committee was asking for commitments. Selectman Snow asked the Board what they would like the fuel line to be. He asked if they wanted \$24,000 to be the number they are sending to the Budget Committee. There was further discussion about the gasoline line and the budget. Selectman Kelley said he had a question on the cruiser. Selectman Soares asked if the Medi/FICA went up for detail wages because of the COLA. Selectmen's Assistant Eastman explained she calculated it off of the detail wages. Selectman Soares asked if it changes from year to year. Selectmen's Assistant Eastman replied

yes and we have up to "x" amount of dollars for detail wages, but we don't spend it all. Chairman Duarte asked if the maintenance was for the older cruisers. Chief McGillen said there are three older cruisers. The oldest cruiser they have is a 2006 and they use it for details. Selectman Snow said they have put together cruiser vehicle maintenance records for this year. It doesn't appear that there are significant costs. It's something for the Budget Committee to look at and say here is what the maintenance is on a car we think needs to be replaced next year. Selectman Soares asked what the years of the other cars were. Chief McGillen noted car 2 is a 2011 Crown Victoria, car 3 is a 2008 Ford Explorer, car 4 is a 2009 Crown Victoria, and car 5 is a 2012 Crown Victoria. The ACO van is a 2001 Chevy Express. Chief McGillen noted they are going to be over on the maintenance. They budgeted \$6,500 and they have spent \$5,751 and he has a couple of pending bills. He felt this line will be overspent by the end of the year. The mileage on the cruisers keeps getting higher one is at 131,000 miles which is the detail car and the supervisor's car is 113,000. Selectman Soares asked if the other three cars were under 100,000. There was discussion about the meters on the cruisers. Selectmen's Assistant Eastman clarified the FICA/Medi line for the special detail line should be \$230 instead \$908. Selectman Kelley thought they should talk about the cruiser line. Selectman Snow thought it should be a warrant article. Selectman Kelley said for the last couple of years they set aside money to buy a new cruiser. They would set aside \$15,000 one year and 15,000 another year. He felt they should stick with this program. Selectman Snow explained this program is not legal; you need to establish a capital reserve fund as opposed to using encumbrances. Encumbrances don't give the voters the opportunity to vote on what we are doing. It says we are doing it under the table and we are going to end up with criticism. Selectman Kelley asked Selectmen's Assistant Eastman if encumbering funds was okay to do. Selectmen's Assistant Eastman explained to have a legal encumbrance we need a contract or invoice in hand to encumber the cost. Selectman Kelley asked how the Board handled it these last few years. Selectmen's Assistant Eastman replied incorrectly. Selectman Snow explained we encumbered the 2010 funds and said we have an estimate of costs. This is not a contract, but it's an implied contract. We encumbered money in 2010 and in 2011. The process is inconsistent with statute. The problem he had with this is the residents didn't have the opportunity to choose if they wanted a new cruiser in either the budget or in a warrant article. Selectman Soares noted they can't use the unreserved fund balance. It can't be used for a new cruiser. Selectman Snow replied that is what we did in the past. Selectman Soares said we were not using the unreserved fund balance. She noted Selectman Snow uses it incorrectly in sentences all of the time. Selectman Snow clarified it is the amount of the appropriated dollars that had not been expended by the end of the year and would have gone into the unreserved fund balance, but instead we encumbered it to use it for something that had not been able to anticipate at the town meeting in March. He noted that town meeting in March did not vote for a cruiser. Selectman Kelley stated we can't touch the unreserved fund balance and we never had. Selectman Kelley felt if you put it in as a warrant article the town is going to vote it down. Chairman Duarte asked if the maintenance was mostly from one or two vehicles. Chief McGillen explained one of the new cruisers might need an oil change or transmission service. Most of the expenses are with the two older vehicles. He felt this would be reason for us to explain to the Budget Committee why we need a new cruiser. Chief McGillen mentioned the cars get tired, the officers feel unsafe, and then they get into a liability issue. Selectman Snow asked the Board how they want to handle the cruiser line. He asked if they all agree that the police department should get a cruiser next year. Selectman Kelley said there was an article in the paper about some police departments purchasing new cruisers, because the

Crown Victoria's are becoming outdated. The article was praising this other line of cars. He would like to research this. If they purchase something that is going to work better for us that's the way he would like to go. Selectman Snow asked Selectman Kelley if he would like to do the research before they buy another cruiser next year. He questioned if they should leave the line in or take it out. He asked if they want to do a capital reserve warrant article. This is something they need to look at and talk about before the October 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting. Selectman Soares said they could leave the line in with \$1.00 and they can add money to it. She noted they did encumber the money and it might not have been the best thing. It's a place to put the money. They can encumber the money at the end of the year, so it doesn't cost the taxpayers a huge amount. She noted that Auburn has purchased one of the new cars. Chief McGillen said it's the Ford Interceptor. It's supposed to be very fuel efficient. She suggested the Chief McGillen talk with Chief Picard to see how much it cost and if it's more economically viable for the town to purchase. They need to figure out what the best option is for us. This is a huge number that people are going to be very upset about. It's a big controversial issue for people in this town. Chief McGillen questioned if it was controversial. He talks to lot of people in town. Selectman Soares replied you would be surprised there are a lot of people in town who don't think we need a new cruiser. Chief McGillen explained they have two duty cruisers and the new one has 16,000 and the other one has 71,000 miles. This March that cruiser will be over 100,000 miles, so that will be three vehicles that are over 100,000 miles. He recommending they put in a new vehicle now and he is on board with finding something economical. The Interceptors are a v6 and they grip well. He has some good sized guys and the Auburn officers can't stand the Interceptor. It's hard to get in and out of in a hurry. He heard Ford makes a utility vehicle that's like an SUV and its all wheel drive. It has more room for equipment. The Londonderry police department just bought a whole fleet of them. He heard they are v6's like the Interceptor. They're probably about \$1,500 more than the sedan. This was one of the vehicles that he was looking into. Selectman Snow said he didn't want to leave just \$1.00 on the cruiser line. He would like to tell the citizens that we are going to do something and have money available to buy a cruiser. Chairman Duarte thought they should do a warrant article to see if the town wants to go along with it. If this should fail we need to make sure we get this cruiser. Selectman Kelley clarified that he was suggesting they leave the \$28,000 in the budget and put a warrant article in. If the warrant article passes you take the \$28,000 out of the budget. Chairman Duarte said this will give the Chief a little more time to find out what he wants, because he doesn't have to put a warrant article right away. Selectman Snow explained if they put a warrant article in and it fails it means we can't buy a cruiser. They could make the warrant article a capital reserve fund, but this requires the town to vote on it to take money out. Selectman Soares stated its simple you leave \$28,000 in the budget and you have the warrant article. Selectmen's Assistant Eastman explained there is the "no means no" rule, if the warrant article fails you don't get a cruiser for that year. Chief McGillen would like the money budgeted for a cruiser instead of a warrant article. Selectman Kelley asked what if the Budget Committee fights it and at the town meeting it gets cut out. At the end of the year we are going to have money left over in our budget. We'll take some of the money and put it on the cruiser line. Then the next year we'll put the rest in and they can purchase a new cruiser. If they go to the Deliberative Session and they cut the money out. His idea is take some money left in the budget and the next year put the rest of the money in. Chief McGillen didn't think they should skip a year. It would keep the cruisers at low mileage. This would keep the maintenance cost low and the vehicles would be safer. It would be nice to have a capital reserve fund. Every year they get into a discussion about a cruiser for

\$24,000 - \$25,000. He has seen what has happened to other warrant articles and he knows is difficult economic times. Selectman Kelley felt this would get voted down. He reiterated if they had \$10,000 or \$15,000 at the end of the year they could put it towards a cruiser. Next year they could put in the rest to buy a cruiser. Chief McGillen thought they should leave the number in the budget. Selectman Snow explained the Budget Committee can't do "no means no" in the operating budget, because they are looking at the bottom line. If there is \$1.00 in there you can't take it out. This would mean if they put it in there the money would be available to be spent. Even if they cut the bottom line there is still a line item in there. If you go to a warrant article "no means no" works. If they were to go with a capital reserve warrant article that says we have taken money and put it in there. The article can say funding comes from the unreserved fund balance surplus. The legislative body has the right to say where the funds come from and they recommend that. Selectmen's Assistant Eastman noted if it's written in the warrant article that the funds would come from the unreserved fund balance then yes it would. Selectman Snow mentioned they now have a surplus which is over the 13% recommended amount that they can keep as an unreserved fund balance. Selectman Soares reiterated that in the past the police cruiser has been a problem and a decisive issue on the Budget Committee. They are going to look at this and are not going to like it. People in this town listen to what the Budget Committee has to say and they look at the recommendations of the Budget Committee. If the Budget Committee is not in favor of a police cruiser it's not going to fly. Selectman Snow said it's a decision that the Budget Committee has to make. The decision on the cruiser will be a decision the legislative body makes at town meeting. Selectman DePuy asked about leasing police cruisers. Chief McGillen noted Auburn does it and they get two every year. Selectman Soares said they do three year leases. Selectman Kelley said he didn't want to deal with that. Selectman Snow noted they have a DARE car fund that needed to be removed or changed in purpose. Citizen Todd Allen said he wasn't speaking for the Budget Committee, but in the past the police department asked for a new cruiser without providing any information of why you needed a new car. He also noted to encumber funds you need to have a legally enforceable obligation. You need an invoice or a contract that says you are obligated these funds and a vendor can take you to court to enforce it. The Boards choices are you can encumber it by have an invoice or a contract or put it in a fund like Selectman Snow said. The school does this almost every year. They take whatever wasn't spent during the year and put it in a fund and when they need to buy something they take it out of the fund. Selectman DePuy stated they have two cruisers that are over 100,000. He felt they should put the \$28,000 in the budget for a new cruiser, because those other two are going to fail and this is the responsible thing to do. Selectman Snow felt they could justify this to the Budget Committee. He would like information for the October 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting. Chief McGillen said he was going to recommend a cruiser. The Board will make a decision on the gas and cruiser lines at the October 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting.

**Town Building Expenses:** Selectman Snow said they are going to take the tank replacement expenses out of the fund instead of the budget. Selectman Soares said that is what they planned on doing. Selectman Kelley motioned to accept the Town Building Expenses budget at \$36,725. Seconded by Selectman DePuy. All were in favor. Motion carried.

**Town Officers Expenses:** Selectman Kelley motioned to accept the Town Officers Expenses at \$173,172. Seconded by Selectman Duarte. All were in favor. Motion carried.

**Welfare:** Chairman Duarte looked at the bottom line and it looks like there aren't any changes. Selectman Soares said she is looking at the client list and they have an average of 4 clients. She doesn't know why there is an increase in the pay scale where there has not been an increase in clients. Welfare Director DelRosso explained she makes the appointments with the clients and it takes time and resources. They may or may not qualify. She could see 20 people in a given month and only 6 of those qualify. It doesn't mean that she doesn't take time to resource those other potential clients. This doesn't include the time that she is on the phone, setting up meetings, and checking resources. Selectman Soares said she was aware of that, but she is aware that she used to do this stuff and she understands the time that is put into it. The amount of time it takes per client doesn't justify \$10,000. There are some months where there are no clients at all. She didn't see the work load increasing. Welfare Director DelRosso explained she oversaw the department in the summer and the winter is much worse. During the winter there are a lot more clients that need heating oil. Selectman Snow said the bottom line is Chairman Duarte is running that department. Selectman Soares said she ran the department for two years and she is aware of what is going on. There are consistently 4 clients. She didn't see an increase to justify the \$12,000 budget. The wage line was decreased last year because the duties have decreased. The Health Officer was moved to the Building Department. Welfare Director DelRosso stated she was never asked to be the Health Officer and Building Inspector Murray has not experience in that. She has past experience in the medical field for over 30 years. Selectman Soares mentioned that she has been give a maximum of 10 hours per week to work and she consistently sees over 10 hours on the time cards. She doesn't see any justification for the 12 hours. Welfare Director DelRosso explained those hours include meetings, and seminars. She told Selectman Soares that the information regarding clients is confidential, so you shouldn't know how many clients I have. Selectman Soares replied the Selectmen are allowed to know about the clients. She checked with the LGC Attorney and all Selectmen are privy to the client information. We also are privy to the information on the people who owe taxes. They are in charge of this town and they have that right. Welfare Director DelRosso said she had to check on that. Selectman Soares replied they have every right to that information. Selectmen's Assistant Eastman clarified that Selectmen don't have the clients names they see client numbers. Selectman Soares added she just looks at the numbers, but the Selectmen do have the right to view the clients names. Selectman Snow said if Selectman Soares has a problem with the way Welfare Director DelRosso is running the department she should talk to the department head. Selectman Soares said she was asking Welfare Director DelRosso to explain to her why she needs \$12,000 in her budget. She is asking for justification for her request. Selectman Kelley agree that they are supposed to be asking the department heads questions. Welfare Director DelRosso noted this is the same budget as last year. Chairman Duarte said this is what he requested from her. He agreed that she sees a number of people who don't qualify for welfare. Chairman Duarte motioned to approve the Welfare budget at \$12,615. Seconded by Selectman DePuy. Selectman Soares stated there aren't enough clients to justify \$12,000. Chairman Duarte, Selectman Snow, Selectman DePuy were in favor and Selectman Kelley and Selectman Soares were opposed. Motion carried on a vote of 3 to 2.

**Direct Assistance:** Selectman Snow stated the line is \$49,615. Selectman Soares felt the line should be \$35,000. Selectman Snow asked how much has been spent so far. It was noted \$16,000 has been spent from the direct assistance line for this year. Chairman Duarte had some concerns on the heating fuel for this winter. He asked Welfare Director DelRosso what she felt



about reducing the line. Welfare Director DelRosso said they could put the line where they want, but if she spends \$80,000 the town is going to have to come up with the money because it's the only line that is state regulated. Chairman Duarte thought \$35,000 was a good recommendation. Selectman Snow noted there was quite a spread on what was spent over the past five years \$36,000 to \$60,000. Selectmen's Assistant Eastman noted you can't rely on that number because there were a lot of cases where people were receiving assistance and shouldn't have. This issue has since been resolved which is why you see such a drop in expenses. Selectman Snow said they could bring it down to \$45,000. Chairman Duarte thought they could live with \$35,000. Selectman Soares said if they dropped below the line they would have to put money back in. She thought it needed to be decreased. Selectman Snow said if they decrease it to one dollar the money would have to come from other departments. There should be a number that is in there that is reasonable. Selectman Kelley said they spent \$16,000 this year and he didn't think they were going to spend another \$25,000. Selectman Snow motioned to amend and approve the Direct Assistance line at \$36,000. Seconded by Selectman Kelley. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Selectman Snow explained they have numbers on everything except for Animal Control, Conservation Commission, Election/Voter Registration, Insurances, and the Police Department. Selectman Snow said if you leave in the numbers you will get a tentative bottom line number

Selectman Snow would like to go over some of the anticipated warrant articles. Selectman Soares would like to go over the warrant articles on the 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Selectman Snow said they will have the bottom line number on October 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Selectman Duarte motioned to adjourn 12:54 p.m. Seconded by Selectman Kelley. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,  
Andria Hansen, Recording Secretary