

**Newington Board of Selectmen
Meeting**

**January 3, 2005
Newington Town Hall
6:30 p.m.**

In attendance: Chairman Jan Stuart, Selectman Jack O'Reilly, Selectman Cosmas Iocovozzi, Fire Chief Roy Greenleaf, Police Commissioners Douglas A. Ross, F. Jackson Hoyt, Vincent Frank, Police Chief Bradley B. Loomis, Sewer Commissioner George Fletcher, Town Planner Thomas Morgan and AA Cynthia Gillespie.

6:30 PM – *Call to Order*

Pledge of Allegiance

Budget Reviews

George Fletcher presented the Sewer Commission Budget in the amount of \$633,430 to the Board. Selectman O'Reilly noted that the Operations Contract and Major Maintenance lines both had substantial increases. Mr. Fletcher explained that last year there was a small increase in the Operations Contract. This year, because of the fuel prices which have had an affect on heating the building and electricity, the Operations Contract needs to be increased. Major Maintenance includes an engineering study to get the water out of the sludge. This will make the disposal costs cheaper because it goes by weight. The Commission also plans to replace the blowers in the treatment units, which are all twenty five years old. This is going to cost \$68,000. Mr. Fletcher added that other repairs will include; hot top at two pump stations, alarm modification at the treatment plant for \$8,000 and safety cabinets for the shop \$900. Manhole and cover replacement will be \$700 to \$1300 each or approximately \$9,100. Two floors need to be epoxy totaling \$8,000. The seams in the wet wells at both pump stations are leaking and need to be sealed, which will cost \$8,000. Mr. Fletcher stated that the Commission included emergency repairs of \$18,000, because this year there was an emergency repair at one of the pump stations that cost \$16,000.

Selectman O'Reilly made the motion to recommend the Sewer Commission Budget in the amount of \$633,430 to the Budget Committee. Seconded by Selectman Iocovozzi. Vote 3-0.

Police Chief Bradley Loomis along with Police Commissioners Douglas Ross, Jackson Hoyt and Vincent Frank presented the Police Department budget in the amount of \$1,077,105 to the Board. Selectman O'Reilly noted that the budget increase is 13.39%. Selectman O'Reilly asked if the department's secretary is on the step program. Chief Loomis said that she was and that this year she will receive the 3% COLA as well as a 1.56% step increase. Selectman O'Reilly asked why there is such a large increase in Firearms Training. Chief Loomis stated that the department has a new instructor that is very pro-active. He will be instituting a lot of new reality training and simulations. Selectman O'Reilly asked if the department was planning to hire a new full time officer. Chief Loomis confirmed. This officer is just to replace the missing tenth officer (not an additional officer).

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This will eliminate the need for some of the part-timer officers. Commissioner Hoyt noted that the wage for Outside Details will be increased from \$30.00 to \$32.00. Chief Loomis stated that retirement is increased partly due to the new officer, but mostly because the Town's contribution has gone up from 7.87% to 9.68%. He added that most of the increase in the overall budget is due to increases in the health and dental insurance costs. Selectman O'Reilly stated that he objected to the expenditure of \$1,100 for denim shirts for the guys in the department. He added that was money left over that could have been returned to the Town. Selectman Iocovozzi asked how much money the department was returning to the Town. Chief Loomis said it was about \$16,000. Chairman Stuart said she had no problem with the expenditure, considering everything the guys do for the Town. Commissioner Hoyt stated that the Commission felt that it was a small gesture to say "Thank You for a Year Well Done". Commissioner Frank stated that the police officers in Newington put their lives on the line for this Town. At night Newington is a small town, during the day it turns into a class "C" – city, with 100,000 people. He added that the gesture was the Commissions'. Chief Loomis pointed out that the \$16,000 that is being turned back to the Town this year, is the smallest amount that he has turned back since he started with Newington. Selectman O'Reilly stated that he agrees that the guys are a great bunch of guys and are very deserving. He stressed that he was just making a point. Selectman O'Reilly noted the new line item for Communication Equipment. Chief Loomis explained that the department is planning to retain one or both of the cars this year, to use as extras. Currently the Detective and the Prosecutor are sharing the same vehicle. The department is scheduled to purchase two new cruisers this year. The Chief pointed out that he is requesting \$53,000 in Capital Outlay for the cruisers. Chairman Stuart asked why the uniform line dropped by \$1000. Chief Loomis explained it is due to the decrease in part-timers and the new recruit will not be getting his/her allowance until next year.

Selectman Iocovozzi made the motion to recommend the Police Department Budget in the amount of \$1,007,105 to the Budget Committee. Seconded by Chairman Stuart. Vote 2-Yes 1-Abstained.

Mr. Clifford Abbott addressed the Board of Selectman regarding changes that the Board recommended in the Cemetery Budget to the Budget Committee. He stated that when the fence is replaced at the Cemetery the old fence needs to be disposed of and rocks need to be moved. Lenny, John and Kenny will be doing the work. Mr. Abbott asked where the labor will be charged to. Selectman Iocovozzi stated that since a lot of the fence is on the Town's side, the labor can come out of the Highway Budget. Mr. Abbott said that John Frink is the Cemetery Sexton. John handles the work that needs to be done and Mr. Abbott deals with the people.

Thomas Morgan presented the Planning Board Budget in the amount of \$41,775 to the Board. In addition the Board of Selectman applied salary and benefit lines totaling \$76,562. The total Planning Board Budget is \$121,012. Selectman O'Reilly stated that the budget is a 7.4% increase. Selectman O'Reilly recommended that the wage line be decreased by \$1,000 to \$2,500 base on usage. He also

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recommended removing the \$675 for the Rockingham County Planning Board from the Dues and Subscription line. Selectman Iocovozzi asked what the advantage was to belonging to the Rockingham Planning Board. Tom Morgan said that if the Town did not have a planner the Town could benefit by using the County Planning Board for technical support, with a Town Planner there is not much use for it. Selectman O'Reilly also recommended (based on usage) decreasing the general supplies line by \$500 to \$1,000. Master plan was decreased to \$4,500. Chairman Stuart asked if the Board decreases the wage line by \$1,000 will that leave enough to cover all the meetings the Planning Board secretary covers. These decreases change the rate of increase to 6.8%. The Board of Selectman believes that Sandy Sweeney is doing a great job and deserves an hourly increase. The Board strongly encourages the Planning Board to address this.

Selectman O'Reilly made a motion to recommend the Planning Board Budget in the amount of \$118,337 to the Budget Committee.

Miscellaneous

Selectman O'Reilly made a motion to authorize the Chairman of the Board to sign a letter to the Newington School Supporters supporting their efforts in obtaining a Grant to purchase new playground equipment for the School. Seconded by Selectman Iocovozzi. Vote 3-0.

Selectman O'Reilly stated that he plans to attend the Coalition meeting on January 11th at the Winnacunet High School.

Selectman O'Reilly made a motion to encumber a Purchase Order in the amount of \$3,710.00 to Hartmann Enterprises, for the reshaping of the Town's gravel pit. Seconded by Selectman Iocovozzi. Vote 3-0.

AA Gillespie presented the Board with information regarding Workers' Compensation Insurance costs. She stated that upon review of information dated 1985 through 2004, from Primex (the Town's current carrier) and the Local Government Centers recent quote, she found the rates are virtually the same. It really does not make sense to change companies. She added that Primex is offering a 5% Multi-Year Discount Program if the Town agrees to contract with them for 3 years. Selectman O'Reilly made a motion to authorize the Chairman of the Board to sign a Multi-Year contract with Primex for the purchase of Workers' Compensation Insurance. Seconded by Selectman Iocovozzi. Vote 3-0.

The Board reviewed an e-mail from the State of New Hampshire regarding the 2005 Standard Mileage Rates. The Internal Revenue Service released the optional standard mileage rates to be use for 2005 as follows: 40.5 cents a mile for all business miles driven, up from 37.5 cents a mile in 2004. Selectman O'Reilly stated that he believed this increase is due to the rise in vehicle fuel.

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Selectman O'Reilly made a motion to increase the mileage rate for reimbursement of travel for the Town to 40.5 cents a mile. Seconded by Selectman Iocovozzi. Vote 3-0.

Selectman Iocovozzi made a motion to accept the revised Safety Manual. Seconded by Selectman O'Reilly. Vote 3-0.

Tom Morgan told the Board to wait on further correspondence from Danna Truslow of the Seacoast Land Trust before signing the Offer-Agreement on Trickey's Cove Conservation Easement. Selectman O'Reilly made a motion to table the Offer-Agreement review. Seconded by Selectman Iocovozzi. Vote 3-0.

A Town Hall Use Form for Doug Reed for a January 20th Celiac Sprue Meeting was approved and signed.

8:02 PM – Chairman Stuart opened the Public Hearing

The purpose of this Public Hearing is to consider the acquisition of land pursuant to NH RSA 41:14-a. The subject property is presently owned by the Matrix Financial Group, and is situated at 25 Piscataqua Drive, Tax Map 27, Lot 22. The purpose of the land acquisition is to enable the extension of Shattuck Way southerly towards Portsmouth. A plan of the location of the 60-foot wide strip proposed for the acquisition was presented to the Board by W. Gregory Harville, VP of Operations of Wilcox Industries. Wilcox Industries are currently under agreement to purchase the property from Matrix Financial Group. After review and discussion the Public Hearing was closed at 8:15 PM.

There being no further business before the Board:

Adjourn 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cynthia Gillespie
Administrative Assistant