

Budget Committee  
February 9, 2008      *Accepted 9/17/08 with Amendments*  
Public Hearing on School & Town Budget

Chairman Larry Wahl called the meeting to order at 1:00pm.

Present: Chr. Wahl, Budget Committee Members Tom Benson, School Board Rep Helen Maldini, Darin Sabine, Gail Klanchesser, Selectmen's Rep Jack O'Reilly, John Lamson, and Russell Cooke; Jim Katkin and George Cushing of SAU 50, Principal Helen Rist, School Board Member Jack Anderson, Police Commissioner Doug Ross, Police Chief Jon Tretter, Fire Commissioners Wib Goin and Ruth Fletcher, Fire Chief Roy Greenleaf, Secretary Sarah McQuade, Peg Lamson, Library Trustees Dot Noseworthy and Julie Biron, Treasurer George Fletcher, Justin Richardson and Daughter, and Jean Bowser. (Rick Stern arrived at 2:15pm)

Gail Klanchesser moved to accept the minutes of January 30 (Jack O'Reilly seconded) and February 2 (John Lamson seconded). The minutes were passed with amendments (*add option of ceiling fan to discussion to 2/2/08 minutes re: Old Town Hall, Page 1 near bottom*) - Helen Maldini Abstained on 2/2/08 minute vote.

Chr Wahl spoke of RSA 32:5, V-a re: noting tally of votes taken and to see Warrant Article #19 to vote this action as permanent or not.

**School 2008 Budget - \$ 1,812,592**

Jack O'Reilly moved to recommend – Gail Klanchesser seconded.

The public hearing was declared open at 1:05pm.

*George Fletcher* asked for an explanation of the employer/employee contribution of health and dental.  
Jim Katkin answered the District pays 80 % for the Indemnity Plan  
District pays 85 % for the POS Blue Choice  
District pays 90% for the HMO Plan  
District pays 100% for the Dental

*Ruth Fletcher* asked if we anticipate more Special Ed students as it went up.  
Helen Maldini noted that actually, Special Ed went down.

The public hearing for the school portion was declared closed at 1:10pm. Chr. Wahl called for a vote to accept \$1,812,592 and the motion passed 8-0.

**Town 2008 Budget - \$ 6,001,367**

At 1:15 Chr Wahl asked for a motion on the Town portion of the budget. Helen Maldini moved to recommend \$ 6,001,367 and Gail Klanchesser seconded.

*Ruth Fletcher* asked why the E/O Wages went from \$78,000 to \$ 90,000. Jack O'Reilly answered by stating we have an extra payroll in 2008, we have increased the Deputy Tax Collector/Town Clerk's hours and that this line covers the Admin Asst, Finance Help, the Receptionist and the Deputy.

*Ruth Fletcher* asked about the Shredding Line and wondered why we couldn't use our shredder. The AA Bea Marconi answered by stating this is for end of year cleaning – 5 to 10 boxes and it would not be cost effective to have it done by our machine, nor could it take the volume.

*Ruth Fletcher* asked why postage and advertising increased. It was explained that we would like to get a larger mail meter and that advertising went up to place notices in both papers.

*Ruth Fletcher* Elections went to \$3,800 vs \$ 1,000 last year. Suggested increasing by \$8,000 ish. It was explained that more elections meant more work. Speaking as Moderator, she noted that the new NH mandates were going to continue to be in place and suggested the Supervisors of the Check list get more money – perhaps hourly vs. stipend. Next year, there will be one election, the following year 2 or 3. The three supervisors split \$875 annually. Stipend increase or delete stipend and just pay hourly? Jack O'Reilly and Jan Stuart both agreed that it should be either one or the other. The \$75 would stay in place for the election workers and the time the supervisors were there. The extra or different pay would be for special evenings or the extra reports the State needs. In the end, John Lamson suggested the Budget Committee consider increasing the bottom line by \$8,000 and let the Selectmen decide on how or if to apply it.

*Peg Lamson* asked for the Stipends breakout for everyone. Jack O'Reilly said perhaps a list will be in the hand outs at Town Meeting and stated she agreed with Ruth Fletcher's suggestion to pay the Supervisors more.

*Ruth Fletcher* asked for details on the Merit/C.O.L.A. increase. Jack O'Reilly explained that 2.4 % was the C.O.L.A. and to bring the Town Hall Employees more in line, they are budgeted for a 2.6 % merit increase for this year. (Town Hall Employees do not have steps like the Police & Fire Departments do).

*Ruth Fletcher* asked about the Traffic Signals and Blinking Lights and suggested the Town looks into converting them to solar power. Jack O'Reilly stated we had one that was working out very well. 3 years ago, a flashing light like we have cost \$ 2,500. The monthly cost for a blinking light is \$ 8.91.

*Jack Anderson* asked what was behind the increases in the Transfer Station this year and asked if anything was planned to address hazardous waste more consistently than twice a year in Portsmouth. Jack O'Reilly answered by saying our operators are certified now. There are plans to recycle florescent bulbs but you have to take certain measures in doing so, ie: special bins. A small shed is going on site and area covers are planned for safety reasons over spots for cardboard, etc. As far as expanding Haz Waste collection, Selectman Iocovozzi said people who throw the wrong materials in the incorrect collection bins or in the trash could drive the town's costs upward. Twice a year is difficult, however we'd have to hire an OSHA compliant contractor to cover if full recycling was permitted and all the time.

*Justin Richardson* is pleased with the bin covers and congratulated Craig Daigle on doing such a good job. *Jack Anderson* spoke highly of Craig also.

*Ruth Fletcher* questioned why the Cemetery Stipends is not lumped into the other stipends. Jack O'Reilly said either place, it does not affect the bottom line.

*Ruth Fletcher* asked why Welfare only increased to \$4,000 from \$2,500 when \$4,500 was spent. Jack O'Reilly noted that funding Welfare is a shot in the dark. One never knows.

*Ruth Fletcher* asked about the \$50,000 for Fox Point – Selectmen's Rep. O'Reilly answered for work on the Carriage House, Chicken Coop, continue with the Erosion engineering, doors, basement floors also in the Carriage Hse.

*Ruth Fletcher* asked about the Historic records restoration and if another \$7,000 in restoration was planned for in 2008 on top of what was encumbered from 2007. Jack O'Reilly answered yes. She also asked about the CLG grant and Jack O'Reilly answered by stating you must have the funds budgeted for as one of the conditions to qualify. Will either be a wash, or the funds just not spent.

*Ruth Fletcher* questioned why if only \$557 was spent out of Conservation why budget \$3,500 for secretarial needs. Justin Richardson, Chr. of the Conservation Commission stated that had lost their minute taker and anticipated more of a need to get files in order and minutes in 2008.

*Ruth Fletcher* asked about the status of the Town Forest. Jack O'Reilly stated that we are moving forward with final FAA approval in the wings. As far as the money budgeted for the forest, we will need to hire a forest manager and have a forestry plan created.

*Jack Anderson* asked about the \$105,000 in cap outlay. Jack O'Reilly answered it was for the erosion project specked out in multiple phases. He spoke of the limited window to complete this work and added that perhaps in phase III, work on the boat ramp may be considered.

*George Fletcher* asked what the \$20,000 in highway for vehicle maintenance may be for. Selectman Iocovozzi answered for clean up, sand blast frame – on the '97 bucket truck. We should make a strong effort to keep it up.

Chr. Larry Wahl closed the public hearing at 2:09pm after hearing no further questions.

Selectmen's Rep Jack O'Reilly stated that an unanticipated high amount had been spent on salt and with the prices increasing by \$15.00 per ton after we are capped out, would the budget committee keep it in the back of their minds and a better idea of amount spent would be available at town meeting.

John Lamson, in discussing the Supervisor's of the Check List request for more funds, stated that he feels the budget committee should recommend the funds and let the Selectmen decide if they should be paid hourly, stipened, or both. Gail Klanchesser mentioned that in the past there was a town vote regarding the town clerk's payment method from hourly to stipened.

The following motions were made and voted on.

Jack O'Reilly moved to recommend a Conservation Commission budget of \$ 20,500.  
John Lamson seconded. Motion passed 8 to 0.

Gail Klanchesser moved to recommend a Library budget of \$ 70,199.  
Helen Maldini seconded. Motion passed 8 to 0.

Helen Maldini moved to recommend a Recreation budget of \$ 56,305.  
John Lamson seconded. Motion passed 8 – 0.  
(Jack O'Reilly added that the parental contribution is now at \$300 with a \$600 cap for the YMCA Summer Program)

Gail Klanchesser moved to recommend a Highway budget of \$367,050.  
Jack O'Reilly seconded. Motion passed 8-0.  
(Salt purchases will be considered at town meeting)

Gail Klanchesser moved to recommend a Sewer Department budget of \$712,406.  
Helen Maldini seconded. Motion passed 8-0.

Gail Klanchesser moved to recommend a Planning Dept budget of \$137,532.  
John Lamson seconded. Motion passed 8-0.

Jack O'Reilly moved to recommend a Cemetery budget of \$ 19,030.  
Gail Klanchesser seconded. Motion passed 8-0.

Gail Klanchesser moved to recommend an Historic District Commission budget of \$ 12,000.  
Helen Maldini seconded. Motion passed 8-0.

Gail Klanchesser moved to recommend a Police Dept budget of \$1,222,248  
John Lamson seconded. Motion passed 8-0

Gail Klanchesser moved to recommend a Fire Dept budget of \$1,137,018  
Helen Maldini seconded. Motion passed 7-0 Darin Sabin abstained

Gail Klanchesser moved to recommend a general town budget of \$2,247,079  
Helen Maldini seconded.  
John Lamson moved to amend the recommended amount by adding \$8,000  
bringing the new total to \$2,255,079  
Darin Sabin seconded. Larry Wahl and Jack O'Reilly abstained-Motion passed.  
(suggesting the stipend line to be increased)

When the Chr called for the vote amending the original motion by \$8,000 bringing  
the new total to \$ 6,009,367 as moved and seconded by HM & GK, the motion passed 8 to 0.

**\$ 6,009,367**

**Warrant Articles**

Chairman Wahl called the Public Hearing for Warrant Article portion open for comment at 2:12pm.

**ARTICLE 5:** To see what sum the municipality will vote to raise and appropriate for the operating budget. The Budget Committee recommends \$ **6,009,367 ( x to x )** the Board of Selectmen recommends \$ 5,997,867 **(3 to 0)** This article does not include appropriations voted in other warrant articles.

No public comment as was just discussed at length.

GK moved to recommend/JO seconded

**Motion passed 8-0**

(Rick Stern Arrived)

**ARTICLE 6:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of *Four Thousand Dollars (\$4,000)* to be placed in the existing Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 which was established to fund capital improvements for the Cemetery.

**THIS ARTICLE IS RECOMMENDED BY THE SELECTMEN** by a vote of 3 to 0

Last year we added \$5,000 to this account and it now has a balance of \$ 10,597

No public comment

GK moved to recommend/JO seconded

**Motion passed 8-0**

**1 abstention R.S.**

**ARTICLE 7:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of *Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000)* to be placed in the existing Conservation Fund established in accordance with RSA

36-A:5 to be used for expenses associated with the purchase of Conservation Land and open space, easements, wetlands, and other land management acquisitions.

THIS ARTICLE IS RECOMMENDED BY THE SELECTMEN by a vote of 3/0

Last year we added \$50,000 to this account and it now has a balance of approx \$264,200

No public comment

GK moved to recommend/JO seconded

**Motion passed 9-0**

**ARTICLE 8:** To see if the Town shall vote to raise and appropriate the sum of *Sixty Five Thousand Dollars (\$65,000)* to be placed in the existing Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 which was established for the purpose of construction or improvements to our Highway (Town Garage) Building.

THIS ARTICLE IS RECOMMENDED BY THE SELECTMEN by a vote of 3/0

Last year we created and added \$50,000 to this account and it now has a balance of \$50,016

No public comment. Helen Maldini asked why \$65,000 is requested. Selectmen's Rep O'Reilly replied that the bldg is in tough shape and more than likely, the town will be asked to consider approval for a bond to fund what won't be in reserve when needed.

GK moved to recommend/JO seconded

**Motion passed 9-0**

**ARTICLE 9:** To see if the Town of Newington will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of *Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000)* to be added to our existing Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of Replacement and/or Major Repairs of Vehicles and equipment operated by the Highway Department.

THIS ARTICLE IS RECOMMENDED BY THE SELECTMEN by a vote of 3/0

Last year we added \$5,000 to this account and it now has a balance of \$28,781

No public comment.

JL moved to recommend/DS seconded

**Motion passed 9-0**

**ARTICLE 10:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of *Twenty Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000)* to be placed in the existing Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the Replacement and/or Repair of Vehicles Operated by the Fire Department.

THIS ARTICLE IS RECOMMENDED BY THE SELECTMEN by a vote of 3/0

Last year we added \$ 15,000 to this account and it now has a balance of \$ 183,287

No public comment. Rick Stern asked why this year \$25,000 is requested. Selectman Iocovozzi answered by stating costs to repair go up – this is like an emergency fund. Russ Cooke asked about replacement year and projected costs. Fire Engineer Wib Goins stated we'll be lucky if we get it around \$400,000 and we're probably looking at 2010 or 2011. Chr. Wahl said we cannot use capital reserve funds to sponsor a lease. Selectmen's Rep O'Reilly stated that when we get our funds close, then we can budget money in cap overlay if need be for that final year.

GK moved to recommend/TB seconded

**Motion passed 9-0**

**ARTICLE 11:** To see if the Town shall vote to raise and appropriate the sum of *Twenty Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000)* to be placed in the existing Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 known as the Major Road Work Fund which was established for the purpose of funding major improvements to roadways.

THIS ARTICLE IS RECOMMENDED BY THE SELECTMEN by a vote of 3/0

Last year we created and added \$25,000 to this account and it now has a balance of \$ 25,008

No public comment

DS moved to recommend/RS seconded

**Motion passed 9-0**

**ARTICLE 12:** To see if the Town of Newington will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of *Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000)* to be added to the existing Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of maintenance, repair and improvements of Town Recreational Facilities and Equipment.

THIS ARTICLE IS RECOMMENDED BY THE SELECTMEN by a vote of 3/0

Last year we added \$10,000 to this account and it now has a balance of \$ 9,008

*Ruth Fletcher* asked what the town had in mind. *Chr Wahl* said that perhaps something behind Old Town Hall with *Helen Maldini* adding perhaps an all purpose field or LaCrosse.

HM moved to recommend/RC seconded

**Motion passed 9-0**

**ARTICLE 13:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of *Twelve Thousand Dollars (\$12,000)* to be placed in the existing Expendable Trust Fund under the provisions of RSA 31:19-a for the purpose of payments of Severance to Town Employees in accordance with the Town's Personnel Policy.

THIS ARTICLE IS RECOMMENDED BY THE SELECTMEN by a vote of 3/0

Last year we added \$ 15,000 to this account and it now has a balance of \$ 57,883

*George Fletcher* questioned the need for this fund and what the liability was. *Jack O'Reilly* stated that it is suggested by the Auditors that we keep about 60% of the liability funded at all times. *AA Beatrice Marconi* stated that we spent \$9,000 this year with people leaving and the other \$3,000 was to cover salary increases - keeping our funding in line. *Russ Cooke* asked why it couldn't be funded each year out of budgets. *Cyndi Gillespie*, finance advisor replied that this was not an expenditure, but a liability and re-enforced auditing requirements.

DS moved to recommend/TB seconded

**Motion passed 9-0**

**ARTICLE 14:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of *Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000)* to be placed in the existing Capital Reserve Fund under provisions of RSA 35:1 for the Replacement of the Town Ambulance and any Major Medical Equipment.

THIS ARTICLE IS RECOMMENDED BY THE SELECTMEN by a vote of 3/0

Last year we added \$10,000 to this account and it now has a balance of \$ 50,453

No public comment. *Russ Cooke* asked when approximately the town plans to replace the ambulance. *Chief Greenleaf* replied 2013 or 2014.

JL moved to recommend/TB seconded

**Motion passed 9-0**

**ARTICLE 15:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of *Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000)* to be placed in the existing Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the Fox Point Pavilion.

THIS ARTICLE IS RECOMMENDED BY THE SELECTMEN by a vote of 2/1

Last year we added \$ 25,000 to this account and it now has a balance of \$ 122,654

*Jack Anderson* asked what the plan was and why funding so low this year. *Jack O'Reilly* said that out of necessity, the Selectmen needed to shift its priority and concentrate funding into the highway garage cap reserve. He went on to note the change in the Fox Pt Pavilion language last year from construct to renovate or construct. The Carriage House cost to renovate was around \$400,000. He spoke of existing bonds like Old Town Hall and felt that once that bond is paid off, consideration as to just what should happen down there will be again a very active topic. *Jack Anderson* felt adequate funding should continue to be added. *Larry Wahl* said it is again funded this year to keep the project in the public interest. *Selectman Stuart* added that prioritizing is very important. *Jack O'Reilly* noted that \$50,000 in maintenance funds is dedicated to the Carriage House this year. *Helen Maldini* hoped to see an increase and *Chr Wahl* mentioned to keep Town Meeting in mind to do so. *Rick Stern* felt that the name Fox Point Pavilion was confusing especially if renovations will be made to the Carriage

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House vs construction of a pavilion.

GK moved to recommend/JO seconded

**Motion passed 8-1**

**HM opposed**

**ARTICLE 16:** To see if the Town shall vote to raise and appropriate the sum of *Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000)* under the provisions of RSA 35:1 to be placed in the existing Capital Reserve Fund known as the Mott Pond Drainage Improvement Fund.

THIS ARTICLE IS RECOMMENDED BY THE SELECTMEN by a vote of 3/0

Last year we created and added \$ 10,000 to this account and it now has a balance of \$ 10,003

*Jack Anderson* asked for detail and Selectman *Iocovozzi* responded with concerns of the road and damming. *John Lamson* felt it was a mill pond which has been there for over 200 years. Selectman *Iocovozzi* felt the project should be on the front burner in a matter of 3 or 4 years and that the town was going to continue to monitor.

DS moved to recommend/JO seconded

**Motion passed 9-0**

Selectmen's Rep *Jack O'Reilly* moved to adjourn at 3:10. *Helen Maldini* seconded. Motion passed.

**Respectively Submitted,**

**Beatrice Marconi**

**Administrative Assistant**