

**Public Hearing Meeting**  
**Town of Newington Town Hall**  
**February 11, 2006**

**DRAFT**

**Present:** Chairman Alfred Smith, Board of Selectmen Representative Jack O'Reilly, Candice Cantelupo, Rick Stern, Gail Klanchesser, Larry Wahl, Helen Maldini, Dennis Acton, Russ Cooke, Dick Spinney, School Representatives and various members of the public.

**Larry Wahl moved to accept the minutes of February 1, 2006** with corrections. **Dennis Acton seconded.** Chairman Smith called for a vote all were in favor **motion passed.**

**Gail Klanchesser moved** to accept the minutes of February 4, 2006. **Larry Wahl seconded the motion.** Chairman Smith asked for a vote, all were in favor **motion passed**

**Jack O'Reilly made a motion** to begin the discussion on the School Budget request in the amount of \$1,899,479.00. **Motion seconded by Helen Maldini.**

The Chairman Smith then asked if there were in any question or concerns. Barbara McDonald thanked the School Board for providing salaries both the gross and the net.

Chairman Smith stated given the increase in the tuition costs, he felt the school budget demonstrated fiscal responsibility. Being that there were no comments in regards to the School Budget request, the Chairman then asked for a vote. All were in favor for the school budget of \$1,899,479.00.

Next was article two for the school renovations in the amount of \$49,780.00. At this time the article was opened for discussion. Being that there was no discussion on this matter the Chairman asked for a vote, all were in favor, **motion passed.**

The Chairman moved to article three is a request for \$30,000.00 to be added to the already existing maintenance fund. **Larry Wahl moved to open this matter for discussion and Helen Maldini seconded it.** Dave Sweeny asked what the amount of the existing fund was and what the scope of the work would be. Chairman Smith then stated that there is \$100,002.00 in the fund at this time. Chairman Smith also explained the difference between planned maintenance and unexpected maintenance. Chairman Smith then asked if there were any other questions, being none, the Chairman called for a vote. All were in favor, **motion passed.**

Chairman Smith passed the MS-27 to be signed by the budget committee members.

Chairman then moved the discussion to the General Fund for the town in the amount of \$5,034,028.00. **Gail Klanchesser moved** to open this issue for discussion. **Jack O'Reilly seconded motion.** Peggy Lamson asked for an explanation as far salaries/wages. She states that it is not clear on who it covers. Peggy also states that the stipends and COLA are a little high. Jack O'Reilly stated in regard to the stipends that last year the Town Treasurer stated he was underpaid for the work that he does. So there was an increase in his salary of 25% raising it to \$ 5,000 at the budget committee level. The reason for the stipend increase for the rest of the people is to bring the others to an equal level at approximately 25% this year. In regards to COLA Jack O'Reilly stated that it was recommended at 4.7%. Jean Bowser asked about wages and whom it encompassed. Mr. O'Reilly stated that it was everyone working in the building except for the planner. Barbara McDonald said that it was overall too much budgeted. Mrs. McDonald also added that the Town Treasurer did not receive 25% this year. Jack O'Reilly explained the position and the wages for all people that worked in the building. Ruth Fletcher then asked about the Town Administrative Assistants pay, which was increased by \$2,000.00 and also the phone system that went up \$3,000.00. (Mrs. Fletcher then later realized that the phone did not go up \$ 3,000 and was wrong) Jack O'Reilly answered by saying that part pf the AA's raise was COLA and the other part was a merit raise. Mrs. Fletcher then spoke of the Animal Control Officer and the amount of calls and asked if the Animal Control Officer was comparable to the Selectmen stipends. The Police Chief stated that the Animal Control Officer answered 110 calls. Board of Selectmen Chairman Cosmas Iocovozzi stated that this job is a hard position to fill.

Peggy Lamson asked why the Town Garage budgeted an extra \$12,000.00 and she addressed this question to Cosamas Iocovozzi. Mr. Iocovozzi stated that the plan is to repair the salt shed and also to look into the feasibility of moving the town Garage.

Jean Bowser asked why the Code Enforcement Officer stipend is listed under the Executive Office wages and the Plumbing and Electrical Inspectors were listed under Stipends under Code Enforcement. Jack O'Reilly answered by stating that the Electrical and Plumbing are under CE Stipends because they own their own business and come when the electrical and plumbing permits or jobs need to be taken care of.

Barbara McDonald asked a question in regards to Emergency Management and Culvert *(audio muffled)*

George Fletcher feels the town should be in a pool for reduced health rates but we are in a pool. Mr. Fletcher also added that the Board of Selectmen should get with the School District to get a better rate.

Ruth Fletcher questioned why Tom Morgan the Town Planner didn't get a raise. Barbara McDonald questioned what the criteria is for getting a merit raise. Jack O'Reilly mentioned that most towns are on a step system where as Newington is not. Mrs. McDonald stated that Charlie Smart the Code Enforcement Officer makes more than Tom Morgan the Town Planner and Mr. Morgan has been with the town for 14 years. Jack O'Reilly stated that Mr. Morgan received other compensation when he was hired and that the Code Enforcement Officer does not make more than the Planner.

Mrs. Lamson asked about Assessing and why it went up to \$65,000.00. Which Jack O'Reilly explained that it is due to the fact that this is the year of certification.

Peggy Lamson asked Dennis Acton about the planned renovations for Fox Point and why. Dennis stated he needed a workshop area as care taker and he also added that he is not running a business there – for the record.

Ruth Fletcher asked if the Selectmen have a contract for the assessing. Jack O'Reilly answered by explaining that the assessing is done annually and yes. Barbara McDonald added how she felt about the assessing and how prices are actually falling.

*There was a ten minute recess requested and granted at 2:32pm The meeting resumed at 2:45pm.*

Susan Smith commented on how the community should come together and stop micro managing.

Gale Pare stated that the money encumbered for the Historic District is not listed.

Larry Wahl asked for more information on the Cemetery. Cosmas Iocovozzi explained that there is no Capital reserve fund currently. Larry Wahl wanted to know what the costs would be for the new water line at the Cemetery. Cosmas Iocovozzi gave a detail explanation and stated that \$25,000.00 should cover the costs of everything.

Candice Cantelupo spoke of supporting the cut of either 2% to 5% or possibly 3%.

Al Smith felt the Board was pretty much in agreement that 2% wouldn't hurt any one department.

There was a ten-minute recess request at 3:30pm. The meeting resumed at 3:45pm.

Chairman Smith suggests 3% reduction would be a consideration he'd like to throw out there except for Fire and Police and Emergency Management and an additional half percent in the general town budget as Jack O'Reilly made in changes prior to coming to the table in the amount of \$ 17,000.

Larry Wahl calculated a total figure of \$5,051,601.00. With the adjustment to last year's Sewer budget figure then corrected, it brought the new total to \$5,108,785.00.

Chairman Smith spoke on the legal budget. He suggested that legal should be removed from Planning and the Conservation Committee and placed under the Selectmen's legal lines.

Dennis Acton felt that there would be more monitoring of its spending, and agreed.

If \$3500.00 were taken from the Conservation Committee and \$13,000.00 taken from Planning it would make the new total \$5,027,528. (with review of calculations with Larry & Cyndi Gillespie, this adjustment was made)

**Gail Klanchesser moved** to accept \$5,027,528.00. **Jack O'Reilly seconded motion.** Cyndi Gillespie asked about the calculation and it was further adjusted to \$ 5,017,528 with Gail Klanchesser amending her motion and Mr. O'Reilly's amended second. Chairman Smith asked if there were any questions. Larry Wahl stated that he believes that this amount is still too high. Chairman Smith then called for a vote, all were in favor except Dick Spinney and Larry Wahl, **motion passed.**

It was mentioned by Dennis Acton that for a 2% or a 3% (in addition to the legal) it would show another \$24,000 in savings.

Candice Cantelupo stated that she would feel much more comfortable cutting the line items just 3% across the board.

Since the Selectmen cut \$17,000 before coming to today's public hearing, only another ½% was asked to be cut further from their general government budget.

After much discussion **Larry Wahl moved** to pass \$5,003,365.00. **Dennis Acton seconded motion. Dick Spinney opposed. Motion passed.**

#### **Warrant Articles:**

**ARTICLE 3:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of *Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00)* 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.

**Larry Wahl moved** to approve Article 3. **Motion seconded by Rick Stern.** Chairman Smith asked if there were any questions or comments. Chairman Smith then asked for a vote, all were in favor, **motion passed.**

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**ARTICLE 4:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of *Seventeen Thousand Dollars (\$17,000.00)* to be placed in the existing Capital Reserve Fund for the purpose of major Municipal Building Emergency Repairs.

**Dennis Acton moved** to approve Article 4 in the amount of \$17,000.00. **Motion seconded by Gail Klanchesser.** Being that there was no discussion on this matter, Chairman Smith called for a vote. All were in favor **motion passed.**

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**ARTICLE 5:** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to enter into a 10 year lease/purchase agreement in the amount for the truck not to exceed *Five Hundred Seventy Five Thousand Dollars (\$575,000.00)*, for the purpose of leasing a 2006 75' Ladder/Pumper Truck, and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$70,668.00 for the first year's payment for that purpose. (Principal \$4,792.00; Interest \$1,097.00) This lease/purchase agreement contains an escape clause. (Majority vote required per RSA 33:7-e.)

**Jack O'Reilly moved** to approve Article 5 in the amount of \$575,000.00. **Motion seconded by Larry Wahl.** There was a brief discussion on this article and the verbiage of p/month.. It was asked if one could use Capital Reserve funds for a lease purchase and Cyndi Gillespie answered no. Chairman Smith asked for vote, all were in favor, **motion passed.**

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**ARTICLE 6:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of *Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00)* to be placed in the existing Capital Reserve Fund for the Replacement and/or Repair of Vehicles Operated by the Fire Department.

**Gail Klanchesser moved** to approve Article 6 in the amount of \$50,000.00. **Jack O'Reilly seconded motion.** Chairman Smith asked if there was any discussion to this motion. Larry Wahl plans on reducing Article 6 from \$50,000.00 to \$30,000.00. Gail Pare asked if the Capital Reserve funds could be used towards a lease. (*audio muffled*) Capital Reserve fund cannot be used for a lease only for a purchase. Chairman Smith asked for a vote all were in favor except for the Chairman Smith. **Motion passed.**

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**ARTICLE 7:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of *Twenty Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00)* to be placed in the existing Capital Reserve Fund for the Fox Point Pavilion.

**Gail Klanchesser moved** to approve Article 7 in the amount \$25,000.00. **Motion seconded by Candice Cantelupo.** Chairman Smith asked for a vote, all were in favor except for Dick Spinney. **Motion passed.**

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**ARTICLE 8:** To see if the Town of Newington will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of *Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000.00)* 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.

**Gail Klanchesser moved** to approve Article 8 in the amount of \$15,000.00. **Motion seconded by Russ Cooke.** Being no discussion on this article, Chairman Smith asked for a vote. All were in favor, **motion passed.**

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**ARTICLE 9:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of *Forty Five Thousand Dollars (\$45,000.00)* to be placed in the existing Capital Reserve Fund for the purpose of payments of Severance to Town Employees in accordance with the Town's Personnel Policy.

**Jack O'Reilly moved** to approve Article 9 in the amount of \$45,000.00, **Candice Cantelupo seconded Motion.** Being that there was no further discussion Chairman Smith called for a vote. **Motion passed.**

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**ARTICLE 10:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of *Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000.00)* to be placed in the existing Capital Reserve Fund for the Replacement of the Town Ambulance and any Major Medical Equipment.

**Larry Wahl moved** to approve Article 10 in the amount of \$15,000.00. **Rick Stern seconded motion.** Chairman Smith then asked for a vote being that there was no discussion. All were in favor, **motion passed.**

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**ARTICLE 11:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of *Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00)* to be placed in the existing Capital Reserve fund which was established to fund capital improvements for the Cemetery.

**Jack O'Reilly moved** to approve Article 11 in the amount of \$10,000.00. **Motion seconded by Gail Klanchesser.** Chairman Smith asked if there were any questions. Larry Wahl asked what this money would be used for. Cosmas Iocovozzi explained that certain projects kept coming up. Dick Spinney asked if the paving project and waterline could be done in one year. Cosmas answered yes. Chairman Smith then asked for a vote. All were in favor. **Motion passed.**

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**ARTICLE 12:** 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 for Fire Department Communications.

**Larry Wahl moved** to approve Article 12 in the amount of \$10,000.00. **Gail Klanchesser seconded the motion.** Being that there was no discussion on this article Chairman Smith asked for a vote. All were in favor, **motion passed.**

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**ARTICLE 13:** Shall the Town of Newington vote to raise and appropriate the sum of *Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00)* for the purpose of preparing a Floodplain Map consistent with FEMA requirements - to help Newington residents qualify for flood insurance. This appropriation is in addition to the operating budget.

**Larry Wahl moved to approve Article 13** in the amount of \$50,000.00. **Gail Klanchesser seconded the motion.** Jack Pare spoke to this article. This warrant article is for flood plains maps insurance costs to residents reduction possibilities. Chief Greenleaf spoke of the flood plain issue for mapping how the current designation shows inaccuracies. Jack Pare explained FEMAs new relationship with banks for lending. Being that there was no further discussion on this article, Chairman Smith then called for a vote. All were in favor with the Chairman abstaining as to past practices with the Town with the few number of residents actually effected, **motion passed.**

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**ARTICLE 14:** On petition of Vincent Frank of 19 Fox Point Road and at least 24 other registered voters of the Town of Newington, shall the Town of Newington vote to raise and appropriate *Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00)* for the purpose of preparing a floodplain map to help Newington residents qualify for flood insurance? This appropriation is in addition to the operating budget.

**Gail Klanchesser moved to approve Article 14** in the amount of \$50,000.00. **Motion seconded by Rick Stern.** Being that there was no further discussion on this article, Chairman Smith called for a vote. All were opposed, **motion failed as this was a repeat of Article 13.**

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**ARTICLE 15:** To see if the Town shall vote to establish an Expendable Trust Fund under the provisions of RSA 31:19-a to be known as a Grant Fund for the purpose of funding the Town's portion of Unanticipated State and Federal Grants that require matching funds not budgeted and to raise and appropriate the amount of *Twenty Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00)* to be placed in this fund and to appoint the Board of Selectmen as Agents to expend from this fund. This appropriation is in addition to the operating budget. (Majority Vote Required)

**Gail Klanchesser moved to approve Article 15** in the amount of \$25,000.00. **Motion seconded by Jack O'Reilly.** Gail Pare stated that this would cover the unplanned and unanticipated events. Chairman Smith called for a vote all were in favor, **motion passed.**

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**ARTICLE 16:** To see if the Town will vote to allow the Historic District Commission to Assume the Duties of a Heritage Commission, while continuing its responsibility to act as a Historic District Commission, in accordance with the provisions of RSA 673 and RSA 674, and Chapter 138, Laws of 1995, or take any action relating thereto.

**Article 16 is not a money warrant so no vote or discussion was necessary.**

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**ARTICLE 17:** To see if the Town, if having authorized the Historic District Commission to assume the duties of the Heritage Commission, will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of *One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00)* to carry out the purposes of the Heritage Commission and to establish a Heritage Fund in accordance with the provisions of RSA 674:44-d, or take any other action relating thereto; and to name the Board of Selectmen as Agents to authorize expenditures from this fund.

**Larry Wahl moved to approve Article 17** in the amount of \$100.00. **Rick Stern seconded motion.** Chairman Smith asked for any comments. Mrs. Bowser asked what a Heritage Committee was. Gail Pare explained how it would give the Historical District more rights to accept gifts, as the Historic District is limited. Chairman Smith then asked for a vote. All were in favor, **motion passed.**

**ARTICLE 18:** To see if the Town will vote to establish a Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of funding the replacement of Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) equipment used by the Fire Department. This fund is to be known as the Fire Department SCBA Fund and appoints the Board of Selectmen as Agents to expend from this fund and to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of *Forty Thousand Dollars (\$40,000.00)* to be placed in the Capital Reserve Fund known as the Fire Department SCBA Fund for the replacement of the SCBAs now in use by the Fire Department.

**Larry Wahl moved to approve Article 18** in the amount of \$40,000.00. **Motion seconded by Gail Klanchesser.** There was a brief discussion on how necessary it is to support this article with the new mandates and all. Chairman Smith then called for a vote. All were in favor, **motion passed.**

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**ARTICLE 19:** To see if the Town of Newington will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of *Thirty Five Thousand Dollars* **(\$35,000.00)** to be added to our existing Capital Reserve Fund for the purpose of Replacement and/or Major Repairs of Vehicles and equipment operated by Highway.

**Larry Wahl moved to approve Article 19** in the amount of \$35,000.00. **Motion was seconded by Gail Klanchesser.** Chairman Smith said the Highway people's work is commendable and realizes the vehicles take it hard. Cosmas felt this fund could soon be capped as it was mainly for repair. Chairman Smith called for a vote, all were in favor, **motion passed.**

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**ARTICLE 20:** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen (effective 2007) to grant an annual Cost of Living Adjustment (C.O.L.A.) to those positions who are compensated by stipends that fall under the jurisdiction of the Selectmen.

**This is not a money Warrant Article, so no vote or discussion occurred.**

Chairman Smith called for a motion to adjourn.

**Jack O'Reilly made a motion** to adjourn. **Motion was seconded** by (*audio muffled*) – Dennis Acton (?). Chairman Smith called for a vote, all were in favor, **motion passed.**

**Meeting adjourned at approximately 6:15pm (exact time unknown)**

Respectfully Submitted,

Beatrice Marconi  
Town Administrative Assistant