

**TOWN OF NEW HAMPTON  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MEETING MINUTES  
TOWN OFFICES  
NEW HAMPTON, NH 03256**

January 4, 2010

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Selectmen Paul Tierney, Charles Bartley and Kenneth Mertz were present.

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Town Administrator Barbara Lucas was present.

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Chairman Paul Tierney called the meeting of the Board to order at 5:00 p.m. The purpose of the meeting was to work on the budget and address any other matters that come before the Board.

**WORK SESSION:**

*Petition In Support for a  
Constitutional Amendment on  
the Definition of Marriage*

A petition was delivered to the Board from 31 registered voters to present a warrant article for the March 2010 Town Meeting “to see if the Town will vote to approve the following resolution to be forwarded to our state representatives, our state senator, the Speaker of the House and the Senate President: *Resolved: The citizens of New Hampshire should be allowed to vote on an amendment to the New Hampshire Constitution that defines marriage.*” The Board noted that as the petition had sufficient signatures from town voters, the article will move forward to the Town Meeting.

*Highway Department  
Payment Vouchers*

Mr. Boucher contacted Mr. Tierney regarding emergency repairs to the F-450 truck which had failed in the road and had to be towed. The bill from Irwin’s for emergency repairs was \$561.41. A phone call to Mr. Boucher was placed. He advised that Irwin’s told him the after market additions were on the same circuit and it was too much for the battery. Mr. Boucher is not satisfied that the cost of assessing the problem and getting the truck running again needed to be as much as it was. The Selectmen agreed and have placed the invoice on hold pending further information.

A front end alignment and replaced ball joints invoice (damage occurred while plowing) was approved by the Board.

Northeast Tires invoice for rear mount rims and spares for F-550 dated 12/28/09. This item was discussed with Mr. Boucher by phone. He advised that something in the road hit the tire and bent the rim. The tire was not salvageable, nor was the rim. He stated they used the spares and the invoice is for another spare. Mr. Bartley asked about any warranty for the tire and was advised there was none.

A purchase order for \$233 for a vibrator for the sander was approved by the Board. Mr. Boucher will install it in the F-450 to see how well it works to keep sand moving into the spreader in wet, freezing conditions and allow more effective work on the roads.

**Budget Work**

Mrs. Lucas made the changes requested at the last Selectmen's Meeting to restore \$500 to Police Department Vehicle Repair budget line item.

The starting point of discussion had the bottom line of the operating budget and warrant articles showed a 3.2% potential increase in the budget before the Selectmen began their review this night.

The Expendable Trust Fund Warrant Article proposed to add \$65,000 to the \$10,000 already in the fund for replacement of the Blake Brook Bridge based on a 2006 estimate quote from DOT. Since the last meeting, Mrs. Lucas was advised that the revised quote was received at a \$475,000 cost to replace the bridge. The revised quote would require an additional 20,000 be added to the warrant article for a total of \$95,000 DOT would need for the Town's share of the replacement cost at the new cost estimate. The DOT would not place the bridge replacement on their schedule until the Town had \$95,000 in the fund and that date already appears to be several years in the future.

Mr. Boucher had provided a quote from one company to make repairs to the Blake Brook Bridge for \$10,000 with another \$2,000 required for necessary surveying for the wetlands permit. Mr. Boucher advised that an additional \$2,000 would probably be required for mandatory engineering survey work. Mr. Tierney advised he was in favor of adding the additional \$2,000. Mr. Mertz and Mr. Bartley concurred. The change was made to make this warrant article \$12,000.

DRA advised that the funds for the Fire Department vehicle exhaust system would be appropriate as a Special Revenue withdrawal. The Fire Chief is waiting to get confirmation on grants, but his feeling was the grant for the exhaust system was not awarded to New Hampton. Mrs. Lucas therefore moved the entire cost to come from Special Revenues rather than just the 5% discussed with the prospect of the grant. Future grants may be applicable and if one is applicable to the exhaust system, funds could be moved out of the Special Revenues account, but not into it, so this change was necessary.

Fire Station Upgrades and Repair, the appropriation would come from the General Funds unless a grant comes through.

Emergency Generator that can come from Special Revenues. The Fire Chief is hoping for a 50/50 grant, but either way there will be no effect on the tax rate.

Fire Department warrant article for Stryker Cots and Pagers funding will come from Special Revenues. Again, a grant may come, but no effect on the tax rate would be required with this expenditure.

Equipment Grant warrant article may change because the Fire Department knows they did not get everything they asked for in the grant for protective equipment but the notification has not arrived yet with firm figures. 5% of

the cost will come out of the Special Revenues with 95% covered by the grant. The appropriation and the revenue figures will change as soon as Chief Drake can provide the solid numbers for the grant.

Fire Training and Personnel Grant was approved and the figures shown are good. Ninety-five percent is covered by the Grant. The 5% matching funds for this item will not come out of the Special Revenue account.

Mrs. Lucas then outlined which Warrant Articles required funding from General Funds and which had offsetting funding. She then outlined the changes in revenue figures since the last meeting. Without any figures confirmed for the various grants to add in, the expenditures are a significant increase. Mrs. Lucas suggested that one approach would be to not go forward with the warrant article for the addition to the fire station, and reduced the figure for the Bridge Expendable Trust to \$20,000 (since repairs will be done rather than replacing the bridge) then the impact to the towns could be reduced to 2.6% increase.

Not knowing if the Town won the grant for a new fire station is making the decisions extremely difficult. If the town approves the addition, the addition as well as the existing station could be re-used elsewhere in the town. The Selectmen discussed concern that any major repair costs to the station would kill support for a new station, but at the same time the building is in such poor condition it is difficult to put off some repair or improvement. When asked if there was a methodology to take money from the Capital Reserves account, the Board was advised it would require action from the Legislative body to change the intent of the Capital Reserve Fund and then they would still need to get appropriation approval from voters. The Board asked Mrs. Lucas to speak with Town Counsel and inquire as to the availability of some portion of the Capital Reserves account for making repairs or an addition to the Fire Station. If it is found that it is not possible to utilize some portion of the capital reserve, then the Selectmen are in favor of putting the cost of the addition (\$140,000) to the Fire Station before the voters and letting them decide. The discussion regarding the Selectmen's recommendation for the warrant article, all three of the Selectmen noted their recommendation would be in support of the repairs.

Mrs. Lucas noted that because the money has to come from the General Funds, and given the current economy, the effect on the tax payer for the Fire Station addition will be too great to be approved by voters regardless of the obvious need.

The Board decided to hold off on a decision for the addition to the Fire Station, but to move the alarm system and electrical repairs, as well as the repair of the side wall to the warrant article for Fire Station Repairs and Upgrades. Mrs. Lucas will report back to the Board on her discussion with Counsel regarding the Capital Funds Account. Additionally, the Board decided to reduce the warrant article for the Expendable Trust Fund by \$45,000, go with repairs to the bridge, and build up the Fund more gradually since it would be a couple years until DOT could schedule replacement of

the Blake Brook Bridge.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

There was none.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None was heard.

**ADJOURNMENT**

It was moved by Selectman Tierney to adjourn, seconded by Selectman Bartley. The vote passed and the meeting adjourned at 6:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristin J. Harmon

DRAFT