

Town of Huntington Selectboard (SB) Meeting
Date: Wednesday, January 14 2009 – 7:00p.m.
Location: Town Office, Lower Level

Approved
Minutes

Attending:

Board Members: Ed Booth, Jim Hildebran (Vice Chair), Joe Segale, Roman Livak (Chair)

Absent Members: Harry Frank

Others Present: Dan Stoddard (Town Treasurer), Ed Wildman (Town Administrator)

Recorder: Barbara Elliott

Topics	Discussion	Action
Call to Order	Roman called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.	
Management's Discussion & Analysis – Year Ended June 20, 2008 (Audit Report)	<p>The following open items that the Selectboard needs to complete for the audit report were discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Page 7: Regarding – “The Town’s fiscal year 2008-09 capital budget calls for the Town to spend an additional xxxxx for xxxx.” This will be edited to reflect that there were no expenditures. • Page 8: Regarding – “The Selectboard estimated a budget of xxx for the 2009-09 fiscal year that resulted in a town tax rate of xxx per xxx of assessed value.” Most unexpected expenses were covered by November’s bond vote. There were no additional unexpected expenditures. At some point, the west wing wall on the Bean Bridge, the additional cost of the sand/salt shed, and the additional expense for the Town Garage need to be addressed. 	<p>Ed W will get information back to Jane (Fothergill Segale & Valley) for the final audit report.</p> <div style="text-align: right; border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; transform: rotate(-15deg);"> <p>RECEIVED [Signature] DATE January 25, 2009</p> </div>
Budget	<p>The following budget issues were addressed:</p> <p><u>November Capital Program Bond Payment</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to include \$22,500 for the bond payment for the November Capital Program Bond in the budget. <p><u>Paving Line Item—currently reflection \$137,000 in the draft budget:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Given these particularly challenging economic times, Joe suggested paying for the paving over a 5-year time span in order to reduce the draft budget overage. • Joe noted the need to have a long range paving plan to facilitate budget planning. • \$100,000 could be taken out of the proposed paving budget and covered by taking out a loan.. The remaining \$37,000 could be used for the 1st year loan payment, and the loan payment would be a budget line item for the next several years. Noted that loans that are under 5 years do not require voter approval. 	<p><u>MOTION—Paving Line Item:</u> Ed B moved to remove \$100,000 of the draft \$137,000 in the paving line item and to borrow the balance of funds needed for paving for a one-year period, with the intent to roll the balance over for a total of 5 years. Seconded by Jim. Passed unanimously</p> <p><u>The Proposed Capital Budget</u> will be updated to add a line item under Infrastructure for a Hinesburg Hollow paving loan of \$100,000 to be paid off in 2013-2014.</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dan noted that another option is to borrow funds for one year, and then at the end of the year take out a loan for the remaining balance—so that each year you are rolling the loan balance over to the next year. <p><u>Union Meeting House (UMH) Capital Budget Line Item:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommendation was to shift this out one year, given that the details are not reflected in the current budget, and that over the coming year the actual building repair/maintenance plan be determined. It was noted that the \$14,000 in the budget is for UMH painting. • It was noted that for highway expenditures, loans can be taken out without going to the voters—but that is not the case for other departments. <p><u>Fire Truck:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was noted that the original plan for purchasing the new fire truck was for next year—however the Fire Department requested funds be pulled in a year so a drop in the budget would not be reflected, since this could potentially make it more difficult to get the fire truck passed the following year. <p><u>Plow Truck:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was noted that purchasing a tandem truck in order to haul loads from Hinesburg Sand & Gravel (rather than have them delivered) would add an additional 380 hours of labor for the Road Crew. • From an ROI (return on investment) perspective, the purchase of the more expensive truck to haul loads would mean that most of the time, we would be paying extra cost for the truck to do work that does not require a tandem. • It was noted that a new truck is needed and that Yogi's excellent truck maintenance has already gotten us an extra year out of the current truck. • Noted that if the article does not pass, the cost of repairs needed for the current truck could be taken out of reserve funds. <p><u>Article 4—spending of the \$60,000 balance in the East Street Bridge loan:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expenditure options discussed included reallocating the funds to the Hinesburg Hollow paving; using the funds for a longer life span project like the sand/salt shed or bridge repair (like the Bean Bridge); holding on to the funds; putting the funds into CDs to earn 	<p>Consensus was to push the proposed \$50,000 for the <u>Union Meeting House</u> out a year.</p> <p><u>MOTION—Fire Truck:</u> Jim moved to initiate the proposed purchase of Engine #3 as originally planned for fiscal year 2010-2011, extending until the end of 2021. Seconded by Ed B. Passed unanimously.</p> <p><u>MOTION—Plow Truck:</u> Ed B moved to reflect in the budget the purchase of a single axle International Truck with a Tenco body. Seconded by Joe. Ed B moved to amend his motion to reflect authorization for the purchase of a single axle International truck up to \$139,686 (with this amount to be reduced by the trade in value of the current truck) and to use funds from the highway reserve funds to pay for the 1st year's loan payment. Seconded by Joe. Amendment passed unanimously. Motion passed unanimously.</p> <p>Need to research what the body specs are for the proposed truck to ensure we are not paying for features that are not necessary.</p> <p><u>MOTION—East Street Bridge Loan Balance:</u> Ed B moved to use the \$60,000 balance in the East Street Bridge Loan to reduce the general fund budget for the fiscal year 2009-2010 in order to reduce the tax rate, contingent upon the legality of</p>

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	<p>interest; using the funds to reduce the loan principle; using the funds to pay for engineering and scoping on bridges—especially if stimulus funds come through; or using it to reduce the tax rate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noted that if funds are used to reduce the principle, we would be paying the loan off 3 years early, but we wouldn't really save funds in the short term. <p><u>Highway Purchased Services</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roman noted he would like to see the Highway Department budget separated out from the General Fund. Then, deficit spending or surplus funds would be more clear-cut and tracking would be facilitated. Also, if the funds are separated, surplus funds can be automatically rolled over to the following year without additional voter approval. • In removing funds from the purchased services line items, it was noted that the Highway Department can come to the Selectboard to request, in advance of fund expenditure, approval to run a deficit. <p><u>Salaries</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roman recommended a 5% salary increase be incorporated in the budget. • Ed B contacted 3 towns—each are proposing increases of 3%, and expecting this may be cut at their Town Meetings. • Jim noted that inflation is currently at 1.1%. He also noted that FedEx employees who make \$90,000 have seen a 10% salary cut, and those making under \$90,000 have seen a 5% cut. • Dan and Ed W stated that 5% is too high, and they would not accept a 5% COLA <p><u>Insurance Premiums</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ed B noted that most employees pay at least a portion of their health insurance. • Roman noted that there is a disparity between what our employees receive in total benefit dollars since some have single person plans and others have family plans paid in full. He noted one option might be to pay 100% of the employee premium and have employees pay the balance if they choose family coverage. 	<p>doing so. Seconded by Joe. Passed unanimously.</p> <p>Ed W will verify if the balance of the East Street loan can be used to reduce the general fund budget.</p> <p><u>MOTION—Highway Purchased Services:</u> Ed B moved to reduce the highway purchased services line items by \$18,500 by removing funds from the following line items: 10-6-51-155.00 (\$1,500), 10-6-53-155.00 (\$8,000), 10-6-54-155.00 (\$4,500), 10-6-55-155.00 (\$4,000), 10-6-57-155.00 (\$500). Seconded by Joe. Passed unanimously.</p> <p>The Selectboard will consider whether to divide the Highway Department and General Fund into two unique and separately approved budgets.</p> <p><u>MOTION—Salaries:</u> Jim moved to incorporate an overall 2.5% salary increase amount, with the understanding that actual adjustments for individual employees will be used at the discretion of the Selectboard. Seconded by Joe. Passed with 3 members voting yes (Ed, Joe, & Jim) and one opposed (Roman).</p> <p><u>MOTION—Insurance:</u> Ed B moved to have Town Employees pay 10% of their health insurance premium, to be phased in over the next 5 years at 2% per year. Seconded by Joe. Based on Roman's recommendation that benefit disparity among employees should be addressed—and that one possibility would be to pay 100% of the employee's premium and have the employees pay the balance if they choose two-person or family coverage, Ed B withdrew his motion. Joe</p>

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		concurred with the motion withdraw.
Adjournment	The Selectboard meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.	Jim moved to adjourn. Seconded by Ed B. No discussion. Passed unanimously.

Date Unapproved Minutes to Town Clerk: Monday, January 19, 2009
 Date Minutes Approved by Selectboard: Monday, January, 26, 2009
 Date Approved Minutes to Town Clerk: Tuesday, February 24, 2009