

**Town of Huntington Selectboard (SB) Meeting**

**Date: Monday, May 04, 2009 – 7:00p.m.**

**Location: Town Office, Lower Level**

Approved  
Minutes

**Attending:**

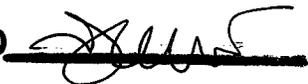
Board Members: Ed Booth (Chair), Jim Christiansen, Wayne Curley, Jim Hildebran, Joe Segale (Vice Chair)

Others Present:

Clinton “Yogi” Alger (Road Foreman), Aaron Early, Mike Early, Liz Greenberg (Times Ink! Reporter), Pam Hart (Town Auditor), Lucinda Hill (Town Auditor & Planning Commissioner), Tate Jeffrey (Fire Department Chief), Duncan Keir, Paula Kelly (Library Committee), Heidi Racht (Town Clerk), Ed Wildman (Town Administrator)

Recorder:

Barbara Elliott

RECEIVED 

DATE June 8, 2009

Topics	Discussion	Action
<b>Call to Order</b>	Ed B called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.	
<b>Selectboard (SB) Minutes: 04/20/2009</b>		<b>MOTION – Minutes:</b> Jim H moved to accept the unapproved minutes with no changes. Seconded by Jim C. No discussion. Passed unanimously.
<b>Warrants</b>	4 warrants were presented to the Selectboard for signature.	<b>Warrants:</b> 4 warrants were signed as presented.
<b>Public Comment – Tate Jeffrey</b>	<p><b>Fire Truck Bond:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tate reported that questions have arisen regarding the bonding for the fire truck. The application for the bond has to be in by mid-month. Tate stated that, in keeping with the promise he made voters, the Fire Department budget for the coming year would not exceed the 2007-2008 budget of \$98,409, and that any additional funds needed to meet Fire Department expenses would come from the Fire Department’s reserve fund.</li> <li>Tate presented a handout that had 2 bond options for a 10-year bond and one option for a 15-year bond. Jim C expressed concern about extending the bond to 15 years—especially since we may need to purchase additional equipment within that time period. The lifespan of the new truck is anticipated to be 30 years.</li> <li>Tate also presented 2 options for how the first year bond payment could be handled. Dan Stoddard had recommended that the budget reflect the \$98,409—which the Selectboard supported.</li> </ul>	<p><b>MOTION Fire Truck Bond:</b> Jim H moved to secure a 15-year bond for the new fire truck. Seconded by Jim C. Motion carried with 4 in favor and 1 (Jim C) opposed.</p> <p><b>MOTION Fire Department Budget:</b> Jim H moved to have the budget reflect \$98,409 and that any additional expenses incurred by the Fire Department are to come out of their reserve account. Seconded by Jim C. Passed unanimously.</p>
<b>Public Comment – Aaron Early</b>	<p><b>Proposed Library Sitting Area – Eagle Scout Project:</b> Aaron Early presented his proposed Eagle Scout certification project to build a 12’ x 12’ sitting area for the Huntington Library. He was commended by the</p>	<b>Eagle Scout Project:</b> Ed W will draft an endorsement letter from the Selectboard for Aaron Early’s project.

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	<p>Selectboard for his thorough research, detailed drawings and excellent presentation. The proposed site will be low maintenance, with no raking needed for the variety of tree being planted. The Library has a picnic table and other scouts have made Adirondack chairs that can be used for the area.</p>	
<p><b>Public Comment – Duncan Keir</b></p>	<p><b><u>Green-Up Day Trash:</u></b> Duncan found bags of trash on Pond Road, with contents indicating who the bags belonged to. Heidi suggested Duncan bring this issue to the Selectboard for follow-up. It was suggested that the Selectboard write a letter to the residents.</p> <p><b><u>Budget:</u></b> Duncan commended the Selectboard for their thorough and diligent job meeting the 5% budget cut mandated at Town Meeting. He noted that the most recent draft included 5% cuts before taking into account the requirement for employees to contribute 2% toward their health care insurance. He advocated for some funds to be restored so that the amount cut does not exceed 5%. Specific areas that could benefit from having funds restored would include the Cemetery, Recreation Field, Sand/Salt Shed and Library line items.</p>	<p><b><u>Trash Dumping:</u></b> Ed W will draft a letter regarding trash found on Green-Up Day on behalf of the Selectboard.</p>
<p><b>Road Foreman – Clinton “Yogi” Alger</b></p>	<p><b><u>1715 Main Road Slide:</u></b> Hoping to finish up tomorrow or Wednesday morning. Joe asked if guard rails are being installed as part of this work - but they are not.</p> <p><b><u>Plow Truck:</u></b> Yogi hasn't put together any additional information on the plow truck. Ed W will review the numbers he sent to the Selectboard with Yogi. They will discuss single and tandem axle options and email a recommendation to the Selectboard prior to the next meeting for further discussion</p> <p><b><u>Pedestrian Signs:</u></b> Joe asked to have the pedestrian signs placed back in the roads. Yogi said he would also be painting the crosswalks. A larger “reduce speed” sign will be installed at the bridge on Pond Road (this might cost up to \$150). A request has also been made to have a larger sign installed on East Street as you come down the hill by Huntington Woods. Yogi will bring a quote for these to the next meeting.</p> <p><b><u>Performance Evaluations:</u></b> Ed B noted these need to be completed before the beginning of the fiscal year. He requested Yogi complete evaluations for his employees, to be reviewed by the Selectboard at the June 1<sup>st</sup> meeting.</p>	<p><b><u>Insurance:</u></b> Ed B will pull together a group to look into employee insurance in more depth.</p>

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	<p><b><u>Insurance:</u></b> Yogi expressed disagreement with the proposal for a 2% employee contribution toward health insurance, effective July 1<sup>st</sup>. He believes tax payers should have to vote on this and that the Selectboard does not have the right to require employees to pay this. Jim H noted that the vote on this at the last meeting was not unanimous. He said that since everyone agreed they did not want employees to experience a pay cut as a result of this action, they expect employee salary increases will cover the added cost of the health insurance coverage.</p> <p><b><u>Invoices:</u></b> We invoice for special plowing—an amount that has not increased in a number of years. Joe asked if there was a written agreement—but apparently there is not one.</p>	
<p><b>Public Comment – Paula Kelly, Library Board</b></p>	<p><b><u>Library Budget:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Paula noted the Selectboard has faced a terribly hard job. The Library proposed a \$1,000 cut. The Selectboard discussed taking an additional \$500 from their budget.</li> <li>• Paula noted that the Park &amp; Ride lighting and community use of the building have impacted their budget—and that it costs well over \$1,000 just to have the facility open. Jim C noted that some of the discussion had centered around the Library’s ability to raise funds, which most departments aren’t in a position to do. Paula and Heidi noted that the Library Committee is made up of volunteers and that it is the same people over and over and over again that are asked to raise funds through bake sales, work parties, etc.</li> <li>• Wayne noted that one source of revenue could be to charge groups for using the space.</li> <li>• Liz Greenberg noted that the Library has incurred increased costs while facing a reduced budget. She also noted that, as Assistant Librarian Wendy deForest has said, the whole point of a library is to have books. Liz advocated that taking funds out of the book budget doesn’t make sense.</li> <li>• Jim H noted the Selectboard has had to balance community needs with the mandate to reduce the budget by 5%.</li> <li>• Joe noted that people may be taking services for granted.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Public Comment – Heidi Racht &amp; Paula Kelly, Cemetery Committee</b></p>	<p><b><u>Cemetery Budget:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Heidi and Paula noted that the overall cemetery budget has gone down from 2005 to 2006.</li> <li>• A small stipend is paid to Spencer.</li> <li>• Joe asked what happens when the current space is filled. Heidi stated the Committee will be trying to address that.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Public Comment – Heidi Racht</b></p>	<p>In response to comments made previously, Heidi wanted to note that the Town Clerk’s hourly salary is \$15.14.</p>	

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<p><b>Action Items /</b></p>	<p><b><u>Letter to Committees:</u></b> A letter is being drafted that: acknowledges the work committees and departments have done on the budget, states that more needs to be done; and notes that the conversations we have had will help sharpen, inform &amp; shape our conversations next year at Town meeting.</p> <p><b><u>Sand Shed:</u></b> The application is ready to be sent to VTrans for review.</p> <p><b><u>Fire Warden Reappointment:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ken Russin has been our Fire Warden for about 12 years.</li> <li>• All outdoor fires require having a permit issued in advance—including small backyard fires for roasting hot dogs. People are to call Ken to get permits. He has signs posted at Jacques, Beaudry's and the Town Office.</li> <li>• Violators usually get a verbal warning, then a written warning, and then they are issued a fine.</li> <li>• It would be good to post fire hazard warnings—the red flag days—on the Front Porch Forum and Heidi's distribution list. Notices are aired on TV.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Chittenden Solid Waste District 2010 Budget:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wayne noted that the employee cost of living increase for CSWD is 2% and that employees are asked to make a 10% contribution toward their health care insurance.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Committee &amp; Commission Appointment Policy:</u></b> Discussion on the motion included that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The 1<sup>st</sup> step should be for public notification of all vacancies. The process must be open and transparent.</li> <li>• There should be the option of 2 points of entry for consideration: 1) for individuals to put forth their own names and 2) for committees/commissions to put forth recommendations</li> <li>• The matter of a commission inviting a candidate to one of their meetings is a courtesy and should not be mandated by policy.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Bi-Weekly Pay Schedule</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The anticipated savings of going to a bi-weekly pay schedule is about \$2,300 per year. Currently, about half the checks are mailed and half are picked up. Realistically, this is an efficiency issue and not a hard savings from a budget perspective.</li> <li>• The proposal is to have this take effect on July 1<sup>st</sup>.</li> <li>• Yogi has stated that he does not like this proposal. Jim H requested that Yogi have an opportunity to present his concerns directly to the Selectboard.</li> <li>• Pam Hart asked what the impact would be on employee taxes. It was stated that there would be no net difference to employees.</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>Letter to Committees:</u></b> Barbara to send a revised draft letter to Ed W for circulation to the Selectboard.</p> <p><b><u>MOTION - Fire Warden:</u></b> Wayne moved to reappoint Ken Russin as Fire Warden. Seconded by Joe. Passed unanimously</p> <p><b><u>Driveway Permits</u></b> – Selectboard signed 2 driveway permits—both of which had been approved by Yogi—1 at Texas Hill Road and 1 at Texas Hill Circle.</p> <p><b><u>MOTION CSWD 2010 Budget:</u></b> Wayne moved to approve the proposed Chittenden Solid Waste District 2010 Budget. Seconded by Jim H. Passed with 4 in favor and 1 abstention (Joe).</p> <p><b><u>MOTION - Committee &amp; Commission Appointment Policy:</u></b> Wayne moved to approve the Committee &amp; Commission Appointment Policy as presented. Seconded by Jim C. No final vote was taken as it was determined that more work was needed on the policy. Ed W will revise and bring back to the Selectboard for further consideration.</p>

Topics	Discussion	Action
<p><b>Revised 2009-2010 Town Budget</b></p>	<p>Discussion included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jim H noted that the goal of reducing by 5% was exceeded.</li> <li>• It was noted that funds can be moved between line items.</li> <li>• Joe noted that the Library, Rec Field and Cemetery all have reserve funds – but that Highway Maintenance doesn't have a reserve fund.</li> <li>• It was noted that the tax rate will be calculated based on the final budget number approved by the Selectboard tonight plus any bonded amounts—not by the amount voted on at Town Meeting.</li> </ul> <p>Duncan noted his sincere appreciation to the Selectboard for all their effort—week in and week out since Town Meeting. The thoughtfulness, struggle and care put into the revised budget is impressive.</p> <p>The Selectboard thanked Duncan for his contributions to the process.</p>	<p><b><u>MOTION – 2010 Town Budget:</u></b> Jim C moved to accept the revised 2010 budget as presented on May 4, 2009. Seconded by Joe.</p> <p><b><u>MOTION AMENDMENT:</u></b> Jim H moved to amend the revised budget by adding the following funds back into the budget: \$500 to Recreation \$250 to Library Expenses \$1,000 to Cemeteries \$250 to the Sand/Salt Shed \$500 to Highway Maintenance Seconded by Joe. Amendment carried with 4 in favor and 1 opposed (Jim C).</p> <p>Amended motion passed unanimously.</p>
<p><b>Adjournment</b></p>	<p>The Selectboard meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.</p>	<p>Wayne moved to adjourn. Seconded by Joe. No discussion. Passed unanimously.</p>

Date Unapproved Minutes to Town Clerk: Sunday, May 17, 2009  
Date Minutes Approved by Selectboard: Monday, June 01, 2009  
Date Approved Minutes to Town Clerk: Sunday, June 7, 2009