

**MINUTES OF THE CONTINUED ANNUAL BUDGET MEETING OF THE TOWN OF FAIRFIELD
MAY 3, 2011**

The Annual Budget Meeting of the Town of Fairfield continued Tuesday, May 3, 2011, at McKinley Elementary School, Thompson Street, Fairfield, Connecticut.

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 P.M. by Moderator Jeff Steele.

PRESENT: 39 ABSENT: 11 VACANCY: 0

PRESENT: Becker, Challinor, Herley, Richmond, Sundman, Ambrose, Jones, Steele, Bateson, Conley, Ference, McCullough, Santalesa, Palmer, Garskof, McAleese, Smey, Stamler, DeSanctis, Dyer, Marmion, Vahey, Hochberg, Hoffkins, Llewellyn, Schwartz, Braun, Harrison, Hoffmann, McCarthy, Takami, Dillon, Felner, McGinty, Millington, Mirabile, Cafferelli, Mears, Rubino

ABSENT: Stewart, Varian, DeMartino, Hug, R. Parker, S. Parker, Gall, Brogan, Lynch, Farnen, Way

ITEM NO. 1 ON CALL: PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND A MOMENT OF SILENCE

The Moderator led the Body in the Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence.

ITEM NO. 2 ON CALL: TO CONSIDER AND DISCUSS, INCLUDING RTM COMMITTEE REPORTS AND COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC, PROPOSED APPROPRIATIONS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$264,034,123 FOR THE FISCAL YEAR OF JULY 1, 2011 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2012, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF FINANCE, FOR ANY LAWFUL PURPOSE. THE TOTAL PROPOSED BUDGET AS APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF FINANCE IS AS FOLLOWS:

Gross Budget:	264,034,123
Less Estimated Receipts:	(26,304,334)
Net Budget:	237,729,789
Plus Reserve for Uncollected Taxes:	<u>2,740,222</u>
Amount to be Raised by Taxation:	240,470,011

(This item had been moved and seconded at the beginning of the Annual Budget Meeting held the previous evening.)

MOTION: David Becker, District 1, moved to amend the budget by reducing \$27,050 from Dept. 1270, Legal Services, duly seconded.

Patti Dyer, District 6, asked what effect this would have on the legal department.

Town Attorney Richard Saxl advised the Body to not be pennywise and pound foolish. There are issues relating to the seven open labor contracts. So far one has been approved but two are in arbitration. The RTM asked him to steer negotiations into a 401(A) plan and he has done so. Also, this is a revaluation year and there are several land use appeals that were unknowns when he prepared his budget several months ago.

Mr. Becker asked about the pay structure for the attorneys. He asked if Mr. Saxl gets paid by the hour for his presence at RTM meetings.

**REPRESENTATIVE TOWN MEETING
MAY 3, 2011**

2

Atty. Saxl replied yes, if he is asked to attend RTM meetings he charges by the hour. Bond counsel also gets paid hourly. Asst. Town Atty. Eileen Kennelly who attends most RTM meetings does not charge by the hour but receives an annual salary.

MOTION: Mr. Becker moved to amend the motion to reduce the Legal Services budget by reducing the amount of the original motion by \$15,050 to \$12,000, duly seconded.

First Selectman Ken Flatto said that the Board of Selectmen had made a small change in the legal services budget by moving appraisal fees to the Assessor's budget. A further cut would be detrimental to the department.

Kathy Braun, District 8, spoke in support of the amendment. She said the figure represents a 6.2 percent increase over the current budget and she said that is adequate. We can discuss ways to cut costs, such as charging a flat rate for attending meetings.

Michael Mears, District 10, asked where the money would come from if the legal services account was found to be over budget by \$100,000.

Fiscal Officer Paul Hiller said that in that case, a request would come from the Town Attorney through the Board of Selectmen, Board of Finance and RTM to take the funds from the Contingency Account. Mr. Hiller said that in asking around other towns, the hourly rates in Fairfield are the lowest in the region.

Mr. Mears said the reduction should be made. There are funds available to pay if the budget goes over. He spoke against the amendment to the original motion, which is \$14,000 over last year's request.

Ann Stamler, District 5, asked if there is an estimate as to how much the budget will be increased.

Town Atty. Saxl said that last year's budget was insufficient. The labor issues are unknown at this point. The original request was already whittled down by the First Selectman and the Board of Selectmen. Any further reductions will not allow him to do his job.

Ms. Stamler asked if Atty. Saxl had exceeded his budget by twenty percent. Mr. Saxl said that he was afraid he would be going over budget this year.

VOTE: The motion to amend the motion to reduce the Legal Services budget from \$27,050 to \$12,000 was approved with 25 in favor, 12 opposed (Mr. Conley and Mr. Schwartz were not present to vote).

IN FAVOR: Becker, Challinor, Herley, Richmond, Sundman, Bateson, Ference, McCullough, Palmer, Garskof, Smey, Stamler, DeSanctis, Hoffkins, Llewellyn, Braun, Hoffmann, McCarthy, Takami, Dillon, Felner, Millington, Mirabile, Cafferelli, Rubino

OPPOSED: Ambrose, Jones, Steele, Santalesa, McAleese, Dyer, Marmion, Vahey, Hochberg, Harrison, McGinty, Mears

Ms. Stamler said that since there is legal activity ongoing which was not when the legal services budget was being prepared, she does not support the motion to reduce the budget.

Michael Mears, District 10, referred to the expected \$1.5 million surplus in this year's budget. He asked where the funds go.

REPRESENTATIVE TOWN MEETING

3

MAY 3, 2011

Fiscal Officer Paul Hiller said that there are still 55 days to go in the current fiscal year. If there is a budget surplus, it goes into the undesignated surplus account. We are below the target for the undesignated surplus account, as we were last year, also.

Mr. Mears spoke in support of the motion to reduce the legal services budget.

VOTE: The motion to reduce the legal services budget as amended to \$12,000, failed with a vote of 17 in favor, 20 opposed (Mr. Conley and Mr. Schwartz were not present to vote).

IN FAVOR: Becker, Challinor, Herley, Sundman, Jones, Bateson, Ference, Santalesa, Llewellyn, Braun, Harrison, Hoffmann, Takami, Felner, Millington, Cafferelli, Mears

OPPOSED: Richmond, Ambrose, Steele, McCullough, Palmer, Garskof, McAleese, Smey, Stamler, DeSanctis, Dyer, Marmion, Vahey, Hochberg, Hoffkins, McCarthy, Dillon, McGinty, Mirabile, Rubino

MOTION: Ed Bateson, District 3, moved to amend the budget by reducing \$1,200 from the office supplies request from Dept. 1330, Human Resources, duly seconded.

Josh Garskof, District 5, asked the Human Resources Director how the proposed cut would affect her budget.

Human Resources Mary Carroll-Mirylees said that after the Board of Finance reduced \$11,000 from the Claim Handling account, she was left with a shortfall. If a further reduction is made she will go over budget.

David Becker, District 1, noted that the proposed reduction is from the Office Supplies account, not the Claim Handling account.

Fiscal Officer Paul Hiller said that the \$11,000 reduced from the budget request was for worker's compensation. This has been a difficult year with work-related injuries and there is no question that line item is inadequately funded.

Mr. Becker said that he is concerned that any other random line item be used to cover something that the Board of Finance cut. He supports the motion to reduce the budget.

Selectman Jim Walsh said that this had been a particularly difficult year for worker's compensation issues and he asked if the human resources director expects it to happen again.

Ms. Carroll-Mirylees said that she recalculated the manner in which we handle claims. There have been serious claims among seven people in as many months. The situation has been mitigated, and \$2 million is the correct number. She also noted that medical costs are rising.

Selectman Walsh asked if new large claims are anticipated.

Ms. Carroll-Mirylees said that there are current claims that are nowhere near being settled.

VOTE: The motion to reduce the Human Resources budget by \$1,200 was approved with 23 in favor, 15 opposed (Mr. Schwartz was not present to vote).

IN FAVOR: Becker, Challinor, Herley, Richmond, Sundman, Bateson, Ference, McCullough, Santalesa, Garskof, McAleese, Dyer, Braun, Harrison, Hoffmann, McCarthy, Takami, Felner, Millington, Mirabile, Cafferelli, Mears, Rubino

**REPRESENTATIVE TOWN MEETING
MAY 3, 2011**

4

OPPOSED: Ambrose, Jones, Steele, Conley, Palmer, Smey, Stamler, DeSanctis, Marmion, Vahey, Hochberg, Hoffkins, Llewellyn, Dillon, McGinty

MOTION: Faith Dillon, District 9, moved to amend the budget by reducing \$6,000 from Dept. 2170, Discovery Museum, duly seconded.

Ms. Dillon said that the proposed motion represents a twenty percent cut in the budget request. She said that field trip prices could be increased per child to make up the difference.

Cristin McCarthy Vahey, District 6, said that there is a non-profit committee so the conversation is ongoing.

VOTE: The motion to reduce the Discovery Museum budget by \$6,000 was approved with 25 in favor, 12 opposed and 1 abstention (Becker) (Mr. Schwartz was not present to vote).

IN FAVOR: Challinor, Herley, Richmond, Sundman, Jones, Bateson, Conley, Ference, McCullough, Santalesa, Palmer, DeSanctis, Dyer, Marmion, Braun, Harrison, Hoffmann, McCarthy, Takami, Dillon, Felner, Millington, Mirabile, Mears, Rubino

OPPOSED: Ambrose, Steele, Garskof, McAleese, Smey, Stamler, Vahey, Hochberg, Hoffkins, Llewellyn, McGinty, Cafferelli

MOTION: Faith Dillon, District 9, moved to amend the budget by reducing \$3,000 from Dept. 2210, Audubon Society, duly seconded.

Sheila Marmion, District 6, asked for comment on the impact such a reduction would have.

Director of Fairfield Operations for the Connecticut Audubon Society Nelson North said that the Audubon Society had not asked for an increase in funds in 15 years. The Burr Street facility offers ten miles of trails and two miles of handicap accessible trails at no cost to residents. Taking \$3,000 would be a particular hardship this year, after a difficult winter. The elevated walkways are in disrepair and there are trees down. This would impact whether certain trails will open. The cut will hurt and it will impact services to the Town.

Ms. Marmion asked if volunteers could be used to make up the difference in funding.

Ms. North said that volunteers are used for raking and grooming but absolutely not for using chainsaws and axes; professionals must be used.

Ms. Dillon said that the cost could be made up in field trip fees.

Mr. North said that the field trip costs are included in the \$15,000 budget request.

First Selectman Flatto said that the Audubon Center on Burr Street and the Birdcraft Museum on Unquowa Road are symbols of the Town. This is a miniscule number compared to other non-profits. There has been a deficit over the past few years, and schools have no simple mechanism in place in order to collect funds for field trips. This should not be looked at as a field-trip program. The Audubon Society has a place in the history of our town.

Chris McAleese, District 5, said that he cannot support the motion to cut. Everybody in Town uses these facilities and we have to keep them usable.

**REPRESENTATIVE TOWN MEETING
MAY 3, 2011**

5

Nick Mirabile, District 9, said he cannot support the motion. This has been a flat line item number and the Audubon Society is not asking for an increase. This has been a bad winter and the landscaping is trashed. A lot of education comes out of the Society.

Speaking against the motion to reduce were Board of Ed member Pam Iacono and Judy Ewing.

VOTE: The motion to reduce the Audubon Society budget by \$3,000 failed with a vote of 5 in favor (Richmond, Santalesa, Harrison, Dillon, Mears), 31 in favor and 2 abstentions (Becker, Braun) (Mr. Schwartz was not present to vote).

MOTION: Ms. Dillon moved to amend the budget by reducing \$17,500 from Dept. 2250, Fairfield Museum and History Center, duly seconded.

Ms. Dillon said that Fairfield Museum requested a 54 percent increase over last year and she said that was unreasonable in the current fiscal climate.

Mark McGinty, District 9, spoke against the motion. The museum has not sought an increase in four years. They also manage local historic buildings such as the Burr Homestead and the Sun Tavern.

Peter Ambrose, District 2, said that he is opposed to the motion. The Fairfield Historical Society has a beautiful museum and they offer many educational programs for adults and children. He added that they also care for the Town's historical buildings.

Michael Jehle, Director of the Fairfield Museum and History Center, added that the Bronson Windmill, Victorian Cottage and the Powder House are also among the buildings they maintain.

Mr. Ambrose said that over 970 researchers use the library each year, the museum attracts over 18,000 visitors, and offers many activities and functions. The Center makes the Town of Fairfield, and this is a well-deserved increase.

Bill Llewellyn, District 7, said that employee compensation costs need to be under better control.

Mr. Becker said that he has a non-profit agency and intends to abstain on all non-profit agency votes. He said that the votes on the non-profits in the budget have been hodge-podge, with some increasing and some going down. He asked that the non-profit committee be given some sense of direction.

Mr. Mirabile said that the Fairfield Museum and History Center provides service to all people in town. It is educational and meaningful and part of what makes our Town great, along with our education system and the beach. This keeps our property values up.

Board of Finance member Mike Tetreau said that guidelines for non-profit agencies need to be discussed. This is the Fairfield museum, and if we do not support it, nobody will. The Center protects our heritage.

Joe Palmer, District 4, spoke against the motion and said the Center is worth the investment.

Speaking against the motion to reduce the Fairfield Museum and History Center were Michael Jehle, Marcia Miner, Don Leslie, Judy Ewing and Museum President Bill Vogel.

VOTE: The motion to reduce the Fairfield Museum and History Center budget failed with 7 in favor (Challinor, Richmond, Conley, Ference, Braun, Dillon, Mears), 30 opposed and 2 abstentions (Becker, McCarthy).

**REPRESENTATIVE TOWN MEETING
MAY 3, 2011**

6

MOTION: Ms. Dillon moved to amend the budget by reducing \$1,600 from Dept. 2470, Pilot House, duly seconded.

Ms. Dillon asked what the value is on the space which Pilot House receives for \$1.00 per year along with heat and electricity.

First Selectman Flatto explained that Grasmere Eldercare vacated this property approximately two years ago and that Pilot House was looking for a place to relocate due to increased enrollment. Historically, this space has been used for public/private programs. Pilot House pays the utilities on the building. The former school building is in a residential zone and has no commercial use and limited residential use. When Fairfield Woods Middle School was no longer able to accommodate the program, the parents were getting ready to sue the Town for not supporting the required programs offered by Pilot House.

Ms. Dillon asked how this lease differs from Oldfield.

First Selectman Flatto explained that the lease at Oldfield is for a for-profit company. Pilot House does not have the money to pay for a lease. Pilot House was the only entity to come forward when the former school building became available.

VOTE: The motion to reduce the Pilot House budget by \$1,600 failed with 5 in favor (Richmond, Conley, Takami, Dillon, Mears), 31 in favor and 3 abstentions (Becker, Jones, McCarthy).

MOTION: Mr. Becker moved to amend the budget by reducing \$189,750 from Dept. 3110, IT, from the following line items: \$13,000 for disaster recovery; \$3,000 for Rental and Storage; \$38,000 for Maintenance and Repair of Equipment; \$7,750 from Printing and Binding; and \$128,000 for Special Departmental Supplies, duly seconded.

Mr. Becker said that he is a firm believer in technology, but the IT Director would not discuss his budget with him. He asked that the Director give information regarding the line items mentioned and how he arrived at the figures.

IT Director Don Leslie explained that he did not reply to the RTM members looking for additional information on his budget because his wife is involved in Town government and knows Robert's Rules so he did not want to talk to a couple of people in a smaller setting about his budget. His is a very busy department and this would take him away from his work, so he respectfully refused to take part in the process.

Mr. Leslie said that IT is lagging in Town and Microsoft 7 and Office 10 are working well. He would like to implement the upgrade over three years. If the funds are cut it would delay the upgrade further. Office 2003 will stop being supported next year. If the funds are cut we could move to free software. There are cheaper options, and if we started with Linux we could have stayed with it. He noted that IT is in the basement and Independence Hall is in a flood zone, so disaster recovery needs to be supported and it would be silly and illogical to cut that line item. He referred to his e-mail to the Body which outlined ways the Town can save money, such as issuing one "resident" card that allows access to all town departments such as tax, beach and the library. He also noted that there are three reports he must print that use paper and toner and said these "paper hogs" should be done away with: the rate books, abstracts and tax reports.

MOTION: Mr. Becker moved to amend the motion by only reducing \$128,000 from Special Departmental Supplies in Dept. 3110, IT, duly seconded.

**REPRESENTATIVE TOWN MEETING
MAY 3, 2011**

7

First Selectman Flatto said that these funds are to start the three-year process of ramping up of the Windows 7 upgrade to Town computers. Mr. Flatto defended Mr. Leslie's candor.

Selectman Sherri Steenecki said that this is a small department and they interface with other departments every single day. This is a vital town department and she urged support of the budget.

IT Director Don Leslie asked if the reduction to the budget is approved, would he be able to use funds from other areas of his budget, such as hardware which may not be necessary, to cover the cost of the upgrade.

Fiscal Officer Paul Hiller said that the auditors are only concerned with a department's bottom line.

Mr. Becker said that if an item is not necessary, it should not have been included in the budget. We have been asking for a zero-based budget and if a department head thinks an item is not necessary it should be left out of the budget.

Mr. Kenneth Lee, Rhoda Avenue, said that older systems are less secure.

Police Chief Gary MacNamara urged the Body not to cut the police laptops that had been placed in the IT budget because there is a dire need for them.

Selectman Jim Walsh said that he does not believe the only options are to install Windows 7 or put this item off for another year.

Mr. Becker said that there are many other options. These funds are for the first stage of a multi-year plan. He said it is not time to set the course for a long-term implementation plan. He said the IT Director merely picked Windows 7 and put it in the budget. We need a long-term plan.

Sheila Marmion, District 6, said she is not an IT expert, but she trusts the Town managers to make the long-range decisions.

MOTION: Jamie Millington, District 9, moved the question, duly seconded and carried with 31 in favor, 8 opposed.

VOTE: The motion to amend the motion reduce the IT Special Departmental Supplies budget by \$128,000 was approved with 26 in favor, 12 opposed (Mr. Challinor was not present to vote).

IN FAVOR: Becker, Jones, Bateson, Ference, McCullough, Santalessa, Palmer, Garskof, McAleese, DeSanctis, Hoffkins, Llewellyn, Schwartz, Braun, Harrison, Hoffmann, McCarthy, Takami, Dillon, Felner, McGinty, Millington, Mirabile, Cafferelli, Mears, Rubino

OPPOSED: Herley, Richmond, Sundman, Ambrose, Steele, Conley, Smey, Stamler, Dyer, Marmion, Vahey, Hochberg

Mr. Becker asked if the laptops are included in the special departmental supplies line item or if it is strictly related to software.

Mr. Leslie said it does not include the laptops, just software.

First Selectman Flatto asked if the schools have begun installing Windows 7 but Mr. Leslie did not know.

REPRESENTATIVE TOWN MEETING

8

MAY 3, 2011

Michael Mears, District 10, said that he works for a large money management company that deals with trillions of dollars each day and his company is still using Windows 2003. He said if Wall Street is not using Windows 7, we do not need it now.

VOTE: The motion to reduce the IT budget by \$128,000 as amended was approved with 24 in favor, 14 opposed (Mr. Challinor was not present to vote).

IN FAVOR: Becker, Ambrose, Jones, Steele, Bateson, Ference, McCullough, Santalesa, Palmer, DeSanctis, Llewellyn, Braun, Harrison, Hoffmann, McCarthy, Takami, Dillon, Felner, McGinty, Millington, Mirabile, Cafferelli, Mears, Rubino

OPPOSED: Herley, Richmond, Sundman, Conley, Garskof, McAleese, Smey, Stamler, Dyer, Marmion, Vahey, Hochberg, Hoffkins, Schwartz

Joe Palmer, District 4, asked why there are certain increases being requested in the Fire budget.

Fire Chief Richard Felner said that he increased maintenance costs on each of the six firehouses by \$2,000. One building is over 100 years old. We are doing the best we can with the old buildings, trucks and equipment.

Mr. Palmer said that last year the RTM approved funds for repairs for the firehouses.

Chief Felner said that repairs have been made to all of the firehouses but as soon as something is fixed, something else breaks. The funds also relate to generators and power tools on the apparatus.

MOTION: Mr. Palmer moved to amend the budget by reducing \$6,250 from Dept. 4010, Fire, from the following line items: \$2,250 from Maintenance and Repair of Equipment; \$2,000 from Materials Maintenance and Repair; and \$2,000 from Special Departmental Supplies, duly seconded.

Tom Conley, District 3, urged the Body to not cut the Fire budget. Every time the Fire Department budget is cut means they cannot come out to help the citizens. They live in their equipment and he asked that they please do not cut this department further.

Board of Ed member Pam Iacono asked the Body not support this motion. There has been a repetitive mode of kicking items down the road. If anything happens in our homes we want to be safe.

Ms. Marmion asked if the rationale for the proposed cut is to bring the number back to last year's budget to which Mr. Palmer responded yes.

VOTE: The motion to reduce the Fire budget by \$6,250 failed with a vote of 11 in favor, 27 opposed (Mr. Challinor was not present to vote).

IN FAVOR: Becker, Jones, Bateson, Santalesa, Palmer, DeSanctis, Llewellyn, Braun, Harrison, Mirabile, Mears

OPPOSED: Herley, Richmond, Sundman, Ambrose, Steele, Conley, Ference, McCullough, Garskof, McAleese, Smey, Stamler, Dyer, Marmion, Vahey, Hochberg, Hoffkins, Schwartz, Hoffmann, McCarthy, Takami, Dillon, Felner, McGinty, Millington, Cafferelli, Rubino

MOTION: Mr. Millington moved to suspend the rules in order to convene past 11:00 P.M. and to take up new items after 11:30 P.M., duly seconded and carried with 38 in favor, 1 abstention (Schwartz) (Mr. Challinor was not present to vote).

**REPRESENTATIVE TOWN MEETING
MAY 3, 2011**

9

MOTION: Mr. Becker moved to amend the budget by reducing \$10,000 from Dept. 4030, Police, duly seconded.

Chief MacNamara explained that Ford is not going to make the Crown Victorias any longer. We are going to start buying a different fleet of police cars. This account is to purchase miscellaneous repair supplies since the Crown Vic supplies will not fit the new vehicles.

Mr. Becker said that since the estimate was based on the move to another fleet of automobiles, if a new car needed repairs the money could be moved from the Contingency Account.

Selectman Walsh asked if the Chief intends to stockpile parts to repair the Crown Vics.

Chief MacNamara replied no; the request is for parts for the new cars.

VOTE: The motion to reduce the Police budget by \$10,000 failed with a vote of 18 in favor, 19 opposed and 1 abstention (McCarthy) (Mr. Challinor was not present to vote).

IN FAVOR: Becker, Herley, Ambrose, Jones, Bateson, Ference, Santalesa, Palmer, DeSanctis, Llewellyn, Braun, Harrison, Hoffmann, Takami, Millington, Mirabile, Mears, Rubino

OPPOSED: Richmond, Sundman, Steele, Conley, McCullough, Garskof, McAleese, Smey, Stamler, Dyer, Marmion, Vahey, Hochberg, Hoffkins, Schwartz, Dillon, Felner, McGinty, Cafferelli

MOTION: Tom McCarthy, District 8, moved to amend the budget by reducing Dept. 5011, Public Works Administration, by \$800, duly seconded.

VOTE: The motion to reduce the Public Works Administration budget by \$800 failed with a vote of 18 in favor, 20 opposed.

IN FAVOR: Herley, Sundman, Jones, Ference, McCullough, Santalesa, Palmer, DeSanctis, Llewellyn, Braun, Harrison, Hoffmann, McCarthy, Dillon, McGinty, Millington, Mirabile, Mears

OPPOSED: Becker, Richmond, Ambrose, Steele, Bateson, Conley, Garskof, McAleese, Smey, Stamler, Dyer, Marmion, Vahey, Hochberg, Hoffkins, Schwartz, Takami, Felner, Cafferelli, Rubino

MOTION: Mr. McCarthy moved to amend the budget by reducing Dept. 5030, Public Works Operations, by \$76,350, duly seconded.

Mr. Conley urged the Body to not approve reductions to the maintenance and repair accounts. They are in serious trouble.

Public Works Director Richard White said that he is concerned about some of the cuts. We are in a tough spot and this has been a difficult winter which placed a lot of stress on the trucks. All of the trucks were out plowing and he feels he accurately placed a cost of \$460,000 on the account. This is an old fleet and no trucks have been replaced since 2008 and even prior to that replacement was slim.

WITHDRAWAL OF MOTION: After some discussion, a proposed motion by Josh Garskof, District 5, and the motion on the floor by Mr. McCarthy were withdrawn.

**REPRESENTATIVE TOWN MEETING
MAY 3, 2011**

10

MOTION: Mr. McCarthy moved to amend the budget by reducing Dept. 5030, Public Works Operations, by \$87,350 from the following line items: \$1,750 from Maintenance and Repair of Equipment; \$25,600 from Maintenance and Repair of Automotives; \$1,000 from Laundry; \$4,000 from Clothing; \$3,000 from Postage; and \$52,000 from Capital, duly seconded.

MOTION: Mr. Garskof moved to amend the motion to reduce the budget by removing the \$25,600 request for Maintenance of Automotives, for a total of \$61,750, duly seconded.

Patti Dyer, District 6, urged the Body support the motion to add the funds back into the budget based on Mr. White's recommendation. This is a most helpful, cooperative department.

Peter Ambrose, District 2, said that he had never worked with a more credible department head. If Mr. White feels he needs these funds, he fully believes it. He thanked Mr. White for serving the Town so well.

Mr. White said he appreciated the comments and praised his staff and crew.

VOTE: The motion to amend the motion to reduce the DPW budget by removing \$25,600 from the list of reductions was approved with 35 in favor, 1 opposed (Schwartz) and 2 abstentions (Jones, McGinty) (Mr. Challinor was not present to vote).

Mr. White said that we currently have 175 big trucks and he made self-imposed cuts to his budget request, knowing that we are in a tough fiscal year. He reduced his request from twelve trucks to six, and the First Selectman cut four more. He asked that the Body consider adding the truck back in.

MOTION: Mr. Garskof moved to amend the motion by removing \$52,000 from Capital from the list of reductions, duly seconded.

Mr. McCarthy said that if we proceed this way, he intends to make a motion to cut the survey van from the budget.

Ruth Smey, District 5, said that the survey van is rotted and falling apart. The Department of Public Works maintains the town, including plowing, sewers and trees and they need every penny. We are over budget by \$500,000 for snow removal and she urged that no cuts be made to this department.

Mr. McAleese said that there was no agreement between the Body and departments as to what is being cut and what is being left in.

Hal Schwartz, District 7, thanked Mr. White for his service and noted that most of the Body had complimented his department. If he wants a truck, we should give him a truck.

Selectman Walsh implored the Body to approve the motion. The public works department is always giving and giving. We have praised him tonight for doing such a good job plowing but if he does not have the necessary equipment we are limiting what he can do.

Speaking in favor of the motion were Pam Iacono and Kenneth Lee.

Mr. McCarthy said that Mr. White said the truck is not roadworthy. He said he takes that at face value but thought the mason truck could go another year.

MOTION: Mr. Millington moved the question, duly seconded.

**REPRESENTATIVE TOWN MEETING
MAY 3, 2011**

11

VOTE: The motion to move the question was approved with 28 in favor, 10 opposed (Becker, Garskof, McAleese, Stamler, Dyer, Marmion, Vahey, Hochberg, McCarthy, Mears) (Mr. Challinor was not present to vote).

VOTE: The motion to amend the motion by removing \$52,000 from Capital from the list of reductions was approved with 31 in favor, 7 opposed (Jones, Santalesa, Palmer, Braun, Hoffmann, McCarthy, Mears) (Mr. Challinor was not present to vote).

Ms. Stamler spoke against the motion to reduce the Public Works budget. The union contract provides for required clothing items such as rain gear and steel-toe boots. She does not support any further cut to the Public Works budget.

Liz Hoffmann, District 8, asked Mr. White if he felt that he could make his budget work if the motion is approved, to which Mr. White replied that he thought that he could.

VOTE: The motion to reduce the Public Works Operations budget by \$9,750 from the following line items: \$1,750 from Maintenance and Repair of Equipment; \$1,000 from Laundry; \$4,000 from Clothing; \$3,000 from Postage was approved with 34 in favor, 4 opposed (Jones, Stamler, Vahey, Schwartz) (Mr. Challinor was not present to vote).

VOTE: The motion to approve the budget, amended from \$264,034,123 to \$263,073,943, was approved with 34 in favor, 4 opposed (Santalesa, Palmer, Harrison, Mears) (Mr. Challinor was not present to vote).

ITEM NO. 3 ON CALL: TO CONSIDER AND ACT UPON THE SELF-SUPPORTING FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$4,991,310 FOR THE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY FOR THE FISCAL YEAR OF JULY 1, 2011 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2012

The Moderator moved this item as distributed with the Call, duly seconded.

VOTE: The motion to approve self-supporting funds in the amount of \$4,991,310 for the WPCA was approved by unanimous voice vote.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business and upon motion made, duly seconded and carried unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 11:55 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth P. Browne
Town Clerk

Recorded by: Ann Roche