

Chairman Shaw called the meeting to order at 6:30pm in the Town Hall.

Present: Almann, Carrier, Ebbighausen, Hartnett, Major, Schill, Shaw, Smith, Zavorotny.

Excused: Ms. Kennedy advised she would not be able to attend as the School Board would be meeting at the same time.

Absent: Klein

Minutes for meetings 581, 582 and 583 were accepted as printed.

Town expenses through September were discussed with no problems noted. Ms. Collins noted that the payroll items were overstated due to a double entry earlier in the year. This has since been corrected. The Grand List is up some \$26M. Most is from revaluation of Vernon Dam which increased \$20M. This should result in a lower tax rate being set for the current period. It is about \$1.50 lower with favorable spending along with the increased valuation. In addition, some grants have been received which will offset some town and sewer item costs.

No information has been received from the school district. Mr. Zavorotny will follow up.

The Selectmen have been working on budget items and the total is presently about 1.3% above last year. One good item is that the health care costs took only a 3% jump this year. Mr. Ebbighausen noted that the Selectmen have set a general wage increase of 1.5%. MS. Collins plans to have the first pass at budgets copied and available for pickup at the Town Hall next Wednesday, the 27<sup>th</sup>. She will also include the CIP proposal and potential warrant articles.

The committee again discussed how to approach the upcoming process. Ms. Schill moved that no tentative approvals be acted upon until all reviews are completed. Mr. Hartnett seconded the motion. The concern is that with the tentative approval given, department heads feel that the number is final. Several members felt the tentative approval is necessary so that we do not keep going over the same items. Mr. Hartnett and Ms. Schill withdrew their motion. Mr. Hartnett moved that we proceed by reviewing the budgets, take no action at that point, but make consideration for tentative approval the first agenda item at the following meeting. Ms. Schill seconded and passage was unanimous. Mr. Hartnett also voiced concern that we need to discuss any last minute changes with the department heads so that they are involved in the final proposal and we need to see potential income numbers earlier so that impact on the tax rate can be estimated.

The next meeting was set for Thursday, November 4, 2010 at 7:00pm. in the Town Hall.

The meeting adjourned at 7:15p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Peter W. Zavorotny  
Recording Secretary