

**HAMPTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN
SELECTMEN'S MEETING ROOM
September 19, 2005 7:00 PM**

PRESENT: James Workman, Chairman, Cliff Pratt, Vice Chairman
Rick Griffin, Ben Moore, Virginia Bridle-Russell
James S. Barrington, Town Manager
Karen Anderson, Administrative Assistant

I. SALUTE TO THE FLAG – Mr. Patrick Cronin led the audience in the flag salute.

II. MOMENT OF SILENCE- A moment of silence was observed in memory of former selectman, Ashton Norton.

II. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Moore thanked the public for attending the Historical Society's annual Pig Roast and he thanked Chef Cliff Pratt for a job well done.

Mr. Griffin outlined the upcoming Recreation Department activities, including the Family Movie Night at Tuck Field, skateboarding lessons, Salem Shopping trip, Bowling Trip, and the Apple fest. Details are available from the Recreation Department.

Mrs. Bridle commended the Portsmouth Herald on sponsoring an editorial on homelessness in New Hampshire. She noted that every food pantry is in need of food and donations will be accepted.

The Board expressed their condolences to the family of Ashton Norton. Mr. Pratt noted that a true "Yankee" has passed away.

III. APPOINTMENTS

1. Geannina Guzman-Scanlon, Re: Report of Sidewalk and Parking Committee

Mrs. Scanlon reviewed the issues and recommendations that were received through the survey that they conducted for the Sidewalk and Parking Committee. Mrs. Scanlon said that the issues facing Hampton Beach are complex and center around parking challenges. The committee wanted to identify proposed solutions to the parking, noting that retaining parking on the lettered streets was essential to the commercial and residential functions at the beach. Mrs. Scanlon said that the "cookie cutter" approach will not work in Hampton Beach, it is not feasible to have every street with one side of parking and sidewalks on both sides. She asked the Board to keep in mind that no one is opposed to the sidewalks on Ashworth Avenue, although the final loading zone arrangement has not been discussed by the Board. There are "No parking" signs that have been posted near the Royal Market, but the parking in that area is still being litigated at Superior Court. An issue that is not resolved for Ashworth Avenue was emergency access problems that occurred on July 4th, since the sidewalks do not allow enough space for vehicles in both directions to pull over for emergency vehicles.

The emphasis that the committee would like to make is that they would like parking to remain on both sides of the lettered streets. People feel that losing any on-street parking would hurt their businesses, rentals and lower the value of their properties. Mrs. Scanlon said that there are serious, economic issues to Hampton Beach with a reduction of parking spaces. She expressed concerns that Mr. Hangen stated that there would be no loss of parking at the Island area, while FST has stated that they would lose 70 spaces and Mr. Barrington has said that they would lose 210 spaces. Mrs. Scanlon said that people are also concerned with road rage because people will be fighting over the limited parking spaces. As a resort community, the livelihood of many people is being able to rent units and parking is necessary to do that. The parking is being eliminated in favor of sidewalks. The height of the curbs is also a concern and she asked if there is an alternative to the higher curb; she understands that the curb helps with the direction of the storm water, but it eliminates the chance of parking in that area. The issue is to consider each of the remaining 11 streets

and devise a plan that meets the needs of the residents in that area, saving at least 170 parking spaces. Of the remaining streets, N, O, P, and Q are small, low volume streets that could have a 4' sidewalk on just one side and retain parking on the other side. There are some issues on P Street to consider, including two trees that residents would like to see saved. On P & O Street, people park "head-in" which does present a challenge to parking and if we can accommodate those people they will be parking on the town right-of-way, which is a concession that should be allowed. Mrs. Scanlon said that G, H, I, J, K, L and M Streets could all accommodate 3' sidewalks on both sides or a 3' and a 5' sidewalk on each side, with parking allowed on both sides. The width of the travel lane could be relaxed rather than eliminate one side of the parking. It will take flexibility and the will of this Board to work with the Town Manager, Fire Department and the Sidewalk Committee to come up with a workable plan. The solution that was suggested in the surveys was the addition of a parking garage, which is a solution that was also recommended by the Beach Master Plan. She noted that parking garages are expensive and would not be feasible for the short season at Hampton Beach. Mrs. Scanlon said that keeping the existing parking is a common sense solution, although they will need a parking garage in the future.

Mrs. Scanlon pointed out that the bump-outs were an issue brought out by residents in the survey as well. Some people felt that they were good in theory but are not working in reality. It seems that they may create more undesirable conditions than they were meant to correct. Some cars are over-compensating for the bump-outs. She said that business owners have provided landscaping and have provided seating opportunities, which has made them look very nice. She suggested that they remain as built on the end of the streets, but that the curbing be eliminated so that emergency vehicles can make the corner easier. She suggested that they be eliminated from the remaining streets in favor of parking. Some of the savings from eliminating those could be used for landscaping and beautification purposes or to cover the cost of sewer hook-ups for property owners, especially the elderly owners.

Mrs. Scanlon asked what is going to happen with the loading zones, particularly on A Street where the signs have been installed. She noted that on G Street there is a one-way sign that is upside down. Mrs. Scanlon said that as the project progresses it will be smart to look at landscaping opportunities. Some of the properties have done some beautification attempts now that the sidewalks and the bump outs have been created. She noted that the decisions will have to be made quickly, the work on G Street began today. The recommendations of the Sidewalk and Parking Committee is to reconsider adding loading zones/service lane on Ashworth Avenue; maintain no loss of parking on the Island Section, and revise the sidewalk plan on the remaining lettered streets on an individual basis with the goal of parking on both sides. If the tree could be preserved on P Street it would be nice. Additional signs to encourage people to keep the beach clean would also be a nice addition. The Committee thanked the residents that responded to the survey. As the project continues she would like to see a better effort at communication with the residents during the off-season. She noted that they have not been provided with the status of the budget and that is critical to their efforts. There is a need for clear information and planning regarding the individual hook-ups on the lettered streets. If there will be no sidewalks or loss of parking at the Island, the one issue that remains is assistance with the cost of the hook-ups. Mrs. Scanlon asked that the Board of Selectmen take a leadership role to meet the requests and recommendations of the committee.

Mr. Workman thanked Mrs. Scanlon for the work that was completed. Mr. Moore said that it was a very logical and good presentation, but he does not know what the next step is. Mr. Griffin said that he understands that the purpose of the funds are very definite, that they could not be spent for landscaping. Mr. Barrington said that there were some funds designated for landscaping, but it is not the primary purpose. Mrs. Scanlon said that even though there is a \$12 million budget, there have been some additions and subtractions to the project already. Mr. Griffin said that by having the sidewalks, people will have the opportunity to beautify their properties and that has been happening. Mrs. Scanlon said that the residents are willing to make beautification efforts, but they need to have the parking retained in order to do that. Mrs. Bridle-Russell said that she has proven that communication is an important tool and your discussion will lead the Board to further discussion.

Mrs. Scanlon said that they have established a communication network and the businesses are pleading to keep the parking. Any way the committee can be a resource to the Board, they will be happy to help.

2. Mr. John Nyhan, Hurricane Relief Activities

Mr. Nyhan thanked the Board of Selectmen for this opportunity to share the ideas he and his wife have come up with to help the hurricane victims. The Victoria Inn and Galley Hatch Catering have decided to host some fund-raising activities in conjunction called Project Tammany, with a goal of raising \$25,000. They chose Tammany Parish to assist, because it is a community made up of several small towns that is very similar to this area, in fact they recently held their annual Seafood Festival. The theme is "Helping people, like us". There will be a weekend of events from Friday, October 14 – 16th and the response has been overwhelming from businesses that want to participate and donate their services.

Mr. Nyhan asked the Board for their non-financial endorsement on the project. He asked the residents of the community to get involved and participate in the activities. Mr. Griffin said that it sounds like a great series of events. Mrs. Bridle said that it is nice that most of the events are affordable and it is a great idea. She said she is sure that Hampton will come together to assist Tammany Parish. Mr. Pratt thanked Mr. Nyhan for these efforts. Mr. Workman thanked him for his efforts and reviewed the events that have been planned.

III. OLD BUSINESS

Town Manager's Report

Administrative Assistant

Mr. Barrington told the Board that it was with mixed feelings that he had accepted Karen Anderson's resignation as Administrative Assistant to accept the position of Town Administrator for the Town of Greenland. He said that while he is sad for the Town of Hampton, he is pleased for the opportunity that has presented itself to Karen. Her last day in the office will be October 4th. After 14 years, Karen will be one of the tough employees to replace, and he will be advertising for that position.

Mosquito Control

Mr. Barrington said that Ann Kaiser, Chairman of the Mosquito Control Commission has asked him to remind residents to keep up their use of insect repellants and continue to eliminate any standing water around their property..

Pending Legal Matters

Town Attorney Mark Gearreald has been in touch with Attorney Steve Ells regarding both the Galley Hatch license proposal and the Broussard request for improvements on his beachfront property on Ocean Boulevard. Those discussions continue. Mr. Barrington told the Board that they should have found several other permit requests to DES for similar repairs to what was requested by Mr. Broussard. The Board should consider a consistent policy regarding all of these properties. Mr. Griffin said that everyone should be treated the same.

ZBA Secretary

Mr. Barrington reported that he is advertising for a new secretary to take the minutes for the ZBA.

Private Detail-Vehicle Rate

Mr. Barrington reported that he enclosed in the Board's packets a rate sheet from FEMA that Finance Director Dawna Duhamel provided. The last line shows that FEMA is reimbursing idling police cars at the rate of \$14.35 per hour. Since Hampton has been charging \$5.00 per hour for private details, it appears the town's rate should be adjusted. Mr. Barrington said that he has asked Chief Wrenn to look into that. Between September 1st and December 31st of this year, the IRS and Federal reimbursement rate for mileage has been increased to .485 cents per mile. Mr. Griffin said that it is a good idea to increase the rate for detail cars.

Homeland Security Grant

Mr. Barrington told the Board that he received a note that a 100% Homeland Security grant in the amount of \$77,517.30 has been awarded to the Town. A public hearing should be scheduled for September 26th. These funds are for four different grants and the information has been provided for the Board.

Kings Highway

Mr. Moore asked what the latest status is for Kings Highway and the completion date. Mr. Barrington said that the work has resumed and good progress is being made. Mr. Barrington said that he believes the town will be able to resolve the issues in that area satisfactorily, at no cost to the town.

Ashworth Avenue

Mr. Moore asked if there is anything new on the negotiation of the change order for Ashworth Avenue. Mr. Barrington that negotiations have continued and four of the eight issues have been resolved.

Karen Anderson

Mrs. Bridle said that everyone hates to see Karen go. She noted that Karen assumes many roles, including Human Resources and Welfare Administration and she asked if the replacement will handle those as well or if another position will be required. Mr. Barrington said that he will try to find someone that can assume all of those roles that Karen currently has, advertising a salary in the mid to high 40's.

Park Avenue

Mr. Pratt asked what the status of Park Avenue was. Mr. Barrington said that the temporary no parking arrangements have been made and a draft proposal for the lease with the high school to park at Tuck Field has been prepared. A revision has been added that the town will receive \$50 per space, with the \$25 being retained by the school to pay for the plowing. Mr. Barrington said that while the transition takes place, there is no charge in order to get the students off the road. The School Board will be meeting on September 28th on this issue. Mr. Pratt said that he is concerned that if something is going to be done on Park Avenue, it needs to be done by November 16th because the paving plants will be shutting down. Mr. Barrington said that he has been provided with a copy of the traffic study. Mr. Workman said that it may be appropriate to get Mr. Hangen's thoughts on the intersection next week.

Mr. Moore MOTIONED

1. That the Town of Hampton, acting through the Town Manager, demand that the Board of the Winnacunnet High School (School Board) reconstruct the easterly leg of the "Y" intersection at the junction of Winnacunnet Road and Park Avenue. This leg was destroyed by action of contractors working under contract to said School Board.
2. That as a part of this demand that the School Board be instructed to furnish to the Town Manager, on or before September 26, 2005, evidence that such work will be completed by October 21, 2005. Failing such evidence that the Town Manager is directed to cause the leg to be reconstructed before October 21, 2005 and to seek reimbursement for the cost from the School Board.
3. That a public hearing be held on September 26, 2005 regarding making the easterly leg of the "Y" at the intersection of Winnacunnet Road and Park Avenue one way for right turns east bound on Winnacunnet Road.
4. That the Hampton Highway Safety Commission be requested to review safety issues at the Winnacunnet Road entrance to Winnacunnet High School and offer any recommendation it determines to be necessary after its review.

Mr. Griffin SECONDED

Mr. Moore said that what he heard at the public hearing is that there is a dangerous intersection at Park Avenue and Winnacunnet Road and the radius is under the standard. The option is to widen the road, moving a utility pole, which likely could not happen before winter. He does not think it is a huge cost impact to reconstruct the "Y", but it needs to be done for safety and be as far away from the new driveway as possible. Residents and visitors to the area use Park Avenue 24/7 and the school entrance is only used ½ hour per school day. It is important to accommodate the residents. Mr. Moore said that this motion

addresses the concerns he heard last week to make the intersection user friendly, except during the school hours in the morning and afternoon. Mr. Griffin said that he is interested in swift action, with a minimum amount of money being wasted. Mr. Pratt said that it is a good motion, but he does not think that the pole needs to be moved to make a safer condition. He is very concerned about the safety at that intersection and this may relieve some of the concerns. Mrs. Bridle-Russell said that this will completely undo what the contractors did and that is what Chief Wrenn cautioned the Board not to do because it would create a worse situation. Mrs. Bridle-Russell said that it is wasting tax payer's money, but if it is only one-way it would not have to be as wide as it was. Mr. Moore said that this will eliminate the turning radius problem that currently exists and improve visibility.

**VOTE: 4 FOR
1 OPPOSED (Bridle-Russell)**

Mr. Moore said that the Board of Selectmen talked about holding a public hearing about speed limits and parking ordinances next week and needed specific locations. Mr. Barrington said that the discussion was about establishing a school zone, which would reduce the speed limit and parking ordinances that would prohibit parking on both sides of Winnacunnet Road, from Mill Lane to Landing Road and on both sides of Moulton Road and Windmill Lane. He asked if the Board wanted those restrictions to be limited to school hours. Mr. Moore asked if a school zone has a statutory distance or can the length be at the discretion of the town. Attorney Gearreald said that he believes the town can set the distance, but there may be specific lighting requirements for school zones. Mr. Barrington said that Winnacunnet Road, between Park Avenue and Jeffrey Drive would be an appropriate school zone. The Board recommended 20 mph. Mr. Barrington suggested 6:45 AM to 7:30 AM and 2:00 PM to 3:30 PM for the school zone speed limit. The recommendation is for no parking on Winnacunnet Road from Landing Road to Mill Road, both sides of Windmill Lane and Moulton Road; 7 AM-3 PM, Monday-Friday. Mr. Pratt said that he thinks the Board owes this to the residents. Mr. Griffin said that it is not just the parking that is the problem and he told the Board that between Landing Road and the new entrance he stopped and picked up a full bag of trash in that one location. Mr. Barrington said that is one of the problems the Tinios family had at the theater and one of the problems the town had at the parks. Trash at Tuck Field is being addressed by the agreement with Winnacunnet, committing the students to clean-up hours and making sure the park is kept clean.

Mr. Moore MOTIONED that the Board of Selectmen hold a public hearing on September 26th to take comments from the public in regard to no parking on Winnacunnet Road from Landing Road to Mill Road, both sides of Windmill Lane and Moulton Road from 7 AM-3 PM, Monday-Friday and to amend the speed limit on Winnacunnet Road to establish a school zone with a 20 mph speed limit on Winnacunnet Road, between Landing Road and Jeffrey Drive from 6:45 AM to 7:30 AM and 2:00 PM-3:00 PM.

Mr. Pratt SECONDED

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

The information on the vacuum truck grant has not been received so that public hearing is still on hold.

Mr. Moore MOTIONED that the Board of Selectmen hold a public hearing on September 27th to take comments from the public on the acceptance of grants received by the Fire Department in an amount up to \$77,517.30.

Mrs. Bridle SECONDED

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

Mr. Moore asked what action the Town Manager wanted the Board to take in regard to increasing the vehicle charge for private details. Mr. Barrington said that he is waiting for input from Chief Wrenn and will have it as an agenda item next week.

Unregistered Dogs

Mr. Workman noted that the Board of Selectmen has received a memo from the Town Clerk noting that 329 dogs still remain unregistered and forfeiture letters can be sent at this time. Mrs. Bridle-Russell asked if the Town would take the forfeiture action. Mr. Pratt said that he registers his dog every year and those that don't are abusing the system. He said that sending out a letter may help collect some of the money. Mr. Workman said that he believes that it has spurred a response in the past.

Mr. Moore MOTIONED that the Board of Selectmen direct the Town Clerk to send the forfeiture letters out.

Mrs. Bridle SECONDED

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

Signs in Streets

Mrs. Bridle-Russell noted that she has been seeing several little green signs blocking the streets to allow children to play in the road. She urged residents to keep the children out of the streets. Mr. Barrington will ask Public Works to collect the signs and bring them to the Transfer Station.

Chain of Command

Mr. Griffin asked who was in charge when Mr. Barrington was not in. Mr. Barrington said Mrs. Duhamel is in charge whenever he is out.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

1. Budget Review –General Government, Culture & Recreation, Building Inspection

Mr. Barrington explained that the bottom line for the proposed budget of \$23,999,994 is an increase of 1.9% over the current default budget. He thanked the Department Heads for their hard work in budget preparation and told the Board that he looked forward to discussions with them to present a responsible budget to the voters.

Account 4130. Executive

Mrs. Bridle-Russell MOTIONED that the Board of Selectmen recommend Account 4130. Executive at \$126,459.

Mr. Pratt SECONDED

Mr. Moore asked if there is a draft default budget prepared at this time. Mr. Barrington said that it has not been completed. He asked if there are projected revenues and expenses for the Recreation Department SRF. Mr. Barrington said that Mrs. Martin has a presentation on that.

Mr. Moore noted that the Board of Selectmen stipend is currently at \$15,000 and it is recommended to increase to \$17,500. Mr. Barrington said that he returned the stipend to the level it has been at for several years, prior to the reduction the Board took this year.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

4140. Elections, Registrations and Vital Statistics

Mr. Moore MOTIONED that the Board of Selectmen recommend Account 4140. Elections, Registration and Vital Statistics at \$222,197.

Mrs. Bridle-Russell SECONDED

Mr. Barrington said that the increase in this account is due to more elections in 2006 with the State Primary and General Election.

Mr. Moore noted that the Town Clerk's wage is increased by 5%. Mr. Barrington said that this is her request that has been passed along to the Board. Mr. Moore asked if the computer support is for new software. Mrs. Duhamel said that the software is a new State requirement. Mrs. Andreozzi said that the software is part of the State program that will process the registrations immediately, rather than having the towns mail the work on a daily basis. Mr. Moore asked about the additional hours she has requested in the amount of \$8,000. Mrs. Andreozzi said that she is requesting additional hours in regular wages which will provide an overlap in coverage for her Deputy who plans to retire next year and \$4,000 in additional hours for the part-time staff to provide coverage for vacations and sick days.

Mr. Moore asked if the default budget is adjusted due to the increased number of elections. Mrs. Duhamel said that she would include it in her calculations.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

Account 4150 Financial Administration

Mrs. Bridle-Russell MOTIONED that the Board of Selectmen recommend Account 4150. Financial Administration at \$719,394.

Mr. Griffin SECONDED

Mr. Moore asked if this includes the software maintenance for the new program. Mrs. Duhamel said that it does and the new software will be on line in January. Mr. Moore asked about the audit fees. Mr. Barrington said that they have been moved to a new section. Mr. Moore asked what the estimation is of the cost to implement GASB 34. Mrs. Duhamel said it would be \$16,000-\$18,000. Mr. Moore asked if it would be possible to encumber some money in 2005 for the GASB 34 preparation work, because it may be time to make that commitment, although he understands that it is a tight budget. Mr. Barrington said that an RFP for GASB 34 services can be done to determine the costs before the end of the year.

Mrs. Bridle-Russell said that with the replacement of the Administrative Assistant position, there may be enough money for GASB 34. Mrs. Duhamel said that there would not be enough. Mrs. Bridle asked if the budget is based on the salaries shown in the appendix and Mrs. Duhamel confirmed that it was.

Account 4150.3 Assessing

Mr. Barrington said that Mr. Estey's original proposal did not include the data collection position, but he is recommending that the position be added because it will be a cost savings in the long run. Mr. Barrington this would provide a continuous cycle of reassessing the town so that a private company would not have to be hired to do a complete assessment. Mr. Estey said that the town passed recertification in 2003 and the next certification will be in 2008. Property values have increased quickly and the equalization ration this year will be about 73%. Mr. Pratt asked when the assessing assistant was made part-time. Mr. Estey said that it was a full-time position shared by the Building Department that was made part-time about 6 years ago. Mr. Moore asked about the assessment information on the internet that was cut last year due to the cost of \$2,800. Mr. Estey said that the assessment data is no longer available on the internet, however they have put a data base with the property address, owners name and value on the town website. It has been convenient for residents, but does not provide enough information for appraisers.

Account 4150.4 Tax Collection

Mr. Barrington said that this proposal is the same as the current default budget. Mrs. Bridle-Russell asked Mrs. Sheehan if there was a reason why she did not request a wage increase. Mrs. Sheehan said that the Board scared her last year so she has not requested an increase.

Mr. Moore asked about postage rates for 2006. Mr. Barrington said that they have not heard of any proposed increases, but they did learn that the postage meter will not be supported after 2006 and they will be looking to replace that.

Account 4150.5 MIS

Mr. Barrington noted that this budget is up \$28.00. Mr. Moore asked if DSL is the most efficient for the Town. Mrs. Duhamel said that it is. Mr. Barrington commended Mr. Paquette for finding computers at the Transfer Station and scavenging parts to save the Town money.

Account 4150.6 Human Resources

Mrs. Bridle-Russell asked if the new person will also be in charge of Human Resources as Mrs. Anderson is. Mr. Barrington said that he hopes to find someone that will be able to handle the multitude of different tasks.

Account 4153 Legal

Mr. Moore MOTIONED that the Board of Selectmen recommend Account 4153. Legal at \$203,078.

Mr. Griffin SECONDED

Mr. Moore said that there will be a question raised that staff development costs were not budgeted for that department in 2005, but they were spent and they have been budgeted again for 2006. Attorney Gearreald said that a couple years ago the Town Manager noted the increase in matters that came to the Legal Department and at one stage considered hiring a part-time associate attorney. Attorney Gearreald said that he felt that it was too soon to take that step but acknowledged that there was an increase in litigation. This year there has been a 36% increase in the number of cases, plus additional labor matters. Attorney Gearreald said rather than adding personnel, he would like to increase the capacity of the office. He said that it is important, for the present and future, to take advantage of the current person's skills and further enhance those skills. Attorney Gearreald noted that he is suggesting to the Planning Board some opportunities to generate revenue by requiring legal reviews of condominium documents, which would be done by the paralegal for a fee. He said that many towns charge for that review. Attorney Gearreald explained that one of the supplies that he has budgeted for is the law library that they maintain, and as a result of the paralegal attending law school, she had access to the Westlaw service which would be costing the town \$274.00 per month if they were to subscribe to that service. Attorney Gearreald said that the budgeted amount is for one-half of the year and she would be paying the other half of the cost. Mrs. Bridle-Russell said that this is why we have special revenue funds; the Budget Committee passed a budget that had \$1 in that line item and it was paid anyway. She said that when the Budget Committee sees that line over expended they will want to know what was not spent instead.

Mr. Barrington said that the Budget Committee has a bottom line function; the Board of Selectmen passed this request and although the Budget Committee withdrew an amount of money equal to that request that did not eliminate the need. Mr. Barrington said that if the Board of Selectmen had denied the request, he would not have approved the payment. Mr. Barrington stated that he works for the Board of Selectmen and the Board approved it. Mr. Pratt asked if the line item for outside legal counsel could be reduced to \$15,000. Attorney Gearreald said that there are a multitude of situations that need outside counsel and it is hard to determine what that cost will be.

Mr. Workman asked about the collective bargaining costs. Mr. Barrington said that \$48,000 was what was proposed for 2006 and while he would like to believe that there will be contracts on the 2006 warrant and many of the labor issues that they have been experiencing this year will go away, he does not know that. Mr. Workman noted that these wages do not reflect an increase.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

Account 4155 Personnel Administration

Mr. Moore MOTIONED that the Board of Selectmen recommend Account 4155. Personnel Administration at \$1,908,714.

Mrs. Bridle SECONDED

Mr. Barrington said retirement liabilities have been based on projections from Department Heads in the amount of \$335,000. There are several definite retirements and several probable retirements in 2006. The rate for the police retirement system increased significantly. Mr. Moore said that we had large retirement expenses this year and noted that the Town Manager is expecting more next year. Mr. Barrington said that we have quite a few long-time employees and they are seeing it is in their best interest to retire. Mrs. Bridle-Russell noted that there are no raises projected for any of the department heads. Mr. Barrington said there are none at this point; when the union contracts are approved by the Board of Selectmen, he expects to ask for budget adjustments at the same rates as the unions for the non-union employees at the public hearing. Mrs. Bridle-Russell asked if the Town Manager anticipates using the merit pay this year or next year. Mr. Barrington said that the merit pay may be what is used to cover any non-union adjustments in 2006.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

Planning and Zoning

Mr. Griffin MOTIONED that the Board of Selectmen recommend Planning & Zoning at \$105,439.

Mrs. Bridle-Russell SECONDED

Mr. Barrington said that there is a new part-time secretarial position proposed to help out with the Office of Planning. He explained that they have tried to accommodate the needs of the Planning Office with the combination of the Building Department and Planning Board, but we are afraid we are going to burn out some of the people in that office. This is intended to give some relief in that office. Mr. Barrington said that we see the new part-time position being dedicated to the Planning Office. Mr. Pratt said that the Planning Board has discussed adding a fee for bringing plans to Brentwood. Mr. Steffen said that the new position would do handle that task, freeing up his time to do planning. Mr. Steffen said that there are other creative things that can be done, but he needs some time freed up to do that. Mr. Barrington said that there was a request for the \$50,000 for a consultant to update the ordinances, and while that need has not gone away, he has not included it in this budget. Mr. Moore asked if the \$50,000 would be an annual expense. Mr. Barrington said that he would foresee it as every 5 years. Mr. Pratt said that he does not feel we use the service of Rockingham Planning Commission to the extent that we should. Mr. Steffen said that part of his function will be to look at the long range functions and the ordinance revisions..

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

Account 4194 Government Buildings

Mr. Moore MOTIONED that the Board of Selectmen recommend Account 4194. Government Buildings at \$126,459.

Mrs. Bridle SECONDED

Mr. Barrington noted that this includes maintenance costs for the District Court, which could be removed if the court moved out of that building. Funds have been included for roof repair work for the Town Office building. Mr. Moore noted that fuel expenses have been reduced. Mr. Barrington said that they have uses a 30% increase in fuel rates, but based the total on the average of what has been spent. Mr. Moore said that something positive must have been done to reduce those costs. Mr. Barrington said that through a grant from Unutil, the electric fixtures were replaced with energy efficient models and that has resulted in a savings.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

Account 4195 Cemeteries

Mrs. Bridle-Russell noted that this is not under the Board of Selectmen’s jurisdiction.

Account 4196 Municipal Insurance

Mr. Moore MOTIONED that the Board of Selectmen recommend Account 4196. Municipal Insurance at \$2,783,377.

Mr. Pratt SECONDED

Mr. Barrington said that health insurance is always a volatile subject and they have tried to estimate high and hope to be able to reduce it along the way. This is based on a 20% rate increase; last year the increase was 8%. The rates will not be known until late November.

Mr. Moore asked what the 5.44% increase on liability insurance was based on. Mrs. Duhamel said that it is based on the equipment and vehicle schedule. Mr. Barrington said that because we are so close on so many budgets we have tried to be as realistic as possible because there won’t be room to absorb any overages. Mr. Barrington noted that medical insurance is approximately 8% of the total budget.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

Account 4199 Other General Government

Parking lot administration

Mr. Barrington said that this generates a ton of revenue to offset the expenses. Mrs. Martin said that a percentage was removed last year for the default budget which affected staffing abilities, and it appeared to

that “day trippers” that utilize the lots were lower this year. Mrs. Martin said that she anticipates having the full Ashworth Avenue lot next year and has increased the budget a small amount for staffing that should be offset by increased revenue. Mr. Moore asked what the effect would be if the supervisory position was cut. Mrs. Martin said that it would be a total nightmare as the supervisor is at the lots every day. Mr. Moore asked if there will be a warrant article to pave the High Street or Ashworth Avenue lots. Mrs. Martin said that the Ashworth Avenue needs to be paved.

Mrs. Bridle MOTIONED that the Board of Selectmen recommend Account 4199. Other General Government at \$6,342,995

Mr. Griffin SECONDED

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

Account 4520 Culture and Recreation

Mrs. Bridle-Russell MOTIONED that the Board of Selectmen recommend Account 4520. Culture and Recreation at \$253,597.

Mr. Griffin SECONDED

Mr. Moore noted that the actual year-to-date, the seasonal and part-time wages are under spent. Mrs. Martin said that the part-time and seasonal help usually work longer into the Fall, but they went back to school earlier this year than planned. Mr. Moore said that actuals in 2004 were also smaller and it seems this account may be budgeted for more than it needs. Mrs. Martin said that they were not allowed to use some of the money this year for staff development. Moore asked about the pay phone at the skateboard park. Mrs. Martin said that they have shopped the cost and it was difficult to get a pay phone. Mr. Pratt questioned the importance of this, now that everyone has cell phones. Mr. Moore said that this is where government and public safety is so difficult. It is a risk to take it out and then have someone who needed it. Mr. Barrington said that he does remember hearing one instance when 9-1-1 was called from there. Mr. Barrington said that he looks at that expense every year, but it was the Board of Selectmen that had requested the installation.

Mr. Moore MOTIONED that the pay phone at the skate board park be removed and that account be reduced to \$0.

Mr. Pratt SECONDED

**VOTE: 3 FOR
2 OPPOSED (Workman,
Bridle-Russell)**

Mrs. Bridle asked Mrs. Martin if she intends to sponsor an article to resurface the tennis courts. Mrs. Martin said that she will be writing a warrant article and is currently looking into a grant that may cover 20% of the cost.

Mrs. Martin showed a power point presentation outlining the benefits of the special revenue fund used in her department. Mr. Moore asked if there are any changes to expenses that will be charged to the SRF fund. Mrs. Martin said that the revenue fund is specifically for programs and trips and she is limited to what she can use it for. Mrs. Martin said that she had originally budgeted some improvements to the park buildings, but because they will enhance programs she will be taking those items from the revenue fund.

The revised total for Account 4520 –Culture and Recreation is \$252,637.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

Account 4611 Conservation Commission

Mr. Moore MOTIONED that the Board of Selectmen recommend Account 4611. Conservation Commission at \$3,601.

Mr. Pratt SECONDED

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

Mr. Griffin MOTIONED that the Board of Selectmen recommend Total Culture and Recreation at \$994,773.

Mr. Moore SECONDED

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

Account 4240 Building

Mr. Moore MOTIONED that the Board of Selectmen recommend Account 4240 Building at \$189,832.

Mr. Workman SECONDED

Mrs. Bridle-Russell said that this is the most overworked department and this budget does not reflect what is needed. She asked what is being lost by not increasing the budget. Mr. Schultz said that he has asked for additional help for three years and has not gotten it so they continue to work very hard to keep up with the work. Mr. Schultz said that building is not slowing down; they are getting behind on training and code updates due to the default budget. Mr. Barrington said that the department needs at least another part-time inspector. Mrs. Bridle-Russell said that the Town is going to lose good employees because we can't increase budgets to where they need to be. Mr. Barrington said that they are already seeing that. Mrs. Bridle-Russell said this is one department that needs help and the Board is turning its back. Mr. Pratt said that it is a valid point. Mr. Pratt asked how much revenue is raised. Mr. Schultz said that his revenue is \$305,000 to date, which exceeds his budget. Mr. Schultz said that they have also taken in over \$50,000 in impact fees this year. Mr. Moore said that the Board should put in the number that the department needs, and the position was removed last year because Mr. Schultz offered it up. Mr. Barrington said that numbers can be put together for next week to include another part-time position. Mr. Pratt said that this department raises revenue for the town and he does not want to see people burnt out. Mr. Schultz said that the people in the department work very hard but there is the option is to cut back on some types of inspections by not requiring permits for certain things, such as fences and sheds.

Mr. Griffin said that he agrees with what has been said and this department does need help. Mr. Griffin said that Mr. Schultz is definitely a big help to the Zoning Board of Adjustment.

This account will be revisited next week.

V. MINUTES

The minutes of August 29, 2005 and September 12, 2005 were reviewed.

Mr. Moore MOTIONED that the minutes of August 29, 2005 and September 12, 2005 are approved as amended.

Mr. Pratt SECONDED

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

VI. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Block Party Request for September 23rd, 3-9 PM, 15th Street.

Mr. Pratt MOTIONED to approve consent agenda

Mrs. Bridle SECONDED

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Fred Rice, 15 Heather Lane complimented Mr. Moore on taking strong action on Park Avenue, noting that the spur has to be put back because of State Law. He may agree that it creates a situation that the town might not want, but it has to be put back. Mr. Rice said that a lot of work went into the Mrs. Scanlon's report, but there is a big diversity of parking at the beach, noting that the town parking lots had a drop in revenue due to the lack of day trippers but the comments reflected the need for more free parking. Landscaping is something that should not be part of a parking committee's purview, there are many other commissions that are elected and appointed that will look into that and have that responsibility.

Mr. Rice said that as far as the budget was concerned, the courts have reaffirmed that the budget is a bottom line document only and this process is the planning tool to determine what the final number is. A Budget Committee review does not have as much function as it used to. Mr. Rice expressed concern that the Town Clerk asked for a 5% wage increase and the Board did not reduce it. He also expressed concern that the town attorney suggested trading the cost of law school tuition for access to a law library, and he feels that is wrong and sets a dangerous precedent. A law degree is a very marketable skill and if the board is going to approve that expense, the Town should have the agreement that the person pay back the entire amount to the Town if they do not graduate and that they agree to work two years for every one of school. Mr. Rice asked that the Board take these comments into consideration. The time to get involved is early on and he wanted to share his thoughts.

Mrs. Judy Bealiau, 91 Leavitt Road spoke about the unlicensed dogs and she asked for confirmation of the number of unlicensed dogs. Mr. Workman said that there are 399 unlicensed dogs. She said that the forfeiture letters and the dog officer picking up the dogs will cost a lot more money than the revenue from the licenses.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Bridle-Russell MOTIONED that the meeting be adjourned. (11:00 PM)

Mr. Moore SECONDED

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

Chairman