

Note: Draft minutes are subject to corrections, additions and deletions.

October 03, 2016

PRESENT: Rusty Bridle, Chairman
Jim Waddell, Vice-Chairman
Phil Bean, Selectman
Rick Griffin, Selectman
Regina Barnes, Selectman
Frederick Welch, Town Manager
Mark Gearreald, Town Attorney

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

I. Public Comment Period

Jacqueline McCoy, Sean Tierney & Jim Doherty: spoke briefly on Dash to the Sea Race; group of teachers and paraprofessionals; a nonprofit; successful race last year and was able to give away over \$5,000; hope to do better this year; looking for your support; expecting 400-500 racers this year.

II. Announcements and Community Calendar (9:03)

Selectman Barnes: Requested a moment of silence for Robert O'Neill

III. Consent Agenda (9:41)

1. Entertainment License: Smuttynose Brewing Company 105 Towle Farm Road
2. Parade & Public Gathering License: Dash to the Sea 11-24-16
3. Use of Town Property – 3 Ancient Highway – Portion of the Beach

Selectman Griffin MOTIONED to MOVE the Consent Agenda SECONDED by Selectman Waddell.

VOTE: 5-0-0

IV. Appointments (10:05)

1. Donna Bennett
 - a. Update for Deeding Payment Agreement

Ms. Bennett: at our June meeting we had three properties for deeding that you waived with the property owners with some payment agreements, which has a stipulation under #2 that the taxpayers understand that should they default on paying any of the scheduled payments in a timely fashion the Town may instruct the Tax Collector to reinstate the tax of the property in question for the 2013 tax year if any of the principal interests and costs are still due. I am here

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for #3 where there have not been any payments made and are three payments behind. I need to know if you would like me to begin the deeding process, or it will come up again deeding again next May on the regular schedule. I spoke with the homeowner today, she has agreed to visit welfare, and Michele has agreed to work with her to set up a new payment agreement according to her budget, if that is acceptable to the Selectmen.

Selectman Griffin: what do you recommend, do you feel you can work with these people.

Ms. Bennett: I never want to take anybody's home away, it is up to the Board, I would recommend going ahead with counseling first before we take the next step, maybe give a month and can come back with another update at that point in time. If things look good and the payments start being made it will come up again for 2014 next year, we can revisit then.

Selectman Bean MOTIONED to recommend the counseling process with Welfare SECONDED by Selectman Griffin.

VOTE: 5-0-0

2. Susan Whicher (13:15)
 - a. Noise Complaint – Bernie's Bar and Grill

Ms. Whicher: live at Boar's Head; read letter that was sent to Mr. Welch concerning the noise level that comes across the water from Bernie's Beach Bar; music and DJ loud have trouble getting to sleep; have called police and were informed this was accepted by the Selectmen regarding the playing of music 7 nights per week until midnight. We hope you can come up with a compromise; so loud cannot sit on porch and have conversation. When the license is up for renewal would you consider the noise; maybe they could put walls up, turn volume down, or close earlier.

Chairman Bridle: it is important when people are having issues that they are brought to us; I am sure we will look into it.

Selectman Barnes: knows Al has worked with places close to him, so I am hoping that he would work with you when it comes to next year for them to open; maybe move stage around or something.

Selectman Waddell: they spent a lot of money for the noise going sideways, but might have increased the problem with noise going forward; he has been willing to work with people to work out the problems; hope next year a solution could be worked out.

Selectman Bean: thank you for coming in; know the enforcement agency will address your concerns.

Ms. Whicher: when will they come up for renewal next year? Town Manager Welch: April.

Ms. Whicher: they have rights as they have a business and allowed to make money, hope we can come up with a comprise.

Selectman Griffin: asked for an indication on who is here with Mrs. Whicher by a show of hands; looks like more than 20; there were complaints by people in the island section; complaint from school teacher. Is a complaint log kept and if so is it available to the public? Town Manager Welch: yes, a log is kept, would have to ask the Chief as it would depend on what is in it.

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Selectman Griffin: how many times have you called? Ms. Whicher: about three times, but could have called a lot more, but did not want to bother.

Chairman Bridle: you have come to the right place, as this is where the permits are issued; will be in contact; he has worked very hard with his local neighbors to address issues; if there is a complaint he wants to work with you.

Ms. Whicher: I will see you in April.

V. Budget Reviews (27:50)

1. Library Trustees – Amanda Cooper, Director, Bob Lamothe, Trustee Chair, Stacy Mazur, Assistant Director

Ms. Cooper: Require \$46.00 more than last year; increase in floor care maintenance \$2,000; subscription cost for audio books; programs \$2,200; 78% increase in teen programs; computer usage up 6%.

Selectman Barnes: great job on budget; is the 5% increase for insurance premiums going to be enough.

Selectman Waddell: good budget; what kind of increase in computer usage.

Ms. Cooper: we have 14 public computers; they could be playing games; printing resume; doing homework; job searches; we do not log their usage; we have copy center services.

Selectman Waddell: you mentioned increase for teens.

Ms. Cooper: we have 57% increase in number of programs offered to teens and 78% increase in attendance in those programs.

Selectman Bean: tremendous job; fabulous asset to Town.

Selectman Griffin: thank you for all you do, it is a wonderful place.

2. Town Clerk, Voter Registration & Election Administration, Jane Cypher (35:07)

Ms. Cypher: budget has gone down by 6% for next year; part-time wage increase; thank you for approving the part time position, considerable help; Town clerk wage increase 3%; computer support increase \$129; voter registration part time wages decreased; election administration decreased; election expenses decrease.

Selectman Barnes: the main reason the election administration fees went down are due to no major elections. Ms. Cypher: yes, we have six major elections this year, so it is a huge expense

Selectman Waddell: thank you, nice job; talk about the part-time wages for the filing clerk, the savings with the work that has been done; efficiency and productivity. Ms. Cypher: cannot express the difference it has made in the office; that position has made a huge difference in our office; we are getting so much accomplished

Selectman Bean: fabulous job; your department creates \$3,231,000 of revenue and your budget is 8% of that; keep up the good work.

Selectman Griffin: good to see it is a decrease; over the years, there have been very few complaints from your department.

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Chairman Bridle: picked up an excellent replacement in your department and it is running very well; doing a very good job.

Ms. Cypher: I can tell the public if you do not want to wait in line, do not come on Monday, Friday or the first and last day of the month, we have online registration for people that have no changes.

3. Tax Collector, Donna Bennett (42:44)

Ms. Bennett: my budget has a 1% increase; last year's total budget was \$102,573 and this year it is \$103,997; 6 line items in budget; supplies & expenses, no change; staff development - \$300; tax liens and instruments -\$1,700; regular wages +\$1,745; part time wages same; elected official wages includes 3% increase \$1,679; total budget +\$1,424.

Selectman Bean: you handle a total of actual revenues of \$53,445,538 and your expenses in your department are under 2%; you do a magnificent job; an extraordinary service that you do.

Selectman Griffin: you do a great job; very respectful to all the people.

Selectman Barnes: great budget; you do a great job.

4. Budget Committee (46:47)

Ms. Pulliam: I put the Budget Committee in for what they had last year; they never submit anything to the Town prior to their budget talks.

5. Trustees of Trust Funds (47:25)

Ms. Pulliam: I received a reply from them and they requested level funding to what they had last year.

Selectman Griffin: nice to see that you work well with all these people.

6. Planning Board – Jason Bachand (48:07)

Mr. Bachand: for 2017 we have three changes from the 2016 budget: regular wages +3%; contracted services and dues \$12,400 were \$12,130 which includes \$400 for maintenance and \$5,000 extra for matching grant funds; replacement equipment \$2,600 which includes \$2,000 for the building department printer/scanner/copier which we share. Our revenue to date are up from last year from \$17,308 to \$20,283.75; been very busy working on grant projects.

Selectman Bean: great job.

Selectman Griffin: have seen a big difference since you came on Board, you have helped a lot.

Selectman Barnes: great job; the \$5,000 for the grants is a good idea.

Mr. Bachand: that has been a priority of mine to go after the grants and go after the various projects; it is to all of our benefits.

Selectman Waddell: being the Selectman's Representative on the Planning Board Jason and Laurie are worth the money that we pay them, as they do a great job bringing the information to the Planning Board, a lot of development going on that entails a lot of work; good job

Chairman Bridle: excellent job.

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7. Cemetery Trustees (53:20)

Chairman Bridle: basically, it is level funded with a 1.37% increase.

Town Manager Welch: as close to level as they can make it; electric, heat and water have all gone up and the department head insurance has gone up.

Ms. Pulliam: the rate for retirement is jumping from 11.17% to 11.38%; gasoline increase; \$1,000 in part-time wages; reduced a few items also.

Chairman Bridle: they shut the heat off in the building. Ms. Erwin: we have tried to have Danny keep the heat on.

Selectman Griffin: Thank you, Susan you do a great job at keeping the Trustees in line over there.

8. Conservation Commission – Barbara Renaud, Chair & Jay Diener, Vice Chair (56:12)

Ms. Renaud: our budget has increased by \$2,035; 75% of that \$1,500 is for monitoring of the 150 parcels of land. We were able to get a grant this year to monitor some of the land and were able to look at 40 parcels this year; however, the grant is not renewable. It is a \$35,000 budget.

Selectman Waddell: the intern is \$12 per hour for 125 hours.

Ms. Renaud: we received \$1,500 we scheduled 120 hours of work; he covered some of the marsh area, some forested areas, Meadow Pond and a couple of parcels over on the west side.

Selectman Waddell: what kind of things was he looking at? Ms. Renaud: looking for problems, looking for opportunities to improve land, looking at the health of land, we found concerns in the marsh, destabilization and erosion of the banks the causes for this are speeding of boats and green crabs. The forested land and the marsh areas, mosquitos and no spiders to eat the mosquitos; the biggest concern was dumping.

Selectman Waddell: the \$1,500 was well worth the productivity; huge payback.

Mr. Diener: we need to make sure the letter of the easement is being honored and the properties are not being abused or misused.

Selectman Griffin: Barbara, you seem to be doing a great job since you have taken over; have you heard anything about putting in a metal wall on the marsh in Salisbury/Seabrook line. Ms. Renaud: we will look into it.

Selectman Bean: excellent job this year; very important commission in this Town

9. Mosquito Control Commission, Ann Kaiser (1:03:40)

Ms. Kaiser: only one case of West Nile Virus; drought bad for a lot of people; flat budget for this year and next year, as I have a three year budget. We may have some money coming back.

Selectman Barnes: I appreciate the service you provide.

Selectman Waddell: it is a huge undertaking and a very important department; doing a great job.

Ms. Kaiser: yes, we cannot eliminate mosquitos, but try to control them; up to individual property owners to make sure they do not have any breeding sights.

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Selectman Bean: thank you on behalf of the entire community; a remarkable job.

Selectman Griffin: how many years have you been doing this; doing it better than ever. Ms. Kaiser, too many.

Chairman Bridle: does mosquito control also do the greenhead boxes? Ms. Kaiser: yes, within the contractor is building 25 new ones every year, trying to find a sturdier more permanent storage structure.

10. Assessing, Ed Tinker (1:07:35)

Mr. Tinker: the proposed budget is \$295,897, a decrease of 9.12% from last year's budget; the revaluation is completed; contractual agreements +\$700 for mapping services; +\$160 for data processing; motor vehicle allowance -\$1,900; salary increases of +3% for my salary; +8% for both the assistant assessor and part time clerk t be in line with salaries of other Towns.

Selectman Barnes: regular wages are down because of the 2016 temporary position is no longer there, which was due to the revaluation? Mr. Tinker: yes.

Selectman Waddell: did a good job on the revaluation; doing a really good job on the utilities; your requests on salary increase and you feel you are underpaid.

Mr. Tinker: I am looking at population, parcel count, staffing in similar communities and again we just have one full time; the 8% is \$1.69 per hour increase, currently at \$21.18; assessors put out salary comparisons and those positions typically run anywhere from \$22-\$28 per hour.

Selectman Waddell: I am 100% paying people for what they are worth.

Selectman Bean: what is the total valuation in this Town? Mr. Tinker: \$3.6 billion. Selectman Bean: on the revaluation, how much did that increase? Mr. Tinker: taxable increase \$500,000,000. Selectman Bean: so it was a half billion-dollar increase; how many people in your department? Mr. Tinker: one full time and one part-time.

Selectman Bean: you have done a remarkable job in your department; handled the questions of the citizens that came in very diplomatically; I agree paying people what they are worth.

Selectman Griffin: thank you for everything you do.

Chairman Bridle: excellent job with the revaluation and running your department.

11. Town Attorney's Office and Legal Expense, Mark Gearreald, Attorney (1:14:40)

Attorney Gearreald: budget is +1.33% increase over last year; the only lines that have changed in anyway are regular wages and part time wages, those are reflecting salary increases that the Board granted across the board to non-union personnel. The department has a significant load of litigation cases; we continue to have tax abatement cases to deal with; last year we saved over \$600,000 in settlement cases; on the collective bargaining costs, saved \$35,000 that would have been used for outside counsel fees, as a result reduced that to only \$10,000 as a contingency.

Selectman Barnes: you are very proactive and a huge benefit to the Town.

Selectman Waddell: good job, we are saving a lot of money on the collective bargaining costs; very important with you working with the assessor and planning Board; the productivity we get out of what we are spending is great.

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Selectman Griffin: thank you, we appreciate it; you seem to be right on top of it.

Selectman Bean: you really are the Town counsel, you have 15,000 clients; you are involved with testifying before the House and Senate; you have been a real champion; your counsel to this Board is extraordinary; you are insuring that the Town is fairly and equitably adhering to law.

12. Building Inspector and Zoning Board of Adjustment, Kevin Schultz (1:20:50)

Mr. Schultz: proposed budget \$221,248; small increase from last year a little under 2%, because of 2 items: wages and salaries, small increase due to contractual union and merit raise; hoping to get a new copy machine, we share it with four different departments and that was divided up with 40% Building, 40% Planning, 10% Conservation and 10% Zoning.

Selectman Griffin: you do a great job; bringing in fees and making sure the Town gets what it should from all the new construction. Thank you.

Selectman Waddell: good job, you bring in good revenue \$256,000 in building permits; dealing with new construction and new condominiums, a lot of work and you do a great job.

Mr. Schultz: I appreciate that, we have a good department and good people.

Selectman Griffin: how many years have you been here? Mr. Schultz: 17 years.

Selectman Barnes: you have been busy this year; great budget; thanks for doing a great job.

Mr. Schultz: Paula does a fantastic job; we have close to \$26,000,000 of construction value out on the street right now; rapidly approach \$200,000 in permit fees and still have another quarter to go.

Selectman Bean: outstanding job; the excellence under Mr. Welch for all the department heads; extraordinary job across all zoning, commercial and residential; you have responsibility over billions of dollars of code enforcement on property in this Town; the Town is very proud of you; we are thankful to have you.

Mr. Schultz: I appreciate that and will share that with my department.

Chairman Bridle: do you know what the increase of workload is for this year. Mr. Schultz: I do not have that with me, but last year was extraordinary and we are probably not as straight out as last year; a lot of those are completed. Last year was the second highest value of construction that we issued permits too and revenue taken in; only second to 2006 which were when major projects such as the police station and high school.

Chairman Bridle: you deal with everything from buildings like Smuttynose down to the smallest deck; you deal with our customers, which are our taxpayers in a very respectful and caring manner.

Zoning

Ms. Pulliam: Zoning is \$500 for the copier.

Town Manager Welch: please approve it, as we are running out of chisels and hammers.

13. Welfare Department, Michelle (1:29:34)

Ms. Kingsley: the budget reflects level funding with the exception of \$10,000 for rent assistance; this year we saw an increase in homeless families in the summertime, which ran

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\$800-\$1,200 per week; we had to house them for 3-8 weeks depending on the shelter system and when they could absorb these families. Housing someone in the summer is the most expensive time.

Selectman Barnes: thank you for being here to deal with it; we need to fund it.

Ms. Kingsley: to date we have spent \$13,000 on housing; hope it will not go over next year

Selectman Waddell: what is the reason for the homeless during the summer?

Ms. Kingsley: because they are doing a winter rental and they have no place to go in the summer; financial and psychological issues that families struggle with, which plays into it.

Selectman Griffin: thank you for all you do.

Selectman Bean: thank you very much; you have a very tough and important job.

14. Park & Recreation Department, Parking Administration & Life Guards, Rene Boudreau
(1:32:23)

Town Manager Welch: 1.23% increase.

Chairman Bridle: that is the 2% raise.

Selectman Griffin: another department that brings money in, it seems to be going very well and hear a lot of good stuff out on the streets for your department.

Selectman Waddell: the part time wages increase that she requested, can you go into that or would you rather wait.

Mr. Boudreau: Ms. Martin has looked around at other Towns with a population similar to ours; those who have a foreman and our equivalent to that pays less and the adjustment is to try to bring him up to the rate that other Towns are paying.

Parking Administration

Mr. Boudreau: the biggest adjustment was the increase in hourly wages and there was an adjustment in supplies and expenses, which was added to cover background checks.

Ms. Pulliam: we looked at the cost of the drug and alcohol screening; parking plaques for the vehicles.

Selectman Barnes: the seasonal wages are just reflecting the increases for the municipal lots.

Mr. Boudreau: yes.

Selectman Waddell: the revenue from the parking? Ms. Pulliam: it was estimated for this year at \$492,050 and we have already exceeded that; parking at the end of August was \$522,847; take out 20% that goes into the Recreation fund, the net is \$458,000. Selectman Waddell: above what was projected, and we have more concerts. Ms. Pulliam: they had Labor Day, the Seafood Fest, and five more concerts

Selectman Griffin: do you have last years? Ms. Pulliam: last year parking lots (other charges) came in at \$443,260; the actual realized revenue last year was \$100,000 less than what was taken in because 20% of the revenue from the parking lot goes into the Recreation fund.

Selectman Waddell: obvious it is a real revenue maker; should we look into streamlining it, are we making the best use of it; how we could increase the revenue; you do a great job at it.

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Chairman Bridle: we need to look into that.

Lifeguards

Ms. Pulliam: lifeguards this year was moved into other safety services.

Selectman Waddell: how many years that we have not found lifeguards? Mr. Boudreau: two years. Selectman Waddell: that is not just you. Mr. Boudreau: No, it is the entire state. It seems that people are looking for better pay for such a responsible job.

Selectman Waddell: you do a great job at the Recreation Department.

Chairman Bridle: the Recreation department does do a good job; over the years, they have been tasked with lifeguards, parking, this and that. I hate to see them get bogged down with all this other stuff; your programming is spot on; the seniors and the children in this Town love the Recreation Department because there is so much you offer and we appreciate that.

15. Board of Selectmen (1:43:40)

Town Manager Welch: there is 0.00% increase; nothing has changed.

16. Town Manager (1:44:10)

Town Manager Welch: there is a 0.43% increase the result of wage changes that were voted by the Board of Selectman.

Selectman Waddell: you are doing a good job, controlling everything and getting the departments working together.

Selectman Barnes: I agree with Jim.

Selectman Bean: applaud your scintillating performance of duty; please to work with you; you continue to impress all of us in the Town; have done an extraordinary job.

General Government Buildings

Town Manager Welch: increase of 0.21%; building maintenance, water bill down, heating fuel bill is down, electric bill is up and that is where the increase is.

Selectman Barnes: looks good.

Selectman Waddell: read an article that they are worried about electric cost increase. Town Manager Welch: we are looking into a long term contract to purchase power, current contract expires in November; working with consultant and supposed to receive proposal to tell us whether we should be on a fixed plan or a rotating plan; looking to decrease the expenses.

Patriotic Purposes

Chairman Bridle: the past two year actuals have been between \$200-\$500 more; is there a reason why we have not increased this.

Town Manager Welch: I tried once and it was turned down, so I left it flat; we need to decorate Veterans graves and certain things on for certain days of the year; have not been able to acquire additional funds.

Chairman Bridle: I would like to get it up to what we spend annually. Ms. Pulliam: I can look at some averages. Town Manager Welch: \$2,350 is about the right figure.

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Chairman Bridle MOTIONED to increase Patriotic Purposes line item to \$2,350 SECONDED by Selectman Waddell.

VOTE: 5-0-0

Other – Town Beautification

Town Manager Welch: a lot of this is donated, but we provide \$500 for plantings around the Town hall and in the community.

Street Lighting

Chairman Bridle: we have an increase of 2.29%.

Town Manager Welch: 2.33% on streetlights, it is an overall increase of 2.29%; doing a lot of extensive research on street lighting and have trimmed the cost down; Town owns all the aluminum poles and responsible for maintenance; responsible for the streetlight costs for the community. We found errors in the Util bill; we have a refund coming; working on getting this down. The projection is for \$220,018 and \$4,000 for traffic light repairs.

Selectman Griffin: does the electrical rate have much to do with the increase. Town Manager Welch: a little bit; the biggest problem with the electric rate is the fuel adjustment charges; Util purchases all their power, so it comes in on the grid and depends on where the purchase comes from.

Selectman Griffin: how often do we pay the bill? Town Manager Welch: monthly, we are on a demand meter, and we pay 80% of the demand cost no matter what.

Selectman Waddell: some Towns have gone LED, saving a considerable money. Town Manager Welch: they can, but you have to retrofit, but it would be a substantial expense.

Chairman Bridle: years ago, we went to some LED on our traffic lights; should we address to continue an LED program. Town Manager Welch: we can; there are two systems one is LED and the other is an overhead system

Chairman Bridle: could we get pricing. Town Manager Welch: yes, will get those figures

Fire Hydrants

Town Manager Welch: no rate increase for next year; we currently pay \$484,000 in fire hydrant fees; we have the largest system under Aquarion.

17. Finance Department, Kristi Pulliam (2:04:55)

Ms. Pulliam: overall is a 1.53% increase; contracted services for GASBY \$4,000; put in 2% for Treasurer; increased postage; procurement and advertising decreased from \$3,500 to \$2,400; audit services is a three-year contract +\$150.

Selectman Bean: how long have you been the director now? Ms. Pulliam: 2 years as Director; 18 years total with the Town.

Selectman Bean: I want to applaud you for the construction of the budget book, it is much more easy to digest; you are the Chief Financial Officer for a \$60,000,000 corporation; extraordinary job; you have addressed GASBY requirements, removing any blight or negative marks on the audit. You have done a fabulous job.

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Selectman Griffin: you are a very good example on how we can promote people from within; you have done a great job, and have made everyone's job here easier.

Selectman Waddell: I will ditto that; you did a really good job on the GASBY, kudos to you.

Selectman Barnes: I have looked a slew of budgets and CFOs/Banks and they do not have their budgets look nearly as good as this; the Town needs to understand what a great job you are doing in the Finance Department.

Ms. Pulliam: I made it my goal to improve it a little each year

Management Information Systems

Ms. Pulliam: up a little over \$5,000; you need to remember that last year \$12,920 was cut from the budget by the Budget Committee; have added a section called computer support; overall it is +2.36%; we have reallocated money and putting items where they are properly spent. 365 the Cloud will be a warrant article, once we get the final amount.

Selectman Waddell: did we get an audit done on MIS. Ms. Pulliam: yes, but have not received the full report yet, but we were told that they do an excellent job.

Personnel Administration

Ms. Pulliam: +5%, all in regards to SS, Medicare and NH retirement; all based on the increases that have incurred; merit pay 2% increase across the Board for non-union; the two IT and the one Assessing positions increase it by 6%

Selectman Waddell: these costs, we have no control over them correct. Ms. Pulliam: yes, we have no control; social security is 6.2%, Medicare 1.45%; retirements; all groups are going up.

Municipal Insurance

Ms. Pulliam: I ask that we wait to discuss that one, Health Trust will be setting their rates on October 17, 2016; I put in a 5% increase for medical, but I am hearing that I may have low-balled it. I have not heard from Primex on the property liability or the workers compensation; defer it to when we have the percentage increases.

Municipal Debt Service

Ms. Pulliam: this has gone down considerably 17.35%; \$519,000 total; majority from recycling equipment; bond through Provident was paid off this year for \$211,583; 2005 SRF refinancing of bonds is dropping from \$270,000 to \$35,000 and the interested is dropping from \$8,500 to \$2,900. We moved a lot of our debt.

Selectman Barnes: we are paying down our debt and we are not just paying interest, we are paying principal, which is very important, excellent job, excellent presentation.

Selectman Waddell: we refinanced some a few years back for a lower rate. Ms. Pulliam: yes, they are all SRF now.

VI. Old Business (2:21:30)

Town Manager Welch: at our last meeting I said would let them know about petition articles and when they are due; zoning amendments they may start to be submitted on November 14, 2016, the last day to submit is December 14, 2016; regular Warrant Articles the last day is January 10, 2017.

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Selectman Griffin: is it possible that someone can get in touch with the person I gave you a letter from.

Town Manager Welch: yes, we will send something out and get it distributed to the appropriate agencies; I will make sure a copy gets to each Board member and the police department.

Town Manager Welch: need to mention at each of our meetings that the Hazard Mitigation Plan is on the website; please review it, if you have any comments put it into writing and you need to sign; have to the Selectmen's Office by October 17, 2016 when the Board will be considering that particular program for acceptance.

VII. New Business (2:23:21)

1. Approval and Signing of the MS535 – Financial Report of the Town

Town Manager Welch: this is a compilation of all the financial data for the Town for the period of 1-1-15 to 12-31-15 as copulated by our auditors and put on the proper State accounting forms to be reported to them. The law requires us to make this report, it is important that it be done because the tax rate cannot set without filing it with the State.

Selectman Bean: extraordinary report Mr. Welch; kudos to your leadership; remarkable corporation; it highlights some of our challenges in terms of revenue that does not come back to this Town. This Town spends \$7,000,000 outside borders to educate other children; some of those communities are much wealthier in terms of per capita income; it is almost 1/3 of our taxes that are assessed for local education. The meals and room tax distribution, we get no more or no, less than any other Town based on the formula, only \$721,863; there are singular establishments in this Town that pays more than that, or very close to it. We've been getting smoked for a long time; there are glaring inefficiencies. This is a very important document; can we put this on the website? Town Manager Welch: yes.

Selectman Bean: encourage anybody that is running to pay attention to local government, study the financials and get a better voice to carry the fight and not give up on it.

Selectman Waddell MOTIONED to APPROVE and sign the MS535 Financial Report of the Town SECONDED by Selectman Griffin.

VOTE: 5-0-0

Town Manager Welch: I handed you all information on the ATM; the Town Clerk has made a recommendation as she has asked for several quotes and would request that you read and give her responses on what you think should happen; will place this on the next agenda.

VIII. Closing Comments

At the conclusion of the Selectmen's Public Session at 9:32 p.m., and without adjourning upon motion duly made by Selectman Barnes, seconded by Selectmen Waddell, the Board voted unanimously by Roll Call vote to go into a Non-Public Session under RSA 91:A:3,II(e) (Litigation).

Non-Public Session

Selectmen Present

Rusty Bridle, Chairman

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James Waddell, Vice Chairman
Philip Bean, Selectman
Richard Griffin, Selectman
Regina Barnes, Selectman

Also Present

Town Manager Frederick Welch
Town Attorney Mark Gearreald

Aquarion Water Company Motion to close PUC Docket No DW 16-804. After a description by the Town Attorney of the pending Motion and need for Board direction on how to respond to same, Selectman Waddell moved to proceed on the basis of concurring with Aquarion's Motion subject to future proceedings being noticed to the Town on any Aquarion plans to expand its service territory to Stratham, seconded by Selectman Barnes. This Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion was held concerning the upcoming meeting to be held by the Department of Environmental Services on Wednesday, October 5, 2016 at 10 a.m. at the Portsmouth Water Treatment Plant in Madbury. Selectmen Waddell asked the subject of drought be put on a future meeting agenda for discussion. Attorney Gearreald passed around a list of the fliers and publications that are on the Department of Environmental Services Website concerning this subject.

The non-public session concluded at about 9:40 p.m. and the minutes were not sealed. The Board rejoined its Public Session.

At that time, the Town Attorney noted that based upon data he has received from the Finance Department, the hourly rate that is charged for his time in reviewing documents and in attorney's fees awards made in the Town's favor by the Court needs to be raised from the present rate of \$66 per hour to \$95 per hour given that the Legal Department is now under one attorney rather than two. The overhead is there for not being shared by two attorneys as it was before. On motion made by Selectmen Waddell, seconded by Selectman Barnes, the Board voted unanimously to approve the increase from \$66 per hour to \$95 per hour effective October 1, 2016.

IX. Adjournment

The Public Session adjourned at 9:48 p.m. upon motion made by Selectman Waddell, seconded by Selectmen Barnes, voted unanimously in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman