

Budget Committee Meeting
Minutes of
January 23, 2012

Members Present: Robert Balon, Robert Demers, Jay Holmes, Lisa Kardell, Bruce Lary (Chairman), John Losier, Terry Oliver, Terry Rhoderick (arrived at 8:01 pm), Steve Roy, Jeff Schall

Others Present: Robin Frost, Denise Vallee, David Graham, Don Provencher, Paul Robitaille, Glen Eastman, Tad Michaud, Elaine Bernier

Press: none

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Lary at 6:30 pm

Review/Accept Minutes. Jeff Schall made a motion to accept the minutes of January 19, 2012 as amended, Terry Rhoderick seconded the motion; all were in favor.

As requested at the previous meeting, Denise Vallee distributed to each committee member a detail of the Motor Vehicle Surcharge Fund.

Work Session:

Principal – Long Term Debt: Chairman Lary stated this is all long term items the balance is \$143,856; it has been decreased in the amount of \$6,461. He asked for a motion to accept this as the recommended amount. Motion made by Terry Oliver, seconded by John Losier. Roll call vote was taken.

Balon	yes	Losier	yes
Demers	yes	Oliver	yes
Holmes	yes	Rhoderick	yes
Kardell	yes	Roy	yes
Lary	yes	Schall	yes

Interest – Long Term Debt: Chairman Lary stated this is all long term interest the balance is \$19,890; it has been decreased in the amount of \$6,471. He asked for a motion to accept this as the recommended amount. Motion made by Jeff Schall, seconded by John Losier. Roll call vote was taken.

Balon	yes	Losier	yes
Demers	yes	Oliver	yes
Holmes	yes	Rhoderick	yes
Kardell	yes	Roy	yes
Lary	yes	Schall	yes

Interest on T.A.N: (Tax Anticipation Note) Denise Vallee stated there would be a payment made tomorrow (January 24, 2012) in the amount of \$331 (and change). She was asked to explain what (T.A.N.) is. She stated these monies are used to assist in meeting cash flow needs before tax revenue comes in. This year, they started to run short in late April, early May so they took out a T.A.N. for \$200,000. They have been doing

this for the last couple of years. Since the school has had their \$1M bond payment, the Town's cash flow level has been a struggle

Jeff Schall asked what the calendar year for the town was. He says in Manchester they have saved some serious money by billing quarterly. Is this something we could look into? Denise replied that state statute defines how often the Town can send out property tax bills. There would have to be over 10,000 residents for us to bill on a quarterly basis.

Jeff Schall then asked where the money (loan) comes from? Denise replied that she puts it out to bid to Northway, Citizens, Laconia Savings, whoever has a government banking division. Terry Rhoderick asked about the interest on this loan. Denise informed him that it is a locked in rate, it works like a construction loan. We really never know exactly how much we will need, so we apply for a larger loan and only pay interest on the money we actually need to borrow. Terry Rhoderick asked what is projected for next year? Denise stated we projected \$900,000 and we only used \$200,000. We don't owe anything right now. Denise stated they currently don't know yet what would be needed for this year.

T.A.N. Motion to accept the amount of **\$2,000** was made by Terry Oliver, seconded by Jeff Schall. Roll call vote was taken. There was one No vote.

Balon	yes	Losier	yes
Demers	yes	Oliver	yes
Holmes	yes	Rhoderick	NO
Kardell	yes	Roy	yes
Lary	yes	Schall	yes

Land & Improvements: Terry Rhoderick asked if any monies not used in the Asphalt and Paving line go back into the General Fund. Denise verified, yes, that it would return to the General Fund. Robert Demers asked why it was decreased \$10,000? Denise stated that was Buddy's reduction to meet the 5% decrease in his budget. John Losier then asked what work was in line to be done for paving? Denise stated she wasn't sure. She wished Buddy was here to answer that. Then he asked what monies were put in the first time? Terry Oliver stated \$43,500. Terry Rhoderick asked if they had applied to FEMA? Robin – yes, it's been applied for. Terry Rhoderick then asked if they were mostly just going to patch roads? Robin stated yes, there really wasn't much they could do with \$50,000. Denise Vallee stated that Water and Sewer usually teams up with the Highway Department when doing work in order to save money. Lisa Kardell asked if there was any talk of working on Stoneybrook and what the cost would be. Robin said there has been a lot of discussion, but that the Town would need a bond. Terry Oliver stated it would be a lot, like \$3 million. Lisa Kardell said it was real bad there, especially after the last storm. Comment by Terry Oliver: We asked if \$43,000 would do it, but Buddy is more comfortable with \$50,000. They could do a better job with that amount. John Losier asked if a breakdown was given for the jobs. Terry Oliver stated, no they don't know what the projects are yet.

Motion made to accept the amount of **\$50,000** by Robert Balon, seconded by Steve Roy. Roll call vote was taken. There were 6 No and 4 yes. Will not recommend.

Balon	yes	Losier	NO
Demers	NO	Oliver	yes

Holmes	NO	Rhoderick	NO
Kardell	NO	Roy	yes
Lary	yes	Schall	NO

Machinery, Vehicles & Equipment

Jeff Schall stated a recycling truck was purchased, and Denise stated it is expended here, revenue shows a deposit from the capital reserve fund and it becomes a wash. Jeff stated you told us we saved \$210,000 where Robin agreed he was right. At this point Jeff Schall passed out a graph and worksheet with a comparison of the 2011 and 2012 budgets, it was all the information which came out of the budget reports. It showed a different reduction. Robin thanked Jeff for taking the time to do this as this is what the budget committee is supposed to do. Steve Roy pointed out, the budget is not done yet, we know something is missing here, and you (Robin) stated last week you want to abolish the Budget Committee. Robin stated that you're not doing your job. There are too many personal vendettas on the budget committee. Look at the way you voted last week. Steve Roy stated there are none here, I've busted my butt working on all this for three years now. Robin stated these are all preliminary votes, wait until the townspeople vote, this is the process. The 10% rule does apply. Steve Roy then said in August this 10% was brought up. Robin retorted, every official Budget Committee follows the 10% rule, you will have to do this.

At this time Jay Holmes read a statement:

“When the TM asked us to come up with the cut amount and % of that. We were not done hearing form Dept Heads. Water & Sewer just finished their presentation to the Board (IMO) the TM had no just cause to attack the board. We have shown no unprofessionalism to any dept. The only reason that I could come to why she made such a strong statement is to gain direct access to the budget by removing the Budget Committee from the checks and balance. This town historically uses in its process. Further more the 10% rule does not apply to this committee in anyway except for this committee to have a general understanding of it when deliberating it applies to the town meeting and the floor. I conclude that the TM has caused a great deal of harm to our community and process. By her bias statements and I must add that the TM job is to bring info to the committee. Not her personal feelings”

Jay Holmes

Lisa Kardell – going back to the statement, on the percentage, in the newspaper and to the public you said you knew the 10% was not 10%. Robin - I knew it was around there, I wasn't certain of the exact percentage. I have no bias either way. Back in August statements were made, why not ask that person to recuse himself then? Why wait until now? I don't understand. Bruce Lary added he tried to follow up with the Secretary of State and the Attorney General's Office. Mr. Gardner was not able to give the written response he requested due to election time. “I am still waiting for a hard copy.”

Lisa further stated that she thinks Bruce did ask him to recuse himself, but not until after a public explosion. I think it should have been done differently. I don't like that whole ambush and hearsay. This is not the place for that. Robin responded I understand you are

at a disadvantage, but it is true. Lisa then stated that she is very uncomfortable with all this, I don't know these as facts and you also knew about the petition. Robin- petitions are just that and anybody can sign them, and Lisa agreed. Lisa stated that it is her understanding that the budget committee can make any cuts they want and then it goes to the voters and they can make the cuts they want. Robin answered that yes, that's how it goes.

Bruce Lary- there are pro's and con's it goes both ways on the floor at Town Meeting. Each and every person has a responsibility; they can speak. It's their job. Lisa thanked him for explaining and making things clearer.

Terry Rhoderick thanked Jeff Schall for the information (passed out earlier) then asked Robin what was cut from the budget. You said \$500,000, but looking at this (hand out) that's not what was cut. According to this, it was \$497,000. Did you actually cut out \$480,000? Robin- Take out the \$210,000 we had in Capital Outlay and other places. To this Terry Rhoderick asked, how can the Budget Committee concentrate when not given the correct information? You didn't cut \$500,000. Robin – you are right, Terry Rhoderick- I can't say I have faith in you or the system. Robin- What I said, is that the number I reported may be erroneous, but the report did not change. Terry Rhoderick – I don't know how I can work with you (Robin), Denise (Vallee), and the selectmen if I don't get the right information in front of me to work with. Robin – you have the right information. Terry Rhoderick - I had to get it from Jeff (Schall). Robin- he has proved to be a very thoughtful Budget Committee member. I didn't intentionally lie to you. What I said is that the bottom line shows that figure. Terry Rhoderick- what I am hearing is \$286,000 was cut out. The 5% you asked every department to cut was cut. Robin replied that no, every department did not necessarily cut the full 5%. Some could, and others couldn't. The ones who could not gave good reason. So we approved their budget. Terry Rhoderick- I wouldn't go by that 5% you asked for. I listen to what they say. If the percentage you asked to cut is going to hurt the department and the overall picture. Robin- that's how we saw it. Terry Rhoderick- I wouldn't have a problem increasing someone's budget in order to save that department.

Bob Demers- totally agrees, 100%, with what Lisa said. I fail to understand the hatred I'm witnessing here. Robin- you point a finger at the selectmen and me, but you are not doing your job (as committee members) Bob Demers - You asked the departments to come back with a 5% cut and not all came back with that requested cut. As a manager you need to go back to the department head(s) and tell them to give it to you. It's tough to do, but it needs to be done. We are broke, doesn't anybody understand that! Most on the committee are business people, they are not stupid. I'm not part of the system or the secret handshake club. Why the hatred? Robin- I don't see the hatred or know of any secret handshake club. As I stated before, if there can be conversations like now rather, than going to the computer and putting it all over Facebook, which is just like putting it in the paper it would work. But people have to speak up at the meetings.

Bob Demers – I agree with Lisa. Robin- I don't disagree with Lisa. Steve Roy – that Facebook stuff started a couple of years ago, it's personal between a few people. He doesn't say stuff on Facebook like he is going to cut budgets by \$50,000. I watch that stuff. Robin – he says he is a member of the Budget Committee. Steve Roy states he has been watching it and would shut it down if he thought it was hurting the committee or town. He further stated he wants something in the paper to correct the dollar amount that

was given and clear up misgivings. Town's people need to know the Budget Committee does know what they are doing. Right now the Budget Committee looks like they don't know what they are doing. If PJ gets in front of the town with the petition it's not going to look good. He should've had to get 100 signatures. Denise Vallee clarified there only needs to be 25 signatures on a petition to get it on the ballot. Bruce Lary- acknowledges feelings are hurt, but it is a moral issue for the taxpayers. He doesn't feel the people will go with it, the tax rate is up; this is for town meeting. Robin- stated she did not know about the petition until it was passed out at the meeting. Chairman Lary closed discussion on petition. Stated he has done them himself in the past.

Bruce Lary pointed out Jeff Schall brought up the 10%. There was an error, but it was all in our paperwork. Not at 10%, it was approximately 10% so that was right. It was misconstrued. On February 8th the department heads will present their budgets, as they did with us, he suggests the Town Manager recap and offer comments. The public can make suggestions. We will then take a break, and return to discuss the articles and then vote to make our recommendations. There will be no public comments at this time.

Jay Holmes- feels the timing of the (10%) information from Town manager was to discredit the budget committee publicly. With all the new people coming to the area to work at the new prison they will look elsewhere for homes (Shelburne, Randolph, Milan) it hurts this community. Chairman Lary – we need to move on from here. Robin- we need to get this out. Bruce Lary agreed to let it come to a head in a controlled environment. Robin – reason I said it then was because of the finger pointing going on.

Robert Balon asked about the timeframe in completing the Budget Committee Supplemental Schedule. Does it have to be done before February 8th? And when does it need to be signed. Denise stated the budget won't be known until after the Public Hearing. She will have the document (MS-7) completed after the meeting with their recommendations, then the committee members will sign it.

Lisa Kardell asked when they are going to get the information for the warrant articles? Robin replied they will be reviewing them this Friday (January 27th). They are due by February 7th. Lisa asked about the Assessing revaluation cost. If the Town had any idea how much the bids were. Robin stated they range from \$66,000 to she thinks \$96,000. Chairman Lary asked if there were any further questions, there were none.

Other Improvements:

Steve Roy asked if money was being put away for building repairs. Denise Vallee stated it is under the Capital Reserve.

Denise Vallee stated that the petitioned warrant articles are listed here, each on their own line. They have until February 7, 2012 to file them. Currently she only has \$17,500 for Home Health and a new one for the Coos County Child Advocacy Center in the amount of \$1,000.

Denise won't know the exact dollar amount being requested until they are all in. Terry Rhoderick asked if she anticipates that all will go for the same amount as last year?

Denise stated she doesn't know, but usually they do. Robin interjected that the warrant articles haven't come in yet; typically it comes in at around \$70,000. Bruce Lary further stated that there is to be a representative for each petitioned warrant article request at the Public Hearing. In the past, the warrant article would not be recommended if there was no one there to explain it or answer any questions. He noted that the Solid Waste District

was the only one that has come in so far, in the amount of \$7,118. We can only look at this one for now.

Motion was made, by Robert Balon to skip over for now and return to it when all Warrant Article requests are presented. Motion was seconded by Jay Holmes. Roll call vote:

Balon	yes	Losier	yes
Demers	yes	Oliver	yes
Holmes	yes	Rhoderick	yes
Kardell	yes	Roy	yes
Lary	NO	Schall	NO

Transfer to Capital Reserve - Jay Holmes wants the monies from the following to be removed from the Capital Reserve Fund appropriations: Recreation Van = \$10,000, Highway Equipment = \$40,000, Sanitation/Recycling= \$20,000, Police Cruiser = \$12,000, Fire Equipment = \$10,000, and Assessment = \$60,000. Terry Oliver stated it is not taxpayer funds paying for the recreation van. That money comes from the Moose Tours. Denise Vallee stated the balance in the Assessment CRF is \$6.03.

John Losier questioned the revaluation scheduled for this year. Robin explained it must be done this year, this is our fifth year. They are finding concerns with the information in the database. In order to fix concerns, the Town must have a company come in to do a full revaluation. John Losier asked if the values were too high or low? Robin stated they will be measuring and listing, these are the areas of concerns. Chairman Lary stated some lost property during Hurricane Irene, needs to be done in that area. Robin further stated it's not just a few homes. They want to do it across the town to make certain it is all fair and that businesses and high end homes are assessed as they should be and the data is correct in the data base. Some homes may be listed as a ranch when it's actually a cape, etc. The Town needs to ensure it is fair and equitable. Make the tax rate be where it should be evaluation wise. If town revaluation is not where it has to be and correct, DRA can force us to do a full reval. John Losier stated he has a problem with us paying an expert to do this over the last five years and now we are where we are. Where did this imbalance come from? Robin replied that she is not sure she has seen samples from the DRA monitor. They need to be fixed. It benefits everybody. It cost money but it needs to be done. John states we have someone who does this with a part-timer, these wages could be used otherwise. Robin says we have a contracted assessing firm who watches over what our assessor is doing. John asked if we should do one or the other. Robin stated this is how it works. We should be measuring and listing 20%-25% of the town each year and then the fifth year do an update. Somewhere the measuring and listing has gone awry. There are errors; they need to be corrected. This is how it will be corrected and in 2013 we will start doing 20-25% of the town. John Losier agrees need to fix what is wrong. But he questions the method of what is done for the next five years. Lisa questioned the same thing. Steve Roy stated there are businesses in town that run their business on their equity. This year they don't have any equity, the banks are telling them they are not valued where they should be. The evaluation needs to be done all the way around. Robin stated if it is voted in the affirmative as the warrant article written, a company will come in and fix the values. It would be worth it to review what has been done the past four years. There will still be a need for someone in the position to do the other functions of required for that position.

Terry Rhoderick asked Jay Holmes about his wanting to stop adding funds to the Capital Reserve. Jay stated this is true, if the economy calls for it, add to it next year. It's a business decision.

Terry Rhoderick stated his property on Main Street has not changed since built; his data should already be in the computer. Robin gave a recent example, a home was re-measured and it had been done wrong; we need to bring the value up on that property adding \$5,000 to it. Now the DRA and selectmen are not confident with database as it is. Terry Rhoderick asked what percentage (guess) of the database is in question. Robin said there are listing areas, and that they took samples from each and they estimate that 60% were incorrect in some way; it was just a small sampling. They came out twice, to see if it was just a fluke, and the second sampling was in the same shape. Terry Rhoderick asked if this would fix all the mistakes. Robin stated, it better. DRA preferred and recommended method is to do 20-25% of the town each year and most towns do it this way. We will know by September if all errors are corrected. Bob Demers questioned if a certain percent of the town or the whole town is being done this year. Robin replied the whole town. Typically after 2013 they would start with a section of the town, equaling 20-25% and start measuring it again. If we had confidence in the database, we would not be asking for \$40,000-\$90,000 to do the revaluation. Don't have to do it this way, but we would still have to do pick-ups and building permits. If sales start to go up, we could ask for a sales analysis. Bob Demers questioned- we can do this revaluation then go four years without doing anything? Robin - yes, but we would still have to do any properties that changed, either in house or contracted to do it. Robert Balon questioned if the \$60,000 is just for maintenance or a full revaluation, seems like the request is asked for every year. Robin told him this is to pay for the expert witnesses and the assessor. She further stated there are several businesses they are negotiating with. Robert Balon- I guess I am missing the number for revaluation. Robin answered that it is not in there yet.

Bruce Lary stated a vote would be taken on each line individually.

Ambulance Capital Reserve Fund: Motion made to recommend they add \$21,000, as requested, to the Capital Reserve by Jay Holmes, seconded by John Losier. Roll call vote was taken:

Balon	yes	Losier	yes
Demers	yes	Oliver	yes
Holmes	yes	Rhoderick	yes
Kardell	yes	Roy	yes
Lary	yes	Schall	recuse

Recreation Van Capital Reserve Fund: Motion made to recommend add \$0 to the Capital Reserve by Jay Holmes, seconded by John Losier. Roll call vote. No – 5, Yes -5

Balon	NO	Losier	yes
Demers	NO	Oliver	NO
Holmes	yes	Rhoderick	yes
Kardell	yes	Roy	NO
Lary	NO	Schall	yes

Highway Heavy Equipment Capital Reserve: Motion made to recommend add \$0 to the Capital Reserve by Jay Holmes, seconded by John Losier. Roll call vote was taken; No – 4, Yes -6

Balon	NO	Losier	yes
Demers	yes	Oliver	NO
Holmes	yes	Rhoderick	YES
Kardell	yes	Roy	NO
Lary	NO	Schall	yes

Sanitation/Recycling Capital Reserve Fund: Motion made to recommend add \$0 to the Capital Reserve by Jay Holmes, seconded by John Losier. Roll call vote was taken; No – 5, Yes -5

Balon	NO	Losier	yes
Demers	NO	Oliver	NO
Holmes	yes	Rhoderick	yes
Kardell	yes	Roy	NO
Lary	NO	Schall	yes

Police Cruiser Capital Reserve Fund: Motion made to recommend add \$0 to the Capital Reserve by Jay Holmes, seconded by John Losier. Roll call vote was taken; No – 5, Yes -5

Balon	NO	Losier	yes
Demers	yes	Oliver	NO
Holmes	yes	Rhoderick	yes
Kardell	NO	Roy	yes
Lary	NO	Schall	NO

Fire Equipment Capital Reserve Fund: Motion made to recommend add \$0 to the Capital Reserve by Jay Holmes, seconded by John Losier. Roll call vote was taken; No – 4, Yes - 6

Balon	NO	Losier	yes
Demers	yes	Oliver	NO
Holmes	yes	Rhoderick	yes
Kardell	yes	Roy	yes
Lary	NO	Schall	NO

Assessment Capital Reserve Fund: Motion made to recommend \$0 be added to the Capital Reserve by Lisa Kardell, seconded by Jay Holmes. Roll call vote was taken; No – 1, Yes – 9

Balon	yes	Losier	NO
Demers	yes	Oliver	yes
Holmes	yes	Rhoderick	yes
Kardell	yes	Roy	yes
Lary	yes	Schall	yes

Fieldstone Road Capital Reserve: Motion made to recommend the amount of **\$12,500** to the Capital Reserve by Jay Holmes, seconded by Robert Balon. Roll call vote. No- 1, Yes- 9

Balon	yes	Losier	NO
Demers	yes	Oliver	yes
Holmes	yes	Rhoderick	yes
Kardell	yes	Roy	yes
Lary	yes	Schall	yes

Police Equipment Capital Reserve: Motion made to recommend the amount of **\$0** be added to the Capital Reserve by Terry Rhoderick, seconded by Jay Holmes. Roll call vote was taken. No – 6, Yes – 4 (1st vote)

Balon	NO	Losier	NO
Demers	yes	Oliver	yes
Holmes	NO	Rhoderick	yes
Kardell	NO	Roy	NO
Lary	yes	Schall	yes

After further discussion Terry Oliver made a motion to recommend the \$2,500 as requested to the Capital Reserve, Bruce Lary seconded the motion. Roll call vote: No – 4, Yes – 6 (2nd vote)

Balon	yes	Losier	NO
Demers	NO	Oliver	yes
Holmes	NO	Rhoderick	NO
Kardell	yes	Roy	yes
Lary	yes	Schall	yes

Transfer to Trust & Agency Funds

Dredging: Motion made to recommend the amount of **\$5,000** be added to the Capital Reserve by Robert Balon, seconded by Robert Demers. Roll call vote: All in favor.

Balon	yes	Losier	yes
Demers	yes	Oliver	yes
Holmes	yes	Rhoderick	yes
Kardell	yes	Roy	yes
Lary	yes	Schall	yes

Special Insurance: Terry Rhoderick asked what this fund was for. Denise Vallee explained that this fund covers the \$1,000 deductible we have for auto accidents and property claims, and covers pre employment physicals, etc. Motion made to recommend the amount of **\$3,000** be added to the Capital Reserve by Robert Balon, seconded by Terry Rhoderick. Roll call vote was taken. All in favor.

Balon	yes	Losier	yes
Demers	yes	Oliver	yes
Holmes	yes	Rhoderick	yes

Kardell	yes	Roy	yes
Lary	yes	Schall	yes

Longevity/ Severance: Motion was made by Terry Rhoderick that they zero this out until next year, seconded by Jay Holmes. Roll call vote. No – 7 Yes -3 (1st Vote)

Balon	NO	Losier	NO
Demers	NO	Oliver	NO
Holmes	yes	Rhoderick	yes
Kardell	NO	Roy	NO
Lary	yes	Schall	NO

2nd Vote: Terry Oliver made the motion to leave the \$3,000 in, seconded by Bruce Lary. Roll Call vote: No- 4 Yes – 6

Balon	yes	Losier	NO
Demers	NO	Oliver	yes
Holmes	NO	Rhoderick	NO
Kardell	yes	Roy	yes
Lary	yes	Schall	yes

New Business – Denise Vallee stated as the agencies submit their requests for Petitioned Warrant Articles, there will be a file at the Selectmen’s office for review of these requests. Financial statements are included to show how the funds helped. Terry Rhoderick asked if they show what was donated. Denise stated it shows the services offered, and how many people were helped in Gorham. They are all non-profits. Terry Rhoderick wanted to know who donated \$1,200 to the Recreation Department; that was in the paper. Denise said Remax donated something and Robin added Mr. Pizza had a fundraiser for an AED.

Chairman Lary stated all areas will be revisited on February 8, and then asked if there was anything else anyone wanted to revisit tonight.

Steve Roy asked if there was any money so the committee could make a public statement to the paper. Robin stated it should not cost anything. Robert Balon asked about other funding for the committee and the clerk. Jay Holmes stated they may want to increase that amount. Jay Holmes made a motion that they have someone represent the committee with a letter to the editor. John Losier seconded the motion.

Steve Roy suggested instead of a letter they contact the paper, find out why they were not at this meeting, and then have Bruce Lary represent the Budget Committee with Terry Oliver representing the selectmen in a story encouraging people to attend the February 8th meeting, among other things. He further stated what was in the paper needs to be corrected and he would rather see a story than a letter. It would be more appropriate, there would be no misunderstanding. Bruce Lary stated, as a committee member he would want to know what was being said before it went to the paper. If he doesn’t know what is being said ahead of time, it would not have his support. Steve Roy agreed to write up something and asked Terry Oliver to write something also for the next meeting and it would be reviewed. Terry Oliver said what they really want to do is encourage people to attend the meeting February 8th.

Bruce Lary suggested they have another meeting this week on Thursday, January 26 at 6:30 pm. The location to be announced after Denise views the schedule. Jeff Schall stated he could not make it, but all others could.

This letter is the only thing on the agenda at this time. (Old and New Business with Public Comments was also added.)

Old Business: Terry Rhoderick would like one more meeting to discuss old business so all are on the same page. Bruce Lary stated that would be this Thursday night. After some discussion Bruce asked Denise to see if some of the department heads could make the Thursday night meeting to clear up some areas in question. She agreed to ask them. There was further discussion as to what would be on the agenda.

Public Comment: Dave Graham wanted to make the comment that the selectmen had no part of the petition to abolish the Budget Committee. He believes it takes 25 people to sign a petition, they have a right. It then comes to the selectmen. Steve Roy stated it was all town workers and their relatives. Denise added that they are all residents of Gorham. Steve Roy – it looks bad for the town that's all.

Dave Graham commented on Jay's comment on the timing of Robin's comment on how Mr. Demers was disappointed in the selectmen, he feels she was trying to clarify to Mr. Demers. Also with the warrant articles, please think about this, Denise stated \$70,000 this is about average for the non-profits. Please reconsider things, one: the paving project and two: inspecting. We could have a real problem. I don't know what the solution should be. Buddy came in and we worked with him.

Paul Robitaille – Has a number of comments he wants to make. When it comes to the warrant articles representative will be there to answer questions, they work to save the town thousands and thousands of dollars. Town Welfare – those agencies have to prove there is interest from the community, if the community does not buy into these warrant articles then it is hard for us to get grants from the federal and state government. Articles help us get the money. Please support the articles. @.) Capital Reserve fund- lot of discussion here, they save the community money, in the long run. Times are hard and he understands the desire to cut, but please reconsider the cuts. When the time comes and it will, that the money is needed it is there. We have the money. If you don't put money in the CRF this year it will be hard to do it next year. Dave mentioned inspections; this is for the safety of the community. If there is no money there they cannot do their job. One more comment, I've been on this board for seven years and have heard all this talk about smoking mirrors and secret handshakes, I must be pretty blind because I don't see it. As far as Mrs. Frost, I think she has some very impressive skills and has gone overboard making sure you have all the information you need to so you have all the right information. She is not trying to hide anything. As for the petition warrant article you are all mad about none of us saw or heard about it until it was passed into us.

Glen Eastman stated taking out the \$60,000 to fight abatement is dangerous. This is why, when you pay experts to maintain the current value of the properties they protect the town. Jay Holmes stated we could use the money from the assors position to pay for this. Glen reminded him there are other duties the assor has to do, just be careful when you cut money used to protect the town, especially evaluation positions. It doesn't take many dents in the town's revenue to hurt it. Please revisit this.

Elaine Bernier had no questions or comments, but Steve Roy asked how the dredging in front of the house go. She stated not good, it will never be there again. Invited him to come and look at it. Steve state he could see this that from the road.

Adjournment: Terry Oliver made the motion to adjourn and meet to finish business on Thursday, January 26, 2012 at 6:30 pm; this was seconded by Jeff Schall with all in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Sharon Amero

Approved 2012-01-23