

**Board of Selectmen  
and  
Durham Budget Committee  
Joint Meeting Minutes  
February 27<sup>th</sup> 2014**

**Call to Order:**

Chairman Milton Simon called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**Members Present:**

Chairman Milton Simon, Vice Chairman Terry Kirk, Charles Pollock, William Morrill, Benjamin Love. Roy Wenger, Kevin Nadeau and Jeanne Sanders excused.

**Also Present:**

Selectman Chairman Wakeman, Vice Chairman Larrabee, Selectman Hall, Selectman Libby, AA/TA Janet Smith. Selectman Baldwin and Secretary Jill Toher excused

**Establishment of a Quorum:**

Chairman Simon announced a quorum has been met with five (5) members present.

**Public Present:** None.

**Approval of February 25<sup>th</sup> 2014 Meeting Minutes:**

Vice Chairman Kerry Kirk questioned the wording in paragraph three in particular "a used Quint seven to ten years old", stating that after discussing the wording with other Budget Committee members, it is the consensus of the Committee that it should read "a used Quint with a remaining life of seven to ten years". A discussion regarding what Chief St. Michel said followed.

**Vice Chairman Terry Kirk Moves** to Approve the Minutes of February 25<sup>th</sup> 2014, as Amended. Charles Pollock Second.

A very lengthy discussion followed regarding what would constitute a voting quorum as there are nine positions on the Committee. In order to fulfill a voting quorum, all five members present would have to either vote up or down.

Charles Pollock found exception with "Budget Committee makes no recommendation." Selectman Chairman Wakeman suggested that the wording be amended to "the Budget Committee could not reach a majority vote." After more discussion, it was the consensus of the Budget Committee adopt Selectman Chairman Wakeman's recommendation. Motion Carried.

Selectman Chairman Wakeman opened a conversation suggesting the Budget Committee consider changing the number of members on the Budget Committee from nine to seven as well as discussing the "home rule" option.

Selectman Chairman Wakeman advised that at the last meeting, the Selectmen discussed changing the number of Budget Committee members from nine to seven, with the intent of adding a non-monetary article to the Warrant for the Town's people to vote upon starting in 2015, and offered the opportunity for the Budget Committee to agree with the Selectmen's recommendation. A very lengthy discussion followed regarding appointments versus write-ins. Charles Pollock cited a lack of interest of Durham's residents to serve on the Budget Committee, noting there are currently three positions open and only one resident took out papers to run.

Selectman Chairman Wakeman advised the Selectmen could change the current rule to permitting a majority vote of those Budget Committee members present going forward and will further consider exercising this option as well as appointing members should an elected member resign.

Budget Committee Chairman Simon polled the members present, and noted that one member is in favor of reducing the number of members on the Budget Committee from nine to seven and four are opposed.

### **Review of Selectmen's Proposed 2014 Budget:**

#### **Eureka Center Capital Improvement Fund:**

Chairman Wakeman advised that the Eureka Center members decided to forgo the \$3,500.00 requested last year for a dishwasher, and did not purchase it. Instead, the Committee is requesting \$3,000.00 for flooring. Chairman Wakeman stated he visited the Center and noted there is considerable cracking, curling up and peeling of the floor surface. He took photos with his i-phone but was unable to send.

AA/TA Smith related that a flooring person inspected the floor and it was his opinion that there was not enough glue spread nor did the temperature remain sufficient for the floor tiles to bond correctly, which caused shifting and moving of the tiles.

Budget Committee Chairman Simon recommended that the contractor that installed the tiles in Eureka's main hall be contacted to see if he would re-do the flooring at a reduced rate as the hall floor has only been down about five years.

**Charles Pollock Moves** to transfer three thousand (\$3,000.00) dollars from the Eureka Center Capital Improvement fund for flooring with no monies raised. William Morrill Second. Motion Carried.

**Parks and Recreation:**

AA/TA Smith advised she received a written request from the Tri-Town Penguins for one thousand one hundred (\$1,100.00) dollars today.

**Runaround Park and Dam:**

Selectman Chairman Wakeman advised that the labor line has been moved to the Department of Public Works. The amount requested, \$1,200.00, is for light clean up and trash removal. The dues line is zero dollars and will drop off next year.

The porta-potty request is slightly higher as the unit was tipped over last year and additional monies were spent to right the porta-potty and clean up spillage.

The Park Maintenance request remains the same. Park Mowing is on the second year of a two year contract, and park plowing is on a one year contract. Selectman Chairman Wakeman stated the Board will discuss the matter plowing out the parks with the Road Commissioner.

**River Park Maintenance:**

Selectman Chairman Wakeman advised the labor line has been moved to the Department of Public Works and no monies are requested for sanitation or park maintenance. Park mowing is in its second year of a two year contract and the request for electric is one hundred sixty (\$160.00) dollars for one electrical hook-up, based on last year's usage.

**War Memorial Park:**

Selectman Chairman Wakeman stated mowing is on its second year of a two year contract and the request for flag maintenance and upkeep remains at five hundred (\$500.00) dollars. Flag poles need to be replaced and/or moved and installed according to the proper flag protocol.

**Recreation:**

Selectman Chairman Wakeman advised the amount requested two thousand six hundred (\$2,600.00) dollars will be allocated to the Tri-Town Penguins (\$1,100.00) and to baseball one thousand five hundred (\$1,500.00) dollars.

**Memorial Day Parade:**

Selectman Chairman Wakeman stated the amount requested is one thousand (\$1,000.00) dollars, which is two hundred fifty (\$250.00) dollars more than last year.

Selectman Chairman Wakeman stated that since this is the 225<sup>th</sup> year anniversary of the Town that the Committee would like to expand activities and do more advertising.

**Discussion:** A discussion followed regarding allocation of monies from the Recreation Fund.

**MOTION #1:**

**Charles Pollock Moves** to take \$2,600.00 out of line #67 and transfer \$6,633.00 from the designated fund Recreation Fund and transfer \$2,867.00 from designated fund State Park Fees for a total transfer of \$9,500.00. Terry Kirk Second.

**Motion Fails:** due to a Majority Vote with William Morrill Opposing.

**Planning Board and Board of Appeals:**

Selectman Chairman Wakeman stated the Board is recommending the same amount as last year, noting if all Planning Board members and the secretary attend all twelve meetings, the \$5,640.00 budgeted meets the actual amount needed.

AA/TA Smith advised that the Planning Board will be having a couple of extra workshops for Ordinance work and at the current participation level, the amount budgeted will not exceed the amount requested.

**Budget Chairman Simon Moves** to reduce the amount requested by \$3,000.00, for a total to be raised of \$5,337.00. Terry Kirk Second.

**Discussion:** Terry Kirk asked if fees could be used to off-set this item. Selectman Chairman Wakeman advised that fees realized go to offset the CEO's salary and expenses. Bill Morrill voiced his concern that should the Planning Board need more than what is recommended by the Budget Committee, where will the funds come from. AA/TA Smith advised that any overage would be charged to Administration. It was noted that should the Appeals Board need to meet, the Appeals Board members do not receive any pay, however the Secretary is to be paid.

**Motion Fails:** with Budget Chairman Simon for and Budget Committee members Terry Kirk, Charles Pollock, Benjamin Love and William Morrill Opposing.

**MOTION #2:**

**Charles Pollock Moves** to deduct \$2,000.00 from Planning Board and Appeals Board, raising \$6,337.00 for Planning Board and Appeals. Terry Kirk Second.

**Motion Passed:** Unanimously.

### **Solid Waste:**

Selectman Chairman Wakeman stated Solid Waste is by contract. The amount budgeted is based on seven months at the old rate and five months at the new rate. Only bid was received. Selectman Chairman Wakeman advised the new three year contract amount is approximately the same as the current contract. Special pickups has been decreased by \$1,000.00, as there is now only one bulky waste day occurring in May each year. No monies are requested this year for trash tags as the amount ordered usually lasts approximately three years. Hazard Waste Facility provides Durham's residents with a depot located in Lewiston to accept hazardous waste.

A discussion followed regarding the possibility of Durham being offered an opportunity to change trash pick up to a truck system with a mechanical arm for lifting bins. Selectman Hall advised this option is only in the investigative stage and should the potential offer come to fruition, it would be up to the Town to either accept the offer or decline. A lengthy discussion followed.

**William Morrill Moves** to transfer \$13,043.00 from Solid Waste Tags and raise \$182,840.00 for a total appropriation of \$195,892.00. Terry Kirk Second. Motion Carried.

### **Telecommunications:**

AA/TA Smith stated that as of December 31<sup>st</sup> 2013, there was a balance of \$52,216.39 in the account and the Town received \$33,345.61 in Franchise Fees in 2013.

PIT John Ricker stated that the secretary's salary is based on 10 hours per meeting at \$15.00 per hour for ten meetings, and \$12.00 per hour at the old rate for two meetings.

Selectman Chairman Wakeman advised that PIT Ricker has also assisted by addressing some computer problems as well, which has saved the Town money versus having to call a computer technician in to resolve problems, and recommends allocating an average of twenty hours per week for this position.

### **Operating Expenses:**

PIT Ricker stated that the amount requested, \$4,000.00, is a decrease of \$2,000.00 from last year. No monies are requested for the Newsletter as it is now sent via E-mail. The Website Expense is for two sites, one for the Town and the second for the Fire Department. The amount requested for legal expenses, \$5,000.00, is allocated for negotiations as the current ten year franchise agreement is due to expire. The amount requested for Postage and Supplies, \$1,600.00, is allocated for two mailings, if needed, relating to a completed franchise agreement, plus office supplies. A discussion followed.

**Vice Chairman Terry Kirk Moves** to approve the amount requested as written by transferring \$31,550.00.00 from the Franchise Fees Designated Fund to Telecommunications. William Morrill Second. Motion Fails with Charles Pollock Opposing. Budget Chairman Simon declares a no vote.

**Wrap Up Discussion:**

Selectman Vice Chairman Larrabee stated it has been a pleasure working with the budget committee.

Charles Pollock raised questions as to how Durham's taxes are currently due and suggests the Selectmen consider changing the fiscal year to a calendar year as well as begin a discussion with Town residents on this issue.

Selectman Chairman Wakeman stated that doing this would have an adverse affect on those residents who have mortgages with an escrow account in addition to the fact there would not be an audit available. In order to do this, residents would have one six month tax bill, then a twelve month tax bill. The annual Town Meeting would have to be changed from April to June as well.

Selectman Chairman Wakeman stated another solution would be to increase the unassigned balance to upwards of \$1,000,000.00, in order to cover monies necessary for the Town to pay it's obligations.

Selectman Chairman Wakeman suggested forming a Committee to look into the pros and cons of changing the tax year, and then present this information to the Town's residents.

Budget Vice Chairman Terry Kirk requested that the Budget Committee be notified of the Selectmen's recommendations for the Town Warrant.

Budget Chairman Simon requested the Selectmen update their cover letter dated February 11<sup>th</sup> 2014 to reflect the new figures and provide copies to the members of the Budget Committee prior to the Annual Town Meeting. AA/TA Smith provided updated information including those votes where the Budget Committee could not reach a consensus. AA/TA Smith will provide finalized information to the Budget Committee members once the Selectmen have made their final recommendations.

**Charles Pollock Moves** to adjourn at 7:50 p.m. Terry Kirk Second. Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

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Jill S. Toher, Secretary