



Selectmen's Meeting
Town Office
Wednesday, January 18, 2012 6:00pm

Present: Jed Brummer (Chair), Patricia Lang Barry, Carlotta Lilback Pini

APPROVED Minutes

CALL TO ORDER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Approval of Minutes: December 28, 2011 – Approval of these minutes was postponed because Selectman Seppala, who was present for the December 28, 2011 meeting, was not in attendance.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Peter Valade: Valade Cottage Nominee Trust v. Town of Rindge: This matter will be taken up on February 1st since Peter Valade is not here. The appraisal Mr. Valade presented is in the Selectmens' folders. The Zoning Board of Adjustment denied his application for an abatement so he appealed to the Board of Tax and Land Appeals (BTLA). However, before a matter may be brought before the BTLA, the BTLA requires that a hearing/mediation first take place between the applicant and the local Board of Selectmen in hopes of minimizing the cases the BTLA needs to review. Carlotta: When I spoke to Mr. Valade, we spent a lot of time at our last meeting talking about how the value of his home was derived. Did that methodology have a good result? Dave DuVernay: Discussing the methodology is irrelevant.

Rick Sirvint: Jaffrey-Rindge Cooperative School District Budget: Rick said the School District feels that, because the behavior of students is not what it was in the past, the schools need a police officer present. There was also extensive discussion at the School Board meeting about a proposed \$94,000 Gifted and Talented Officer. Rick wondered how this person would know who's gifted and talented. After the vote, the School Board admitted that, because of the likely low number of participants (perhaps 1% of the student body?), it would be politically unacceptable to fund this position.

What is causing the school budget to be so high? Rick, who has taught for 40 years, said one factor could be the block scheduling – teachers often have just three long classes with an average class size of 50 students. There was a lot of discussion about reducing one position to part-time. He thought that five to nine positions could be eliminated to bring the budget down. Meanwhile, enrollment is shrinking, but the courses are increasing. Jed: Obviously you did your homework. Is there any way to know how eliminating eight or nine teachers would affect the overall budget? Rick: If people retire, or leave by attrition, hiring new teachers could save money. The salary could be \$60,000 plus health insurance and social security totalling \$70,000-\$90,000 per teacher. The state passed a law that kids have to stay in school till they're 18. So now you have to have alternative programs for people who are in there but don't want to be. It costs a lot to transport students to an alternative program in home construction. Maybe an alternative program should be in health services because that's the only area of growth right now. The class sizes are small and they stretch the class length out to 1.5 hours, but students don't need to be there that long to have the material get across. People should consider the town budget separate from the school budget, but it's all the same bottom line. I'm supporting the school budget. It's about level. Jed: Actually, it's \$813 less than last year. Rick: The School Resource Officer does a good job, but it is a necessary job? Guidance counselors are needed.

The School Board was quite firm in its belief that student behavior has deteriorated over the past several years so they say they need a certified Police Officer in the building. The state and the government are at the mercy of the Special Ed. rules. Are they sincere and doing the best for the students and taxpayers? Rick: 40% of the households in Rindge are at the low income level: \$45,000 for a family of four, and our income is higher than Jaffrey's. They are doing a fine job and they're aware of the difficulties.

Pat Barry: This is a great report that shows a lot of work and dedication. I don't disagree with everything you've said, and this is a great conversation but would need its own evening. From a personal perspective, having taught as an English teacher at the high school level, I have seen the direct improvement in instruction which gives more time for writing that prepares

students for the college level. So, our graduating class this past year not only was the largest but had the largest percentage of college-bound students (well over 60%) and the schools our students were going to were in a higher tier than in the past. The block scheduling does have some holes in it. Foreign Language and Music cannot be done well. Every system has its challenges. As a Vice Principal, my thoughts on a SRO is that it's not necessarily the students' behavior but what's on an administrator's plate today—the litigiousness of the system, the paperwork requirements, and the laws the administration has to navigate. An SRO is an invaluable resource, though not all SROs are created equal. The right person can be such a bonus to the school system—they provide the eyes, ears that you cannot. And because of the sensitivity that administrators have to deal with today, the money you spend on SROs is money you don't have to spend in Court. The problems you don't encounter are problems you don't have to pay for, so a good SRO is worth his/her weight in gold. Rick: Having this discussion would be an advantage. You have a picture of a school system with more gifted students than Renaissance Italy, and students who need a lot of help, and students in the middle. And things may be different than a few years ago, and because of technology the bullying has become a major issue. In South Hadley, MA a girl committed suicide and I know of three more students who did. And I've taught in inner city schools. I'm not saying the teachers aren't doing a good job, but 50 students vs. 100 per class? In terms of the school budget, I think they really made an effort. In this country, there are sacred cows – special needs kids need things. The problem is that you keep expanding the definition of special needs. The only thing now is who doesn't fall into those categories. The Board really tries hard.

Carlotta: We have a member of the Board here—Charlie Eicher. Jed: the only thing I want to add about the School Resource Officer, I was mentoring someone today. It's been enlightening to hear the problem of what the school has to face; it's where the kids come from – drugs, separated parents. What the Rindge Police Dept. handles on a daily basis are problems you wonder if those things happen in little ol' Rindge, and yes, they do.

Charlie: We appreciate Rick's insight and some of his suggestions. The Board wasn't unanimous on some of his suggestions. The total of all the warrant articles and the operating budget is about the same as the operating budget this year.

Roberta Oeser: I really think the school needs to take the 26% for special needs and sue the federal government for making us take care of this. Most of their cost is for healthcare, not education. Jed: I think there should be a limit. One student can use so much of it. Rick: I think at some point it really is a health issue. The SRO could be the adult contact. There is a level of emotional things that at some point. Rick: In Hartford, they just closed the special needs classes and sent them to the other classes. One student can cost several hundred thousand dollars and can blow the whole budget. Some schools have a psychiatrist to certify that the things they're doing are legal.

Roberta: One thing John Hunt mentioned, it's legal to have admission standards for special needs students – they need to meet certain levels. We can't keep affording to teach children what their parents need to teach them. Because it's health education and welfare; the departments need to be merged.

Proposed 2012 Budget: Finalization of Warrant Articles:

#6: Public Safety Buildings – discussion about renovating and adding on to the existing Fire Station or whether we should create the Fire and Safety building we've proposed in the past. Bringing forward the combined Public Safety Building at this time is not possible because it would have had to be advertised on the ad for the bond in that way and it wasn't. At the time I submitted the ad, no one had mentioned it. Jed: we want to keep these articles in front of the public whether they're passed or not. Chief Sielicki: The right thing to do is a public safety building – maybe striking this completely is the way to go.

Pat: Not putting it on a warrant article makes it seem like we don't need it. I see our role as needing to inform the townspeople about the needs of the Town. We have three choices – to build a complex without having done the research and we can't do that; to not put it on the warrant, but that's disingenuous because we're leading the taxpayers to think it's not important enough to put on a ballot; or, we put what we have on the ballot so we have something to begin addressing our needs. Jed: Is it cost-effective? Pat: I think it's the only option with all due respect. Chief Sielicki: All of a sudden I see this on a warrant article. Jed: We've been spending money putting a new roof on the Police Station. Pat: If I had my druthers, I'd put another warrant article on here to buy the Rice property so we'd have another option. That property has been identified as a key central property for renovation. That gives us some options. \$200,000 for the property, \$50,000 to renovate it. I'd love to see that as a warrant article. To overlook that property for what it's costing is short-sighted – I think it could really meet a lot of the Town's needs for not a lot of money. Carlotta: So is there consensus from the Board to move forward on this article? Selectman Seppala is not here this evening and I think it's important for us to know where he stands on these articles. So I'm suggesting that we schedule one more meeting next week to get his vote on these articles. Jed will be out of town next week. I would like to be able to present to the voters at Deliberative Session a recommendation from the BOS and BAC on this, and I know they're planning to have a meeting. So my thought is that it would be good if we firmed up this warrant tonight and ask Sam for his vote next week. Next Wednesday is the 25th. Ideally, I'd like to see a joint meeting between the

BOS and BAC and then next Thursday post it. Dan: We will have a meeting Monday night. Carlotta: So you could come to the meeting Wednesday with your votes? Roberta: Yes, that would be a plan. Article 6 – Jed YES, Pat YES

Article 7 – we had two options for replacing Engine 2 – one was a lease and one was a bond. If we do a lease with an escape clause which one of the companies is offering, we only need 50% voter support. If we do a lease without an escape or a bond, we need 60% support. The payments are similar, the terms are five years. The interest rates are both low. Jed: my opinion on this is that in five more years, we'll be looking at replacing Engine #1 and having to ask the taxpayers for that. Rick Donovan: I was also asked by Dan –2017 is the window for Engine 1. After that, we're not looking for the fire suppression apparatus until 2024. Hose one will not be replaced. Jed: We're not putting enough into the capital reserves. Carlotta: Wouldn't the first payment be due in 2013? Tom Coneys: Under the escape clause, you'd need to put it on the warrant article every year and there's a risk that it may be voted down. Carlotta: It is possible that they'd vote to send the truck back. Jed YES, Pat YES

Article 9 -- \$25,000 to Meeting House maintenance for exterior painting. Jed YES, Pat YES

Article 10 -- \$35,000 to add to revaluation capital reserve fund. Jed YES, Pat YES

Article 11 - -\$35,000 to Fire Fund

Jed YES because I don't want Casey to run around for fire inspections in Fire Engine 2 that probably gets 5 miles to the gallon – that's a waste of Town resources. And he can't go there with a pickup because it's not equipped.

Roberta: I don't want to include the language of replacing the vehicle when you're getting a new command vehicle. Pat: But we had the vehicle before. Rick: Since 1999 we've always had a Chief's vehicle and an inspection vehicle except for the past three years. It's always been a hand-me-down vehicle since 1999. Now that it's failed, my point is we always had issues with the Crown Victorias because they don't carry the right equipment. And it's still a response vehicle that carries liability. Roberta: It's not the article, but the language – we should say we want to purchase a command vehicle. Dave: I think it makes sense. We are replacing a vehicle that we had. Pat: We are not adding something we've never had before now in tight times. It needs to be clear that we were operating with this in our complement of vehicles, and now it needs to be replaced.

Deb Lund: My husband was on the Fire Dept. Someone who just reads this wouldn't understand that it doesn't carry the right equipment. People need to know that the reason for the extra money is to do the job it needs to do. Rick: If we say "new," it seems like we're adding something to the complement, but we're not. Jed: It probably should say "appropriate" vehicle in the language. Jed YES, Pat YES

Article 12

Jed: these projects have been studied and will give good pay-back. Jed YES, Pat YES

Article 13

\$55,000 for a one-ton truck in Highway Dept. Mike is trying to firm up \$8,000 for the truck trade-in. Mike: The life expectancy of that truck is 10 years, and it has a lot of rust. I'm going to keep the cost of the new plow and sander. Quite a bit of cost savings there. Pat YES, Jed YES

Article 14 - \$70,000 for Fire Dept. equipment capital reserve fund. Jed YES, Pat YES

Article 15 – Carlotta: I appreciate Roberta and Tom Coneys sharing information they had gained relative to special revenue vs. revolving funds. There are two types of funds: 1) The special revenue fund is like a capital reserve fund, but comes from the sale of transfer station permits. But to spend from it you do have to go to Town Meeting or the Selectmen, and that's more for capital projects. The revolving funds are more for the operations of the recycling center. You have to allocate what percentage is for recycling vs. solid waste – 29% is for recycling. It's messy – 29% of the telephone bill, etc. But there's value for bringing forward the revenue fund as a way to save for the containers, etc. that we've been having a hard time saving for, and future expenses. I think the CIP committee would support it if we talked with them about it.

Jed: Also, we were talking about the other costs to the Town – the \$6,000-7,000 we pay for disposing of hazardous waste materials. Pat: One enormous asset in the Town is our swap shop. We do pay to heat and cool the building, but a lot of people enjoy what they get out of that swap shop and it's a great place to volunteer some time. In some towns, it costs money to dispose of those things but here in our town you can bring something in for free that someone else can use. It does take time for Ed and Mike to oversee, and that's something a lot of people appreciate.

Mike Cloutier: I think it has grown to the point that we need some outside help. It's too small of an area for that. I'd like to reach out through Facebook or something, if some non-profit group could take it on. Jed: could you add on to the swap shop? Mike: We have volunteers that spend a lot of time in there. And the hard part is that there are a lot of personality conflicts—

they're passionate about it. Tom Coneys: You're limiting yourself to recycling here; add solid waste or take out recycling. Carlotta: Good point. Roberta: It's just the revolving fund that's limited. Jed: How many people take their hazardous waste to Keene? Maybe we could take it up there for a fee. We pay \$6,000-7,000 per year to drive all the way up there.

Tom: Why do we appoint the Selectmen as agents to expend the funds? Carlotta: When the time comes that the transfer station needs to get a container, do they have to wait months until the next Town Meeting to even ask for it? The Selectmen will consider the recommendation at an open meeting, the public has an opportunity to chime in, and the Selectmen will make their decision. That is one of the Selectmen's duties; they're elected to make financial decisions for the Town, and they do so every day. They spend impact fees, Meeting House maintenance funds, etc. Kim McCummings: Will it require a public hearing to expend these funds? You wouldn't need a public hearing, but you would need it brought forward at a public meeting.

Mike Cloutier: My biggest issue is if there's an engine or transmission failure. Then I'd have to ask permission to spend for that, or the container. How about using the fees associated with the transfer station only for the purchase and repair of solid waste and recycling-related equipment? Carlotta: That's a good suggestion. John Kauer: Facebook mentioned the transfer station being cited for safety issues. Carlotta: If the funds are relegated only to solid waste/recycling equipment, then we couldn't use them for safety equipment or care of the transfer station's land. Maybe this could say "transfer station projects or equipment." Pat YES, Jed YES

Article 16 – We don't need votes on this because there's no money involved. We're putting quotation marks on "highway to summer cottages."

Article 18 – Making up for shortfall of the Highway Block Grant – Is there a way to permanently put that money back? Imposing a \$5 fee on car registrations would make up the state cut and allow us to pave a little more. Jed: The State charged an extra \$30 one year. Dave DuVernay: Someone stood up at Deliberative Session and said, "Call it a tax." Jed: It's restoring revenue that the State took away from us. Roberta: You used to pay an extra fee to get your license plates in Jaffrey. Discussion followed concerning the definition of a "vehicle." Jed YES, Pat YES

Article 19 – Wellington Road Bridge

This is about our plan to save up for replacing the Wellington Road Bridge – the State would put in 80% and we would put in 20%. Roberta: I feel that Article 18 will fail if 19 follows it. Mike: This is almost a mandate; I agree with Roberta.

Article 20 -- \$40,000 for an exhaust system in the highway garage?

Bruce: If this is a safety issue, how can we put it in a warrant article; shouldn't it be in the budget? It should be if we really have to do it because it's a safety issue. Rick Donovan: It is an OSHA requirement. Add the word "diesel" to "exhaust system." And I would look at the same system the fire station has we can maybe share parts and servicing. Bruce: But they could still vote it down, and yet we have to put it in place by law. Carlotta: If OSHA came out and the article failed, we would put it on a warrant that the townspeople voted it down, and if that plan was not satisfactory to them, then we could go to the Superior Court and ask for an emergency town meeting. I'm reluctant to put it in the budget. We're already putting a lot in the budget for Fire Mutual Aid that is no longer being paid by the County. Chief Sielicki: If you put it on a warrant article, no means no. Bruce: What about the guys working in that building, what are they worth? You can find the money in the budget. You could cut roads.

Kim: If that is an OSHA requirement, that's a health and safety issue. If not, there's the issue of liability if something happens to an employee. Not passing the warrant does not eliminate the liability of the Town because the Town knew it was an issue but would not do anything. Deb: Knowing some regulations with OSHA, when you're looking at your employees' costs, you'd have such added cost if someone got lung problems from breathing diesel fumes... yes, you can go to the Court, but more likely the Town will end up getting fined. Carlotta: It's my understanding that the town is not subject to OSHA, but the Dept. of Labor is the authority. It's similar. Rick: In 1999-2000 when the Fire Dept. put our exhaust system in, it was strongly endorsed by OSHA. We did a warrant article, but at that time it wasn't mandated by OSHA. It does cause a huge problem because if it's voted down, OSHA will come in. We are subject to that. And if it's in the Dept. of Labor rules, the OSHA will have it. We need to make a stand on how we will deal with health and safety in this Town. If we vote it down, we'll have huge liabilities. Putting safety and health issues on a warrant articles is an issue.

Tom: The Town is subject to the labor laws, period. To do nothing is worse than spending \$40,000 overkill. Does Mike hook up hoses to all his trucks? Mike: I don't have any hose – I only have an exhaust fan in the wall. Tom: We need to protect our workers. Carlotta: There are a lot of safety issues in these Town buildings. We're opening a can of worms here, but it needs to be done. The Townspeople need to know that these working conditions don't comply with codes, etc. I hear what Bruce is saying about putting it in the budget, but if the budget is increased so that it fails, now we have to find the money within the budget for this and the Fire Mutual Aid, so now we have \$90,000 in expenses we didn't have last year that we didn't have to find, and that will significantly impact the operation of the departments. I know there's a risk, but if the voters of the Town

choose to vote against this, we will be forced to make the repairs. Jed: The recourse will be to hold a special town meeting, as they did in New Ipswich.

Dan: Do you run the trucks in the building after the doors are shut? Mike: No, not for the most part. Dan: So when would you hook them up? Rick: It's on a running track – it's held on. There's a pressure switch inside the vehicle that senses it and turns it on. John Kauer: Finding money is probably a misrepresentation. Rather than raising an appropriation, maybe we should take it out of last year's surplus. Pat: If something is mandated that has to do with health and safety, Bruce is right – it's like operating an apartment building without a fire escape. It's what we need to do to keep our employees safe. We can't leave it up to an arbitrary vote; if it's voted down, we'll need a special meeting. Rick: The alternative is to have a police law that no vehicles may be parked in that building. Pat: Whenever a dept. head has come to us with a safety issue, we have done everything in our power to take care of it. Carlotta: And that is why we have an active Safety Committee comprised of dept. heads and employees. Tom: Have all the emergency lights been replaced that the Safety Committee cited? Carlotta: The Safety Committee's recommendations that I read a month ago was a rough list developed at our inspections. That list has not been prioritized; that list has not been voted on. Between now and then, we'll be prioritizing those projects. Jed: They're also looking into alternative sources for these safety items because the emergency lights, etc. vary considerably. Carlotta: It's possible that there are electrical problems that are causing these batteries to burn out. Consensus: We'll put this cost into the operation budget – Pat YES, Jed YES

Article 21: Shall the town vote to change from calendar to fiscal year budget?

It's a two-step process: the first year, a town vote determines whether to pursue the idea, then the next year it's put out to vote. Jed: Other towns have found it very helpful. Pam Brenner of Peterborough could talk with us about it. Having a fiscal year budget would help greatly in discussing our budget with the BAC. We're not even finished with the fiscal year by the time we have to project the budget for the coming year. – Pat YES, Jed YES

The rest of the articles are petitions. Holly Koski is here to speak about Article 22 concerning raising the income limits for elderly and disabled tax exemptions.

Carlotta: Holly and I put together a spreadsheet to determine what the tax impact to residents would be if "x" more people took advantage of these exemptions due to the raised income limits. Probably the worst-case scenario is that 100 people might apply for the \$100,000 exemption from their taxes. That would translate to an \$86 annual increase on a \$200,000 house. We only have 97 people who currently take advantage of the program. In one year, we're not going to get 100 new people qualifying. Dave DuVernay: I think the outside likelihood is that 15-20 more people will take advantage of it. 98 other towns are doing this. We have had people come in for fuel assistance who are not aware of the property tax exemption—such as one 80-year-old who was desperate for fuel assistance who had no idea this tax relief was available to her until we mentioned it. Mary Drew, our Welfare Director, is aware of it. Deb Lund: When my parents became disabled I looked for the exemptions in their Town, and I had to dig. Carlotta: It is on our website. Pat YES, Jed YES

Article 8: Budget

Jed: A lot of work from the Dept. Heads and the BAC to support the services of the Town has gone into this budget. We also need to think about those adjustments for the exhaust system if some of these articles pass.

Dan Aho, President of BAC: The proposed budget of default before the exhaust is still \$150,000 more than last year. \$50,000 is for the Mutual Aid, so it's \$100,000 over. The Planning budget is \$112,000. We haven't hired the new replacement or part-time staff. When do we think we'll have that in place? My guess right now is maybe half of that budget between now and next year for the costs in place right now with Robyn's wages is probably no more than \$60,000. So we should recoup something. Knowing that it probably will have to go into next year, this year we'll not spend \$112,000.

Bruce: Another area would be the prosecutor's position. The Chief is saying \$3,000 and she wants \$6,000. Five percent (another \$3,000) is better than ten percent in this economy. Chief Sielicki: We did give her more paperwork.

Pat: What is the number you suggest we'd save from the Planning Board?

Kim: I think it's safe to assume no one will be in place January or February. We hope to select someone by the end of February for the Director's position. And then s/he would get settled in and maybe have another month or two without the part-time secretary's salary. The person might start the week after we start or need time.

Roberta: If there's someone new in that position, Robyn won't just walk out the door, or it could be Robyn. There will be some overlap with Robyn and the new person, if it's not Robyn herself.

Carlotta: At our last meeting, we'd identified some wage and benefits savings as a means of funding the remaining pay adjustments. The board seemed to be in consensus with that at the time, and I'd be reluctant to chop that off or we can't do that. The prosecutor is a different story.

Kim: I think for the short term also, we have to figure in Robyn's salary. Tom: Full employment is \$9,300/month. And Robyn's probably 50-60% of that. Potentially maybe \$5,000-\$6,000/month.

Dan: If Robyn's handling it herself, why do we need a secretary?

Kim: There are things that aren't getting done because Robyn can't handle everything. At minimum you would need a Secretary to do minutes/meetings, postings, answering the phones, and that would free the Director to do planning-related

things rather than support-type things. We don't need a Planning Assistant which is a higher level, but we need a part-time Secretary.

Carlotta: I'd like to point out that the budget prior to the exhaust discussion was \$3,629,000. If you subtract the \$3,564,728, the difference is primarily the \$51,000 for Fire Mutual Aid. I put the expenses back in for the transfer station operation because it was apparent we couldn't use the revolving fund the way we wanted. We're talking an increase of \$13,300 before we consider putting the exhaust system into the budget, which brings it to \$53,000, up roughly on top of the \$51,000 for Fire Mutual Aid. If we compare the proposed budget with the exhaust system against the \$3,667,000 default budget, it's over by \$2,000. But Mike and I will try to firm up the exhaust cost over the course of the next week when we'll try to get a quote. Then we'll see if there's any other way to bring it down.

John Kauer: I've been trying to make the point of Welfare rent assistance. I'd suggest that the first \$24,000 in rent assistance requests should come out of the Trustees' Funds, and not from the budget. Carlotta: So there doesn't have to be an appropriation from those moneys? If John's right, that would be great. I will check it out.

Kim: That number represents wages and benefits \$49,000 Director, \$13,000 Secretary, plus benefits.

John: I think the cemetery was short-changed. Carlotta: The Trustees are addressing the cemetery issues.

Dan: The technology budget is huge. Last year, we spent \$84,000 and we're requesting more. Carlotta: \$5,500 of the increase is for the Building Dept. software to replace "PT Win" that we bought 15 years ago—the company just went out of business and the software is no longer supported, so if it crashes, all the data with our building permits, etc. will be gone. The solution recommended is a cloud-based system hosted on the internet rather than a server, which is the direction we want to go in. In the long run, we will not need the computing power and will save costs. This is the first step in that direction. The budget includes \$5,500 for that software and there was training plus an additional module to allow the inspector to input things in certain fields. So the total is around \$7,500 which is the ballpark of the assessing software. That program will service the Code Enforcement Officer and the Planning Department. This is an annual cost. The Town server warranty ran out as did the Police server. Those machines will need to be replaced. Chief Sielicki has a dot matrix printer. Carlotta: Technology is an area requiring greater consideration. We have an outside company; IT staff would cost considerably more--the city of Keene has an IT Department.

Dan: What are the revenues for building permits? Deb Douglas: Around \$86,000 including impact fees and Tractor Supply. Their permit fee was around \$10,000 and their impact fee was around \$13,000. We can confirm that tomorrow.

Bruce: The impact fees – what are the restrictions? Carlotta: The public safety impact fees are for capital improvements for facilities. Mike: Highway is excluded from that. Carlotta: When the impact fee was established it was just for Police and Fire facilities, and there's a second one for Rec. and a third one for the School. I believe that's something that the Planning Board could adjust at a future date. Kim: We can look at that.

Carlotta: Mike would be interested in putting some of those funds towards roads. Mike: The way it was set up was for Fire, Police, Rec, and how the School got in there I don't know.

Dan: I think we could take \$1,000 out of the Library. Carlotta: But if the Library underspends the budget, then they are entitled to a refund check.

Charlie: If all the warrant articles are approved, do we know the impact on the tax rate?

Carlotta: Now that we know what the warrant articles are, we can have those figures for next week.

Kim: Can you have the revenues next week? Carlotta: Yes. We should probably ask someone to speak about the 18-month budget at Deliberative Session. Tom: A fiscal year calendar manages your revenues better because all the legislative changes, revenue stream, and budget are aligned.

Roberta: Is the County tax rate down? Jed: It may be for one year but no guarantee it will continue to be down the following year. I wouldn't bet that it will be.

Pat: What if the \$6,307.55 Keene hazardous waste disposal payment was put on as a warrant article?

Dan: I think adding the \$6,300 makes it another money article. Pat: But is it worth eating it in the budget when it's not clearly a must. Mike: We have to pay it upfront. It's in the operating budget now. Mike will follow up and find out if we get an extension on opting in and we'll call and find out how many people use it.

This article was TABLED for later discussion.

Mike Cloutier: Monadnock Disposal Contract:

Mike is here with regards to finalizing the contract with Monadnock Disposal—their and our attorney have reviewed it and all are on board. Jed and Pat approved and signed it tonight.

MOTION: Jed motioned to accept the Monadnock Disposal contract for five years at \$80/ton, Pat seconded, and all were in favor.

PSNH Outage: Main Street/Payson Hill on 01/25/2012 between 9am-12pm:

MOTION: Jed motioned to close the Town Offices between 9 and 12 on the 25th, Pat seconded and all were in favor.

Fluctuating three-phase power is causing problems in the Town. Only way is to add more transformers with regulators.and to do this, they have to shut down power to the poles. The water for the Town Office comes from the Parsonage. We'll need to shut down for three hours.

Payroll Manifest and Accounts Payable Manifest:

MOTION: Pat motioned to accept the payroll and accounts payable manifests for this week, Jed seconded, and all were in favor.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Ongoing Business: None

MOTION: Jed motioned to enter Non-Public Session for Reputation, Pat seconded and all were in favor

NON-PUBLIC SESSION PER RSA 91-A:3 II.(C) FOR REPUTATION

MOTION: Jed motioned to go out of Non-Public for Reputation, seal the minutes, and move to Non-Public for Personnel.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION PER RSA 91-A:3 II.(A) FOR PERSONNEL

MOTION: Jed motioned to leave Non-Public for Personnel, seal the minutes, and adjourn. Pat seconded, and all were in favor.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:45pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Linda Stonehill, Administrative Assistant