

# BUDGET COMMITTEE

## Minutes of February 14, 2006

Meeting was held in the Community Room, Hollis Town Hall and was called to order by Chairman, Mike Harris at 7:35 PM.

Members present: Mike Harris, Chairman; Scott Bartis, Vice Chairman; Melinda Willis, Selectmen's Representative; Kathy Delacey, School Board Representative; Mort Goulder, Chris Hyde, Lorin Rydstrom; Deborah Adams, Secretary

Also present: Mark Johnson, Chairman Selectmen; Peter Band, Ray Lindsay, Vahrij Manoukian, Selectman; Paul Calabria, Finance Administrator; Cath Hallsworth, Director of Administration; Rick Towne, Fire Chief; Russell Ux, Police Chief; Arthur LeBlanc, Public Works Director

### **Presentation of Town Budget** – Mark Johnson

Mark begins by reading a brief introduction/overview. He points out that the town operating budget has remained flat for many years, while the school spending has dramatically increased. For years there have been large investments made for additions, renovations and new buildings for the school system, while no major investments were made to core town facilities over the last 20 years. Last year the town approved bonding for 3 major projects for town facilities, with the town hall and possibly the Farley Building needing work in coming years. Spending for town services has been lagging behind the rate of inflation and population growth and now they are looking to play catch up.

Mark points out the changing demographics in the town and the need for more services. The town has recently preserved over 600 acres of land that will never be developed. The taxpayers are now seeing the payment for this benefit. He stresses that this was an informed choice of the taxpayers to approve these land purchases. A recent newspaper article pointed out the "deluge of debt" the town is facing due to land purchases and municipal improvement. This "deluge" accounts for only two cents on every tax dollar, while the school budgets account for 77 cents on this same tax dollar. Hollis taxpayers have embraced the concept that increased borrowing is an investment in their future.

Mark mentions that the Selectmen have made several changes to the proposed budget since the last meeting with the BudCom. The warrant article to purchase 44 acres on Pine Hill Road has been removed. The Conservation Commission has agreed to fund this purchase through previously approved funds. The Finance Office has made an important correction to the spreadsheet used by both the Selectmen and BudCom for the past several years. It was discovered that the town has not been accounting for the veterans tax credit in the same way the DRA accounts for this. This tax credit must be treated as an expenditure due to how the DRA calculates the tax rate. Based on this correction, the two capital reserve warrant articles have been decreased to keep the proposed budget under the BudCom's 4% cap.

The bottom line is that the proposed budget is under the 4% discretionary spending cap set by the BudCom. The actual increase in discretionary spending is 3.3%, which is lower than the latest CPI of 3.4%.

Mike questions which line item the veterans tax credit would be shown. Paul explains that while this is not technically part of the budget, the DRA does count this as an expense. The Selectmen and the BudCom have been overlooking this expense when doing their calculations.

### **Warrant Articles**

1. Non money article.

2. *Bond for Land Acquisition* – Pat Clark, member of the Land Protection Study Committee explains that this is not an article to spend money now. This is an article that keeps the option open to consider specific land acquisitions at a later date. If the article is defeated, then any land purchases could not be discussed or approved prior to March 2007. If the town wishes to give up this option and not consider any more property, then they should vote NO. If the town wants to preserve their freedom of choice and have the opportunity to vote Yes or No on any future land purchases, then they should vote YES.

3. *Collective Bargaining Agreement Cost Items* – Paul explains that the contract was negotiated with a 2% salary increase for this year, 1% in 2007 and 1% in 2008. Provisions were made to have a Master Patrolman and a Master Firefighter, with the appropriate pay increases. Stipends will be made available for those providing training of various levels to other officers. There will be an additional sick day accrual for 2006 and again in 2008, however the employee will forfeit any overtime in the same week that any sick time is also used. Longevity pay will be offered for those reaching their maximum step, with eligibility on the anniversary date of their last step increase.

4. *Optional Special Town Meeting* – This is a non-money article to all a special town meeting to be scheduled in the case that Article 3 is defeated.

5. *Employee Health Insurance Expendable Trust Fund* – Paul explains that this trust fund was started in 2005 for the self-funded medical insurance for town employees. They were looking at a 16.9% increase in rates for 2005. The first year of this plan allowed

them to retain \$4,500 in the trust. If they had stayed with Health Trust for their medical insurance it would have cost an additional \$27,000. The town saved \$32,000 the first year of this new plan. Most questions where this is shown on the budget sheets. Paul explains that all warrant articles are listed under Capital Outlay.

6. *Two New Positions of Police Officer* – Mark explains that they are looking for 2 new officers; 1 will be a full time patrol officer and the other will be a School Resource Officer, with 60% of the cost coming back from the schools (54% from Coop and 6% from Hollis). Russell states that much work has gone on behind the scenes for this SRO. They have reached an agreement with the schools, met with the school boards and have much public support for this. He feels the community will fully support this position. The last time this was presented to the BudCom, the Selectmen had listed the officers as 2 separate warrant articles. He prefers this to be as 1. He wants to be completely upfront with the voters. He is concerned that the voters will think that they could defeat 1 officer and approve another. His priority is to add another patrol officer to the department. He does not want voters to think they are voting for either the patrol officer or the SRO.

Russell stresses that he desperately needs a new patrol officer. Currently he has some officers out on sick leave and others are working 12+ hours a day and are tired. The SRO is also long overdue and will be a big asset to the community. When the officer is not working at the school, he will be used as a patrol officer. When there is no school during the summer months, this is actually the busiest time for the police department and the officer will allow for additional help during this time.

Scott arrives at this time.

Lorin points out that the Coop BudCom voted against recommending the SRO strictly from a financial perspective. He questions if both officers could be used by the department should the SRO warrant article get defeated at the schools. Russell indicates that he could definitely use both as patrol officers.

Robin Beaudette comments that she has 2 teenagers in the school district and she has previous experience working with alcohol abuse in children. She points out that there are 800 teenagers at this school, in one place, at the same time. They need more supervision. There are more drugs and alcohol in the schools now. Some students have been arrested more than once. They need help. She realizes that they cannot wipe out all drugs, yet this would be doing something to help. Peer pressure in the schools makes it hard to so no, therefore doing drugs or drinking becomes more of the norm. When adults are driving down the road and they see a police officer, their first reaction is to slow down their driving. Having an officer in the school will have this same affect. The presence will help.

Mike asks if there is any evidence of increased drug use or abuse in the schools. Anita states that as a school board member she can only speak towards issues at the elementary schools. There are no issues for drugs here, yet there are other issues that the SRO can address. Internet safety is a big problem these days. Most children in Hollis have computers and many have computers in their bedrooms. On-line gaming with chat rooms is very popular and starts with children at an early age. There are also many bullying issues at this age. Speaking as a parent, she has 2 boys. One in the middle school and one in 6<sup>th</sup> grade. There are definitely drug issues at the middle school, as well as bullying. She has friends with children in the high school. These parents believe an SRO will be a welcome addition to the school. She is very concerned about things she is hearing about the high school. The previous administration ignored many issues and slid them under the rug. She feels an SRO will help and can offer protection and guidance to the students. She agrees that this will not solve all the problems, but it will be doing the best to reduce it. She stresses that there is no other population that needs this kind of presence more than our teenagers.

Mike mentions that he has had several high school students speak with him about this issue. He is not receiving a popular opinion from the public about having the SRO in the school. The students indicated that a poll was taken a few years ago that was overwhelmingly against this idea. Anita states that she was present at some meetings where some of the students spoke against the SRO. Some students do not trust the police. Some do not want to get caught. Parents want their children to be supervised. They want their children to form a relationship with the SRO. The students in the lower grades will come to look forward to this. The town needs to do what is best for the students. Mike states that the students that spoke with him did not mention that there is a drug problem in the school.

Russell states that he has a 17 year old son. His son does not want the GPS enabled on his cell phone. He does not want the computer at home to be out in the open. He does not want dad to keep track of the mileage on his car. Why is this? A current high school senior did a study on this a month ago and ½ of the students indicated that they wanted the SRO. He questions the motives of those that did not support the idea. He stresses that this is not designed to have an officer walk the halls of the school and lock up all students that do minor things wrong. The officer will be educated in how to form relationships with these children and to work with them to resolve issues at the school. He has not met any student, teacher, administrator, superintendent, principal or police officer that has been involved with a SRO program that does not like the program. He again questions the motives of those that do not support.

Mark states that he has had many discussions with the administration at the schools. The school now has a new superintendent and a new principal with new ideas who fully support the SRO. The new principal comes to Hollis from Nashua high school. He is

familiar with the SRO program, fully supports the idea and feels this to be a wise idea. He mentions that tomorrow night there will be a public informational meeting at the high school with discussions on this topic. The BudCom is invited to attend. He urges the BudCom to support this concept and allow the voters at town meeting the ability to show their support.

Robin Beaudette states that he son mentioned this poll that was conducted by the students a few years ago. Her son and many of his friends participated and all have indicated that this was a very unscientific poll. Many students were bullied into opposing the SRO. Much information was circulated with the poll, such as how locker searches would be conducted frequently, strip searches would be done, etc.

Mort comments that he attended a school with 1500 students and they did not need the police. They had students that helped to patrol the student population. He does not feel that kids are any different today.

Mike points out that his is not hearing any controversy on the patrol officer position, only the SRO. Vahrij states that the Coop BudCom has voted not to recommend the SRO, as well as the Coop School Board. He questions why these two board cannot see this as a priority while all the parents in town view this as important. He stresses that this generation is much different than Mort's generation. Drugs are easily found in this school. His daughter attended this school and says that drugs were prevalent. This is first hand information. He urges the BudCom to support. The community needs to save even 1 child. Kids are dying from drugs. He mentions that he is also a Commissioner on the Board of Pharmacy. Many prescription drugs are being found in the schools. He sees this happening. It is an ongoing problem.

Chris states that he has volunteered at the high school for many years. He also has children in this school. He knows for a fact that there are drugs in the school; at least 20% of the children and this is a lot. When the students first heard of the SRO they did not like the idea. They felt it would be authoritarian. After thinking about it and hearing more details, there is more support from the students. It will help take pressure off the kids that are being bullied. It will help to regulate the atmosphere. He supports the SRO. He asks if this will pull Kevin Irwin, the DARE officer at the elementary school, away from that program. Russell stresses that this will not impact the DARE program. The SRO will not displace that.

Chris states that he understands the rationale in linking the 2 positions as 1 warrant article. If the Coop does not support this position at the district meeting, Hollis would need to budget the full amount for this officer. This would be an additional burden on the department that may not be needed. Upon further thought he comments that this same scenario could occur if there were 2 warrant articles. Melinda points out that the police department could definitely use both patrol officers.

Kathy explains that the SRO is something that she is very passionate about. Just a month ago there was an attempted abduction in Hollis. The school board held an emergency meeting to discuss how to teach the children about "stranger danger". The Hollis police were wonderful in how they discussed this with the children. This was a reactive issue, instead of a proactive approach to an ongoing problem in society. The SRO would help to teach this to the children. The SRO would be a resource to the children, parents and the teachers. She has been told by some girls at the high school that they are afraid to use the bathrooms at school because of their fear of the drug use going on inside. This is sad that children are forced to wait an entire day, until they get home to use the bathroom. Hollis needs to ensure the safety of all children in the schools. The SRO will become a mentor to these children. She reminds the BudCom that tomorrow night there is an informational meeting at the high school. The SRO from Nashua will be there, who is also the lacrosse coach. She points out that several years ago Amherst was looking into getting an SRO. The students did not want this at the time, yet now they love it. It has been a great success. She reiterates that Hollis now has a new superintendent and a new high school principal that both want to be proactive on this issues.

Jennifer also feels very strongly on this subject. As a parent she strongly supports this. She worked closely with Kevin Irwin on the "stranger danger" discussion with the children. The children love him. They have a great relationship. It would be good to carry this kind of relationship up to the higher grades. As a concerned citizen she is very concerned about the stories of drug use in the schools. She stresses that they need to be more proactive.

*7. One New Position of Firefighter.* Rick states that this is the same issue as from the past several years. He has an on-call department. The volume of calls, the time it takes, the commitment level and required training is making it less conducive for volunteers. As he loses these volunteers, he is attempting to make an efficient full time department, while also using some volunteers that are still available. He likes to hire in the Fall to allow the State to bear the expense of testing the students coming out of the fire academy. Mike states that they should really count the entire full year expense of this position for the 4% guideline, as that would be more meaningful. He understands the rationale to hire in the Fall, yet this tends to give a false picture of the budget. Mark agrees to discuss this for next year.

*8. Use of Interest Earned on Safety Complexes Bond.* Paul explains that this merely authorizes the town to spend the interest on the bonds.

*9. Public Works Dump Truck Purchase.* Mark states that this was originally for 2 trucks. The Selectmen asked Arthur to nurse one truck along for another year.

10. *Engineering Studies for South Merrimack Road Culvert*. Arthur explains that this major culvert on South Merrimack Road was installed 25 years ago. There has been flooding at this location in the past, yet this is not the problem now. The culvert itself is rusting underneath the road. This cannot be seen. The culvert is failing. They need an engineer to study the situation and develop a plan for replacement. This includes estimates for the work and the design, as well as environmental permits that are needed.

11. *Engineering Studies for Transfer Station Retaining Wall*. Arthur states that he took over the transfer station 18 years ago. At the time they needed to raise the elevation in order to dump into the trailers. They used well tiles and concrete blocks to create this wall. The wall is now beginning to tip away from the embankment. An engineering study is needed to determine what is needed to correct the problem.

12. *Authorization to Accept Conveyance*. This is a non-money article. This will be explained in conjunction with Article 13.

13. *Engineering Studies and Related Expenses for Maintenance of the Farley Building*. Mark explains that this will cover the basic level of maintenance of the Farley Building from June 30<sup>th</sup> until December 31<sup>st</sup>, as well as the cost of an engineering study of the building. If the Selectmen accept the building and land (Article 12), it now becomes the town's responsibility. He recently had a tour of this building. It is in need of major attention. This structure has not been managed as a resource or asset, yet has been used as something that was expendable. The roof has not been cared for, thus allowing for much water damage to occur. This is a 3-story building. The selectmen need to make some major decisions on this issue. The best guess, by those that toured the building, is that the cost of repairing this structure will far exceed the cost to replace the building. It is in very poor condition. The other issue is that the historical significance of the structure must also be considered. There are many people in town that went to school in this building. The building offers great potential for office space, meeting rooms, after school activities or even a senior center. There are many pluses, yet it would be an expensive process. The schools do not want it anymore. It is not suitable for modern classroom space. The coop has been unhappy with this space for years.

Mike mentions that he met with the Hollis Senior who indicated that they wish they had a space where they could meet regularly. This building was discussed as being a potential meeting place. He also read in the newspaper that there was some consideration being given to replacing the building, rather than renovating it. Mark states that this was mentioned in some very general discussions. Replacement must be a consideration. The cost of renovating the Lawrence Barn is close to \$1,000,000 and this building will be much more than that. Melinda stresses that the Farley Building is on the list of historic places. This may prohibit the potential of replacement, yet it may also give the town an opportunity for grants to help with the restoration.

Vahrij states that he also toured the building. He agrees that it is in very poor shape. It is scary. He does not feel that it makes sense to renovate. He believes it will cost at least \$1,000,000 for each floor to restore it. The school left this building in very poor shape. They did not spend any money on this building as they always felt that they would not be keeping it. Mike points out that if the seniors were to use this building it would have to be handicap accessible. Mark states that this problem belongs to Hollis; whether it is owned by the Hollis schools or the Town of Hollis. He would love to see this as a senior center, but this building is a long way from being habitable.

Chris states that the SAU building is owned by the Hollis school district, and is leased to the SAU. This lease stipulates that regular maintenance be done to upkeep the building. He questions whether similar language was part of the lease for the Farley Building to the coop. Mike states that it was part of the lease. Chris is concerned that the building was allowed to fall into this condition. There should have been more oversight on the part of the Hollis school district. He suggests that there should perhaps be some coop funding to help bring the building back into occupancy. He thinks the town should seriously consider not accepting this conveyance at this time. He does not feel that \$15,000 will be enough for both maintenance and the engineering study.

Melinda points out that this is only for ½ of the year for maintenance. She is not sure how much of this study will actually be done in 2006. They are looking into a grant to assist with this. Mark states that this article is worded such that the selectmen have the ability to say no if they feel it is not worth saving. Chris would like a tour of the building. Mark will make arrangements for this and for any other BudCom member that would like to join them. Anita does agree that the coop should be held responsible if they did not hold up their end of the lease. She reiterates that this article merely allows the selectmen to accept the conveyance; it does not mean that it will happen. The voters should have the opportunity to give their opinion.

14. *Major Public Improvements Capital Reserve*. Arthur explains that this was created to help handle projects such as the culvert on South Merrimack Road, but it is not specific. There is also another culvert on Wright Road, yet there is a developer that will help in the cost of this replacement. The Wright Road culvert will cost \$100,000. Mark points out that this article was reduced down from \$50,000 to \$15,000.

15. *Major Fire Equipment Capital Reserve*. Mark points out that this article was also reduced from \$125,000 to \$50,000.

16. *Compensated Absences Capital Reserve*. Paul this is a post-9/11 mandate that the town must fully fund this liability. This will bring the town up to 42% of what is needed.

17. *Ambulance Fee Fund Appropriation.* This is an in and out account with no money from taxation.
18. *Old Home Day Fund Appropriation.* This is an in and out account with no money from taxation.
19. *Police Private Details Fund Appropriation.* This is an in and out account with no money from taxation.
20. *Establishment of Map38/Lot 1 as Town Forest Property of the Town of Hollis.* This is a non-money article.
21. *Operating Budget.*

Mike questions whether the in and out accounts should also show the recommended or not recommended by the Selectmen and BudCom. Cath states that there is no money raised by taxation for these articles. Mike thought that all appropriation items needed to show this. Cath states that this is not an appropriation. Mike states that it is a gross appropriation and therefore should indicate whether recommended or not. Paul states that this is merely an authorization to expend money from the trust funds. Cath agrees to show the recommended statements on the warrant. Mike would like to get an opinion from the DRA for future years. He does not mind changing this if they indicate it is okay.

Mark would like the Selectmen to vote on the articles. *Mark moves to recommend articles 1 – 21 as presented. Seconded by Melinda. Motion unanimously approved.*

Mark stresses to the selectmen have worked hard to reach this point. He urges the BudCom to support what was presented. They have tried to prioritize and have made some substantial cuts. While the BudCom and Selectmen are in charge of financial matters, the SRO is a life safety issue for the children in our town. He stresses that this is well worth the cost of this officer.

**There being no further public comments, the Public Hearing closed at 9:26 pm.**

Vote on recommendations of Warrant Articles.

1. Non money article.
2. Bond for Land Acquisition – *Lorin moves to recommend this Article. Seconded by Mort. Motion approved 5-2-0 with Kathy, Mort, Melinda, Chris and Mike voting in favor. Lorin and Scott are opposed.*
3. Collective Bargaining Agreement Cost Items – *Lorin moves to recommend this Article. Seconded by Scott. Motion unanimously approved.*
4. Optional Special Town Meeting
5. Employee Health Insurance Expendable Trust Fund – *Lorin moves to recommend this Article. Seconded by Chris. Motion unanimously approved.*
6. Two New Positions of Police Officer – *Lorin moves to recommend this Article. Seconded by Chris.*

Discussion – Lorin will support both officers as he believes the town can afford both. Whether one will be used as a SRO is to be determined. Mort does not support this. He does not feel they need to increase the department by 2 officers. He only supports 1. Scott will support both. He does not feel the SRO will be the ultimate solution to the problems at the school, but they need to do something to help. Mike agrees. He does not wish to see the town set high expectations for the SRO. Scott stresses that they also need to look at the school personnel that painted a rosy picture in the past. Melinda thinks it is appropriate to support both officers. If the voters decide it that one should be the SRO, that is good. She thinks this officer will be helpful as an SRO, but would also be helpful as a patrolman. Chris states that he is pleased with the support of the SRO, yet there should also be the same support for the officers on patrol for the town. He fully supports both officers. Mike points out that the patrol officer is not controversial. If the second officer is used by the schools as an SRO, the town will receive revenue from the schools. He does agree with Mort that new positions should be done gradually, 1 person at a time. He would prefer this to be as 2 warrant articles.

*Motion approved 5-2-0 with Kathy, Lorin, Scott, Chris and Melinda voting in favor. Mort and Mike are opposed.*

7. One New Position of Firefighter – *Lorin moves to recommend this Article. Seconded by Chris. Motion unanimously approved.*
8. Use of Interest Earned on Safety Complexes Bond – *Scott moves to recommend this Article. Seconded by Chris. Motion unanimously approved.*
9. Public Works Dump Truck Purchase – *Chris moves to recommend this Article. Seconded by Scott. Motion approved 6-1-0 with Kathy, Lorin, Scott, Chris, Mike and Melinda voting in favor. Mort is opposed.*
10. Engineering Studies for South Merrimack Road Culvert – *Lorin moves to recommend this Article. Seconded by Scott. Motion*

*unanimously approved.*

11. Engineering Studies for Transfer Station Retaining Wall – *Lorin moves to recommend this Article. Seconded by Scott. Motion unanimously approved.*

12. Authorization to Accept Conveyance.

13. Engineering Studies and Related Expenses for Maintenance of the Farley Building – *Chris moves to recommend this Article. Seconded by Scott.*

Discussion – Mort questions why the town should waste money on this before they have an idea of what they are doing. Just let the building rot. Lorin states that he is not an engineer, yet when he recently toured the building he felt that a professional opinion was necessary. Mort feels that a professional could easily give an off the cuff estimate of \$2,000,000 for renovations. Mike points out that some of this money is for heating expenses. If the town does take possession of the building, there will be maintenance expenses for heat and to patch a roof leak. Mort feels that the town needs to decide if they want to save the building. If they do, then maintenance is needed. If not, let it rot. Melinda explains that they first need an engineer to inspect the building to give them an idea of what needs to be done. Mort states that the culvert and retaining wall are going to be saved. This is known before hand. At this time it is not know whether the Farley Building is going to be saved. Chris states that this is precisely why they need an engineer to inspect the building; to determine if the building is worth saving, what it will cost to save and also to indicate whether the coops neglect of the building is a factor.

*Motion approved 6-1-0 with Kathy, Lorin, Scott, Chris, Mike and Melinda voting in favor. Mort is opposed.*

14. Major Public Improvements Capital Reserve – *Lorin moves to recommend this Article. Seconded by Scott.*

Discussion – Mort questions why they need this article, as this work will get done anyway. Mike states that they are attempting to accumulate money for this future expense. Melinda states that the Selectmen have discussed this at length. If the voter approve, then there will be \$15,000 saved towards this expense. The voters could also amend the amount from the floor. The intent of this capital reserve is to save towards major road work. Mort prefers to keep road work items within the budget. Paul argues that the culver will cost more than \$250,000, which would put the entire budget way over any target for that given year. Melinda points out that last year the BudCom asked that projects over a certain percentage should be placed in capital reserve. This project falls into that category. The selectmen are only doing what the BudCom asked.

*Motion fails 2-4-1 with Melinda and Kathy voting in favor. Scott, Mort, Chris and Mike are opposed. Lorin abstains.*

15. Major Fire Equipment Capital Reserve – *Lorin moves to recommend this Article. Seconded by Scott. Motion unanimously approved.*

16. Compensated Absences Capital Reserve – *Chris moves to recommend this Article. Seconded by Scott. Motion unanimously approved.*

17. Ambulance Fee Fund Appropriation – *Chris moves to recommend this Article. Seconded by Lorin. Motion unanimously approved.*

18. Old Home Day Fund Appropriation – *Scott moves to recommend this Article. Seconded by Lorin. Motion unanimously approved.*

19. Police Private Details Fund Appropriation – *Lorin moves to recommend this Article. Seconded by Chris. Motion unanimously approved.*

20. Establishment of Map38/Lot 1 as Town Forest Property of the Town of Hollis.

21. Operating Budget – *Lorin moves to recommend this Article. Seconded by Scott.*

Discussion – Mort states that the budget exceeds the limit. Mike explains that it does fall in the limits that were set by the BudCom. The debt service is not included as these were approved at previous meetings. Chris agrees that debt should be excluded, yet he does not agree with excluding the new hires. Mort does not agree with any exclusions. Melinda questions whether long term investments should cut into services that are short term expenses. Mort thinks they should. Chris points out that including the debt service into the CPI calculation would only inflate the guideline. The debt amount will only decrease over time. Mike states that they should give some consideration to changing this in the future, yet he also agrees with Chris. Mort stresses that they keep saying that the proposed budget is within inflation, yet it is not. He feels that this is duping the public. Melinda argues that the increase in taxes comes from 3 years of land purchases that were approved by the voters. This accounts for 10% of the 14% increase. Many of these purchases were not bonded until last year. Mort feels this should be done in the year it is approved. Melinda states that they cannot legally do this. Lorin agrees that this is the result of several years of land purchases, which the citizens approved.

*Motion approved 6-1-0 with Kathy, Lorin, Scott, Mike, Chris and Melinda voting in favor. Mort is opposed.*

Mark states that based on the BudCom's non-support of article 14; he would like the selectmen to re-vote on their support.

*Mark moves to remove Article 14 Public Improvements Capital Reserve for \$15,000 from the 2006 warrant. Seconded by Vahrij. Motion unanimously approved.*

(Secretary's Note – Since Article 14 has been withdrawn, the posted Warrant will be renumbered accordingly. Some Article numbers will not remain the same as listed in these minutes.)

*Lorin moves to adjourn. Seconded by Chris. Motion unanimously approved.*

**Next Meeting** will be held February 16, 2006 at 7:30 PM in the Town Hall Community Room for the Public Hearing of the School Budget

Meeting adjourned at 9:52 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Adams, Secretary