Selectmen’s meeting minutes of March 9th, 2006

Present from the Board:
Chairman Richard Manseau, Selectman Brown, Wadleigh, Dawson, and O’Leary.

Also present: Town Administrator Alice MacKinnon, and secretary Catherine A. Woessner.

Chairman Manseau called the meeting to order at 7:00PM.

School Funding Formula Public Hearing
Chairman Manseau opened the School Funding Formula Hearing at 7:01PM.
Present from the School Funding Formula Committee: Chairman Scott Davis, Members, Sara Paratore, Joe Plessner, Foster Peverly, and Katherine Dawson,

Chairman Manseau announced that the town of Northfield had their public hearing and Sanbornton will have a public hearing on March 22nd at 7:00PM at their Town Hall. Chairman Manseau informed the Formula Committee that the Board endorses all of the work and the Funding Formula and the only thing that will make it a success is if everyone in the town of Tilton gets out and votes for the Formula.

Chairman Scott Davis of the Formula Committee said they feel what has been developed out of the study is fair for the three towns involved. The tax impact on the other two towns is slight and does not hit them all at once. It scales down into and ADM, EV Formula, and 70% ADM and 30%EV. Scott said by doing this, eventually using a formula that will self adjust itself each year it will truly reflect the three communities that make up the Winnisquam School District. Scott said they have had numerous meetings with the School Board and the Selectmen of the other two towns and this is what came out and what is being proposed at the School District Meeting.
School Board member Nina Gardner added that the School Board also feels that this is a fair formula and endorses it. Nina reported that the Sanbornton Board of Selectmen also endorse this formula and will have a Public Hearing on March 22nd, at the Sanbornton Town Hall at 7:00PM.
Lana Dearborn (Northfield Selectman) said they are in support of the formula and continue to be so. Ms. Dearborn said while it is difficult to ask people to increase their taxes it is something they need to do as a community. While they are three separate communities, when it comes to the School district, they are one and they have to resolve this issue.

Chairman Manseau asked what the percentages represent for the fourth year. Scott said as they stand right now, based on last year’s figures, Sanbornton would be at 27.8%, Northfield, 40.6%, and Tilton, 31.06. Chairman Manseau asked the public if they had any questions for the Committee. Pat Clark commended the committee for all of the work they did on the School Funding Formula.

Sarah Paratore explained what ADM and EV mean to the public. ADM is the average daily membership, based on the number of students from the towns and the EV, the equalized valuation is where the State takes the assessed value of the town and they adjust the value so you can compare your community with the neighboring community and that adjustment is generally less than the assessed value. Scott added that if a community has not been assessed for a number of years, equalized valuation puts everyone in the same ballpark.

Pat Clark asked if the School Funding Formula is not passed, what is the backup position. Alice explained there is a warrant article, #14 for town meeting requesting $50,000 to look at options for withdrawing from the District.

Scott asked that each Chairman of the Board of Selectmen from Tilton, Northfield, and Sanbornton needs to make a public statement that they are in support of the School Funding Formula. Chairman Manseau said he would be glad to.

As there were no other questions from the public, Chairman Manseau closed the Public hearing at 7:25PM.
At 7:33 PM Chairman Manseau called the regular Selectmen’s meeting to order.

**Approval:** Minutes of March 2, 2006. Selectman Brown made a motion to approve the minutes as written, seconded by Selectman O’Leary. Selectman Dawson asked to have corrections on page 4 & 5. Selectman Brown amended his motion to accept the minutes as amended, seconded by Selectman O’Leary. All were in favor.

**AP & Payroll Manifests:** The Board approved and signed the manifests.

**Old Business:**

**Boston Post Cane:** Chairman Manseau announced that the presentation of the Boston Post Cane was made to Ruth Smith. Mrs. Smith passed away on March 4th, 2006. Claudia Cannon is next in line to receive the Boston Post Cane. Chairman Manseau said arrangements would be made to make the presentation to Ms. Cannon in the near future.

**Reports from Selectmen:**

**Selectman Brown** reported that he spoke with Mark McLeod from the Turner Group and asked to discuss the drainage problems on Church Street and River Road when they meet on March 16th at 10:00PM at Town Hall regarding the Lochmere Road Project.

**Selectman Dawson** asked if Vision has been paid their final payment. Alice reported they have been paid in full. Selectman Dawson said she has heard from so many people as to how unhappy they were regarding about the whole process of the reassessment. Selectman Dawson said many people felt they did not get the input they asked for. Selectman Dawson said she also received an e-mail from James Vila who said in meeting with Vision they provided very little information and is also unhappy with the town offices. Alice explained that Mr. Vila submitted a chart, which includes 20 properties, which he would like to know the effective area of each, the gross area of
each, the replacement cost new and the replacement cost rounded. Alice said her position is that she does not think it is appropriate for her to look up the information for him. Alice said they will make copies of the assessment cards and he will have to do the research for his chart. Alice said she did talk to Mr. Vila a couple of times in January regarding his base rate. Selectman Dawson said the Chaille’s are waiting for an explanation on tax assessing. Alice said she explained that they filed for an abatement and she told them that the town has until July 1\textsuperscript{st} to respond to those abatements and will respond as quickly as possible. Alice said right now there are at least 150 abatements. The Board agreed to have Alice provide Mr. Vila with copies of the assessment cards he requested and he will be charged for these copies.

Selectman Dawson discussed the editorial in the Echo. Alice said she feels this is totally inaccurate as she spoke to Catherine who is the secretary who spoke to the reporter. Alice said it is her understanding that the reporter called and asked to have a copy of the warrant articles e-mailed to her immediately. Alice explained that this is not in Catherine’s system, but in hers and Alice was very busy at that time. The secretary offered to fax the warrant or have the reporter come down to the office and she would make a copy for her. Alice said this information was not being kept from them as expressed in the editorial of the Echo.

The reporter said she had a deadline and did not want to leave her office at that time. Chairman Manseau suggested in the future it might be a good public service to provide the Warrant Articles as a document file. Selectman Dawson said regarding charging for faxing this information when it is a public service we should not charge them.

Selectman Dawson discussed the meeting with George Hast when the Board asked him to provide them with a letter of his intent, of what he wanted from the Selectmen. Selectman Dawson said she is not certain that they fully understand what the Board wants from them. Selectman Dawson said she is not sure just surveying those property boundaries is going to locate Range Road. Selectman Dawson said she does not want Mr. Hast to go to the expense of hiring a surveyor who is just going to survey property boundaries, as it will not help in locating Range Road. Selectman Dawson would like to send a letter to Mr. Hast explaining what the Board would like to accomplish by
this survey. They need to know where Range Road is not just the property boundaries. Selectman Brown thought they made it very clear when Mr. Hast was at the meeting. After further discussion it was agreed that Selectman Dawson would write the letter to Mr. Hast and his daughter Wendy Monninger and have it for next weeks meeting.

Chairman Manseau asked what is going to happen regarding the flowers on Main Street this year. Chairman said that Main Street has volunteered to do all of the flowers on Main Street. Selectman Dawson said she feels the trough in front of town hall and the barrels in front of town hall and Time Table Mable belong to Town Hall. Main Street puts out their barrels and their flowers, which is fine, but she thinks town hall should take care of the barrels in front of town hall. Chairman Manseau said that maybe they need to resolve it far enough in advance so everyone knows what is going to be done. Selectman Brown asked who was going to plant the flowers from town hall as the Flower Committee has disbanded. The Board agreed to try to solve the planting of the flowers before spring with Main Street and Town Hall. Chairman Manseau said he has some questions on the Zoning Articles to be voted on and would like to have some explanation of what they are. Alice said she would ask Sandy to have something available for voting on Tuesday, March 14th.

Public Input:
Jon Scanlon from Morrison Ave., discussed the one way signs are not really visible until you are right there and asked if the signs could be turned slightly to east and west. Selectman Brown will ask Dennis to take care of this. Mr. Scanlon also suggested having a “No left turn sign” on the right (North side of Rte.3). Mr. Scanlon said there is no speed limit sign along that portion of Rte. 3, (from Wal-Mart going towards Franklin). The Board informed Mr. Scanlon that this is a State Road and they put the signs up. Mr. Scanlon asked to have a speed limit sign posted on Morrison Ave as there are many children in that area and he is concerned with their safety. Selectman Wadleigh said they can put a 20MPH sign up, but the Police cannot enforce it, as the minimum speed limit in the State is 25MPH. Mr. Scanlon informed the Board that when the road was paved they narrowed Morrison Avenue by three
feet and put the curb on top of it, which narrowed it even more. The Board
discussed this and asked Selectman Brown to inform Public Works Director of 
this.

Selectman Dawson said in looking through the estimate of the Municipal 
Resource Incorporated study of the Police Department they did not list their 
references and how long they anticipate the study would take was not 
indicated in their information. Alice said she would call them and ask to have 
them references and a time span of the study when they meet with the 
Board. Selectman Dawson said MRI is asking for a lot of information 
specifically from the Police Department and feels Chief Chapman or Captain 
Wellington should look at this information to see if there is anything they 
cannot divulge.

At 8:17PM Chairman Manseau made a motion to go into non-public session 
regarding a personnel matter, seconded by Selectman Wadleigh. Selectman 
O'Leary, yes, Selectman Brown, yes, Selectman Wadleigh, yes, Selectman 
Dawson, yes, and Chairman Manseau yes. 
At 8:38PM the Board resumed their regular meeting.

Chairman Manseau made a motion to seal the minutes of the non-public session 
until the matter is completely resolved, seconded by Selectman O'Leary. All 
were in favor.
Selectman Brown went over the Morrison Ave issues with the Board. The 
first is to re-align the signs (do not enter signs); the second is to talk about 
grading the backside of the curbs in the spring to cover the old portion of the 
road, and the issue of the speed limit signs. The Board agreed with 20MPH 
and a Children At Play sign, also a no left turn sign for traffic heading west. 
Selectman Brown said he would talk to Chief Chapman regarding the 20MPH 
sign.

Chairman Manseau adjourned the meeting at 8:40PM.