Selectmen’s meeting minutes of January 9, 2007

Present from the Board: Chairman Manseau, Selectman Dawson, Selectman Wadleigh, Selectman Cavanaugh, and Selectman LaPlante.

Also present: Town Administrator Robert Veloski, and Secretary Catherine A. Woessner.

Chairman Manseau called the meeting to order at 6:00PM.

Chief Kent Chapman Re: Police Department Budget:

Chief Chapman presented his budget to the Board. Chief Chapman also gave the Board copies of his letter of retirement for December of 2007.

The Chief reviewed his budget with the Board and informed them there will be three part time positions open and is hoping they will be certified. Under new equipment he is asking for $64,290.

Captain Wellington discussed the car video system for the cruisers. This can monitor traffic and speed of vehicles. There is also a remote microphone to record conservations. Under Investigative expenses the Chief is asking for a new camera that is needed for Detective Mike Farrington. They are currently looking at two cameras and one recommended by the State Police (Nikon) is the one they would like. It is $1,700.

Chief Chapman discussed the wages and asked if it is going to be 2 percent COLA and four percent merit. The Board discussed not having a COLA raise and a five percent merit increase. Chief Chapman said the reasons they went to the step and grade program is so everyone can be where they should be. Selectman Cavanaugh discussed having a raise pool of five percent. This would not be a merit, but a pool raise. Selectman Cavanaugh said he does not think the Town has used the merit system effectively. Chief Chapman does not agree with not having a merit. He said none of his officers are non productive and all deserved a merit, it was not a given. The Chief asked that
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they keep what is currently in place and look at the raise system again next year. Chief Chapman said the Budget Committee cut his budget by 11 percent and does not understanding the reasoning to this. After the Board further discussed this Selectman LaPlante made a motion to accept the Police Department budget as recommended by the Budget Committee, excluding salaries, seconded by Selectman Cavanaugh. Discussion ensued. Selectman Cavanaugh asked to add in $1,700 to the Police budget for the camera requested and asked to wait one year for relief of taxes for a cruiser.

Chairman Manseau said the Budget Committee budget is not a workable budget. Selectman Dawson suggests they present the Police Budget to the Budget Committee tomorrow night. Selectmen Wadleigh and Cavanaugh were in agreement. Chairman Manseau called for a vote on the motion. Selectman Wadleigh, no, Selectman Dawson, no, and Chairman, no. Motion fails.

Selectman Dawson made a motion that the Board of Selectmen readopts the merit and 3 percent for COLA, seconded by Chairman Manseau. Chairman said he supports this system and they can revisit it in 2007 to see if it is effective. Selectman Cavanaugh does not agree. Selectman Wadleigh agrees to stay with it for this year. Chairman Manseau called for a vote. All were in favor with the exception of Selectman Cavanaugh and Selectman LaPlante. The Merit and Cola are back in place. Chairman Manseau made a motion to present the budget with modification to pay scale to the Budget Committee, seconded by Selectman Dawson. All were in favor with the exception of Selectman Cavanaugh and Selectman LaPlante. Chairman Manseau discussed the special detail rates regarding the information provided by Captain Wellington. The Town Administrator provided information with a rate of $45.00 per hour. Chief Chapman is concerned that his officers will not be hired for special detail because of the higher rate and asked to consider a rate somewhere in between $50.00 per hour. After further discussion Selectman Cavanaugh made a motion for
$55.00 per hour for special detail, $45.00 per hour for the officer and $10.00 for use of the cruiser. Seconded by Selectman LaPlante. All were in favor.

Selectman Cavanaugh adjourned the meeting at 8:16PM.