Selectmen’s meeting minutes of Wednesday, February 21, 2007

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

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

Re: Joseph Christi (Jay’s Marina assessment) pending tax appeal-litigation
Also present from Avitar: Loren Martin and Drew LeMay

Selectman Dawson called the meeting to order at 4:04PM.

Loren Martin from Avitar informed the Board she is here to discuss an appeal from Mr. Christi, (Jay’s Marina) that she believes should be in executive session.

Selectman Dawson asked to discuss Tilton School first. Selectman Dawson said the Town’s agreement with Tilton School expired last year. The Town sent them a tax bill and they are contesting a portion of that bill. Ms. Martin explained that she sent a letter outlining this as it is going to be a sizeable abatement. Ms. Martin said that when the tax collector was getting to run the tax bills it was noticed that an exemption in the amount of $3,000,000 was placed on the property. However, this exemption was not reported on the MS I which means the tax rate was not calculated including the fact that part of that property is exempt and under that court case. Ms. Martin said there was not a lot of choices so it was pull that exemption off so the tax rate was accurate or go back to the State and have the tax rate recalculated. Ms. Martin said they made an executive decision as this is what the tax rate was already set on knowing full well that the Town would have to process abatement on that. Ms. Martin said they sent Tilton School a bill for everything except for a $150,000 exemption and based on the old court case the Town is entitled to a percentage of the property being exempt. Ms. Martin said they have been talking with Tilton School as they need to do a complete inventory, sometime in March. Ms. Martin said she does not think they are questioning the value they need to itemize all of
the properties again and draw up a new agreement to submit to the Selectmen.

Mr. LeMay from Avitar explained that this was not a court order it was a decision made before the court and the court accepted it and said this is how you will move forward through time and this is the formula you will follow and every three years it will be revisited and update your records and move forward. Mr. LeMay said they did not put an end dated on that agreement between the Town and Tilton School. Mr. LeMay said the School has been forthcoming and he has spoken to Elizabeth, the financial officer at the School and they will be meeting in March to go through the buildings. The Board will review the previous agreement and discuss whether or not they want to have it reviewed by an attorney.

At 4:12PM Selectman Dawson made a motion to go into non public session regarding litigation, seconded by Selectman LaPlante. Selectman Wadleigh, yes, Selectman Cavanaugh, yes, Selectman LaPlante, yes, and Selectman Dawson, yes.

At 4:56PM the Board resumed their regular meeting.

Selectman Dawson made a motion to seal the minutes of the non-public session until the matter has been resolved, seconded by Selectman Wadleigh. Selectman Cavanaugh, yes, Selectman Cavanaugh, yes, Selectman LaPlante, yes, Selectman Wadleigh, yes, and Selectman Dawson, yes.

Selectman Cavanaugh made a motion to follow the recommendation that was given by the Town’s appraiser, (Avitar) seconded by Selectman Dawson. All were in favor.

Selectman Dawson adjourned the meeting at 5:00PM.