SELECTMEN’S MEETING MINUTES (PUBLIC HEARING) OF FEBRUARY 15, 2008

Present from the Board: Selectman Cavanaugh, Selectman Pearson, and Selectman LaPlante. Selectman Dawson and Selectman Wadleigh were not present.

Also present: Town Administrator Joyce Fulweiler, and Secretary Catherine A. Woessner.

At 6:05PM Vice Chairman Cavanaugh opened the Public Hearing to receive public comment on the following warrant articles for the 2008 Town Meeting.

**ARTICLE #6:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Million Five Hundred Thousand dollars ($1,500,000) for land and buildings Map/Lot R20-1-7 2.88 acres and 20,000 sq. ft.) and land only Map/Lot R20-1-6 (1.438 acres) located at 61 Business Park Drive for the purpose of a Tilton Police Station and Emergency Operations Center, and One Million Dollars ($1,000,000) for build-out costs of approximately ten thousand square feet; and to authorize the issuance of not more than Two Million Five Hundred Thousand dollars ($2,500,000) of bonds or notes in accordance with the provision of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33); and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon. (The Selectmen support Article 6 as the best long term solution). This article is not included in the operating budget. Selectman Cavanaugh added that the Selectman support Article #6 and the Budget Committee are discussing it this evening.

**ARTICLE #7:** If Article 6 passes, then Article 7 will not be considered.
To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Four Hundred Twenty Five Thousand dollars ($425,000) for the acquisition of the Northway Bank Building and parking lot, located at 295 Main Street (Map U05/Lots 30 & 31) and Seven Hundred Fifty Thousand dollars ($750,000) for retrofitting the property for the purpose of a new Police Station, and to authorize the issuance of not more than One Million One Hundred Seventy Five Thousand dollars ($1,175,000) of bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33) and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon. This article is not included in the operating budget. (Both Article #6, & 7 will require a 2/3 ballot vote.

**ARTICLE #8:** If Article 7 passes then Article 8 will not be considered.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum not to exceed Fifty Five Thousand dollars ($55,000) for the acquisition of the Northway Bank Parking Lot (Map/Lot U05-30). This article is not included in the operating budget. (This will require a majority vote.)

Selectman Cavanaugh informed the public that there was a Public Hearing last week regarding the Northway Bank Building. That evening a police officer responded to a call to a warehouse on Business Park Drive. During a conversation the office was told that they heard the Police Department is looking for a new building for police station and they may consider selling their building. Selectman Cavanaugh said from that point on they have brought in an architect to look at the building and have been doing research on it. The Board of Selectmen feels that either site would be good for the Police Department. The Bank Building or the building on Business Park would be good, but the Selectmen feel for the long term solution the site on Business Park Drive is a much better location and all around opportunity.

**Selectmen’s minutes of 2/15/08**

At this time Selectman Pearson made a presentation of both sites. Police Chief Cormier and Architect Chip Krause were also present to answer questions from the public.

Selectman Pearson described the Bank Building on Main Street which has 4,700 sq.ft. of usable space on the first and second floor (does not include the sally-port). Selectman Pearson said either one of the sites will give the Police Department more usable space and mitigate some
of the risk they currently have through existing jail cells. Selectman Pearson discussed the Nickerson property on Business Park Drive which is a combined 4.32 acres. There is currently 20,000 sq. ft. of interior space. Selectman Pearson said they feel this site is one of the best solutions they could be presented with. It is also just about the geographic center of town from east to west. Selectman Pearson said this site is one of the few sites in town that can also be a Life Safety Complex.

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Architect Chip Krause went over the plans for the public and informed them the building is in great condition and looks as though it was built well, good construction. Mr. Krause feels this is a good long term investment for the town. Mr. Krause said both plans will work but the site on Rte., 132 gives the town the solution on one floor which is not to say the bank is a bad solution which it is not, but it does not have the growth potential that Rte., 132 has.

Chief Cormier announced that on Saturday, March 8th, they will have an open house at both locations from 9:00AM to 1:00PM, and on Friday, March 14th, there will be another open house in the evening from 5:00PM to 8:00PM.

Chief Cormier and Architect Chip Krause did a presentation on the Northway Bank site. The building appears to be in good solid condition, but the critical issue is ten/15 years vs. 40 years, which is what it comes down to.

Questions from the public were concerns regarding parking at both sites. There are 18 spaces at the bank and also there is the possibility of parking in the back of the bank which could be another 7 spaces. The parking at the Rte. 132 site would be 80 to 100 parking spaces.

Selectmen’s meeting minutes of 2/15/08

Public Hearing

Pat Clark spoke in support of the Rte. 132 site. Captain Wellington who was the Chair of the Police Study Group is also in support of the Rte. 132 site as it lends to the future growth and gives them the potential of that future growth. It also has room for the Fire Department if they choose to be there.

Selectman Cavanaugh said they feel the property on Rte. 132 is the best, but if the residents feel differently and feel the Bank property is
best, the Selectmen would be wrong not to leave the option out there to discuss it. Selectman Cavanaugh said Article #7 will not be discussed if Article #6 passes. As there were no other comments from the public Selectman Cavanaugh closed the public hearing at 7:15PM.

Selectman Cavanaugh adjourned the meeting at 7:16PM.