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**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
SPECIAL BUDGET WORKSHOP MEETING
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2011
MEETING ROOM B, WILTON TOWN HALL**

PRESENT: First Selectman William Brennan, Selectman Susan Bruschi, Selectman Richard Creeth, Selectman Hal Clark, Selectman Ted Hoffstatter

GUESTS: Sandy Dennies

First Selectmen Brennan called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

FY 12 PROPOSED MUNICIPAL BUDGET

To date, this Board has reduced operating expense requests to a 3.96% increase year-over-year, with the operating capital expense only slightly over the previous year, for a total increase of 4.18%. Mr. Brennan pointed out that this year we do not have the benefit of salary increase waivers as was the case last year. Employee salaries are increasing by 2.3%, which actually averages 1.15% for each of the two years.

We have no control over Social Security, Pension Contribution, or insurances. OPEB is actually down from the previous year and Workmens Comp has been reduced by \$50,000. Heating fuel needs are estimated at an increase of 2.24%. Major concern – additional fuel cost increases.

There are no bonded capital proposal for this year. Open Space funding has been pushed out a year in the Capital Plan, as has the capital funding request from Ambler Farm.

Last night, this Board met with the Board of Education to go over bonded capital requests for the school system. Mr. Brennan stated that he was disappointed when he first saw the plan since the BOS had heard nothing about some items, including the renovation of 30 restrooms at Middlebrook and the High School. He feels that there are

BOE members who are familiar with the Capital Process requirements and this was not followed. The process requires proposals to be sent to the Board of Selectmen and then forwarded to the Council on Public Facilities for their approvals. Ms. Bruschi pointed out that at last night's meeting, it was decided that Dr. Richards, Mr. Post and Mr. O'Toole would go back to the full BOE to revisit the proposed capital budget and get back to the BOS quickly.

Mr. Creeth added that in the past, it has been stressed that only under extreme circumstances can projects come in at the last minute for capital funding. Renovations to restrooms are not unexpected. Mr. Clark feels that these should be considered maintenance items and not projects to be bonded. Paving requests should also be expenses, not bonded.

Mr. Brennan will request a meeting with BOE Chairman Gil Bray to express the BOS feelings on this matter.

Mr. Clark requested an executive session to discuss personnel issues relating to the budget, however, it was decided that this might not be an acceptable reason for an executive session.

After some discussion, it was decided to submit the proposed budget, as discussed this evening, to the Board of Finance. Mr. Clark added the caveat that any further reductions to this budget will reduce services.

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

Jan Andras
Recording Secretary