

November 2, 2002

Saturday

(Continuation of the November 1, 2002 Budget Deliberations Session)

1. **CALL TO ORDER** by Chairman William P. Cole at 9:00 a.m.

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2. **ATTENDANCE**

Selectmen: William P. Cole, Rhona Charbonneau, Shawn N. Jasper, Ann Seabury and Teresa Stewart

Staff/Others: Paul D. Sharon, Town Administrator; Steve Malizia, Finance Director; Priscilla Boisvert, Executive Assistant; Kevin Burns, Road Agent, Highway Department; Police Captain Ray Mello; Police Lieutenant Don Breault; Lisa Nute, Information Services Manager, and John Beike, Information Services, Police Department.

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3. **BUDGET DELIBERATIONS**

Motion by Selectman Jasper, seconded by Selectman Stewart, to reconsider last night's motion to approve a default budget of \$22,391,111 carried unanimously.

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Motion by Selectman Jasper, seconded by Selectman Stewart, to approve a default budget for Fiscal Year 2004 in the amount of 22,737,448 carried unanimously.

A. 5920 Community Grants:

Home, Health & Hospice (Current funding: \$16,000; Request: \$16,000)
Nashua Transit (Current funding: \$16,006; Request: \$20,589)
Community Council (Current funding: \$10,198; Request: \$11,053)
American Red Cross (Current funding: \$4,000; Request: \$8,500)
Rape & Assault Support Services (Current funding: \$6,250; Request: \$6,250)
Nashua Area Health Center (Current funding: \$8,400; Request: \$9,500)
Nashua Soup Kitchen & Shelter (Current funding: \$7,500; Request: \$7,500)
Big Brothers/Big Sisters (Current funding: \$5,100; Request: \$6,377)
St. Joseph Community Services (Current funding: \$3,835; Request: \$4,290)
Nashua Mediation Program (Current funding: \$1,600; Request: \$1,600)
Nashua Pastoral Care Center (Current funding: \$0; Request: \$5,000)

The consensus of the Board of Selectmen was to level fund the Community Grants. Since Nashua Pastoral Care hadn't requested any money from the Town in previous years, Chairman Cole recognized Maryse Wirbal, Executive Director, and Betsy Portash, Outreach Services Case Manager, to give a presentation to the Board. They said they never turn down a request from someone who really needs services, but they have seen an increase on referrals from Hudson; last year, there were 110 families. They receive \$70,000 from the State and what is requested from the towns is to cover administrative costs. Selectman Seabury felt that since this resource was used a great deal by the Town, they should be funded, even if it wasn't for the amount requested. Selectman Charbonneau said she is a big supporter of this agency, but the Town can't afford any new funding initiative.

Motion by Selectman Seabury, seconded by Selectman Charbonneau, to fund Nashua Pastoral Care Center at \$2,500 failed 2-3.
Selectmen Cole and Seabury voted in favor.

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B. Highway Department

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Roadside Tractor w/19' Boom for \$67,000

The Town has been doing a lot of projects in-house by using the Highway Department, which saves quite a bit of money, but routine maintenance is becoming difficult. The way they cut brush now is a slow, arduous, labor-intensive process, using five men, two dump trucks, a chipper, chain saws and flagmen. They are legally required to cut brush on every road every year, but it is difficult to keep up with it. It is also almost impossible to get someone to do it because they don't have the equipment. The last couple of summers, they got one guy for a week, so he looked into purchasing the equipment. After finishing up sweeping from the winter, that operator can move into the roadside tractor and do the brush cutting because it is a one-man operation and can be done faster than using five men. It has a 19' reach to get the high stuff and can reach over the guard rails. Instead of asking for people, he'll make do with what he has if he can get better equipment.

Selectman Jasper asked what kind of tractor they were considering. Kevin said they'd have to go out to bid, but he's looking at a Kubota. Selectman Stewart asked if something could be attached to the piece of equipment used for cleaning sidewalks. Kevin said no, that he looked into that possibility. Selectman Stewart asked if this tractor could be used for other things. Kevin said they can put a bucket on it, post hole diggers, all different kind of mowers—it's a very versatile piece of equipment. Selectman Jasper asked about horsepower. Kevin said 110.

Selectman Charbonneau asked how much would be saved in labor by purchasing the tractor. Kevin said none because the labor is fixed. Selectman Charbonneau said a savings would be realized because, while one man would operate the tractor, the other four men could be doing something else. She is in favor of anything that will reduce labor and that's information Kevin should have for the Budget Committee. Selectman Stewart asked what other attachments would be considered in order to make use of that piece of equipment year-round. Kevin said he didn't foresee using it in the winter. He has two front end loaders now and wouldn't have a person to put in it, anyway. He expects a 20-year life expectancy because it will be shelved in the winter.

Selectman Jasper favored this purchase. With the mower itself, they should buy new, but ought to look at a good used John Deere instead of a new Kubota. If they work with the dealers, they could probably get a John Deere for about three years old for the same price as a new Kubota and they will have a much better piece of equipment. Mr. Sharon said buying used is more difficult because of the bid process. Selectman Jasper said they could put the same specs in, but stipulate new or used. Discussion of types of tractors and attachments ensued. Selectman Jasper said this piece of equipment makes a mess of the trees which got gnawed up on Derry Road this year.

Chairman Cole said they were trying to pass on their concerns of justification to the Budget Committee. Since he has been on the Board, on numerous occasions when something came before them having to do with construction, it is systematically farmed out to Kevin's department. The Town has gotten spoiled with the DPW taking things on. He suggested that Kevin come up with some of the projects his department has done and the inordinate amounts of money the Town saved by his crews doing the work.

(Start Tape 1, Second Side)

Motion by Selectman Seabury, seconded by Selectman Jasper, to move the Roadside Tractor w/19' Boom Mower to the warrant carried unanimously.

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Chairman Cole called for a recess at 9:35 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 9:43 p.m.

C. Police Department

Five (5) Two (2) Police Officer Positions

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Capt. Mello said Lt. Breault went to school to learn the mathematical formula to calculate exactly how many police officers are needed to run the day-to-day operations of a Police Department. He had a handout which explained current staffing and the number of officers needed on the different shifts. They are short eight officers--four on days and four on second shift. The request for five would mean adding more officers on days. The Town keeps growing and calls for service is ever-increasing. There is an increase in stolen cars, especially in the south end. They would like to become more proactive instead of reactive.

Selectman Charbonneau asked about the grant. Capt. Mello said the \$150,000 was for two officers and the money has already been secured. Chairman Cole asked how many officers were in the National Guard and away. Capt. Mello said everyone is now back. There are four or five officers subject to recall. Chairman Cole asked for a motion to send an article to the warrant for five police officer positions. There was no response.

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Motion by Selectman Jasper, seconded by Selectman Charbonneau to forward two (2) Police Officer Positions to the warrant (\$107,360).

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Selectman Jasper understands the Police Department doesn't have the number of officers they feel they should, but that has always been a concern and a problem. In the last few budget cycles, they've added at least two personnel into the Police Department and he thinks they should continue with that. They've been behind the eight ball, but every year, they can add a couple. Two is a reasonable number. Selectman Charbonneau agreed.

Vote: Motion carried 4-1. Selectman Seabury was opposed.

Police Department Operations Clerk

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Capt. Mello said this position would support him and the patrol Lieutenants. In 1988, the department had one clerical person, plus one 30-hour part time clerk. In 2000, the part-timer was bumped up to 40 hours and that has been the only increase in the civilian clerical staff. In 1988, they handled 9,400 calls a year for service. From 7/1/99 to 6/30-00, they had over 33,000 calls

for service. They've increased staff 14%, but calls for service increased 254%. The lack of clerical staff is becoming a problem. He does his own typing because there just isn't anyone else to do it, as do a lot of the police officers and are not able to concentrate solely on their own work.

(Start Tape 2, Side A)

There was no response when Chairman Cole asked for a motion to move to the request for the Operations Clerk to the warrant. Selectman Charbonneau asked if they could get by with a part-time person. Capt. Mello said they'd prefer full time, but even if it was part time, it would be more than what he has now.

Motion by Selectman Charbonneau, seconded by Selectman Jasper, to forward to the warrant a Part-Time (20 hours) Operations Clerk for the Police Department (\$15,825) carried 4-1. Selectman Seabury was opposed.

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Police Department Support Services Clerk

Capt. Mello said this is a rapidly growing area in the department, which includes the accreditation function. With lack of clerical support, they are getting bogged down. A Lieutenant has been doing the work, which is an incredible waste of a supervisory asset. Selectman Charbonneau asked if they could get by with a part-time position. Capt. Mello said this area would have a harder time than in Operations because of the huge amount of paperwork but, again, would be better than what they have now. Selectman Jasper said they could go to 30 hours, the maximum amount of hours someone could work and still be part time.

Motion by Selectman Jasper, seconded by Selectman Stewart, to forward to the warrant a Part-Time (29 hours) Support Services Clerk for the Police Department (\$22,930) carried 4-1. Selectman Seabury was opposed.

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Capital Reserve for Consolidated Dispatch (\$300,000)

Selectman Seabury was in favor of this because it will come out of the General Fund balance. Selectman Jasper said there still isn't a plan for this. Part of the Budget Committee's concern was that with Phase I, there were three positions--two new dispatchers and a person to oversee Dispatch. The idea was to start doing cross-training, but the supervisor is yet to be hired. He is hesitant to go forward if they can't even accomplish Phase I. There isn't any reason why they can't have a unified dispatch in terms of people all working for one person even though they are in two locations.

Selectman Seabury asked why the two departments haven't gotten together yet. Mr. Sharon said it hasn't gotten to the point where the cross-training has started. Lt. Breault said they followed the recommendations of the RCC study for staffing and to combine. They need money to outfit the center, get new equipment, to move equipment from the Fire Department and to put an addition onto the Police Department. They did Phase I, which was to hire a supervisor and two dispatchers. With the supervisor's position, the Chief said they could either hire someone or promote from within. The two Chiefs were to get together to decide who they wanted for supervisor. He and Lt. McCrady have already started cross-training. They can't move equipment or put up an addition, etc., without the money to do it. They went ahead with Phase I, which was personnel and some training, but there is a lot more to it. Selectman Seabury said the Budget Committee would require hard facts and figures. Lt. Breault said he has the figures, but they are from last year. He didn't know this was going to be discussed today, so he didn't bring that information. Selectman Seabury asked how large the addition would be. Capt. Mello said when the station was built, that portion was supposed to be included but it was taken out to save money. It would be a means of putting it back on, an extension of the current room, and would include console base for another dispatcher.

Selectman Seabury asked if \$300,000 would cover the construction. Selectman Jasper didn't think so and seemed to remember a price of about \$1/2 million. Lt. Breault didn't have the breakdown of each component, but that's why they were doing it in phases. Selectman Stewart said several studies were done, all of which recommended combining. If they don't put forth the full amount, they should at least request \$200,000.

Selectman Jasper said the Selectmen pulled back the available surplus they had, holding a 7.5%. There was an amount they could either use for capital projects, or put towards the tax rate. They opted not to use any for capital projects but to put it towards the tax rate. They just received money from the Meadows, which he hopes will go toward Benson's. What they can do, and not affect the surplus, is put a warrant article in that says using up to \$300,000 of the appropriated, but unexpended funds, at the end of Fiscal 03. If there is no fund balance at the end of the year, nothing goes into this; if there is, up to \$300,000, without pulling down from their reserves. He is still opposed to this because when they went forward with this last year from surplus, they didn't get it. He didn't think, at this point, they've made a better case for it.

Chairman Cole said he wouldn't put \$300,000 towards this project right now, not because he doesn't support it but because it's not ready to go anywhere. Every study that has been done says combining dispatch is the smart thing to do; ten years later, no one has done a thing. The blame isn't individual-specific, but there doesn't seem to be a commitment. He won't vote to spend money without seeing what the plan is and he has no indication right now what the plan is. He can't justify this. If they are

committed to this, they have to get their act together so they can tell the voters the source of the funds and what they anticipate doing short term and long term.

Motion by Selectman Seabury, seconded by Selectman Stewart, to forward to the warrant a Capital Reserve for Consolidated Dispatch in the amount of \$300,000 failed 2-3. Selectmen Seabury and Stewart were in favor.

D. **Board of Selectmen/Administration**

Planning Board Expendable Trust Fund

Mr. Sharon said he just got the information faxed from the attorneys on Thursday for a warrant article to create a Planning Board expendable trust fund. It is a monied article because it is an appropriation, even though it is taking funds already here and setting them aside. They haven't focused on the exact number yet and need some more input from Sean Sullivan. Selectman Jasper felt the article should include the wording that the Board of Selectmen are the agents to expend.

(Start Tape 2, Second Side)

Mr. Sharon said there is no official sanction for the Planning Board to spend the money, even if it is for worthwhile projects. Selectman Seabury said developers who come before the Planning Board donate money for certain things. Chairman Cole said when they had their joint meeting, no one knew what pots of money were out there and there was no accountability. He asked if they had to establish another expendable trust for future donations. Selectman Jasper said there shouldn't be any future donations. These monies accumulated because it wasn't given back to the donors because it can't be identified. If six people come in and each pays \$2,000 for a water study, and the study costs only \$10,000 everyone that contributed would be given back their percentage of the residual. Chairman Cole asked what happened if they told the Town to keep it. Selectman Jasper said then they have to make a donation to the Town via the Board of Selectmen and would go into the General Fund. Chairman Cole asked what the Planning Board would do for all of the neat things they do. Selectman Jasper said they will have to go through the budget process. Chairman Cole asked if there was a mechanism to create a new expendable trust fund, so if there is money someone wants to donate, it has a place to reside. Selectman Jasper said it could be done with this article, if it was worded correctly. Chairman Cole said the attorneys said future funds cannot go into the current fund. Selectman Jasper didn't know if it could be done.

Mr. Malizia said when the Police Department gets a donation, it goes into the General Fund, but reserved in a donation account. Chairman Cole said the attorney recommended a separate expendable trust for the future. It's not an appropriation; they are not asking for money. It's just a residence and may never have any money in it. Selectman Jasper couldn't see how this would be any different than what they do with the Police, Fire, Rec when donations come in. It's the same concept and should be handled the same way. The Planning Board was taking in money for specific things that didn't all get expended on those things, and they didn't give it back. Now they can't identify where all of the money came from, so it can't be given back. In the future, they can identify where the money came in and what it was for so it can be given back, if not expended. Mr. Malizia said the problem is cleaning up the old stuff. Discussion continued. (Talking over each other.) Selectman Seabury said it's necessary for the Planning Board to have a fund to work with.

Chairman Cole asked if the Board wanted to wait and take up this article at their meeting on the 12th because they don't have a dollar figure. Mr. Sharon said the real key is to get the number, which Sean has, with the Planning Board or Board of Selectmen as agents to expend. Chairman Cole said they need to be specific as to what is coming back on the 12th. There is going to be a number in there. Selectman Jasper said the Board of Selectmen should be the agents to expend. The Planning Board can come forward to the Selectmen to recommend. They shouldn't be in a position to have this type of money that isn't approved by anyone through the budget process.

Chairman Cole asked Paul to draft that article. Assuming this article is approved at Town Meeting, maybe they should revisit what they are going to do for the future. If it doesn't make it, then they will have to revisit the issue. Mr. Sharon said it will be seen as a housekeeping issue at Town Meeting. Chairman Cole said it will be seen as a frontal attack by some people. He asked if the consensus was to have a firm number by the 12th, with the language making the BOS as the agents to expend.

Benson's Property

Selectman Jasper suggested they use the \$253,000 or a portion thereof that they received from the sale of the Meadows and put it into the Benson's project. Right now, they are in good shape with the year-to-date revenues. Mr. Sharon suggested that Selectman Jasper pinpoint the exact number that the Meadows was redeemed for, up to that number. Selectman Jasper said maybe they don't want to go that high. It depends on the projects they have identified that are doable within the next year. They may not be ready for this warrant article today. He's using that as a general number. Mr. Sharon said if someone asked how they arrived at that number, they can say that is the what the Meadows was redeemed for.

Selectman Jasper said they need a warrant article, but they may be premature. They still have plenty of time to get this out to the

Budget Committee and in the next couple of weeks, they can identify some real hard numbers on some projects. They can put that stuff together and come up with a number somewhere in this vicinity. Mr. Sharon asked who was going to develop the real hard numbers. Selectman Jasper said that's a good question. Chairman Cole said he didn't want to dedicate \$253,000 to Benson's. He wants some walking-around money. Last night, everyone warned him about the Big Bad Budget Committee that he has to justify their budget in front of. He can work with \$100,000 based on CLD and some other things. If he goes into the \$1/4 million range, he has to pull out the CIP presentations, but they don't need a \$1/4 million.

Selectman Jasper said they know they ought to put a fence around Haselton Barn. That number can be obtained pretty reasonably. They know roofing needs to be done on the Elephant Barn. There are some numbers they could pull together pretty quickly on what it will cost to do that. Moving the train station and putting in a foundation. Those numbers could be obtained pretty easily. Mr. Sharon said for putting in a parking area and developing the south field, they don't have anything but rough estimates. Selectman Jasper said they have a fairly hard number on what it will take to do the engineering for the actual site plan. Chairman Cole said he could come up with a lot of numbers right now and then someone will ask him what they are based on and other kinds of questions that he would ask. Right now, this is all just a guess. There are five of them that would each estimate a different number. If the Board wants to do a warrant article up to \$253,000 he will support it. He doesn't understand the linkage between the Meadows and the figure for the warrant article. Mr. Sharon said because it was found money. Selectman Jasper said at one time, it was going to be part of the Benson's project. Chairman Cole asked if the article was going to have verbiage that relates to the new-found money. Selectman Jasper said the money should be surplus, up to \$250,000. Chairman Cole asked if the article would say, "at no cost to the taxpayer." Selectman Jasper said essentially, it would. Chairman Cole asked if it would be setting the stage without going into detail. He didn't have a problem with that. Selectman Seabury thought this was a perfect idea.

Mr. Sharon thought Chairman Cole's concern was justifying the dollar amount to the Budget Committee. Selectman Charbonneau said there are engineering costs, plus repair work that must be done on the buildings. Someone will have to give an estimate on what these things will cost. They can also apply for grants, and they need money in reserve for that. They can't wait for every Town Meeting for authorization. Selectman Jasper said they are a \$22 million operation, so \$250,000 on this project, that will run into the millions, is only an up to number. This is when they should make some assignments to staff to get hard numbers for certain things. Each department could take on one piece to get a quote. They have until January to do that.

Selectman Charbonneau said she has faith that the Chairman can sell it. Chairman Cole said he wants to make sure the article lays out the fact that this is a revenue-neutral situation as a start point before he steps up to the microphone. Selectman Seabury asked if they could put something in the paper, asking for quotes. Chairman Cole said they could do a market survey—get the word out to specialized companies they are considering something and ask them to provide a response. It's not a proposal or a response to an RFP. It's like getting quotes for a roof or to buy a tractor. They don't want someone coming in, proposing something under the guise of a contract, saying they spent money because then there will be a legal problem. Selectman Jasper said last year, they had a Fire Department roof shingled. They can have somebody on staff go out and do the measurements. Mr. Sharon asked who on staff was going to go out and do that work. Selectman Jasper said that is not a big job and they have a lot of people. Selectman Charbonneau wondered if they would have to have the original-type shingles, since this is a historic structure.

Chairman Cole said \$250,000 can be justified, but they don't want to reach that point of detail of explanation that opens up more detail. They will talk about broad figures—the Trails Grant, the CLD proposal for site work, and they can find a couple more from the CIP list. He feels comfortable with that. He wants to make sure that the article has the wording that will set the stage.

Selectman Charbonneau thought they had a contract for someone to oversee the projects. Mr. Sharon said yes, Betsy. Selectman Charbonneau said they would be able to come up with a figure. Mr. Sharon said part of her charge is to define what needs to be done. (Talking over each other.) Chairman Cole said he has no problem talking to this issue. He just wants to make sure that's where the Board wants to go and agrees on the amount of money. Mr. Sharon said they would be better saying, "our best estimates right now, based on what we know, we're moving the train station to this general area, \$73,000; development of a parking area for we think to be roughly 80 cars just off Kimball Hill Road is estimated to be \$93,000." To get more specific than that, they will stumble. Chairman Cole said if they say they got an estimate from the "Acme Shingle Company," someone will ask if they checked the "Ajax Shingle Company." That's wandering down the wrong road. Selectman Jasper agreed, saying they just have to have rough estimates that will total \$1/2 of what they can do. They are going to go out to bid on all the components, but they want to have money to do them. They have come up with estimates that equal \$500,000 that they can do and accomplish within the next year and here is half of that number. If people see that there is a \$1/2 million of work, and the Selectmen are asking for only half of that, they know they are not asking for more than they need. The key is to make sure they can identify projects that have some dollar figure on it that is more than they are looking for. Chairman Cole said he can justify it; he just wants to make sure they all agree. Selectman Charbonneau said they are all on the same page. Selectman Seabury said she wants to see this project go forward.

Chairman Cole asked if the Board wanted to address this at their November 12 meeting. They did. Chairman Cole said to make sure they have the relationship with the Meadows money, without talking about it specifically.

Selectman Seabury said at the Benson's Committee meeting, Kevin volunteered to help out where he could. She thought someone could just walk around the barn to get an estimate of what was needed. Selectman Jasper said all they need to know is the angle and the feet and the outside dimensions. They can go out with a ladder and tape measure and it would take them a half hour. Selectman Seabury said Kevin is going out to take down the trees because he didn't want them to fall on the barn. Mr. Sharon said NH DOT was going to help with the trees.

(Start Tape 3, Side A)

Selectman Charbonneau said the Benson's Committee tagged trees that were to be saved. Mr. Sharon said the Benson's Committee didn't have the authority to do that. Selectman Charbonneau thought that someone from Concord was with them. Selectman Seabury said they are talking about only the barn area. Mr. Sharon said he's already talked with Sean Sullivan and Kevin that that got done without going through the proper channels. He got a call from Concord, saying they were out there and saw some trees cut and wondered what was going on. Selectman Charbonneau said they were tagged because they were rare species.

Ingersol Conservation Land

Selectman Jasper said this was 44 acres and they were looking for \$453,000; the Town has \$124,000 from the Land Use Tax Fund. The Board should authorize the withdrawal of the \$124,000 from the Land Use Tax Fund towards the purchase of the Ingersol project. Selectman Charbonneau said there were a couple of grants involved. She had asked them what the percentage would be, up to. She thinks they had said around \$173,000. Also, the Town could pull out if the grants weren't approved.

Chairman Cole asked what the warrant article would say. Selectman Jasper said to authorize the withdrawal of \$124,000 from the Land Use Tax Change Fund, whatever it is, and to authorize up to \$124,000 be expended for the purchase of the development rights of 44 acres, or whatever the parcel is. Chairman Cole asked for a consensus to bring this to the Board on November 12. All members agreed. Mr. Sharon will draft the article. Chairman Cole said Selectman Jasper could make sure the wording matches, etc.

Water Utility/Sewer Utility

Mr. Malizia said since the Selectmen voted for the default budget, he is taking the budget they are currently operating under and replicating it, once all of the contractual items are put in or taken out. With the Water Utility, the only major difference was they were going to put in more money in the capital reserve fund, but they have no expenditure planned this year, so there is no detrimental effect. On the sewer side of the house, they are still working on the Glen Drive project, but he thinks there is enough money to move around. Selectman Jasper asked where they were regarding putting in a water tank. Mr. Malizia said they had put the money aside last year from surplus, but without a cohesive plan, they aren't ready to do it. The money that is sitting there won't go away.

Selectman Jasper said the people from the Burns Hill area that came in for the public hearing regarding the arsenic were told the Selectmen would get back to them on the cost to extend the water main. The Selectmen own them an explanation and ought to be prepared to speak to that. Mr. Sharon said they are still in the process of testing and recommended the Board not even consider anything that's not some sort of a betterment or assessment project. The Board needs the vehicle to set that up. They haven't even determined the gross number. Selectman Jasper said this will probably come up because somebody from that area will be at the deliberative session and ask about it. The Selectmen will be able to say they had a discussion, but they are not to that point because they are still testing and they don't have an engineer. He knows they are not ready to do anything; he doesn't think they will ever do anything out there. Filtration is the only way it is going to be solved.

Chairman Cole said at their first meeting in January, they can present to the public a status report on where that project is, in the hopes of bringing them up to speed and cutting off non-relevant discussions during the deliberative session.

Selectman Seabury asked about the proposal to put antennas on the Town's water tank. Mr. Sharon said they developed interest elsewhere. Chairman Cole said he has a punch list of pending items. Regarding the Town Engineer, there have been some unique situations. If anyone has any concerns that have been on the back burner, they should let him know and he will coordinate getting an update.

Selectman Jasper asked about the CIP Location Study from Chief Carpentino and asked if that was included in the budget. Mr. Malizia said yes, but it is gone because of the default budget. He is planning to take the budgets from last year and bring them to this year, higher or lower. He asked if that was the intent of the Selectmen. They said yes. Mr. Malizia said salaries of part-time people will be the same as last year. If any raises are to be given out, the department heads will have to find it within their own budgets. The Selectman said that was correct. Mr. Malizia said the Library is going back to their number because that's part of

the default budget.

Selectman Jasper said he needs to talk to DRA about that because the Selectmen don't have any control over the Library's budget. The Selectmen's budget ought to be the default, based on the budgets they have control over, exclusive of the Library. The Library has said the Selectmen can't touch their budget. Motion by Selectman Jasper to reconsider the action they took whereby they set the Selectmen's budget as the default number.

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Mr. Malizia said the Library could go to the Budget Committee and they could put it back. Selectman Jasper said the Selectmen don't have the authority to take a nickel out of the Library's budget. The only time the default for the Library comes into play is when the voters say no. The Selectmen have to leave that alone. If the Library's budget last year was \$1 and they asked for \$2 this year, it has to go to the Budget Committee as \$2 because the Selectmen don't have the statutory authority to touch their budget. Therefore, in order to meet the total number the Selectmen passed, they have to go in to the budgets and find additional monies to meet their target. They should revisit this and vote on the default, excluding the Library. Their budget number will be higher than it needs to be by law because they can't touch it. If the Budget Committee wants to bring it down, they can.

Selectman Stewart said she has a problem with this because it's all the taxpayers' money. She asked why they couldn't bring the Library people in and tell them the same thing they told the department heads. Selectman Jasper said the Library is a separate entity, much like the School District but, for some reason, they still fall under the Town budget. That's the law and that's what they have to deal with.

Mr. Sharon thought they were going through a lot of angst for nothing. The Selectmen formally adopted the default budget. Then, in terms of guidance, they adopted, as a target, the default number. They used as a guidance, for the budget they are sending forward to the Board of Selectmen, the default budget number. They all understand that that second action meant, for the budgets that are under the Selectmen's direct control, it's going back to the default level. That action is different than the adoption of the default budget, per se.

Selectman Jasper disagreed because they have to have a bottom line number to go forward. Mr. Sharon said they will. It will be last year's default budget, as it's reflected in all the other operating departments, with the library numbers added. Selectman Jasper said then they should have a new motion and a new vote. He thought what they did was say this is the number that's going forward to the Budget Committee on the operating budget, which would include the Library, as it always does.

(Discussion continued, talking over each other.) Selectman Jasper said the Selectmen don't have the statutory authority to touch the Library's budget. The number going forward should be the default plus the Library difference. Mr. Sharon said he disagreed with the basic premise. The Board adopted the default budget and will go forward that. That has a specific meaning in law. What the Board did in their second action was to take the number that was totaled in the default budget and say that is the fixed target for operating. Selectman Jasper said that isn't a fixed target. (Talking over each other.) Mr. Sharon said they need to say the budget is the default number, plus whatever the number is in the delta with the Library. That's not the default budget. Selectman Jasper said he wasn't talking about the default budget; he was talking about their budget today. They need to change the number that they adopted as their budget going forward and add to that the difference between the Library default; he wasn't talking about touching the default. If he said that, it wasn't his intention.

Selectman Stewart questioned the Library's \$9,000 request for Registration Fees is \$9,000 since, in the past, they've requested only \$800 or \$900. Selectman Jasper said that could be brought up at the Budget Committee meeting, but not by the Selectmen. Selectman Charbonneau said four or five years ago, the Library came in and told the Selectmen they didn't have any business with the Library's budget, but they always want the Selectmen's recommendation on their warrant articles. The Library Trustees gave the Selectmen a real hard time, saying they were going to do what they wanted to do.

Chairman Cole asked where the Library falls within the Selectmen's responsibility to adopt the default budget or if they were excluded. Mr. Sharon said they are part of it. Chairman Cole asked why they should change the motion to accept the default budget. Selectman Jasper said they need to change their adopted budget. The default stands alone. The bottom line has to have added to the default number the delta in the Library budget and that is the Selectmen's budget recommendation. Mr. Sharon said that number is \$186,987. (Talking over each other.)

Motion by Selectman Jasper to reconsider the action whereby the Selectmen adopted the default budget as the recommended operating budget for the upcoming fiscal year, seconded by Selectman Seabury, carried 3-2. Selectmen Stewart and Charbonneau were opposed.

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Mr. Malizia said the delta is \$89,073; the figure is now \$22,826,521. That is taking the revised figure from this morning and adding the \$89,073.

Motion by Selectman Jasper that the Selectmen's operating budget be the default budget for all departments for which they have control and that the total reflect the additional monies requested by the Library, to give a budget of \$22,826,521, seconded by Selectman Seabury, carried 3-2. Selectmen Stewart and Charbonneau were opposed.

(Start Tape 3, Second Side)

4. **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Selectman Jasper, seconded by Selectman Seabury, to adjourn at 11:30 a.m. carried unanimously.

Recorded and Transcribed by Priscilla Boisvert
Executive Assistant to the Board of Selectmen

HUDSON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

William P. Cole, Chairman

Rhona Charbonneau

Shawn N. Jasper

Ann Seabury

Teresa Stewart