

Board of Selectmen
Minutes of Special Meeting: October 6, 2011

Attendees:

Andrea O'Connor, First Selectman
Ed Hayes, Selectman
Kate McConaghy, Selectman

Eric Holub, Treasurer
Audience

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m.

The first item for discussion was to determine items to be placed on the agenda of the annual Town Meeting scheduled for October 21, 2011.

- The request from the Sherman Library to increase the grant toward the Library's operating budget by \$10,000 was considered and rejected by the Selectmen, who voiced the concern that increasing this budget would open the door to additional requests from other Town entities in a very tight budget year.
- The request from Emergency Management Director, David Raines, for start-up funds in the amount of \$5,250 to initiate a Town-wide reverse 911 system was considered and deferred for inclusion in the annual General Fund budget.
- The recommendation of the Public Works Advisory Committee to purchase two "off-the-shelf" trucks, sanders, and plows was approved for inclusion on the warning.
- The request from the Parks and Recreation Commission for \$27,000 from the Capital and Non-Recurring Expense Fund for replacement of six docks was deferred to another time. At present, the Fund contains \$340,585 and it is anticipated that there may be a \$100,000 overrun on the Firehouse project. The Selectmen agreed with the Treasurer's opinion that the remaining funds be reserved for any emergency capital expenses that may arise in the remainder of this fiscal year.

The Selectmen agreed to sign the warning following the meeting.

The next item on the agenda was to review the results of the audit which are to be presented at the Town Meeting. The Treasurer reviewed the summary section he prepared based on the auditor's figures and noted the following:

- The Town received more revenue than projected and spent less than budgeted in fiscal 2011.
- The Board of Education budget was overspent by \$6,427, which was offset by educational grants over budget.
- The unreserved/undesignated General Fund balance was 11.2% of total General Fund revenues at the close of fiscal 2011, below the level at the close of the previous fiscal year. Mr. Holub explained that this was due to the Town Meeting action to transfer \$440,000 from reserves to the Capital and Non-Recurring Expense Fund. He noted that reserves are now at 9% of General Fund revenues projected for fiscal 2012 accounting for unexpended funds at the close of fiscal 2011 and deducting the \$350,000 transferred to the Capital and Non-Recurring Fund for the School roof project. Mrs. O'Connor noted that the anticipated reimbursement of these expenses by the State would be returned to the reserve fund.

The next item on the agenda was a discussion of a proposal by Unison to purchase the lease on the cell array at the Happy Acres Farm, now owned by the Town. For various reasons, the Selectmen declined to pursue this offer.

Upon motion by Selectman McConaghy, seconded by Selectman Hayes, the Board voted to enter Executive Session to discuss the Grant and Option Agreement between the Town of Sherman and the Sherman Library Association. No decisions were made in the Executive Session except the need to consult with the Town's attorney upon his return from vacation.

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea O'Connor

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Kate McConaghy

Ed Hayes