

**TOWN OF DEERFIELD
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
December 8, 2008
MINUTES**

Call to Order:

6:00pm Chairman of the Board of Selectmen, Stephen R. Barry called the Meeting to Order.

Roll Call:

Present: Stephen R. Barry, Chairman; John Reagan, Walter C. Hooker and Alan O'Neal, Selectmen

Absent: R. Andrew Robertson, Vice Chairman

Also Present: Cynthia Heon, Town Administrator

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag:

Chairman Barry asked all to rise for the pledge of allegiance to the Flag.

Awarding of Bids/Philbrick James Library:

Present: Bonita Beaubien, Chair of the Philbrick James Library Trustees; Claudia Libis, Chris Carr, Kathy Berglund and Gregory Doane, Trustees

Bonita Beaubien said the Trustees were before the Board to request more time to review the bids. Chairman Barry recalled the Trustees wanted to start work December 8th. While this was the plan, Ms. Beaubien and the Trustees needed more time to investigate references.

It was pointed out the Warrant Article spoke of the lift but not the vestibule. Ms. Beaubien explained the Trustees did not want to use any space inside of the Library. The vestibule was to accommodate the lift. Now there is the possibility something will have to be attached to the outside of the building.

Selectman O'Neal asked if part of the investigation was with reference for the vestibule. Ms. Beaubien replied yes and noted there was little to show for progress for this year but the Library Trustees found it best not to make a mistake. A decision may be possible as early as next week.

Selectman Hooker stated the bids submitted were more than the total budgeted. Ms. Beaubien agreed. The Trustees will return when they have reached a decision.

Minutes of November 24, 2008:

MOTION: Selectman Walter Hooker made a motion to approve the Minutes of November 24, 2008 as written. Seconded by Selectman Alan O'Neal.

VOTE: Chairman Barry called for the Vote. It was a Unanimous Vote in Favor.

Announcement:

Chairman Barry announced, for the record, Vice Chairman Robertson would be absent this evening.

Voucher:

Accounts Payable Manifest/\$947,540.09

MOTION: Selectman John Reagan made a motion to approve the Accounts Payable Manifest in the amount of \$947,540.09. Seconded by Selectman Walter Hooker.

VOTE: Chairman Barry called for the Vote. It was a Unanimous Vote in Favor.

Deerfield Volunteer Fire Department:

Present: Fire Chief, Mark Tibbetts

- 2009 Warrant Article/Fire Truck

Chief Tibbetts stated the Deerfield Fire Association Officers met and discussed the Warrant Article for a truck. While they thanked the Board immensely for the thought behind the Warrant Article, the Officers

wanted to be sure the land purchase went through the first year. Requesting \$90,000, in their opinion, jeopardizes the request for the purchase of the land.

Chairman Barry advised Chief Tibbetts the truck article was put there by the Selectmen and the Association cannot pull it. Pass or fail the Warrant Article will carry the information forward to the Town about what the Fire Department needs in 2013, which will not change. Chairman Barry asked the opinions of other Board members.

Selectman Hooker agreed the information should go to the citizens that the fire truck is a required expense. Selectman O'Neal agreed stating in four years something would have to be done. The Board was in agreement the Warrant Article would go forward.

- FEMA Grant/Fire Truck

Chief Tibbetts shared the good news that he received a call from FEMA in Washington DC. Chief Tibbetts has applied for grants the last three years for gear and a new tank truck. The individual from FEMA asked Chief Tibbetts to close a 2006 grant, finish the paperwork and they will consider awarding a new tank truck to Deerfield. The Town would need to put up 5% of the cost (\$20,000) in March.

Chairman Barry asked if the Town would have to come up with the funds in 2009. Chief Tibbetts replied yes and added he should have a firm answer by the end of the month. Chairman Barry requested Chief Tibbetts advise the Board as soon as he receives confirmation the grant has been awarded as there should be time to add this before the Public Hearing.

On that point, Selectman O'Neal questioned if the language of the Warrant Article should be changed to fire apparatus versus fire engine pumper. Chairman Barry thought if the larger portion of the cost is paid for by FEMA it behooves the Town to come up with the money.

Selectman Hooker pointed out the Warrant Article is for a pumper and the FEMA grant is for a tanker. Chief Tibbetts mentioned the newest Fire Department tanker is 22 years old.

Chairman Barry advised Chief Tibbetts to come back to the Board the moment they can take action. Selectman O'Neal remarked it is good news.

Deerfield Conservation Commission (DCC)/Forestry Commission:

Present: Erick Berglund, Deerfield Conservation Commission; Kevin Cini, Forestry Commission

Erick Berglund spoke of Warrant Articles in prior Town Meetings that made it clear to him the Town voted to have joint management of Town Forests by the Town. Currently the DCC and the Forestry Commission report to the Board of Selectmen, and with the Town's vote, the joint management of forests is already in place.

The Warrant Article Selectman O'Neal saw concerning this was ruled out of order. He asked if Mr. Berglund had located something different. Mr. Berglund replied he hadn't but referred the Board to the State Statutes. Chairman Barry stated generally if the Moderator rules the article out of order it was his opinion. The Town ruled it out of order by not challenging the Moderator. Mr. Berglund said the voters accepted the Moderators decision.

Erick Berglund found, in 1989, where the Town voted that the Deerfield Conservation Commission (DCC) did a Forestry Management Plan for Dowst-Cate, Wells, McNeil, Lindsay and Flanders Forests. The money was to go into a Forestry Management Fund. At the time, there was discussion on where the

proceeds received from the forest timber harvest would go and Attorney Dave Connell stated it could only go to the Forestry Management Fund if approved by the legislative body. Mr. Berglund found it interesting going back and reading some of the Town Reports and knowing what we are doing today.

Since last week, Selectman Hooker has given thought to leaving things the way they are since the Board gave Kevin Cini a shot at the Forestry Management Plan. Mr. Cini is obtaining more information and working on planning. Selectman Hooker would like to see how that comes out before making changes.

Agreeing with Selectman Hooker, Selectman O'Neal wanted to see what the new person, who just got involved, could do. Selectman Hooker commented the Board looks for volunteers and Mr. Cini had stepped up to the plate. Chairman Barry recalled Mr. Cini said he would work with the DCC and asked if Mr. Cini had any comments. Mr. Cini did not. Mr. Berglund commented that leaving things the way they are is a possibility and it could be studied looking to the future and the proposal.

Selectman Reagan asked Mr. Cini if he had contacted Bill Fleegler. Mr. Berglund heard Mr. Fleegler resigned or was no longer here. Selectman Reagan stated Mr. Fleegler is still here and asked Mr. Cini to contact him as Mr. Fleegler has a PhD in the forestry field and could offer assistance.

Chairman Barry offered the Board's assistance and any help Erick Berglund and the DCC could give to make this a joint effort would be appreciated.

Erick Berglund asked about funding for a Forestry Management Plan. Mr. Cini indicated the timetable was truncated but he was able to bring two proposals to the table with the possibility of a third if the Board deems it necessary.

The first is Charles Moreno who created the original Forestry Management Plan on four different Town Forests. Mr. Moreno does a straight forward management plan and Mr. Cini asked Mr. Moreno to provide a fee for all acreage to be included under the plan. A thought is to revamp the 18 year old plan and encompass the four parcels with the present which includes the Freese Town Forest. There will be additional work down the road but the initial plan is enough to bring forward ideas, set objectives and determine a Forestry Management Plan going forward.

A second different and unique proposal is from a company called Fort Mountain that does everything soup to nuts including the timber harvest. Fort Mountain has a licensed forester, a plan, transportation, ability to build access roads, make wetland crossings, checks setbacks, has an awareness of the slash laws and makes sure all is in compliance. There are no upfront costs. Once the harvest is completed, the amount paid to the Town is at the market value of the timber at that time. The cost of the management plan is backed out of the revenue at \$7 per acre. There is more research that should be done on this option but Mr. Cini wanted to bring forward the information to the Board.

Either proposal has enough information to go forward if the Board decides what is appropriate. Mr. Cini thought Fort Mountain would require due diligence as far as overseeing the operation and are equipped to handle everything. The DCC is known to Charles Moreno. Mr. Moreno's Forestry Management Plan would require hiring a logging company and there would be clean up from the logging operation. The biggest thing about Fort Mountain is there are no upfront costs which is appealing budget-wise. There are pros and cons to both proposals.

Chairman Barry thought the Fort Mountain proposal was adequate and couldn't see the Town putting any money up front right now.

A concern Selectman Hooker has is that Fort Mountain would have a vested interest in selling what can be harvested as part of the Forestry Management Plan. Another concern is how would you get out of this if something didn't go right and lastly does the plan cost money.

Kevin Cini said more details will be looked at such as a pre-appraisal. If at least two parcels were appraised, it would give the Town an idea of what could be expected for revenue. He is apprehensive that the forester draws a pay check from Fort Mountain which could lean the plan favorably in that direction which is why the Town would diligently work towards parameters that prevent issues. Fort Mountain has done an extensive amount of work for people in Deerfield. Part of the process would be seeking references to see if the people were happy with Fort Mountain's performance. Fort Mountain has done land clearing and agricultural field management.

Charles Moreno does a lot with wildlife management plans such as those established by the State. Objectives would be established and vigilance to see that the objectives are met. The Town would have to hire a logger and the forester would oversee the logger. The costs balance out and the Town would move forward without a significant amount of money spent.

Selectman Hooker said the Board doesn't have a bidding process to compare to which makes his decision difficult. With Charles Moreno, the Town could put the timber harvest out to bid which would give the Town more control.

Kevin Cini spoke of another option of having other proposals come in. In talking with Fort Mountain, Mr. Cini said the harvest option is at fair market value so other bids could be obtained. Mr. Cini wanted to make sure the Town received fair market value for the timber.

In Erick Berglund's opinion, setting objectives for the Town Forests to be harvested is just as important as all other pieces such as wildlife management which sustains a healthy forest. There is a lot of focus on harvesting and that is a piece but not the driver for the best timber and wildlife management of a forest. First, there is the completion of a plan, then the work to be accomplished. There are costs involved. Choosing a Forester to oversee the project, which doesn't mean looking over the shoulder but being involved, brings about a possible budget item of \$10,000. The Deerfield Conservation Commission (DCC) could utilize the Conservation Fund for this type of funding.

Chairman Barry recognized Harried Cady who recalled the Town of Raymond receiving a grant to write a plan for the Town Forests. A County Forester and students from the University of New Hampshire (UNH) under a work-study program completed the plan in one summer at no charge. Mrs. Cady stated Charles Moreno worked in the Town of Northwood on a 10% commission of whatever was cut.

Kevin Cini summed up his presentation by saying that he wanted to bring forward the information he located in hopes of answering some of the Board's questions. Mr. Cini was asked to make another appointment when he was prepared to present a recommendation on which option was the most viable.

Mr. Berglund urged looking into the use of conservations funds as the Town voted that the Forestry Commission and DCC work on the Town Forests. Mr. Berglund requested that the DCC and the Forestry Commission be present whenever this subject is discussed. Chairman Barry assured Mr. Berglund that both the DCC and the Forestry Commission will be notified when the topic of the Town Forests is discussed.

Signatures:

- Harvard Pilgrim Health Care of New England

Chairman Barry stated at a previous meeting the vote was taken to stay with Harvard Pilgrim. The Board was in agreement Chairman Barry should sign the renewal form. The renewal form was signed.

- Letter/Waiver of Interest/Elsie Brown

The Board received a letter from Elsie Brown requesting a waiver of interest in the amount of \$244.27 because the tax bill was never received at her Concord address.

MOTION: Selectman Walter Hooker made a motion to waive the interest in the amount of \$244.27. Seconded by Selectman Alan O'Neal.

Discussion: It was mentioned that it is known, by the taxpayer, they have to pay their taxes. The letter, Chairman Barry stated, indicated she didn't get the bill. Selectman Reagan did not think this was an uncommon event. Chairman Barry stated it is a matter of a large property owner who has always paid and didn't receive the bill. Selectman Hooker believed most people know they have a bill to pay and should have called the Town Clerk/Tax Collector's Office if they did not receive it. Chairman Barry pointed out the interest of \$244.27 was on a \$12,000 tax bill and payment was approximately a week late. When asked about past history for granting waivers, Chairman Barry said each request has been taken on a case by case basis. Selectman Reagan did not agree with the waiver as it would set a precedent.

VOTE: Chairman Barry called for the Vote. The Vote was tied 2-Yes (Chairman Barry and Selectman O'Neal); 2-No (Selectman Reagan and Selectman Hooker)
Chairman Barry declared the motion failed.

- Agreement/Candray Kennel

Selectman O'Neal requested a confirmation of the period of time the agreement covered. The agreement is from January 1, 2009 to December 31, 2009. Selectman Reagan recalled the bill for 2008 was paid and that bill was in excess of \$2,000.

MOTION: Selectman John Reagan made a motion to accept the agreement with Candray Kennel. Seconded by Selectman Walter Hooker.

VOTE: Chairman Barry called for the Vote. It was a Unanimous Vote in Favor.

- Veterans Tax Credit

1. 251A North Road/Brenda Wilson/Frank Wilson

MOTION: Selectman John Reagan made a motion to accept the tax credit for Frank and Brenda Wilson noting, for the record, that all paperwork was in order. Seconded by Selectman Walter Hooker.

VOTE: Chairman Barry called for the Vote. It was a Unanimous Vote in Favor.

2. Map 416 Lot 060/Alan Gladowsky

MOTION: Selectman Walter Hooker made a motion to accept the tax credit for Alan Gladkowski. Seconded by Selectman Alan O'Neal.

VOTE: Chairman Barry called for the Vote. It was a Unanimous Vote in Favor.

- Notice of Abatement/Denial

1. Map 406 Lot 36-YANKEE

Reason: Per letter from Avitar Associates of N. E., Inc. dated November 25, 2008.

MOTION: Selectman Walter Hooker made a motion to deny the abatement request based on the recommendation of the assessor that the abatement be denied. Seconded by Selectman John Reagan.

VOTE: Chairman Barry called for the Vote. It was a Unanimous Vote in Favor.

- Notice of Computer Abatement

1. Map 410 Lot 32/Freese Property

Reason: The property transferred to the Town from the Freese Family per agreement. The transfer was not received until after the 2008 final tax bills were released.

MOTION: Selectman Alan O'Neal made a motion to grant the computer abatement on Map 410 Lot 32. Seconded by Selectman Walter Hooker.

VOTE: Chairman Barry called for the Vote. It was a Unanimous Vote in Favor.

- Refund Requests

1. David A. Sears/Overpayment on a Motor Vehicle Registration/\$166

MOTION: Selectman Alan O'Neal made a motion to grant the refund request. Seconded by Selectman John Reagan.

VOTE: Chairman Barry called for the Vote. It was a Unanimous Vote in Favor.

2. Robin Sargent/Motor Vehicle Registration/\$255

MOTION: Selectman John Reagan made a motion to grant the refund request. Seconded by Selectman Walter Hooker.

VOTE: Chairman Barry called for the Vote. It was a Unanimous Vote in Favor.

- Land Use Change Tax

1. Marie Danielle Beaudry/Currier Road/\$10,400

Review of Correspondence:

- Letter/Rebecca Whitmeyer

Chairman Barry outlined the letter sent to the Board from Rebecca Whitmeyer. The letter responded to the recent tax bill and the explanation in the recent Communicator. She asked for further clarification as she found the increase irresponsible and unjustified. The Town and School budgets were voted down but the Board of Selectmen chose to ignore the wishes of the community. Areas of concern were the student to teacher ratio, number of Town employees which she believed could be reduced or full time positions converted to part time positions eliminating the necessity to provide benefits. If emergency expenditures necessitated a one time increase, this should have been explained. The Board of Selectmen represents the citizens and Ms. Whitmeyer thought perhaps the voters needed to rethink their selection.

Chairman Barry asked for the Board's thoughts. Selectman O'Neal suggested a letter enclosing the explanation that has been published. Chairman Barry thought Ms. Whitmeyer should be directed to the Deerfield School Board for answers concerning the School. Selectman Hooker commented the Town does not make up the entire tax bill. Chairman Barry added maybe not even a third of the whole tax bill.

- Donation/Concord Epsom Lodge 1210

Tornado Relief Fund/Deerfield's Share \$829.14

The Board was in receipt of a check in the amount of \$829.14 which Lodge 1210 raised for the residents of Deerfield. The check received was a result of a barbeque held on September 20, 2008 and the total was divided by five for each of the communities in the area. The check will be forwarded to the correct account and a letter thanking the Concord Epsom Lodge 1210 will be prepared.

- Letter/Ron and Sheri Alie/Commendation

Mr. and Mrs. Alie wrote to the Board expressing their appreciation for the professionalism, courteousness and preparedness that Police Officer Michael Lavoie, Janine Farrar and Matt Fisher showed during a recent incident involving their four year old grandson. The response was quick and Deerfield personnel showed not only they knew their jobs but a high level of human caring. Mr. and Mrs. Alie donated \$50 to the DARE Program and \$50 to the Deerfield Rescue Squad.

Selectman O'Neal suggested a cover letter be prepared and a copy of the Alie's letter be mailed to each of the individuals involved.

- Letter/David Ottinger/Antique Buildings

Mr. Ottinger wrote concerning the confusion about burning the Ballou-Hill or MacKinnon house and barn. The buildings were designated as contributing buildings in Deerfield Center Historic District and on the National Register of Historic places. He suggested the Town adopt a demolition delay law overseen by the Heritage Commission.

Chairman Barry stated the letter referred to the blue house on Church Street. There were other citizens that thought the demolition and burning of the house should not have happened so quickly. It should be noted the Town did not buy that house. The Board was not aware there were any reclaimable materials in the house. Chairman Barry said in hindsight the Board could have made the suggestion not that it would have changed anything but it wouldn't have hurt either.

Selectman O'Neal reiterated the Town of Deerfield is not the landowner and did not make the decision and remarked hindsight is 20-20.

- Judd Gregg's Office/Representative in Deerfield/December 15, 2008/2:15pm to 3:15pm

Town Administrator's Report:

Present: Cynthia Heon, Town Administrator

Personnel Policy -- The new Personnel Policy was distributed and suggested changes or updates will be kept on file and reviewed a minimum of once a year.

Wage Scale and Job Description Update -- If there was no objection from the Board, Mrs. Heon will begin working on revising the Wage Scale and Job Descriptions. There was no objection. Selectman O'Neal wanted assurance the Job Descriptions would be done first. Mrs. Heon indicated they are an important part of setting the Wage Scale and would be done first.

Year-end and Town Report -- Yearly reminders for year-end and Town Report documents will be going out soon. If there is anything the Board wants to add to this, please let Mrs. Heon know.

2009 Selectmen's Meeting Schedule -- The 2009 Board of Selectmen's Calendar reflects the meeting schedule for 2009. Chairman Barry said if there are any changes to this document to let Mrs. Heon know.

Town Clerk/Tax Collector's Report -- The Town Clerk/Tax Collector, Kevin Barry, sent a message letting the Board know that as of this morning, 68% of the Tax Warrant, for the final bill of 2008, has been collected and collections are on track.

Transfer Station Report -- The Transfer Station Director, Jim Alexander, visited the Candia Recycling facility and discussed the Hazardous Waste Day with the attendant there. Candia spends \$15,000 a year for two days and hires Clear Harbor at a cost of \$1,050 for both days.

Mr. Alexander was impressed with the facility and thought the Board should take a look at it when they can. The results of recycling efforts, and assistance from volunteers, yielded \$80,000 in revenue.

December 26, 2008 -- Chairman Barry advised December 26th was on a Friday and the question to the Board is would it be prudent to close the Town Offices on December 26th.

MOTION: Selectman John Reagan made the motion that December 26th be considered a day off for employees. Seconded by Selectman Walter Hooker.

Discussion: Selectman Hooker asked if the day was to be considered another paid vacation day. Mrs. Heon indicated, no, the employee would use what is available to them, either unused vacation days or comp time.

Selectman Reagan pointed out that the day after January 1st was a similar situation and wanted January 2nd included in the motion. There was no disagreement.

VOTE: Chairman Barry called for the Vote. It was a Unanimous Vote in Favor. The Town Offices will be closed on December 26th and January 2nd.

Meeting Dates – Meeting dates were read:

Thursday	December 11, 2008	County Forester	7pm	Selectmen's Conference Room
Saturday	December 13, 2008	MBC	8am	Selectmen's Conference Room
Monday	December 22, 2008	No Selectmen's Meeting		
Monday	December 29, 2008	Selectmen's Meeting	6pm	Selectmen's Conference Room

6:56pm Chairman Barry recessed the Selectmen's Meeting for the purpose of holding a Public Hearing to seek public input on accepting and expending funds reimbursed by FEMA in the Year 2008.

7:08pm Chairman Barry reconvened the Selectmen's Meeting.

- 2008 FEMA Reimbursement Funds:

Chairman Barry asked the Board, in light of the input from the Public Hearing, what action did the Board of Selectmen want to take concerning the 2008 FEMA Reimbursement Funds.

MOTION: Selectman Alan O'Neal made a motion the Board accept and expend reimbursement funds received from FEMA in 2008. Seconded by Selectman John Reagan.

VOTE: Chairman Barry called for the Vote. It was a Unanimous Vote in Favor.

- 2009 Default Budget

Chairman Barry asked Selectman Hooker if he had completed his homework concerning the 2009 Default Budget. Selectman Hooker answered yes.

MOTION: Selectman Walter Hooker made a motion to accept the 2009 Default Budget with the bottom line of \$3,272,841. Seconded by Selectman John Reagan.

VOTE: There was no discussion. Chairman Barry called for the Vote. It was a Unanimous Vote in Favor.

Citizen's Comments:

Harriet Cady spoke of deception as the last highway project was in the budget and in 2009 the highway projects are being put in Warrant Articles. It was her opinion, if the Town is to accept the road projects, they should be included in the budget and then the budget would be higher.

Harriet Cady discussed the Town's property value as being up \$800,000 over the prior year which equates to \$1.50 in taxes and spending went up for another \$1.98, in taxes, in order to be at the tax rate it is at today.

Chairman Barry asked Selectman Hooker to explain the numbers to Mrs. Cady.

Harriet Cady said she took numbers Mrs. Heon gave her for the 2007 value of the Town and the 2008 values and subtracted them which gave her the \$800,000 number. Expenditures in this Town went up \$1.98 and adding value she did not see how there could be a tax increase. If value increased, and the expenditures were normal, and the Town was run in a manner as she runs her home, the rate should have stayed close to even. Mrs. Cady noted the car registration revenue was off.

Selectman Hooker has been analyzing the tax rates over the years and while not complete the Town is \$600,000 short in revenue from all sources which equates to \$1.00 on the tax rate. The budgets voted in March were Default Budget numbers and lower than the previous year. People anticipated the tax rate to go down but the tax rate is not just based on what you appropriate. It is the gross appropriation minus all revenues from many streams.

Chairman Barry added that for many years the funds were used to keep the tax rate near even. This year, the money was not there to offset the tax rate to keep the Town on an even keel. The Department of Revenue suggests minimums and maximum amounts to be kept in the fund balance which the Town did not have excess funds for. It is still possible the Board of Selectmen will present an over-expenditure request to the Municipal Budget Committee.

Selectman Hooker used the example that if the lawn in a yard needs a certain amount of rain to survive, sometimes there is more and sometimes less, but if you don't get enough rain you have to water the lawn more.

Harriet Cady looked for further clarification.

Selectman Hooker pointed out that the tax bill also includes the school which is the larger portion of the tax bill. Selectman Hooker had the same concerns regarding road reconstruction in the budget and how it might be interpreted as money was shifted to the Warrant Articles but that may not be the case. There are funds within the budget that are for road reconstruction projects such as the final coat of asphalt on some roads. The decision of the Board was to place the new projects in Warrant Articles and all the projects to be finalized in the Town Budget. It is the Board's way of asking the taxpayer do you wish to pay for this. As for the employees, the Board opted to bring forward the COLA increase in a Warrant Article versus having another petitioned article as this would insure a correct calculation.

Chairman Barry said the Board has looked at employee COLA raises over the years being placed in Warrant Articles and thought about what was the correct thing to do. In the 2009 Budget, Chairman Barry pointed out there are no employee merit raises and raises would only be given through the COLA Warrant Article. Chairman Barry appreciated the questions and an opportunity to explain the Board's rationale.

Selectman O'Neal said the petitioned article presented last year was under-funded as the article did not contain the correct number as it didn't raise the amount for taxes and insurance. If the article is put forward by the Board of Selectmen, it will contain the correct numbers.

Steve Faulkner's read on the COLA increases was that it would be similar to being in business and having employees. He saw presenting this as a Warrant Article the beginning of a slippery slope. Within the next two years, the Board and taxpayers can be more in tune to what is going on and not take the slippery slope and re-assess the Town this year instead of 2010. With his situation, the assessed value would be a big number but the tax burden would shift and stop the current push and squeeze on those who can't afford it. What Mr. Faulkner saw was the perfect storm coming for some of this stuff.

Harriet Cady suggested the Board plans to do maintenance to buildings which she thought should also happen with roads. She did not see roads as yes you can, no you can't, it is part of the budget of the Highway Department. Mrs. Cady spoke to the disrepair of the sections of Church Street.

Selectman Hooker stated that there is over \$319,000 for road reconstruction in the Highway Budget for 2009. There was \$370,000 for that purpose in 2008. There are also lists of road projects in both budgets.

Kathy Bailey, reporter for the Union Leader, requested the FEMA number the Board mentioned. Chairman Barry stated it was \$69,397.

Adjournment:

7:27pm

Selectman Walter Hooker made a motion to Adjourn. Seconded by Selectman Alan O'Neal. Chairman Barry called for the Vote. It was a Unanimous Vote in Favor. The December 8, 2008 meeting is adjourned.

**TOWN OF DEERFIELD
PUBLIC HEARING
FEMA REIMBURSEMENT
December 8, 2008
MINUTES**

7:00pm Chairman Barry convened the Public Hearing.

Chairman Barry read the Public Notice and noted the places where it was posted, the newspapers it was published in and added it was on the Town Website and The Forum.

Chairman Barry opened the Public Hearing to comments regarding accepting/spending FEMA Reimbursement funds from the damage done by the tornado in July. The Town has spent the necessary funds from the 2008 Operating Budget.

Steve Faulkner from Saddleback Mountain Road questioned if money was taken from surplus for this purpose. Chairman Barry reiterated the money was taken from the 2008 Budget to perform the services and FEMA is reimbursing 75% of the total expenses.

Steve Faulkner commented about the lack of explanation for the tax increase. Chairman Barry explained this is part of the overall explanation because money was taken for tornado expenses and following the Public Hearing the Board will take a vote on whether or not to accept/expend the FEMA reimbursement.

Harriet Cady mentioned funds spent on tree removal in the right-of-way and noted the majority of the expenses were in the Highway Budget. Mrs. Cady commented the budget would now have a surplus. Chairman Barry stated the Town was not getting that much money. What the Town receives would allow the Town to make it to December 31, 2008 and not over spend the budget.

The question was raised as to exactly how much money was received in 2008. Chairman Barry read the list of reimbursements as follows:

2007 Flood Reimbursement in 2008	\$41,132.95
2007 Flood Reimbursement in 2008	\$98,825.43
2007 Flood Reimbursement Deferred from 2007 to 2008	\$58,476.38
2008 Tornado Reimbursement	\$69,376.53

Chairman Barry pointed out the flood reimbursement was covered in 2007 and deferred to 2008. The amount specific to the tornado is \$69,376 which occurred this year.

Steve Faulkner spent time trying to understand the tax bill he received before he came to the meeting. He now understood fairly well what the situation was, the money was spent to do clean up and repairs and then the Town received the reimbursement for those items which goes back into the budget as opposed to surplus. He stated the Board answered his question.

Harriet Cady looked at the explanation sheets and the projects from 2007, Candia Road Bridge and the James City Road Bridge and wondered why that expense was reflected in 2008. It was explained that the projects, and funds, were deferred to 2008. Mrs. Cady equated this to an escrow account which the Town could use.

There was no further discussion.

7:07pm The Public Hearing ended.

Attendance: 5

Recorded, Transcribed and Respectfully Submitted by Cynthia Heon, Town Administrator