

ALTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Minutes
April 17, 2017
6:00 PM
1 Monument Square
Alton, NH 03809
Approved: May 1, 2017

Cydney Johnson convened the meeting at 6:00 PM and led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and a Moment of Silence. The following members and staff were present:

Cydney Johnson, Chairwoman
Virgil MacDonald, Vice Chairman - Excused Absence
Philip V. Wittmann, Selectman
John Markland, Selectman arrived at 6:15 pm
Reuben Wentworth, Selectmen
Elizabeth Dionne, Town Administrator

Approval of the Agenda

Reuben Wentworth made a motion to approve the agenda and Philip Wittmann seconded.

Liz Dionne stated she would like to talk to the Board about a previous E-mail that she sent in regards to the County budget and dispatching and a request that the Commission be allowed to speak during Public Input or did the Board want to add it to the agenda to allow for back and forth discussion. She noted that she did speak to several Selectmen and received different opinions and rather than wait for the TA report she wanted to bring it up to ask the Board if they wanted to leave it as is or add it to Public Input.

Philip Wittmann stated he would be in favor of having the Commissioner speak during Public Input II. It is not on the agenda therefore we would not be changing our rules. Reuben Wentworth stated he would like to amend the agenda to allow County Commissioner Mr. Hunter Taylor to come forward as an elected official and discuss the budget under New Business. Philip Wittmann stated if we are going to have a discussion and if we have members here from the County Delegation as well he believes they should be part of the discussion at the same time. If we are going to hear from the County Commissioner, who doesn't like the County budget, and we have representatives from the County Delegation here tonight we should hear from both groups. Proper steps were not taken to place it on the agenda. Liz Dionne stated she is not sure of the time frame that occurred at the County level and when she learned of the request it was too late to add it to the agenda as a scheduled appointment.

Cydney Johnson asked if it was time sensitive and Reuben Wentworth asked when the next hearing on the County budget would be. Commissioner Hunter Taylor responded the budget was already finalized.

Rueben Wentworth stated Mr. Hunter did come to the Town Administrator and ask. He knows in the past the Boards have stated you have to request an appointment and he doesn't know if the County Delegation representatives approached the Town Administrator to see if they could get on the agenda at the same time. He has always felt that if an elected official wanted to meet with the Board they should have every right to.

Philip Wittmann stated he does not have a problem with what Commissioner Taylor has to say but believes it should be made during Public Input II.

Cydney Johnson asked the Board what if there are questions at that time. In the past what we have done is voted as a Board whether or not we are going to enter a dialogue. She would like to compromise and have them speak at the Public Input II or if we add it under New Business allow people from the County Delegation to speak as well.

Philip Wittmann stated the reason he didn't want it under New Business is the program that we have been following with regards to the agenda and the last thing we need is people coming to us and saying we are breaking our own rules. The most important thing for him is we should hear what the County Commission has to say but he believes the County Commissioners generally aren't happy with budget that the County Delegation passed. That budget is set and our budget is set and it seems pointless for them to be talking about it tonight. If we are going to do it I would like to hear what both contingents have to say.

Cydney Johnson stated she does not believe it is pointless because it is going to have an impact at many levels and is inclined to hear everybody out. We do have rules and every town has different rules. She would be inclined to allow them to speak during Public Input II and if we have questions vote at that time whether we will enter into a dialogue. She believes there will be a lot of public interest in it but it is important to stick to our rules of engagement.

Philip Wittmann stated he would agree to extend the 5 minute rule as long as everyone gets a chance to do it.

Reuben Wentworth stated that he would like to see a policy change in the future that if an elected official comes to an elected Board that it might be waved in the future. Cydney Johnson stated if he would like to submit a change to the public policy input we can vote on it at the next meeting.

Cydney Johnson requested a motion to approve the agenda and Reuben Wentworth agreed and moved the motion based on opening Public Input II to open dialogue and Phil Wittmann seconded, with all in favor.

Announcements:

- Town road weight limits are in effect until further notice; exceptions are made on an individual basis by request through the Highway Department.

Appointments:

None

Public Input I (limited to 3 minutes per person; subject matter - agenda items only)

None

Public Input I closed

New Business:

Discussion New Telephone System by Josh Monaco, IT Director

Josh Monaco provided the Board with a power point presentation on the proposed new telephone system. (copy of presentation below)

- ▶ The purpose of this proposal is to gain your support and approval of an upgrade to our existing telephone network.
- ▶ This upgrade would include switching our landline telecom providers from TDS to Verizon.
- ▶ This upgrade would also include the purchase of new telephone sets to replace the current problematic and antiquated equipment.
- ▶ After gaining your support for this change, I will begin implementing our new communications platform established through the internet (Voice over Internet) as opposed to the older telephone line (Centrex) based system.
- ▶ A positive change in pricing would result in this adjustment.
- ▶ Switching our landline provider from TDS to Verizon would produce several benefits to the Town.
- ▶ TDS in January 2017 sent out letters explaining to the Town that almost all of our public safety phones would need to be replaced by late March 2017 as a result of TDS performing network upgrades. The late and surprising nature of this announcement gave us no time to properly budget-in appropriate funds for the changes.
- ▶ It is key that we avoid future surprises like this. We deserve much better communication from our communications providers. Based on this and several other factors, I would highly recommend that we implement this solution provided by Verizon town-wide.
- ▶ The proposed upgrade would include telephone equipment upgrades.
- ▶ The existing Aastra telephones have been in use by the town for at least 10 years if not more.
- ▶ Several of these phones have been replaced each year due to malfunctions. Others have reported problems with incoming and outgoing calls, transferring calls, screen malfunctions, etc. These issues often present a disservice to those who wish to communicate with us via the telephone.
- ▶ The replacement of this old equipment is costly. About \$150 per replacement.
- ▶ The proposed replacement equipment is brand new.
- ▶ The new equipment offers all of what the old equipment had to offer and more.
- ▶ Upgrading to all new equipment would ensure that the town is operating up to date and problem free communications equipment.
- ▶ Replacement cost of newer equipment is only \$85 per replacement.
- ▶ Voice over Internet will save the town money.
- ▶ Our traditional telephone system is billed per call. This outdated pricing model is very unpredictable and hard to accurately budget for.
- ▶ Voice over Internet is billed one low flat rate, per line per month. Easier to budget for and cheaper overall cost.
- ▶ Wiring for the traditional phone system is managed by TDS. We are billed \$60 per hour for wiring work. We are even charged more for every other hour over the first hour.
- ▶ Voice over Internet phones work off of Ethernet wire. I can do this type of wiring in house in the event of a wire failure.
- ▶ Verizon can and will move all of our existing telephone numbers over to the new platform.
- ▶ Our current voicemail and auto attendant management system is confusing to operate and severely outdated.
- ▶ The new voicemail system would be managed through the internet on Verizon's website. This system would allow us to change voicemail settings and recordings of auto attendants easily. This is exactly what you would want from a systems management perspective.
- ▶ We budget **\$18,563** per year for our traditional telephone system town-wide.
- ▶ An estimate on how much we will be spending for this new Verizon system comes out at around **\$12,000**.
- ▶ A total estimated savings of **\$6,500 per year** is associated with this upgrade.
- ▶ A complete analysis on the telephone budget indicated that we would be able to *break even if not save money* if we were to implement Verizon's solutions within the next few months.

Reuben Wentworth asked Josh Monaco how much the system would cost to be installed. Josh Monaco responded that there would be an upfront cost and did not have the cost with him at this time. Pricing it based on what the Town spends per month based on our current TDS services. It would increase slightly for the first month of implementation however, that cost would eventually be covered within 3-4 months in a savings. Gilman Library and the Water Department are not included in the upgrade. The Solid Waste Center and Parks and Recreation are included. Reuben Wentworth noted for your line items on April 12th you had \$13,825.00 do you believe you will exceed the line item and Josh Monaco stated no and if we implement the system before June there would be roughly \$600.00/\$700.00 left in the budget. The cost of the new system includes the equipment.

There was a discussion regarding what would happen if the internet goes down and Josh Monaco replied that we have a battery back-up and Verizon would switch over to another tower. We would not have the need for a land line and if there was an issue with the Ethernet wiring he is confident he would be able to fix it. He assured the Board that if there was a storm and the towers went out that we should experience minimal problems. We have repeatedly asked TDS to upgrade our equipment and have gotten nowhere. We have looked at other systems and Verizon had the best options.

Chief Ryan Heath stated that specific to the Police Department the upgrade that TDS is requiring would shut down the entire police department. We are looking at \$2,100.00-\$2,200.00 just for the phones and to use the existing lines. TDS is forcing our hand with the change. The system would be secure as it is encrypted traffic and is very secure.

Cydney Johnson motioned to approve the IT Directors Voice Over Internet telephone system proposal as presented and was seconded by Reuben Wentworth with all in favor.

Approval Raffle Permit; American Legion, Meat Raffle, 10/1/17 to 4/30/18

Reuben Wentworth motioned to approve the American Legion Meat Raffle for 10/1/17 to 4/30/2018 and was seconded by Philip Wittmann with all in favor.

Approval; Special Event Application; American Legion, Memorial Day Parade, 5/29/17, 10:00 AM

Cydney Johnson motioned to approve the American Legion Memorial Day parade on 5/29/2017 noting that the Chief of Police has no issue with the route, time or day and was seconded by Philip Wittmann.

Reuben Wentworth requested that the town place some additional trash receptacles along Main Street especially around the center of town to help out with any trash or litter that may be there during the parade. Liz Dionne responded absolutely.

All were in favor of the motion.

Old Business

Approval; Welfare Guidelines, Section 10, Town Work Program

An updated Welfare Guideline was provided to the Committee along with an opinion from the New Hampshire Municipal Association.

Cydney Johnson noted minor spelling corrections under Item 10.5 and Letter F on page 21 that she will provide to Liz Dionne.

Cydney Johnson would like have a discussion on the Municipal Association opinion regarding the insurance and workman's comp and the two RSA's that were referenced. The question for the Board previously is the benefit we will receive in asking people to work does it out way the cost if someone were to get hurt working. They have responded and stated it should be taken into consideration.

Reuben Wentworth stated anyone can sue for anything and it would have to be proven negligent. Supervision is a big thing. If the applicant is incapable or if they are being asked to pick up litter around the roads or parks the chances of them being hurt is a possibility, they could slip, fall or twist an ankle. In supervising them they would have someone with them helping them pick up the trash. There are some things they can do with minimal risk to the town. Does the benefit out way the potential cost with someone working. We would not be asking them to drive or operate dangerous machinery. They would be transferred to and from but it is also whether or not we have the capabilities to supervise at the time. If they are receiving welfare and they are capable they can either pay it back to the town or if they can't do that I have no problem with them not repaying the town. The ones with health issues or are wheel chair bound. Some people when they get back on their feet can repay the town if they don't want to work it off.

Philip Wittmann stated he agrees and that it would make them feel some responsibility. It makes it more real for the individual if they have some responsibility as well. We should have some kind of work requirement if possible. It would have to work around the recipients doing applications for jobs and if they have children. These are complications that come into it.

John Markland asked who would make the determination if the applicant would work or not.

The Welfare Office would make the decision and Liz Dionne stated there are more factors on whether the individual could do the work or not, including criminal justice, the risk to other employees, children and the elderly. There are many facets and believes between the Welfare Officer and the Town Administrator they can determine for each individual whether they should or should not have to work. We do not want to place any of the Town of Alton employees in danger or predicament. The Town needs to make sure our employees have a safe work environment at all times.

Reuben Wentworth stated we are fortunate in this town for our welfare budget and the Alton Food Pantry and community services. He has no problem with the way it is written and there is an appeal process.

Liz Dionne stated, under Section 10.7 the Workman's Comp Program as it stands currently they would be covered. The wording which is from the template from the New Hampshire Municipal Association and in accordance with the RSA allows the governing body to vote if we do not want to have workman's comp coverage on these people. In the legal opinion there is some risk there as well. Liz Dionne recommends at this time that Workman's comp coverage remain in place for the work program.

Cydney Johnson motioned to approve the Welfare Work Program as presented and added allowing the Town Administrator and Welfare Officer to make the determination whether someone should or should not work and was seconded by Philip Wittmann with all in favor.

Town Administrator's Report and Updates

Liz Dionne stated that during the meeting in New Durham last week with regards to the Cyano bacteria in the Merrymeeting River they are asking for a representative from each town for the committee that they want to form, one Selectman, one Conservation Commission member and one Milfoil Committee member. The other three representatives Fish and Game, the LA Lakes Monitoring Program and someone from UNH and will be taken care of by New Durham.

Reuben Wentworth stated we should proceed as they reached out to us and he will volunteer. Cydney Johnson volunteered to be the alternate.

Cydney Johnson noted that Liz Dionne would contact the Milfoil and the Conservation committees for a representative.

Cydney Johnson stated that a representative from the New Durham Select Board had contacted her stating that LA Lakes Program would be happy to come to Alton and take some fresh samples at various locations to see where we are at and Fred Quimby is more than happy to put it all together.

Selectmen's Committee Report

Philip Wittmann provided an update on the Old Home Week Committee which met on the 10th and our new members Bob Regan and Steve Parker were to be sworn in this week by the Town Clerk. Alton resident Lisa Forton would like to have a fund raiser for her son Brent Stranger who was injured in a car accident to take place during our block party. Items discussed to be held during that week were the bake sale by the church women of the Christian Fellowship, the Boy Scouts will host a movie at the bandstand and a possible fire/police baseball game. We are looking at ideas for a theme, possibly Alton transportation history, boats, the Mt. Washington, trains and road, etc. Also discussed was manpower to produce the yearly booklet. We have arrived at prices for the ads in the book and they will be the same as the year before. A cover letter will be sent out to people who have advertised in the past giving them first shot at the booklet. We are going to see if the PMHS Future Business Leaders of America might be interested in helping out as a project for them. Philip Wittmann stated he will make sure the woman who would like to do the fundraiser for her son knows that a permit will be required.

Reuben Wentworth provided an update on the Budget Committee which met on April 13th. They provided some dates that they would be available to meet 6/19, 7/17, and 8/7. They feel that after 8/21 the dates become too close to the budget process. They requested that before they meet with the Board of Selectmen they would like some idea about what the BOS is thinking on the items and are they restricted to these items. They feel it wouldn't be prudent for them to meet without having some dialogue before with the Selectmen as they could end up going in a completely opposite direction. Reuben Wentworth stated he told them he just believes it is your goals, objectives, ideas and what the tasks may be for the year. They did ask Mary Jarvis to send them RSA 32 and RSA 40 and this has been done.

Reuben Wentworth stated that at the last BOS meeting Loring Carr talked about an Article that was voted on during a public meeting in 2008 that all town meetings will be held in public places not private owned buildings. The Town Attorney stated that the article referred back to committees that were holding meetings in private homes where the public was excluded. The town vote does not supersede the RSA. It states that the Board of Selectmen determines where the vote will be held in the Town of Alton and that the Board of Selectmen of 2016-2017 did not violate any town ordinances.

Cydney Johnson motioned to send a letter to Loring Carr outlining RSA 39.2 and was seconded by Philip Wittmann with all in favor.

Approval of Selectmen’s Minutes:

John Markland made a motion to approve the minutes of Public Session I, April 3, 2017 and as presented and was seconded by Philipp Wittmann with all in favor.

John Markland made a motion to approve the minutes of Non-Public Session I, April 3, 2017 and opening items 1, 2 and 3 and was seconded by Cydney Johnson with all in favor.

Approval of Consent Agenda

1. 2017 Veteran’s Tax Credits

Barsanti Gregory	Map 30 Lot 13	53 Riverside Drive	\$500.00
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2. 2017 “All” Veteran’s Tax Credits

Patterson Robert	Map 27 Lot 43	21 Depot Street	\$500.00
Zuzgo Laura	Map 12 Lot 30	492 Old Wolfeboro Road	\$500.00
L & M Finethy Trust	Map 40 Lot 5	13 Wentworth Way	\$500.00

3. 2017 “All” Veteran’s Tax Credits Denied

Lane Nick	Map 12 Lot 22-6	107 Lily Pond Road	-0-
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4. 2017 Elderly Exemption

Coots Laura	Map 1 Lot 39	170 Cooke Road	60,000
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Cydney Johnson motioned to approve the Consent Agenda as listed and was seconded by John Markland with all in favor.

Public Input II (limited to 5 minutes per person; subject matter ~ any Governmental/Town Business)

Alton Resident Ray Howard noted that under Section 10 in the Town Work Program, the school has a requirement for community service. Do they have insurance coverage on the kids doing community service. It appears to be the same thing. It may be something to look at to see how they are doing their program.

Cydney Johnson responded that as a parent she had to sign a waiver stating that if her child was injured during that time that it would be on the child.

County Commissioner District 3 Representative Hunter Taylor with Chief Deputy Sheriff David Perkins thanked the Board for giving them an opportunity to speak and stated he is not here to debate the outcome of the budget, but to discuss what they do with the budget we have and how it may affect the Town of Alton. He stated he is here as one Commissioner and the other two Commissioners know that he is here and approve for

him to be here. This is mainly to advise the towns that he represents what is on the table and get feedback from the town and indicate what may be at stake. At this point we are attempting to live with the budget that we have. The Sheriff's budget was reduced \$126,000.00 and the suggestion was made that a deputy Sheriff and a dispatcher be cut. The Delegation also authorized the Commissioners to have transfer authority within the departments. That is advice on how we make the cut and it is not mandatory. We have spoken with the Sheriff and the Sheriff has certain constitutional and statutory duties. The main ones being the service of every legal paper served in the County which is a considerable volume of papers. It has to be done by a Deputy Sheriff. Prisoner transport is also a major duty of the Sheriff's office. The Sheriff has indicated they can't fulfill the duties of the office with regards to those activities if you cut a Deputy Sheriff. There has not been a deputy position added to the Sheriff's staff since 2005. When a Sheriff says I can't do my constitutional and statutory duties if you cut my deputy staff that was a mandate to the Commissioners to look somewhere else to save money. On March 28, the Vice Chairman for the Delegation, Representative Howard, from Alton sent a lengthy letter suggesting on how they should proceed. One paragraph that was talked about was the extracurricular activities of the office and focused on SWAT and dispatching. There is not a lot of money for SWAT. It is an important role in partnership with the towns and the city of Laconia. Dispatching is a lot of money, over ½ million dollars. We don't just dispatch for the Sheriff's Office but 6 of the towns 24/7. This includes Alton, Barnstead, Center Harbor, Gilmanston, Sanbornton and New Hampton. Belmont, Meredith and Tilton receive one shift a day. They get the evening shift. When a suggestion is made we need to look at the non-statutory duties, dispatching is a place where you look to.

Reuben Wentworth motioned to allow an additional 5 minutes for Commissioner Taylor to speak and was seconded by John Markland with all in favor.

Commissioner Taylor continued and stated at this point there is a discussion on dispatching with the Commissioners. One thought is not to dispatch for anyone other than the Sheriff's Office. He views regionalization as a good thing to make dispatching almost Countywide making it more efficient and economical. The idea of discontinuing dispatching given the disruption it would have is not something he favors. He would if necessary, but would not want to do it, to make up the shortfall by charging the towns for dispatching services. Strafford County does it. The shortfall could work out easily. Six towns with 24/7 dispatching would be around \$20,000.00 a year. The three towns that get one shift could pay around \$5,000.00 and the total would make up what the Sheriff's Office was cut and the Sheriff could fulfill his statutory and constitutional duties. Once we go down that road it sets a precedent. The Towns would be stuck with dispatching bills year after year. The Town of Belmont does not like it and wrote a letter that was written to the Delegation and was printed in the Laconia Daily Sun. We are looking for feedback and for you to give thought as to what you would like us to do. If you don't like the position you are being put in, for you as a BOS, you can do the same as the town of Belmont. We have a problem opening the jail as well. This is only one of two significant problems.

Chief Deputy Perkins confirmed to Cydney Johnson that no full time staff have been added since 2005. The prisoner transport has gone up. If you had one person dedicated to prisoner transport they would be doing 40 hours a week for 27 weeks. 50% of the year is transporting prisoners. He stated it would be difficult to say how much of this is attributable to the drug issue within the state. If a person was arrested for burglary it doesn't mean that burglary wasn't to buy drugs. It is almost impossible to say. He stated there is a drug component to 90% of the crimes committed. With regards to paper serving it probably balances out with the number around the same as it was in 2005. You stop serving papers when the economy is good and people pay their bills.

Reuben Wentworth noted that for the Fire Department we pay \$71,000.00 for the dispatching through mutual aid and that is 24/7. If we start at \$20,000.00 this year for dispatching will it be \$30,000.00 next year. Mutual Aid covers a lot more communities but the rate of dispatch is over three times the amount.

Deputy Perkins stated it is important to understand that that the more we regionalize the more money we will save. It doesn't make sense for every agency to have its own dispatch center. We are paying \$540,000.00 in salaries a year to dispatch for everyone. We don't dispatch for Gilford or Laconia. When you dial 911 you are actually calling the dispatching center in Laconia and I don't think that is what people understood. To pass that costs on to the town is fiscally irresponsible. You are looking at \$250,000.00 just in salaries for the Town of Alton to dispatch. You are looking at a quarter of a million dollars for 10 towns when we can do it for ½ million. All 911 calls go through the Sheriffs' Department.

Reuben Wentworth asked what the County Commissioners are looking for. Commissioner Taylor stated if he were a Selectman he would probably do what John Pike did in Belmont. I would ask the Delegation to re-consider what they have appropriated for the Sheriff's Office. It is a bad road to go down but he does not see any other road for dispatching if there is not additional funding for the Sheriff's Office. You could ask for a supplemental appropriation. The tax rate for the Town is not finalized until September. It is his understanding for example that when Carroll County had the disaster two years ago and found out that they were short 2 ½ million dollars they were able to get their rate adjusted in time to raise the taxes they needed for the shortfall. He does not know if there is an inclination on part of the Delegation to make a change. It would not hurt to ask. He would vote in favor of a supplemental appropriation

Alton Resident Barbara Howard stated right now for the towns that pay dispatch it is paid by taxation. How is it not double dipping if the tax payers are already paying for the service and they are coming to the town to ask for more tax dollars generated through the town to give for dispatching. To me that is double dipping. We are paying taxes to the County dispatch. The taxes to the County would be duplication.

Reuben Wentworth stated that the amount that was asked for the Sheriff's dispatching and was not fully funded by the Delegation, if they don't get the funding there will be a shortfall. It has been suggested to do away with the dispatching.

Barbara Howard stated these are the same Commissioners who ignored the Delegation when they wanted to take out the bond for the jail and they went for interest only for two years and during that time the interest rates went up and we are paying interest twice. They did not bat an eye wasting thousands and thousands of our taxpayer dollars. The Delegation listened to their constituents. They recognize that this region has pockets of the wealthy, and a majority of the wealthy don't bat an eye writing a check for their taxes but there are people who are self-employed, disabled, elderly, vets and people on fixed incomes that is never looked at. They say we have wealthy people they can afford it. People are saying no, no, no and the Delegation listened and she believes they set a fair budget. If they got creative they could figure it out.

Raymond Howard stated he is a Delegation member and part of the Executive Committee. He stated his letter to the editor was in response to all of the complaints about the budget shortfall. A quarterly budget review was recently done and for the first quarter of the year it shows a lot of line items were over spent because they are an annual payment which comes at the beginning of the budget cycle. The way the Commissioners decided to adjust the funding that we gave them in the budget. As a whole for the entire County budget we are at 23.1% and are still within budget. A lot of the budget items are paid up front for the entire year out of the first quarter. That will actually reduce that number if it was paid quarterly. Most of it is unemployment insurance, sick time incentive and property liability insurance which is paid up front for the year. The Sheriff's Department specifically is at 25.3% which is slightly over. These numbers will re-adjust as the quarters go on. The Executive Committee didn't feel we are in dire straits for any of the departments being able to fund their obligations for the year. The dispatchers are highly contested and speaking also as a tax payer in town we have a police department budget in the million plus arena. To call and get an officer on the phone sometimes takes 4-5 hours before you get a response back. When you call 911 the first thing is you go to the State Police Dispatch, once they determine where you are from then they send you to the proper County dispatch and then they will notify an officer who will get back to you usually pretty quick because that is all recorded and they have the liability of getting back to you or being in jeopardy if something does happen to go wrong.

John Markland asked Mr. Howard to repeat the sequence of the calls.

John Markland stated when you call 911 you get 911. Raymond Howard stated when you call 911 you get 3 different people. In NH the 911 taxes are \$12,000,000.00 and the County does not get a share of the money.

John Markland stated when you call 911 you are asked what your emergency is and then transferred to the proper agency. Mr. Howard stated he believes we are top heavy when trying to communicate with the local police departments. There are some things in the

County that go on that people are not happy with and that the Commissioners could do a better job. There are places where savings could be found.

Mr. Howard is concerned if the Tower goes down we will have no communications. Reuben Wentworth stated TDS has said they are no longer offering land lines.

Reuben Wentworth stated if the County Commissioners come back to us and they are going to have a short fall is the Delegation open to having a hearing then about undesignated funds that might be able to fill their obligations of the dispatching.

Raymond Howard stated that when we get into the fourth quarter we'll have a better idea of how all of the departments are doing. This year we gave the County Commissioners the authority to move money around in each department anyway they wanted. They just have to come before the Executive Committee in order to move it from one department to another. When we get to the fourth quarter we'll see if there is extra money for example in the Nursing Home that we can use to help with the Sheriff's Department.

Reuben Wentworth stated from what I understand from Mr. Taylor that it would have to be done before the fourth quarter because the tax rate is set by the fourth quarter in case there were no funds available. Mr. Howard stated he was pretty confident there would be undesignated funds available. Spending was raised over last year by a million and a half dollars. Last year the County operated on 26 million dollars. This year it is at 27,500,000.00. Cydney Johnson asked how much of that was health insurance increases. Raymond Howard stated he never did the actual breakdown of health insurance increases but he did the payroll. The payroll is about \$350,000.00 and that included bonuses and a COLA and all the ancillary costs including retirement system, payroll taxes. Cydney Johnson stated given our average of 8-10 percent that could eat up your 1 and ½ million really quickly. We gave a 3 ½ percent between COLA and merit increase. That came to 350,000.00. Even if insurance was 10% he doesn't believe it would come to \$700,000.00.

Reuben Wentworth stated he hoped both sides can work graciously and come together.

Cydney Johnson stated as a taxpayer/resident stated she wanted to refute something that was just stated. She has had the unfortunate experience of using 911 on several occasions in the past 12 months and would disagree with the response time that was just stated also and disagrees in having to unfortunately work with the Police Department on a situation that it takes 4-5 hours to get a return phone call. That has not been her experience. Even though the person I am dealing with works evenings there has been a secondary person that has been keeping in touch with her either via voice mail or E-mail. I have found that they have been incredibly responsive during a very emotional and trying time. She hates to see things painted with one broad brush. Perhaps that has been other peoples experience but it has not been hers. 911 was a life

saver for a family and she is thankful that we have it. As a taxpayer she really hopes we can work this out. She would hate to lose them.

Chief Ryan Heath stated he put some numbers together and would like the BOS to know the local ramifications. What they are talking about is if there is a change to be made it is going to happen before our budget cycle goes through. We have no money in our operating budget to cover it one way or another. For us to go to 24 hour dispatch we are looking at \$220,000.00 - \$ 250,000.00 to make up the difference. The Dispatch console purchase and moving forward just to maintain it we are looking at 200,000.00 in expenses a year added to the operating budget. It is an added expense. We would need the actual console system. We need licenses and software to tie into 911. He spoke to the Sheriff's Department and for their system it was in excess of \$100,000.00. We have portions of it where we can tie it. We are looking at \$25,000.00 - 35,000.00 just to get the single dispatch console. John Markland commented that even by doing this, the 911 calls still go to 911.

Philip Wittmann stated as a tax payer the budget controversy, which we have all been following in the Laconia Daily sun, I always compare the public to the private sector. The County budget is more this time and yes there were cuts to the Sheriff's Department. If my boss comes to me and said you are getting a reduction in what you can spend that's it I have to figure out a way to make it work. Ultimately what usually happens is I have to do what I have to do so it gets done more efficiently That is something with baseline economic in the public sector that very often is over looked. Only in the public sector is an increase in the County budget looked at as a decrease because it is not as much as the Commissioners or some people wanted. Bottom line in the private sector when you are handed a cut you have to deal with it. Very often by dealing with it you end up with a more efficient situation. Again I am looking out for our taxpayers that is important to me.

Public Input II Closed

Discretionary Action on Requests for Appointments (No discussion, majority vote required to allow/not allow appointment)

No Discretionary Action

Non-Public Session II: Vote to enter into non-public session pursuant to RSA91-A:3, II (a) through (k) as deemed necessary.

Cydney Johnson made a motion to enter into non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (a) and (c) and Reuben Wentworth seconded. The Board was polled in the affirmative by roll call with all in favor of the motion.

Roll call vote:

Reuben Wentworth, yes
Philip V. Wittmann, yes
John Markland, yes
Cydney Johnson, yes

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy Hawksley

Peggy Hawksley
Recording Secretary