

## **SELECTMEN'S MEETING**

### **FEBRUARY 13, 1996**

The Board of Selectmen held their regular meeting on Tuesday, February 13, 1996 at 7:30 P.M. Present were Chairman William Mullin, F. Dore' Hunter, Nancy Tavernier, Herman Kabakoff, Wayne Friedrichs, Town Manager Don Johnson, and Assistant Town Manager John Murray. (The meeting was televised by cable}.

### **CITIZENS CONCERNS**

Elaine Richter, Co-Chair of the Gardner Field Playground stated that they have submitted the new plan and it was available for review.

### **PUBLIC HEARINGS AND APPOINTMENTS**

#### **JONES FIELD PLAYGROUND COMMITTEE**

Bonnie Ober, Committee member presented the Board with a brief history of Jones Field along with a cost and design analysis. The committee stated that the estimated cost is \$64,500 and they have raised \$17,000 with a shortfall of \$47,500. The committee would like to the Board to consider their needs in budget preparation. Bill questioned whether they had worked out the issue regarding the site being in the flood way. The committee stated that it is only partially in the flood way and there is plenty of room to install the equipment with plan modification. Bill also asked them to develop an integrated playground plan, showing timing, schedule, etc.

#### **REPRESENTATIVE PAMELA RESOR**

Representative Resor was in to discuss issues regarding the Town. Rep. Resor stated that the Town could count on the local aid figures the Governor's office has put out and that early reporting of cherry sheets shows that a resolution will be passed by March 1st which will mean that more monies will come back to cities and towns. Rep. Resor also stated the town could expect \$35,000 additional for snow and ice removal. It was also stated that there would be an increase in per pupil amount, per student minimum and funding for regional transportation monies.

The Board asked Rep. Resor if the State would honor its obligation and help us out with the scrubber cost for NESWC. Rep. Resor stated that she is working with Natural Resource chairman to obtain additional monies and that more meetings will need to be scheduled. Rep. Resor also stated that the open space bond bill has passed and they are working on filing a section to remove the line that allows hunting.

Rep. Resor also stated that Massport is thinking about privatizing Hanscom Air Force Base.

## BUDGET REVIEW AND DRAFT WARRANT DISCUSSION

The Board discussed the steps in reviewing the budget and warrant. The steps are as follows:

1. Acton Leadership Group Plan (ALG)
2. How to proceed with numbers
3. Operating Budget
4. Capitalizing projects (Operating Budget or separate warrant article)
5. Warrant Review

### **ALG PLAN:**

John Murray stated that the numbers have been modified to go with the Governor's Plan and that there have been no material changes. The proposed budget is 34 million, 864,000. Nancy stated that her recommendation would be to take the total municipal spending (\$12.807m) and increase it by 2 1/2% for a total FY97 budget to be \$13.127m). This would give the schools an increase of \$962K

Bill Mullin presented his proposal for ALG. Bill suggests using the updated Governor's package for our cherry sheet numbers and that we should fully fund school operating budget using current numbers, including the \$200M of capital. This would give the schools \$22,013M and \$12,450M to the Municipal side with a total turnback of \$593M from free cash to the Town for capital projects/new programs. Bill also suggested that any school turnbacks plus \$1MM of free cash would be available for schools to fund a portion of the \$5.2MM of capital projects that have been identified. Bill also recommends that \$500M of current free cash be allocated to the Acton Public Schools and \$500M of debt service be allocated to the Region. This would leave \$1.5MM of free cash.

### **OPERATING BUDGET:**

#### **Town Manager's Budget:**

HERMAN KABAKOFF - Move to reduce line item 233 by \$5,000 for a total of \$3,000 due to the fact that this line has never been used. DORE' HUNTER - Second. UNANIMOUS VOTE.

HERMAN KABAKOFF - Move to add 5,000 to line item 1651 - Business Outreach. NANCY TAVERNIER - Second. UNANIMOUS VOTE.

BILL MULLIN - Move to add \$4,000 to line item 215 - Dues manager. DORE' HUNTER - Second. UNANIMOUS VOTE.

**Accounting Budget:**

HERMAN KABAKOFF - Move to reduce line item 008 (Personnel Director) by \$60,000. NANCY TAVERNIER - Second. 1(Herman yes)-4. Motion fails. It was stated that \$60,000 was not enough money to employ the kind of person we were looking for so we have to revise job description in order to hire someone. This is why the position has been unfilled for two years.

**Assessors Budget:**

HERMAN KABAKOFF - Move to reduce line item 310 by \$5,000. DORE' HUNTER - Second. 1(Herman yes) - 4. Motion fails. Bill stated that the assessors need this money for reevaluation and that this amount covers two professional reevaluations.

**Town Collector's Budget:**

HERMAN KABAKOFF - Move to reduce line item 1304 (Salary Professional) by \$53,732. DORE' - Second. 1(Herman yes) - 4. Motion fails. Don stated that this position has been left vacant so our new Finance Director, Tony could have input in hiring his assistant.

HERMAN KABAKOFF - Move to reduce line item 836 by \$10,000. DORE' HUNTER - Second. 1(Herman yes) - 4. Motion fails.

**Municipal Properties Budget:**

The Board discussed the acoustics problem with room 204 and asked Dean what his recommended budget for line item 0913 would cover. Dean stated that this will cover some electronics and chairs. NANCY TAVERNIER - Move to increase line item 0913 from \$5,000 to \$10,000. DORE' HUNTER - Second. UNANIMOUS VOTE.

Bill stated that he has received comments that the letter on the monument is unreadable and questioned Dean as to how much it would cost to fix it. BILL MULLIN - Move to add \$1500 to line item 913 (Projects Town Hall) for a total of \$11,500. WAYNE FRIEDRICH - Second. UNANIMOUS VOTE.

**Police Department Budget:**

HERMAN KABAKOFF - Move to replace one cruiser not two and to reduce line item 56 by \$23,000 and line item 38 by \$3000. DORE' HUNTER - Second. 1(Herman yes) - 4. Motion fails. George stated that the 4,2,2 system of replacing vehicles has worked very well in the past

**Fire Department Budget:**

HERMAN KABAKOFF - Move to add \$5,000 to \$20,000 to line item 119 (Fire and Rescue). DORE' HUNTER - Second. The Board discussed the need for this increase for the purpose of replacement helmets and a ram for jaws of life. After much discussion the Board tabled this motion.

**Council on Aging:**

Carol Lake has asked that the Friends be relieved from the \$3,000 gift that the COA has received in the past.

**Highway Depart Budget:**

HERMAN KABAKOFF - Move to reduce line item 604 (Equipment purchase) by \$5,000. NANCY TAVERNIER - Second. 1(Herman yes) - 4. Motion fails.

HERMAN KABAKOFF - Move to reduce line item 527 (Pavement marking) by \$10,000. NANCY TAVERNIER - Second. 1(Herman yes)- 4. Motion fails.

HERMAN KABAKOFF - Move an amendment to reduce line item 527 (Pavement Marking) by \$6000. NANCY TAVERNIER - Second. 1(Herman yes) - 4. Motion fails.

HERMAN KABAKOFF - Move to reduce line item 473 (Fuel No lead) from \$55,000 to \$35,000. NANCY TAVERNIER - Second. 1 (Herman yes) - 4 . Motion fails.

**CAPITALIZING PROJECTS (SEPARATE WARRANT ARTICLE OR OPERATING BUDGET):**

**Private Way (Plowing):**

There is approximately 14.9 miles of private way plowing for approximately 1500 miles per year at a cost of approximately \$22,298.01. However, only 2.6 miles conforms to the Board of Selectmen's standards for plowing at a cost of \$3,858.81 per year.

DORE' HUNTER - Move to add separate warrant article in the amount of \$10,000 for the plowing of public ways. NANCY TAVERNIER - Second. UNANIMOUS VOTE.

DORE' HUNTER - Move to recommend article. NANCY TAVERNIER - Second. UNANIMOUS VOTE.

**LIBRARY - CAPITAL ITEMS:**

Wanda stated that the latest numbers for the library expansion are \$6,308,518.00. and that we are eligible for \$2,114,946.00 in possible grant money. The application for grants are due by April 10, 1996 and we should expect to hear if we received the grant by September 19, 1996. There was some discussion as to whether we ask Town Meeting for the full allocation or if we should subtract the grant monies. DORE' Move to put article on the warrant for the library expansion in the amount of \$6.3 million and to defer how the article is structured regarding the appropriate monies. NANCY TAVERNIER - Second. UNANIMOUS VOTE.

#### **NORTH ACTON RECREATION - CAPITAL ITEM:**

Bill Mullin stated that this project has been ten years in the making and that they have received strong community support. Bill questioned how this project is going to be phased.

Allen Warner stated that this project is multi - generation and multi - purpose. Mr. Warner stated that the RFP will be completed this week and the responses will be due back March 20th. DORE' HUNTER - Move to put and recommend article for the North Acton Recreation Area for 1.6 million. NANCY TAVERNIER - Second. UNANIMOUS VOTE. The Board stated that we should include the debt override question at the next meeting.

#### **PRIORITY LIST**

##### **A. REEVALUATION - Measure and List Property:**

HERMAN KABAKOFF - Move to reduce this article by \$77,500 for a total of \$77,500 in year one. NANCY TAVERNIER - Second. 1 (Herman yes) - 4. Motion fails. NANCY TAVERNIER - Move that \$155,000 be approved for reevaluation. DORE; HUNTER - Second. 4 - 1(Herman no). Motion passes. NANCY TAVERNIER - Move that this article be placed in the operating budget. WAYNE FRIEDRICH - Second. UNANIMOUS VOTE.

##### **B. TRAFFIC SIGNAL - HAYWARD**

HERMAN KABAKOFF - Move we fund traffic signal - Hayward Road - for \$10,000. WAYNE FRIEDRICH - Second. UNANIMOUS VOTE. NANCY TAVERNIER - Move that this be a capital item. DORE' HUNTER - Second. 4 - 1(Bill no). Motion passes.

##### **C. LANDFILL CLOSURE - DESIGN**

HERMAN KABAKOFF - Move that we not fund the landfill closure design for \$126,000. DORE' HUNTER - Second. UNANIMOUS VOTE.

##### **D. COMPUTER (3RD YEAR OF 5YR PROGRAM)**

DORE' HUNTER - Move we fund computer. NANCY TAVERNIER - Second. UNANIMOUS VOTE. DORE' HUNTER - Move that this be in the operating budget. NANCY TAVERNIER - Second. UNANIMOUS VOTE.

E. RE-ROOF STATIONS:

HERMAN KABAKOFF - Move to fund in the amount of \$50,000. DORE' HUNTER - Second. 1 (Herman yes) - 4. Motion fails. DORE' HUNTER - Move to fund in the amount of \$75,000 and that it be a separate warrant article. NANCY TAVERNIER - Second. 4 - 1(Herman no). Motion passes.

F. FIRE - TRAINING:

NANCY TAVERNIER - Move to fund in the amount of \$13,750 and that it be in the operating budget. HERMAN KABAKOFF - Second. UNANIMOUS VOTE.

G. COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVER VOTING SYSTEM

NANCY TAVERNIER - Move to fund in the amount of \$7,440 and that is be included in the operating budget. DORE' HUNTER - Second. UNANIMOUS VOTE.

H. CENTRAL FILE SYSTEM

NANCY TAVERNIER - Move to fund in the amount of \$5,000 and that it be included in the operating budget. DORE' HUNTER - Second. UNANIMOUS VOTE.

I. POLICE/FIRE STATION FEASIBILITY STUDY:

HERMAN KABAKOFF - Move to not fund. DORE' HUNTER - Second. 1 (Herman yes) - 4. Motion fails. BILL MULLIN - Move to fund in the amount of \$50,000 and that it be a separate warrant article NANCY TAVERNIER - Second. UNANIMOUS VOTE.

J. UNIFIED DISPATCH AND FIRE COVERAGE:

There was some discussion regarding how the unions stand in relation to this and how efficient we will become if we invest this money. It was decided to defer this until the next meeting.

K. AUTOCAD WITH CIVIL SURVEY SUITE:

HERMAN KABAKOFF - Move to fund in the amount of \$4,890 and that is be included in the operating budget. WAYNE FRIEDRICHES - Second. UNANIMOUS VOTE.

L. NEW SIDEWALKS ON TOWN WAYS -

HERMAN KABAKOFF - Move to fund in the amount of \$50,000 and that it be included as a capital item. DORE' HUNTER - Second. UNANIMOUS VOTE.

**M. COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM UPGRADE -**

HERMAN KABAKOFF - Move to fund in the amount of \$135,000 as a capital item. WAYNE FRIEDRICHES - Second. UNANIMOUS VOTE.

**N. REPLACE 1984 BACKHOE -**

HERMAN KABAKOFF - Move to replace the 1984 Backhoe in the amount of \$95,000 as a capital item. NANCY TAVERNIER - Second. UNANIMOUS VOTE.

**O. SUMMER SATURDAY HOURS -**

NANCY TAVERNIER - Move to fund in the amount of \$3,880 in the operating budget. DORE' HUNTER - Second. UNANIMOUS VOTE.

**U. IMPROVEMENT - PLAYGROUND EQUIP - 2ND YEAR -**

BILL MULLIN - Move to fund in the amount of \$60,000 as a capital item. DORE' HUNTER - Second. UNANIMOUS VOTE. The Board stated that this money should go to the two active playground groups with a modest sum to go to the proposed playground at 2A/27/

***CONSENT AGENDA***

F. DORE' HUNTER - Move to approve consent calendar as printed. HERMAN KABAKOFF- Second. UNANIMOUS VOTE.

***SELECTMEN'S BUSINESS***

Bill Mullin questioned whether we should mail warrants to all residents since there are so many controversial items this year at the Annual town meeting scheduled to begin April 1, 1996. DORE' HUNTER - Move to direct staff to mail the warrant to all residents. NANCY TAVERNIER - Second. UNANIMOUS VOTE.

**\* IT IS NOW 12:00 MIDNIGHT**

***TOWN MANAGERS REPORT***

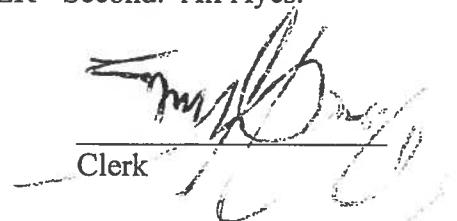
Don reminded the Board that there would be an ALG meeting at 7:30 AM on February 14, 1996.

Don stated that in extra information for tonight the Board will find a request for emergency hookup for Boston Gas for a new house located at Harris Street. The Board

discussed this request and stated that curb cuts are allowed as of March 15, 1996 and staff had recommended we not approve this request.

Don stated that the second quarterly report is ready.

F. DORE' HUNTER - Move to go into executive session for the purpose of discussing contract negotiations. NANCY TAVERNIER - Second. All Ayes.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Clerk", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is fluid and cursive.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sheryl Ball", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Sheryl Ball  
Recording Secretary  
Min 2\_13.doc

February 9, 1996

**TO:** Board of Selectmen

**FROM:** William C. Mullin, Chairman

**SUBJECT:** Selectmen's Report

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**AGENDA  
Room 204  
FEBRUARY 13, 1996**

**I. CITIZEN'S CONCERNS**

**II. PUBLIC HEARINGS & APPOINTMENTS**

1. 7:35 **JONES FIELD PLAYGROUND COMMITTEE**- Representatives will be presenting funding request to the Board. Enclosed please find materials from the committee as well as staff correspondence regarding playground costs.
2. 9:30 **REPRESENTATIVE PAMELA RESOR** - Representative Resor will be in to update the Board.

**III. SELECTMEN'S BUSINESS**

3. **BUDGET REVIEW** - Decisions and discussion on the budget and priority items.
4. **DRAFT WARRANT** - Enclosed please find a copy of the latest draft dated 2/9/96 for Board review and discussion.

**IV. CONSENT AGENDA**

5. **ACCEPT GIFT** - Enclosed please find a request from the Health Director to accept various items from (FANS) for the Acton Public Health Nursing Service for Board action.
6. **ACCEPT GIFT** - Enclosed please find a request from the Trustees of the West Acton Citizen's Library for acceptance of \$1,057.93 in money gifts for Books and expenses for Board action.
7. **FEE WAIVER REQUEST** - Enclosed please find a request and staff recommendation from the Earth Day 96 Group for a waiver from Board of Health Food Permit Fees for Board action.

**V. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT**

**VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

8. There will be a need for Executive Session

**MEETINGS**

**Sunday, February 11 at 1:00 P.M. - Jr. High Library Joint Meeting**

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Enclosed please find additional correspondence that is strictly informational and requires no Board action.

**FUTURE AGENDAS**

To facilitate scheduling for interested parties, the following items are scheduled for discussion on future agendas. This IS NOT a complete Agenda.

Feb 27 - Street Acceptance Public Hearing  
March 12  
March 26 (after 8:00)

Pcc/FEB13.DOC