

**NOTES OF OCTOBER 30, 2013 RYE BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
ALL DAY BUDGET WORK SESSION**

Final Revision B – Provided by the Rye Civic League

Present: Selectmen Jenness, Musselman and Mills. Also present: Cyndi Gillespie, Mike Magnant

Editor's note: For ease in finding particular sections using the archived video and audio on the Town website, the elapsed time is indicated. Use the slider and the elapsed time indicated at the bottom of the video window to fast forward to the desired section. Videos on the Town website may currently be accessed at www.town.rye.nh.us by clicking on "Town Hall Streaming" at the bottom left of the screen. Follow the link for "Town Hall Live Streaming," then find the meeting by date under "Previous."

Editor's note: The budget and proposed figures are taken from the 2014 Budget Worksheet Summary by Department which was provided by Cyndi Gillespie.

The video starts at 8:33:25 a.m. with the audio on. The audio was turned off at 11:56:07 a.m. (202:42 elapsed) and back on at 1:09:46 p.m. (276:21 elapsed) in connection with the lunch break. The video continued to run during that time.

Emergency management, 4290-17 (1:55 elapsed)

2013 Budget: \$5900. 2014 Proposed: \$6400. Approved: \$6400

Police Chief Kevin Walsh addressed the budget. It is up due to Seabrook drills that did not occur last year. Town Finance Director Cyndi Gillespie reported that \$21,655 was received from FEMA this year and went into the general fund.

Police Department, 4210-15 (4:30 elapsed)

2013 Budget: \$1,231,168. 2014 Proposed: \$1,299,002. Approved: Tabled until December 9.

Police Chief Kevin Walsh addressed. Town Finance Director Cyndi Gillespie reported that there is 53 weeks worth of wages this year. This year there was extra overtime for beach patrols in connection with dogs and open containers.

Cyndi Gillespie reported that employees are permitted to sell back up to two weeks per year of unused vacation. This benefits the Department as otherwise vacations would need to be covered by overtime work.

The wage figure in the proposed budget does not include any increases as the union contract is up for renewal this year. *Editor's note: In past years approval of the contract and the incremental wages have been presented as a warrant article.* Cyndi Gillespie stated that, based on what they know now, there will be a 17 percent increase in health insurance premiums, which is included in the budget.

Chief Walsh reported that there are two positions being replaced. One has been

filled and they are close to submitting a proposed candidate to the Selectmen for the second one. The candidate will require training at the academy so they will be down a position until June.

(9:55 elapsed)

Selectman Musselman suggested that 1-2 seasoned part-time officers be added for the summer, in lieu of the additional full-time officer proposed by Chief Walsh. Perhaps a retired officer would be interested, he said.

Town Administrator Magnant asked what the Selectmen's policy would be on additional policemen or firefighters. Would this be a warrant article? Selectman Mills responded in the affirmative.

Selectman Jenness suggested that the summer be considered May 1 to September 30 or later for purposes of part-time staff. May is sometimes hot.

Chief Walsh stated that Hampton has some part-time officers year round to handle events. He indicated that he had written a memorandum on the issue of the additional officer, and the absence of a detective division.

Selectman Musselman indicated that he agreed that a green officer would not work part-time for the summer. His thought was that retired officers that might otherwise be on traffic duty would be interested.

Chief Walsh stated that retirees would not be interested in Saturday and Sunday work at the beach after 30 years of service. The discussion then revealed that Chief Walsh had himself been doing a lot of the weekend work at the beach the prior summer. As he does not receive overtime, this was apparently without pay. Selectman Musselman stated that that was above and beyond the call of duty.

(16:45 elapsed)

Chief Walsh stated that Rye Officer Scott Sullivan had been hired out of the Hampton part-time program. That is the danger when you hire part timers. Someone else pays for the training and then they leave.

There was also discussion about the lack of uniformity when officers are not on the staff. For example, they may be following different policies with regard to open containers.

Selectman Mills stated that the problem was that the officers were needed for 3 months, but the proposal is to hire additional staff for 12 months.

Selectman Musselman asked whether two part-time officers for just the summer would be half of the cost of a full-time officer year round. Chief Walsh stated that it would end up costing the same amount because of the time consumed in getting there, even though part-time officers are paid less and they do not get benefits.

There was then discussion about what would happen if one or more part-time officers are included in the budget and a warrant article for an additional full-time officer failed to pass.

Selectman Mills suggested advertising now for summer details from other towns. Chief Walsh stated that they would get the service that the other town provides. Town Administrator Magnant stated that consistency would be lost and it would be a revolving door.

Chief Walsh reported that Rye has 9 full-time officers including him, and 4 part-

time. There are 8 full-time now as they are down a position.

(26:25 elapsed)

Selectman Musselman asked how Chief Walsh knew that they could not get any retired officers. Chief Walsh stated that the Saturday and Sunday day shift is hard to fill now. Selectman Musselman stated that there is a distinct community need. They need to pull together. Chief Walsh stated that there was a need for a specific beach shift. The dog issue has become better as tickets have been issued. They start issuing those in June. There are about 100 tickets issued per year and only 5-6 trials.

There was discussion about an individual who normally surfs in Hampton challenging a ticket, apparently for surfing. Chief Walsh stated that they are hoping for a guilty finding, not due to the money but because this would clarify the law.

On open container violations, Chief Walsh reported that 60 percent are from out of town. The other 40 percent are in town and local New Hampshire. Selectman Musselman stated that some of those cited are owners of adjacent properties. Selectman Mills stated that one of the most vocal advocates regarding beach issues cannot understand why his parents cannot go over and have a glass of wine on the sand.

It was agreed that the estimated cost of two part-time officers as well as one full-time officer would be available for the December 9 session. At that time the Selectmen could make a decision on a warrant article.

Selectman Mills stated that he would like to zero the beach patrol line item and rely on part-time officers from other towns.

There was an agreement to reduce one line item in the budget by \$412, so the new figure is \$1,298,590 according to Selectman Jenness.

With regard to beach coverage, Selectman Mills stated that Chief Walsh was providing 99 percent of the coverage. In response to a question from Selectman Musselman, Chief Walsh stated that it was more than one weekend day, and that during the week he would leave his office and go down to the beach. Selectman Musselman stated that that was not sustainable. They need to fix that issue.

The motion to table the matter until December 9 carried, with Selectman Musselman and Jenness voting in favor and Selectman Mills abstaining.

It was announced that the all day Budget Committee session would be November 14, 2013.

Animal Control, 4414-38 (41:35 elapsed)

2013 Budget: \$8,367. 2014 Proposed: \$14,188. Approved: \$14,188

Police Chief Walsh stated that he wanted to increase the hours due to the issue of dogs being under control. Someone needs to be observing the behavior to establish this. The leash law requires only that the dog be under control. *Editor's note: See section 11 of the Beach Ordinance. It requires a dog to be "under the control of its owner or other custodian" while on the beach. This permits unleashed dogs, making control a somewhat subjective issue which results in disputes.*

Chief Walsh provided statistics on the calls for Animal Control service this year:

January to May 67

June to September	97
September to October	<u>11</u>
Total	175

There was then discussion about instituting a leash law. Selectman Mills stated that this was the only answer. Selectman Jenness stated that it would cause an uproar. Selectman Mills asked about the woman that had been bitten. *Editor’s note: See the notes of the July 22, 2013 meeting. A woman was bitten by a dog at Wallis Sands the prior Saturday. This is an apparent reference to that incident. There were two dogs involved, one leashed and the other not.* Chief Walsh stated that the owner of the unleashed dog had been issued a ticket. A two week investigation was needed, he said, due to the emotions involved.

Chief Walsh stated that the 175 calls were just for the animal control officer, not officers at the beach in general. The animal control officer’s hours are up to 247 hours vs. 169 hours for the comparable period in 2012, Chief Walsh said.

Selectman Mills stated that they could discuss a warrant article regarding leashes. Selectman Musselman stated that he was surprised that there had been no citizen petitioned warrant article. Selectman Mills stated that he had expected Victor Azzi to introduce an article after his mother was knocked down. Selectmen Mills and Musselman discussed that the vote on the warrant article 4-5 years earlier had not even been close, and that it had been amended to “take the teeth out of it” at the Deliberative Session. Selectman Musselman stated that he would need to sleep at a motel if he proposed a leash law. Selectman Jenness stated that it was too bad that it could not be on the ballot for the entire town to vote up or down. Selectman Musselman stated that he would have to vote no if the others proposed. It is not necessary here, although it would be in Portsmouth, he said.

The motion to approve the Animal Control budget carried unanimously.

Parking enforcement, Fund 8 (56:10 elapsed)

2013 Budget: \$32,400. 2014 Proposed: \$28,755. Approved: \$28,755.

Police Chief Walsh provided the statistics for parking tickets this year, through September 19:

Tickets issued	1502
Tickets paid	1103 (\$43,616)
Tickets unpaid	339
Tickets uncollectible	54

Editor’s note: The reason for the small discrepancy of six in the total is unclear.

That led into a discussion of whether multiple tickets were issued during the same day. Chief Walsh stated that they were not. Selectman Jenness asked why not. People would return to their cars, discover that they had been ticketed, return to the beach and say that it was a cheap day at the beach, she said. Chief Walsh stated that the parking

control officers check the date of issuance of tickets on the cars.

In response to questions from the Selectmen, Chief Walsh stated that it had been a number of years since any cars had been towed or booted. Chief Walsh stated that the ordinance would need rewriting to do this. Selectman Musselman asserted that the boot has a visual impact. Chief Walsh stated that they would need computerization so that the uncollectible tickets could be checked.

Chief Walsh stated that the budget was down due to the fact that a scooter would not be purchased in 2014. The budget was approved unanimously.

Outside details, Fund 7 (64:27 elapsed)

2013 Budget: \$73,900. 2014 Proposed: \$117,950. Approved: \$117,950.

Selectman Musselman noted that \$80,000 in revenues was being brought in for outside details while the overtime budget of approximately \$7000-8000 could not be spent at the beach. Chief Walsh stated that the former is year round, while the latter is summer and mostly weekends.

There was further discussion about the wage rate paid, the charges for the outside details and the administrative surcharge. Chief Walsh stated that the budget is up for 2014 as he had information that Fairpoint would be taking down poles. Previously, Fairpoint had been using flagmen, but he expects that to shift to outside details.

The proposed budget was approved unanimously.

Beaches, 4520-51 (70:10 elapsed)

2013 Budget: \$52,266. 2014 Proposed: \$54,200. Approved: \$54,200.

Mike LaBrie addressed this item. He stated that it is not his current plan to remain as Beach Commissioner. Skip Sullivan stated that Mr. LaBrie is the only one active. Town Administrator Magnant stated that the other Beach Commissioners are figureheads.

It was suggested that the issue was personnel-related and could be discussed in a non-public work session.

(72:20 elapsed)

Selectman Mills stated that, before he forgot, he wanted to correct page 6 of the minutes of the Beach Use Ordinance Committee public hearing. Mr. LaBrie stated that he “vaguely” remembered that meeting. *Editor’s note: There was a large amount of public opposition to the Committee’s work expressed during the October 9, 2013 hearing, most vocally by Frank Drake.* Selectman Mills stated that he had run into Frank Drake and that there were about 10 guys that wanted to “nail” him and that he should keep looking over his shoulder. Mr. LaBrie stated that his wife Susan had received a communication from Mr. Drake.

Selectman Mills continued, turning to Cyndi Gillespie and asked her to ask her sister Dyana to correct the minutes as Dominique Winebaum is listed as one of those who had spoken and Selectman Mills did not recall that she had been there. There was

speculation that she had been confused with a similar looking woman with an accent seated next to Katy Sherman's husband. Selectman Musselman stated that the meeting had been Katy Sherman's first experience at being "lambasted."

Mr. LaBrie stated that, beyond what had been requested, he wanted to add another lifeguard. In response to what they had been hearing, they want to add a third lifeguard at Cable Rd. Extension and double the size of the flagged swim zone. Selectman Musselman, laughing, called that a good idea. The head lifeguard, Jane Teague had requested that two lifeguards be added there, Mr. LaBrie said. A lifeguard is at most \$5000 per year, Mr. LaBrie said. Mr. LaBrie stated that he hoped to pay for the increased cost with another personnel move that would be discussed later.

There was also discussion about more visible flags. Mr. LaBrie stated that there was money in the plan to do that.

The motion to approve the budget carried unanimously.

(79:35 elapsed)

As Mr. LaBrie was getting up to leave, Selectman Mills asked Mr. LaBrie what Frank Drake had said. Mr. LaBrie responded that he had e-mailed Susan and that the e-mail stated that Mr. Drake had run into Selectman Mills who had "gone up one side and down the other" and asked whether Mr. LaBrie was upset. Mr. LaBrie indicated that he had not been in direct contact with Mr. Drake. Selectman Mills laughed. Selectman Musselman stated that he had considered calling Mr. Drake and explaining that he had taken something a year and a half earlier the wrong way and should not be upset. Mr. LaBrie stated that he had mentioned that matter. Selectman Mills stated that Mr. Drake had mentioned the e-mail to him as well. *Editor's note: At the October 9, 2013 hearing, Mr. Drake had expressed his displeasure regarding a letter from the Town insisting that he recuse himself, as a member of the Zoning Board of Adjustment, from a matter involving Mr. LaBrie. The letter asserted a conflict, inasmuch as Mr. Drake and Mr. LaBrie's wife had worked together on a flood plain ordinance. See the notes of the Beach Use Committee public hearing, October 9, 2013.* Selectman Musselman stated that they had done what they had to do, despite their respect for Mr. Drake.

Safety Building, 4194-08 (80:30 elapsed)

2013 Budget: \$68,075. 2014 Proposed: \$63,375. Approved: \$63,375.

Fire Chief Skip Sullivan stated that the budget was down due to the absence of ductwork cleaning this year.

Selectman Musselman then brought up an Energy Committee presentation to the Town Hall Committee, of which he was highly complimentary. *Editor's note: See notes of the October 22, 2013 meeting of that Town Hall Committee.* Selectman Musselman stated that the presentation shows decreases for the other Town buildings, but that the Public Safety Building is flat. They need to look at what can be done. Chief Sullivan stated that it is a 24 hour a day building. Chief Sullivan stated that they are looking at lighting changes. Police Chief Walsh added that they are talking about energy savings thermostats. The possibility of a free energy audit was discussed. Town Administrator Magnant stated that they had obtained those before, and that they are never complete.

It was agreed that the cost of an energy audit would be discussed again and the budget revisited on December 9. The motion to approve the budget carried unanimously, subject to that.

Ambulance, 4215-19 (85:30 elapsed)

2013 Budget: \$116,673. 2014 Proposed: \$135,625. Approved: \$135,625.

Fire Chief Skip Sullivan stated that the calls are up 10 percent in 2013 over the prior year. There have been 24 calls from Sanctuary Care. These have been true emergencies. He believes that these will decline as the “tenants” become accustomed to their surroundings. *Editor’s note: Sanctuary Care is a newly opened Alzheimer’s Disease care facility on Lafayette Rd. in Rye.* Selectman Jenness stated that this issue had come up before the Planning Board and there had been assurances that this would not be a problem. Chief Sullivan stated that he believes that Rye has the highest percentage of residents over 65, other than Newcastle, out of 20 nearby towns that he looked at. It will be more with the Rand property, which is planned for 20 houses, he said.

Finance Director Cyndi Gillespie reported that ambulance revenues are \$107,568 year to date.

Selectman Musselman noted that the budget is up quite a bit. Chief Sullivan stated that there is \$8000 for a third person on weekends during the summer. There were back to back calls last summer requiring the use of out of town resources. The staff could be an EMT or a paramedic, depending on who is available. There is also more money for training as there is a part time person who has paid \$8000 for paramedic training. He wants to reimburse her for half of that, provided that she makes a three year commitment to stay with the Department. Without those the budget is up 5.5 percent.

Selectman Musselman asked about retirement increases and whether there was downshifting to the towns. Ms. Gillespie stated that New Hampshire retirement is the same as last year, but it is in effect for the full year. It had been in effect during 2013 only starting in July. Also there is a 53rd week this year. Town Administrator Magnant stated that he did consider this downshifting. The state contribution had gone from 35 percent to 25 percent to 35 percent, but is now zero.

Fire Chief Sullivan stated that there was still a need for an additional paramedic, but that, unlike prior years, he would not be asking for a warrant article on this. Chief Walsh is asking for an additional officer and he did not want to “muddy the waters.” Selectman Mills asked Chief Walsh whether Chief Sullivan had asked him to stay for that speech.

Chief Sullivan stated that they had tried to be frugal this year due to the overtime issue with the Fire Department budget.

Chief Sullivan stated that they would be looking to use the cell tower fund for a second vehicle. He has put together a package for when they get to the special articles.

Chief Sullivan stated that only the overtime and call wages are in the Ambulance budget. The other wages are in the Fire Department budget.

The motion to approve the budget as presented carried unanimously.

Fire Department 4220-16 (94:25 elapsed)

2013 Budget: \$1,180,884. 2014 Proposed: \$1,253,557. Approved: \$1,253,557.

Chief Sullivan stated that the 53rd week accounts for \$11,300 of the increase. The vacation buyback is up \$7000. Overtime replacement has been increasing by \$5000 per year each year for the last few years. The overtime replacement is \$33,000 over budget this year. Sixty percent of that will be paid for by disability insurance. There are two individuals that are out, causing the problem. One will be back in November if he is declared fit for duty.

There is a capital request for new software, separate from the budget. The contract is up April 1 so wages are flat. Negotiations will start shortly.

Selectman Mills related what he had read in the paper about a new contract with State employees. They have not received a COLA increase for five years and the future increases will be 6 percent over three years. He asked how they got away with that. Town Administrator Magnant stated that he did not know. Chief Walsh and Mr. Magnant speculated that it might be related to medical.

(98:10 elapsed)

Selectman Musselman suggested that the paramedic issue be addressed by abolishing one or two firefighter/EMT positions and adding them back as firefighter/paramedic positions rather than adding an additional employee. He asked whether they could get firefighter/paramedics. Chief Sullivan stated absolutely, the last hire had been in this category. However, he stated that the best course of action would be to wait for a retirement as Selectman Musselman had suggested last year.

Selectman Musselman asked why. Chief Sullivan stated that, first of all, they are under union contract. Selectman Musselman responded that the contract is ending. Chief Sullivan agreed but said that there was a very slim chance of getting that through. Selectman Musselman stated that what was needed for positions was a Town decision. Selectman Musselman stated that a firefighter/paramedic was needed on each shift. Chief Sullivan asked whether he wanted to lay off the last person in as that person is the brightest and youngest. Town Administrator Magnant stated that it was last in first out, but that there might be ways to accomplish what they wanted during collective bargaining. Mr. Magnant referred to teachers in Portsmouth having been given a certain amount of time to obtain masters degrees.

Chief Sullivan stated that it should be by attrition. The two most senior employees are firefighter/EMTs. When they retire you will have firefighter/paramedics. He said that there are now 3 paramedics, plus 3 call paramedics.

When they are available, off duty or call paramedics are being paid a few dollars to be on standby for a shift. They must be within 10 minutes of the station, have a radio and be available to respond. They respond off duty to the scene. That has worked well.

Chief Sullivan, in response to questions from Selectman Mills, stated that there are nine full-time firefighters, of which three are also paramedics. Chief Sullivan stated that he is in addition to the nine, and is part time. In addition, there are three part-time paramedics. There are six other firefighters with varying degrees of EMT training. He stated that three are eligible to retire now, with 33, 22 and 20 years on the job.

Selectman Mills stated that an incentive to retire would solve the problem. Chief

Sullivan stated that there are very good people in Derry and Portsmouth who are firefighter/paramedics who would step over in a heartbeat, transferring laterally.

The motion to approve the budget as presented carried unanimously.

Town Custodian, 4194-02 (105:25 elapsed)

2013 Budget: \$18,259. 2014 Proposed: \$20,404. Approved: \$20,404.

Chief Sullivan and Chief Walsh remained in the room and Public Works Director Dennis McCarthy came to the table. Selectman Mills asked Chief Sullivan whether he didn't have a fire to go fight. Selectman Musselman quipped, "another one?" Chief Sullivan stated that people in Town are extremely safety conscious. Selectmen Musselman and Jenness stated that buildings were safer too.

Mr. McCarthy stated that this was a part-time job, 20 hours with no benefits.

The motion to approve the proposed budget as presented carried unanimously.

Public Works Buildings, 4194-06 (107:35 elapsed)

2013 Budget: \$12,315. 2014 Proposed: \$12,500. Approved: \$12,500.

Mr. McCarthy explained that there was a slight increase this year. The motion to approve the budget as requested carried unanimously.

Public Works Personnel, 4312-23 (108:38 elapsed)

2013 Budget: \$639,488. 2014 Proposed: \$671,234. Approved: \$671,234.

Mr. McCarthy stated that the majority of the increase is due to the extra week and the increase in temporary help. A summer pay scale of \$15/hour has been established. This covers for vacations.

Selectman Musselman noted the absence of personnel issues involving Public Works. Mr. McCarthy quipped that the "blood never reaches the river."

Selectman Mills asked what would happen if there was a busy winter and snowplow duty was refused. Mr. McCarthy stated that that would be grounds for termination. That is their job, he said.

Editor's note: Snow flurries could be observed out the window at that moment.
Mr. McCarthy stated that "you jinxed us," it's snowing now.

Selectman Mills asked what would happen if someone had had a few drinks and could not come. Mr. McCarthy stated that, if the storm had been announced, they would be reprimanded. Other guys would object as they would be having to pick up the load. They try to get part-time drivers but people don't want to plow snow. The guys like 8-10 hours per week of overtime, but 20 wears them down. They go anyway, there are few problems.

Selectman Musselman stated that that was a different culture than the beach duty for the Police Department. Mr. McCarthy stated that his guys would go to the beach all of the time during the summer. Selectman Musselman looked at Chief Walsh and

quipped jokingly, there you go Kevin.

The motion to approve the proposed budget carried unanimously.

Public Works Operations, 4312-24 (115:20 elapsed)

2013 Budget: \$473,560. 2014 Proposed: \$475,690. Approved: \$475,690.

There was discussion about the salting. In February more expensive treated salt is used, which works at a lower temperature. There are also tanks that spray the salt to reduce the bounce.

Selectman Jenness asked about salt by the wells. Mr. McCarthy stated that the signs, requested by the Water Department, had been changed. The Town never applied no salt as there would be a sheet of ice. They hit the area only once rather than going back and forth. The Planning Board had said Marjorie Way should be no salt. They may give that no salt and see what it looks like. Selectman Mills stated that Marjorie Way was on a hill. People would “gun it,” would not be able to stop, and would collide with crossing traffic.

Selectman Musselman stated that there was a pencil plan for paving done several years earlier. There is a new piece of equipment (a van mounted rig with six cameras and sensing equipment) that, for a cost of \$20,000 to \$25,000 could characterize all of the roads in Town. As some point it might make sense to do that, he said.

The motion to approve the budget as requested was approved unanimously.

Street lighting, 4316-27 (125:43 elapsed)

2013 Budget: \$5,500. 2014 Proposed: \$5,000. Approved: \$5,000.

Mr. McCarthy stated that the budget was down slightly. They are getting a good handle on which of the lighting is in their budget now. The motion to approve the budget as requested carried unanimously.

Solid Waste Collection, 4323-33 (126:35 elapsed)

2013 Budget: \$183,074. 2014 Proposed: \$195,939. Approved: \$195,939.

Mr. McCarthy explained that the budget was up in part due to the 2 percent wage increase from 53 weeks. An employee is also receiving a step increase.

There was discussion about side dressing of the roads and a suit from a woman who had fallen. All of the shoulders had gravel on them now, with no drop offs, Mr. McCarthy said.

The motion to approve the budget as requested carried unanimously. Selectman Musselman was out of the room at the time.

Selectman Mills made a comment to Fire Chief Sullivan regarding a note that he had given to Cyndi Gillespie. He said that they had already noticed that the snow was falling, but that Chief Sullivan had been out of the room whispering to Chief Walsh. Skip Sullivan walked up to Selectman Mills and said “you’re going to be missed. I don’t

know by who, but you're going to be missed."

Solid Waste Disposal, 4324-34 (129:55 elapsed)

2013 Budget: \$197,080. 2014 Proposed: \$205,905. Approved: \$205,905.

Mr. McCarthy stated that tipping fees are up as they are at the end of the contract. In 2015 they expect a reduction.

The compactor lease is ending.

Tonnage has gone from 1215 to 1230 to 1200 this year. Electrical is up as they are seeing a lot of electronics.

Selectman Mills asked about interactions with the Recycling Committee. Mr. McCarthy stated that they are still getting a handle on things.

Mr. McCarthy stated that the rates should be looked at and adjusted. Solid waste is about number crunching and logistics and making the numbers work. The recycling rate is 30-40 percent. It's a question of focusing on where they can get money.

Selectman Jenness asked about the cost for TV disposal. Mr. McCarthy responded that it is on the website and new people receive a schedule. The Department does a lot of \$1 and \$2 stuff which is not cost effective. Most facilities have minimums of \$5 to \$15.

Town Administrator Magnant stated that Ms. Gillespie had done a comprehensive review of all Town fees. It is not a popular subject. Selectman Jenness stated that it was a good idea. Town Administrator Magnant stated that, under New Hampshire law, fees are technically only to recover costs.

The motion to approve the proposed budget carried unanimously.

Land Management, 4520-55 (139:37 elapsed)

2013 Budget: \$19,360. 2014 Proposed: \$19,260. Approved: \$19,260.

Selectman Musselman stated that the landfill monitoring should be kept where it is. If he is hit by a bus the Town would have to pay for it. *Editor's note: Selectman Musselman's firm, CMA Engineers has been doing this for the Town at no charge.*

There was discussion about the tree cutting budget. Mr. McCarthy stated that Urban Tree Service would start high cutting at 16 feet above the road surface during December. Also, the Precinct is working on their tree program. *Editor's note: This is an apparent reference to the Rye Beach Village District.*

The motion to approve the proposed budget carried unanimously.

Beaches, Fund 12 (145:03 elapsed)

2013 Budget: \$15,685. 2014 Proposed: \$15,785. Approved: \$16,785.

Mr. McCarthy stated that this budget had been leveled, but after a meeting it was determined that the ramps and gangplanks had deteriorated. He requested an additional \$1000. Ms. Gillespie stated that this was funded by 25 percent of the beach permit

revenue. There is no effect on tax rates, she stated.

The motion to approve the proposed budget with the \$1000 increase carried unanimously.

Selectman Mills asked about the trash barrels. Mr. McCarthy stated that they were picked up after Columbus Day. It's now carry in carry out. It's mostly dog walkers now, he said.

(151:20 elapsed)

As Chiefs Walsh and Sullivan, and Public Works Director McCarthy got up to leave, Selectmen Musselman and Mills noted jokingly that the "three stooges" were leaving. Then Selectman Mills and Chief Walsh tried calling each other on their "two ways," apparently some sort of cell phone instant connection function. Chief Walsh was able to call Selectman Mills, but not vice versa.

Building Inspector, 4240-18 (153:20 elapsed)

2013 Budget: \$141,528. 2014 Proposed: \$150,608. Approved: \$150,608.

Building Inspector Peter Rowell stated that the budget was up "a little bit" due to wages and health insurance. The remainder is due to software maintenance at an annual cost of \$2000. Professional training charges includes attendance at a floodplain conference in Seattle. There is money for an additional lateral file and shirts saying "Building Inspector, Rye, NH"

There was then discussion about hiring an additional part-time employee at 20 hours per week, with the flexibility to adjust hours. This is beyond the proposed budget. Mr. Rowell stated that he, Mr. Magnant and Ms. Gillespie had been looking for more help. Selectman Musselman asked whether the part-time employee could inspect construction. Mr. Rowell affirmed that, stating that he wanted to train someone to be able to step into his shoes. Town Administrator Magnant stated that position might be hard to fill. He suggested that someone with Excel skills who could be trained in construction inspection might be all that was needed.

There was a question about building permit revenue. Ms. Gillespie stated that it was \$163,270 year to date versus \$180,503 last year at this time. Selectman Musselman stated that this was more than covering costs.

Mr. Rowell stated that the fees were basically 1 percent of the estimated cost of the project. Plumbers and electricians are getting a deal as they pay \$50 per permit for up to \$5000, and \$100 above that. There was discussion about changing the fees, perhaps going to a flat 1 percent for all, or a \$.25 per square foot charge.

The question arose as to the cost of a part-time employee. Mr. Rowell stated that it would be \$15.50 per hour. Selectman Musselman stated that someone who could inspect simple construction would be a different grade. They need to do something, this is not working, he said.

The motion to approve the proposed budget on an interim basis carried unanimously.

Planning Board, 4191-11 (164:50 elapsed)

2013 Budget: \$116,586. 2014 Proposed: \$132,861. Approved: \$132,861.

Planning Administrator Kim Reed addressed this budget. Contracted services are up due to the transcriptionist and the increased number of meetings, including the Rules and Regs and Master Plan. Also, the rate is increasing. The recording cost at the Rockingham County Registry of Deeds is up. She has provided a price sheet from the Rockingham Planning Commission on their charges as well. Postage is up because they have started getting return receipts on notices sent by certified mail to abutters.

Ms. Reed explained the Planning Board escrow accounts. The budget does not include those. She used the example of Mike LaBrie and his proposed restaurant. A \$5000 escrow is being established to pay the costs of Attorney Donovan and AMEC, the engineering firm.

The motion to approve the proposed budget carried unanimously.

Zoning Board of Adjustment, 4191-10 (171:23 elapsed)

2013 Budget: \$11,520. 2014 Proposed: \$12,270. Approved: \$12,270.

Ms. Reed addressed this budget. She cited the same reason as above for the postage increase.

Selectman Mills referred to a \$50 fine that once existed for failing to return an inventory form. Years ago, he undressed a woman right in the audience who had claimed not to have ever seen the form, but her signature demonstrated that she had. The woman is still holding a grudge and wants to get rid of him, he said.

The motion to approve the proposed budget carried unanimously.

Sewer, Fund 2 (173:17 elapsed)

2013 Budget: \$239,193. 2014 Proposed: \$256,348. Approved: \$256,348.

Lee Arthur explained that wages are up \$1000 due to the 53rd week. The budget is based on two employees. Compensation had been frozen this year due to the unexpected need for a generator at the Jenness Beach Pumping Station.

The Lafayette Portsmouth billing is up, however that is all recovered from the Adams Mobile Home Park.

Hampton treatment has increased 20 to 25 percent.

In response to a question from Selectman Musselman, Ms. Arthur confirmed that the Adams Mobile Home Park is paying \$40,000 annually for 30-40 mobile homes.

The motion to approve the proposed budget carried unanimously.

Recreation, 4520-50 (178:35 elapsed)

2013 Budget: \$222,832. 2014 Proposed: \$240,326. Approved: \$240,326.

In response to a question from Selectman Musselman, Ms. Arthur confirmed that

3 of the 5 Recreation Commissioners had committed to attend the November 5, 2013 Town Hall Committee meeting.

Recreation Commission Chairman Janet Stevens arrived late, after some preliminary discussion. She expressed concern for elderly persons not being able to afford some of the senior programs. She also referred to the implosion of the program in Portsmouth.

The motion to approve the proposed budget carried unanimously.

Patriotic Purposes, 4583-52 (186:25 elapsed)

2013 Budget: \$7,600. 2014 Proposed: \$7,600. Approved: \$7,600.

The motion to approve the proposed budget carried unanimously without any discussion.

Recreation Revolving, Fund 9 (187:12 elapsed)

2013 Budget: \$272,908. 2014 Proposed: \$253,197. Approved: \$253,197.

Ms. Arthur stated that there was a \$20,000 capital outlay budget that would come from the reserve. *Editor's note: The Capital Improvement Program ("CIP") draft plan dated October 18, 2013 includes \$20,000 in 2014 for this study, \$50,000 in 2015 for planning and engineering, and \$2,475,000 in 2016 for construction and equipment.*

Ms. Arthur stated that the study might determine that a separate Community Center was needed, or it might determine that an extension to the Town Hall would accommodate this. It would not necessarily focus on a separate facility.

Selectman Musselman stated that a decision would need to be made soon on use of the Great Hall for Recreation purposes. Ms. Arthur stated that the study would take into account all existing space. Selectman Musselman reiterated that a decision needed to be made now with regard to investing in the Great Hall to provide some of the space for Recreation. That would be talked about November 5, he said.

Recreation Commission Chairman Stevens stated that while they were grateful to have access to the Congregational Church, they are concerned that they are being restricted as to who may speak, what activities may be conducted, and what music may be played. The Town should be inclusive. There is a separation of church and state issue. A municipal Community Center should be for all. There is a huge demand for this. They are also tenants at will with respect to the after school programs.

Ms. Arthur stated that there are 177 members in the over 55 program, of which 65 percent are Rye residents. Those from out of town are not charged more. She asserted that these help subsidize the program. Ms. Arthur stated that she had attended a discussion relating to a senior facility in Portsmouth.

(196:25 elapsed)

Selectman Mills asked Ms. Arthur whether she personally conducted the exercise program. Ms. Arthur asked whether it looked like it.

Ms. Stevens reiterated her concerns regarding scholarships for elderly who would

otherwise be unable to attend the programs. Ms. Arthur stated that Rye is not wealthy, contrary to some views. There are seniors on fixed incomes that are stuck with other costs of living in Town.

Selectman Musselman asked about adjustments to rates. Ms. Arthur responded that they had to, and had been doing so since day one. The after school program rates have not been adjusted in a while, but the revenues are sufficient for that program.

The motion to approve the proposed budget carried unanimously.

(200:12 elapsed)

Selectman Mills asked Ms. Arthur whether she had obtained citizenship yet. Ms. Arthur responded that she had not, but hopefully would soon. Selectman Mills stated that she was taking citizens' money for her salary. Selectman Jenness stated that she was putting it back into the economy.

Lunch break

(202:42 elapsed: The audio was turned off but the video remained running during the lunch hour)

(276:21 elapsed: The audio was turned back on)

Cemetery, 4195-25 (276:21 elapsed)

2013 Budget: \$93,493. 2014 Proposed: \$100,495. Approved: \$100,495.

Frank Drake addressed this budget. He stated that the Cemetery was generating a little cash.

The motion to approve the proposed budget as presented carried unanimously.

Mr. Drake then expressed concern about the 17 percent increase in medical insurance. Ms. Gillispie stated that it was due to Obamacare. Selectman Musselman noted that increases had been high for 8-9 years. Benefits are now over half of salaries, he said.

Mr. Drake stated that he had an unsolicited comment regarding the cost of living adjustment ("COLA"). Selectman Mills asked him how the Cemetery salaries were up \$2000. This was attributed to the 53rd week and changes for certain employees. Ms. Gillespie stated that there was no COLA in that figure.

Mr. Drake then stated that the benefits they have no control over, but raises should be limited to the consumer price index ("CPI") increase rate.

Selectman Mills commented that Mr. Drake was good at throwing his thoughts around. He cited a month ago as an example. He said that there was an individual there that morning who was seen "sharpening his knife." Mr. Drake stated that he would wear a t-shirt with a target on it. *Editor's note: See the notes of the October 9, 2013 public hearing of the Beach Use Ordinance Committee during which Mr. Drake was quite vocal and critical about the work done by the Committee. Mike LaBrie, Chairman of that Committee had been before the Board of Selectmen earlier that day. See the sections of these notes relating to the beach for Mr. LaBrie's comments.*

Selectman Mills then asked how the sidewalks were coming. *Editor's note: See the notes of the October 28, 2013 Board of Selectmen meeting. The Public Works Department is doing sidewalk work for the Rye Beach Village District, of which Mr. Drake is Chairman of the Commissioners. Apparently the 2012 bill has not yet been paid and Ms. Gillespie had recently billed it.* Selectman Mills referred to a discounted labor rate and asked Mr. Drake whether he had checked his mailbox. Selectman Musselman referred to a bill still due from last year. Mr. Drake emphasized the advantage to the Town of the work for the Village District. The Town gets the taxes and then the revenues go into the general fund. Mr. Drake then left, saying that he had "enjoyed the chat."

Selectman Mills challenged Mr. Drake's statement, calling it an "in and out." There was then discussion about how the sidewalk revenue from the Village District was accounted for.

Conservation, 4611-53 (285:20 elapsed)

2013 Budget: \$90,700. 2014 Proposed: \$90,000. Approved: Tabled to Dec. 9.

Selectman Mills referred to Jim Raynes, Chairman of the Conservation Commission as "Hollywood Raynes." *Editor's note: Mr. Raynes was wearing sunglasses.* Mr. Raynes asked to adjust a few minor items between subaccounts of the total budget. The total remained the same. Contracted services needed adjusting as outside services that monitor the agreements can do flyovers three years in a row, but then they need to review the properties on the ground.

Selectman Musselman asked what the Conservation Commission was doing to establish and encourage public access to areas that are not accessible to, or known to, the residents. He asked whether the budget should be increased to accomplish that.

Mr. Raynes responded that he would like to open up Marden Woods. The path into the trail needs widening, as does the back way into the Town Forest. Seavey Acres is already pretty much open, as is the Town Forest, Mr. Raynes said. He also spoke about the salt marsh restoration.

Selectman Musselman asked about establishing a parking area and some trails for the Berry's Brook property off of Pioneer Rd. that people generally do not know about. Mr. Raynes stated that that was Seavey Acres. Mr. Raynes stated that there used to be a parking area, but it has become overgrown. They will work on that.

Selectman Musselman asked how the old and new residents of Rye could be informed about where they could park and where they could walk. Mr. Raynes responded that the Town Forest has access. Selectman Musselman agreed that the access there was excellent. Mr. Raynes stated that there are ideas regarding swapping land with the Recreation Department there. Recreation has control of more land down there than is realized, he said.

Mr. Raynes stated that White Horse would be opened up. The trails there are kept up by a good citizen.

Selectman Musselman referred to Stratham and the marvelous job done by them on color coded maps. Most people in Rye don't know what there is, he said. Mr. Raynes referred again to the Town Forest.

The question arose about unexpended funds from the prior year. *Editor's note:*

The 2013 budget had \$50,000 for land acquisitions. In prior years the Conservation Commission had utilized \$5 million that was appropriated by voters in 2003, however this money has all been spent. Town Finance Director Gillespie stated that the proper way to do this would be a warrant article each year that would be outside of the general fund, which lapses.

Editor's note: Under New Hampshire law, appropriations made for a particular year lapse and can no longer be used after the end of the year unless they are "encumbered," meaning that there is a signed contract requiring expenditure of the funds in a future year. There are some exceptions, such as revolving funds and the \$5 million conservation authorization.

Mr. Rayne stated that Joan LaFrance's property and the Goss Farm had had a down payment paid prior to everything being put in place. There is a chance that that would happen this year as well.

Sally King of the Conservation Commission stated that there are several entities that they are talking to. They are obtaining an appraisal of one of the properties right now. It is due any day.

Selectman Mills stated that he had heard a rumor about a \$3 million warrant article for land acquisition this year. *Editor's note: The October 18, 2013 draft CIP plan has \$3 million proposed for 2015.* Ms. King stated that it would not be this year, but rather 2014 or 2015. Ms. Gillespie stated that it was in the CIP plan for 2014, with the first payment in 2015. Selectman Mills stated that that would mean that it would be part of the budget that they are working on now.

Selectman Musselman asked whether it would need to be a Selectmen's warrant article. He stated that he was not ready to jump to that. Selectman Mills stated that if there were requests of both \$50,000 per year and a \$3 million warrant article people would say that it should be one or the other.

The issue of a petitioned warrant article for the \$3 million came up. Ms. Gillespie stated that the Selectmen would need to vote on that as it would need to be bonded. Selectman Musselman suggested setting up the fund next year, and funding the year after that. He asked whether there were pending subdivision developments.

Mr. Raynes stated that there were four possible subdivisions in the Town right now. Ms. King stated that important pieces of land that have been talked about for years are all coming up very soon, in fact now. The Rand property is now being appraised, referring to the acreage behind. *Editor's note: The issue of the former Rand Lumber property is currently before the Planning Board. A lot line adjustment to segregate the land with a separate front parcel for a 19-20 unit Retirement Community Development ("RCD") is being discussed. The back parcel would be devoted to conservation land, however if a sale for that purpose is not possible, it would be developed into 14-16 single family lots. See the notes of the October 8, 2013 Planning Board meeting and the October 26 site walk.* Ms. King stated that she had walked it the prior day with the appraiser. The developer is looking at Southeast Land Trust to come up with the money. The developer is providing 3-5 years for people to come up with the money, Ms. King said.

Ms. Gillespie stated that warrant articles would be discussed December 9. Selectman Mills suggested that the \$50,000 for land acquisition be left in, as they would be left with nothing if the \$3 million is not approved. Ms. King stated that they wanted to

“deconflict” this from the Town Hall and things that are coming up later.

Selectman Mills stated that a similar issue had come up with regard to the Public Safety Building. The Conservation Commission got \$170,000 last year for the Goss Barn and are coming back this year for \$3 million. He does not know if “they” are going to be ready to accept that.

Selectman Musselman asked whether there was a known need for the \$50,000. Ms. King responded that it is a place saver in case the other does not happen. Selectman Musselman suggested that a warrant article be done for either the \$50,000 or the \$3,000,000 and that the \$50,000 be removed from the 2014 budget. Selectman Mills stated that, if it gets voted down, they would receive nothing.

Selectman Musselman stated that it would have to be included in the tax rate if they put it in.

Mr. Raynes cautioned that money is drying up. They have two or three prime properties that are possibilities that they have not come to the Selectmen to talk about. One way or the other they want to go for the \$3 million, or hope the \$50,000 remains in the budget.

Selectman Jenness asked whether the issue could be addressed on December 9. Perhaps the need for the \$50,000 would be more clear then. Selectman Musselman moved to table the matter to December 9, which motion carried unanimously.

Selectman Mills stated that Mr. Raynes would have to wear sunglasses. Mr. Raynes told Selectman Mills to get off of it.

Library, 4550-58 (307:15 elapsed)

2013 Budget: \$606,883. 2014 Proposed: \$621,462. Approved: \$621,462.

Andy Richmond, Director of the Library, addressed this issue. He was accompanied by Brian Klinger, Treasurer and member of the Public Library Board of Trustees. Victor Azzi, Ann Malpass, Phil Boynton and Karen Oliver, also of the Board of Trustees, were in the audience.

Mr. Mills welcomed Mr. Klinger, stating that he had finally been appointed after the Chairman had produced a resignation letter. *Editor’s note: See the notes of the May 28, 2013 Board of Selectman meeting. The Board of Selectmen had not been willing to accept an oral representation that Mr. Klinger’s predecessor had resigned. They required that a resignation letter be produced before a replacement was appointed.* Selectman Mills stated that there had never been any question of the appointment.

Mr. Klinger stated that he had divided the budget into two parts: operating and wages. The operating portion is down \$4800. The increase is all in the top 6 lines and is wage-related, including health insurance. Selectman Jenness asked whether part of the increase was due to there being 53 weeks. Mr. Klinger confirmed. He stated that the budget would increase further once the COLA information is available, as there are no increases in the budget at the current time.

Selectman Musselman stated that three years earlier they had looked at financial metrics which showed that the Library was “out of sight” relative to the rest of the state. They committed to freezing the budget for three years. Last year, they claimed that the period was up, even though only two years had elapsed. He understands that there has

been no attrition, even though they had agreed that costs would be reduced by attrition. Nevertheless, there is an increase again this year. He asked whether there was a plan to reduce the operating costs.

Mr. Klinger responded that there was. The operating costs are \$4800 less. Programs, circulation and visits are all up. The Library is among the most successful in the State, he said.

Selectman Musselman stated that he would put together metrics for the Budget Committee session. *Editor's note: Selectman Musselman is the Selectmen's representative on the Budget Committee.* He would be voting "no" today, he said.

Mr. Richmond stated that there were three years in a row with the same budget. Selectman Musselman countered that it had only been held constant for two. Mr. Klinger stated that they were getting into semantics. Selectman Mills pointed out the uncontrollable elements, including medical.

Selectman Jenness stated that that the prior time they agreed that the only way to cut substantially was to reduce staff. She asked whether the matter should be tabled pending the provision of statistics.

Selectman Mills moved to approve the budget. Selectman Jenness then seconded the motion, which carried, Selectmen Mills and Jenness voting in favor, Selectman Musselman abstaining.

Mosquito Control, 4414-39 (320:25 elapsed)

2013 Budget: \$96,500. 2014 Proposed: \$98,800. Approved: \$96,500.

Ted Merritt of the Mosquito Commission addressed this budget. It was a good year. There was no EEE or West Nile in Rye. They are well under budget. He would like to increase the budget, which has been steady at \$96,500 for three years.

There was discussion about the spraying. Mr. Merritt stated that there had not been any emergency spraying for 3 years. Selectman Musselman stated that, when he was on the Commission, there was a lot of discussion about the ineffectiveness of street spraying. It does not get the back yards. He asked why the \$2300 for street spraying could not be reduced. Street spraying is done almost for political reasons, both agreed. Mr. Merritt stated that, if there is an emergency people will be screaming for street spraying. There was a scare in North Hampton this year. Mr. Merritt agreed to the reduction resulting from the elimination of street spraying.

The motion to approved the proposed budget, as reduced, carried unanimously.

The question of the vacancy on the Mosquito Commission came up. Mr. Merritt stated that he has spoken to people, with no success. Another member has gotten a job and may leave. They will be dead in the water if they don't have a replacement. *Editor's note: There are only two persons on the Commission at the current time according to the Town website.* Town Administrator Magnant suggested listing Town vacancies in the next newsletter.

Heritage Commission, 4590-57 (335:18 elapsed)

2013 Budget: \$1,715. 2014 Proposed: \$4,353. Approved: \$4,350.

Peter White and Mae Bradshaw of the Heritage Commission addressed the budget. They explained that the Commission would need money for the advertising of graveyards, which was a new issue being taken on this year in conjunction with Public Works.

Selectman Musselman noted that the budget was to the exact dollar, unlike the others. He requested that it be rounded down. Mr. White and Ms. Bradshaw agreed. *Editor's note: Many of the other budgets approved earlier that day were not rounded to the nearest \$10 or even \$5.*

Selectman Musselman moved to approve the budget, reduced by \$3. Selectman Jenness seconded the motion.

Selectman Mills asked whether the advertising would go away next year.

Mr. White stated that this would occur once the compilation of graveyards has been completed. Ms. Bradshaw explained that there are 60 graveyards. If they cannot locate the owner they would need to advertise in the paper for three weeks

Selectman Mills stated that the original plan was that the Heritage Commission would be at no cost to the Town. Mr. White responded that \$5000 had been put into the coffers so far. There has not been a cost to the Town yet.

The motion to approve the proposed budget, reduced by \$3, carried unanimously.

There was then discussion about a sculpture at Foyes Corner and whether the Heritage Commission could become involved with that. Ms. Bradshaw responded that they could, but the focus right now was on the Town Hall and the Goss Farm.

Town Clerk/Registrations, 4140-13 (346:10 elapsed)

2013 Budget: \$16,700. 2014 Proposed: \$17,900. Approved: \$17,900.

While Ms. Yeaton was out of the room, Selectman Jenness commented about the large crowd at the site walk at the former Rand Lumber property. Selectman Musselman asked whether people were still interested. Selectman Jenness stated that the Patriots Way people are understandably concerned about a crash gate or through road. She stated that the developer seemed to be well prepared.

Beth Yeaton, Town Clerk/Tax Collector addressed this budget. She stated that there will be three elections in Town next year, the Town election, the State primary and the National election. She stated that there is a 1-3-1-4 cycle. *Editor's note: In Presidential election years there is a separate, early Presidential primary. There is a Town election every year, but additional elections only in even years (a primary and a general election).*

The motion to approve the budget as presented carried unanimously.

Tax Collector, 4150-14 (349:15 elapsed)

2013 Budget: \$209,584. 2014 Proposed: \$224,435. Approved: \$224,435.

Ms. Yeaton stated that she had a new assistant that needed training. There would

be multiple trips to Concord for motor vehicle, boat and election training. There are also 53 pay weeks. There is a software increase for boat licensing. In the office, they are trying to make more space out of none. There are wage, health and other insurance increases.

The motion to approve the budget as presented carried unanimously.

Elections, 4140-03 (351:30 elapsed)

2013 Budget: \$6,595. 2014 Proposed: \$8,275. Approved: \$8,275.

Ms. Yeaton stated that this provides the wages for the election workers. Bob Eaton rarely takes his \$100 stipend for each Deliberative Session but this must be budgeted. *Editor's note: Mr. Eaton is Moderator for the both the Town and the School District.*

The motion to approve the budget as presented carried unanimously.

Discussion of making third position in Town Clerk's office full time (353:53 elapsed)

Ms. Yeaton then stated that she would like to make the third position in the Town Clerk's office full-time. They have added boat registrations, which will make the office even busier. Selectman Mills asked whether there should be a warrant article on that. Ms. Gillespie stated that she had been wondering the same thing which is why it is not in the budget.

Ms. Yeaton stated that the biggest expense associated with this would be the medical and insurance costs. Selectman Musselman stated that the cost could be \$40,000 in benefits. However, it is a different issue than the police one, which is a community decision regarding more coverage. This one is a question of whether they can get by. If they cannot get by then this should be a budgeted item.

There was then a discussion about lines at the window. Ms. Yeaton stated that there could be 2-3 persons waiting at each station. There could be a 10-15 minute wait.

Ms. Yeaton stated that they are pushed, as evidenced by the time that she leaves each day.

Selectman Musselman indicated that a second part-time employee might be 1/3 of the cost. Ms. Yeaton stated that that would require a lot of extra training.

There was discussion about employees being trained and then leaving. Ms. Yeaton stated that the tax collector and the deputy must be residents. The others can move elsewhere if there is a full-time position available.

Ms. Gillespie stated that the Town pays benefits starting at 35 hours per week, but with Obamacare it will be changed to 30 hours. Selectman Musselman suggested increasing the assistant's hours to 30. Ms. Yeaton stated that the employee is now scheduled for 25 hours, however she is working one day a week at the Recycling Center. Ms. Gillespie stated that they are coordinating with Public Works Director McCarthy to keep the hours under the limit.

Selectman Musselman suggested that the time be spent in the Town Clerk's office. There was then a discussion about the time frame for implementation of the Obamacare requirement.

It was agreed that this would be discussed again on December 9, with part-time options and full-time costs presented.

Town Administrator Magnant stated that the cost of health care was causing them to take a long, hard look at whether it makes sense to hire full-time employees.

Selectman Musselman stated that that was happening across the country.

Selectman Mills then placed a piece of paper in front of his face and whispered something to the other Selectmen. Town Administrator Magnant suggested that the window shade could be pulled down if the sun was bothering him. Selectman Mills stated that it was because of the “yahoo” in the audience.

Executive Office, 4130-01 (367:28 elapsed)

2013 Budget: \$192,999. 2014 Proposed: \$205,124. Approved: \$205,124.

Town Finance Director Cyndi Gillespie stated that salaries and contracted services are up. The stenographer has been doing minutes for the Town Hall Committee and she has heard that her rates are going up. There has been no increase in four years.

The motion to approve the budget as presented carried unanimously.

There was then discussion about a portion of the insurance that could be controlled.

Selectman Musselman asked whether the telephone service had been shopped. Town Administrator responded that they had looked at Bay Ring.

Assessing, 4150-20 (371:31 elapsed)

2013 Budget: \$161,012. 2014 Proposed: \$156,063. Approved: \$156,063.

There was discussion about the tax cases before the Board of Tax and Land Appeals (“BTLA”) being down to two: a utility and Lunging Island. The rest have been settled or adjudicated after the hue and cry. *Editor’s note: Many residents, particularly those owning properties near Jenness Beach, were upset that their assessments had gone way up. They disagreed with the methodology, which, they said, lumped properties that were not in similar neighborhoods together.* The Lunging Island case may be resolved, Mr. Magnant said.

Selectman Musselman stated that Fairpoint had sued everyone, so that would not be resolved anytime soon. Town Administrator Magnant stated that Town Attorney Donovan wants to put the Fairpoint case on the back burner. There are other suits from 2010. It makes no sense to address this until those have been resolved.

Apparently looking at the health insurance cost related to the Assessing Assistant, Selectman Musselman commented that his comment regarding the cost of having the Assistant Town Clerk go full time was way high. Ms. Gillespie noted that employees chip in 20 percent of the insurance cost.

There was then a discussion about a contract relating to utility assessing and whether the cost would be \$10,000 or \$60,000. Selectman Musselman stated that Sans Souci had bid \$60,000. Selectman Mills stated that he does a good job. Selectman Musselman stated that he goes way high and then defends it.

The motion to approve the budget as presented carried unanimously.

Finance, 4150-21 (377:46 elapsed)

2013 Budget: \$172,283. 2014 Proposed: \$178,609. Approved: \$178,609.

Town Administrator Magnant commented that the Town has the best Finance Director in New Hampshire. When the DRA received questions about gray areas, they refer them to Cyndi, he said.

Ms. Gillespie stated that Jane Ireland works as both the Deputy Treasurer and the Trust Fund Bookkeeper.

Ms. Gillespie cautioned that she may be out for twelve weeks next year for double knee replacement.

The motion to approve the budget as presented carried unanimously.

Legal, 4153-04 (380:30 elapsed)

2013 Budget: \$100,000. 2014 Proposed: \$100,000. Approved: \$100,000.

Ms. Gillespie stated that the budget had been revised after review by Attorney Donovan. There was a brief discussion, including about the BTLA cases and the Building Inspector. Mr. Magnant stated that Attorney Donovan represents the Town before the BTLA.

There was discussion about the education tax. Selectman Jenness stated that she did not think that they would ever be done with that threat. *Editor's note: This is an apparent reference to the "donor towns." In past years, property rich towns had been forced to send a portion of their property tax revenues to the State to fund education in property poor towns. That has since ceased. There is still officially a state education portion of the property tax, but Rye keeps all of that money.*

The motion to approve the budget as presented carried unanimously.

Town Hall, 4194-07 (383:27 elapsed)

2013 Budget: \$17,670. 2014 Proposed: \$16,670. Approved: \$16,670.

Selectman Musselman stated that there had been a presentation by Michele Sopher and the Energy Committee regarding the Town Hall and the new geothermal system. The electricity use at Town Hall was only up slightly and the heating oil use is way down. It shows tremendous success, he said.

Selectman Mills noted that he had voted against the geothermal system. Selectman Musselman stated that some thought it was too early and that the building should have been insulated first. Now they need to look at moving the system to a new building. The discussion is that the existing wells may be sufficient, although it is too early to tell. The consensus was that people were generally comfortable in the building.

Mr. Magnant commented that the furnace comes on as duct work limitations prevented Kim Reed's office from being put on the system. The baseboard heat in the

rest of the building comes on at times, but only three or four times a year.

Mr. Magnant was complimented on the work that he had put in on getting the system installed.

The motion to approve the budget as presented carried unanimously. Selectman Mills was out of the room at the time.

Insurance, 4196-12 (388:55 elapsed)

2013 Budget: \$202,216. 2014 Proposed: \$268,411. Approved: \$268,411.

Selectman Musselman asked about the Workers Compensation. It went down, and now its back up, he said. Ms. Gillespie stated that they had a premium holiday last year. The loss ratio is down 9.4 percent and the contributions are down 7.8 percent because they have a very active safety committee.

The motion to approve the budget as presented carried unanimously.

Regional Agencies, 4197-22 (391:00 elapsed)

2013 Budget: \$49,194. 2014 Proposed: \$50,701. Approved: \$50,701.

There was a substantial amount of discussion about the various agencies that the Town contributes to and the changes. Seacare Health has closed but other increases made up the difference

The motion to approve the budget as presented carried unanimously.

General Government, 4199-26 (396:33 elapsed)

2013 Budget: \$64,000. 2014 Proposed: \$93,000. Approved: \$93,000.

Ms. Gillespie stated that the budget includes \$30,000 for continuation of the records management service work. This year a lot of research has been done regarding the archiving of records, including looking at the possibilities of scanning and putting documents in the "cloud." They plan on reconfiguring the Public Safety Building archive room and establishing an index. They do not want to spend a lot of money on the Town Hall building given the pending addition. The Town Hall has a lot of wasted space with the high ceilings. The shelves are not as high as the ceilings.

They received one quote for over \$100,000. The plan is to do this over four years. They are looking at what can be scanned and what can be put on fiche.

Last year there was a warrant article. The RFP was sent out. Responses were received and the Committee met. They will be coming back to the Selectmen with a recommendation as to who to hire.

Selectman Musselman asked whether they would have something before the Deliberative Session. Ms. Gillespie responded that they hope to have the first phase done before year end.

The motion to approve the budget as presented carried unanimously.

Health Officer, 4411-37 (400:48 elapsed)

2013 Budget: \$5,220. 2014 Proposed: \$5,195. Approved: \$5,195.

The discussion revealed that this constitutes the stipend for the health officer.
The motion to approve the budget as presented carried unanimously.

Direct Assistance, 4442-44 (402:52 elapsed)

2013 Budget: \$35,000. 2014 Proposed: \$50,000. Approved: \$50,000.

Selectman Musselman asked how many families this was covering rent and mortgage payments for. Ms. Gillespie stated that there was one at a mortgage of \$1163 per month. The family has received help off and on for 15 years and are very deserving. The Town has filed an assistance lien. In fact, the Town has several such liens, she said.

Ms. Gillespie stated that less had been spent two years ago. They thought that this level would continue, but it has not.

There was discussion about the homeless. Town Administrator Magnant stated that he had not heard Chief Walsh mention any such persons in Town.

The motion to approve the budget as presented carried unanimously.

Historic District Commission, 4589-54 (406:05 elapsed)

2013 Budget: \$650. 2014 Proposed: \$700. Approved: \$700.

The motion to approve the budget as presented carried unanimously.

Debt Service, (407:27 elapsed)

		<u>2013 Budget</u>	<u>2014 Proposed</u>	<u>Approved</u>
Principal	4711-67	\$901,293	\$896,062	
Interest	4721-67	\$133,399	\$92,463	
TANS	4723-67	<u>\$5,000</u>	<u>\$5,000</u>	
Total		\$1,039,692	\$993,525	\$993,525

Selectman Musselman asked whether a \$38,000 figure was the compactor lease. The response was that it was. Ms. Gillespie stated that there are a lot of items that are going away in 2014, including the backhoe lease. For a \$2 million tranche of the conservation land debt, 2014 will be the last year, so \$185,000 will go away. The last year for the Public Safety Building will be 2014, eliminating \$330,000. The Library will be paid off in 2014, eliminating \$55,000.

Selectman Musselman noted that \$605,000 in principal repayments is going away, plus the interest. That's a total of \$650,000 of principal and interest payments.

Ms. Gillespie stated that the Public Safety Building had repayments in 2005-2014, a total of ten years. There appeared to be consensus that the Town Hall would also be ten years as that has been the tradition.

(410:30 elapsed)

Selectman Musselman stated that debt service would be going down, even with the Town Hall construction. Selectman Mills stated that it depended on the number of square feet for the addition. Selectman Musselman stated that they would be reducing that.

Ms. Gillespie stated that the interest rate would be lower if the bond was for ten years.

Selectman Musselman asked when the sewer bond would be paid off. Ms. Gillespie stated that it was paid of in 2012. Ms. Gillespie stated that 2014 is a real year of transition. Selectman Musselman stated that the principal and interest on the sewer bond was another \$91,000, for a total of \$740,000. That is what is going away between 2012 and 2014, he said. Ms. Gillespie agreed that he was referring to the Town's 40 percent share that came out of the General Fund.

That's huge, Selectman Musselman said. He referred to Ms. Gillespie having made this point earlier when they began discussing the Town Hall.

Selectman Mills stated that groups out there will fool with the numbers and say that it is not true. We could state what is true, Selectman Musselman said. Selectman Mills stated that they would discredit you for something. Selectman Musselman said that they always do.

There was discussion about the timing of the Town Hall financing. Ms. Gillespie stated that it would be July 2015 before the money could be obtained following Town approval in March 2015. The bond payment would start in January 2016, and that payment would include only interest. Selectmen Musselman and Jenness agreed that the timing was perfect.

Selectman Musselman stated that people could not believe that Rye had no debt when the sewer bond was taken on. That was paid off over 20 years. Then the Public Safety Building was a huge hit. It is amazing that that will paid off soon.

Ms. Gillespie stated that the Public Safety debt was combined with one of the Conservation bonds. Ms. Gillespie explained how the \$5 million in Conservation debt was drawn down in several chunks. Ms. Gillespie detailed how the rest of the conservation debt that was not combined with the Public Safety debt would be paid off in 2017, 2019 and 2020.

Selectman Musselman asked whether there was a way to do creative financing to permit the Conservation Commission to acquire land without increasing the debt service payments as these things fall off. Ms. Gillespie stated that "he" could do what was done before and draw down the money only as he needs it.

There was then a discussion about the back of the former Rand Lumber property. Selectman Musselman questioned whether it was developable. Selectman Jenness stated that she thinks that the 60 acres is developable, the developer is willing to wait up to 5 years for conservation to work something out, but if this cannot be done at the appraised value, it could be developed. She stated that it was being appraised right now.

Selectman Musselman asked whether it would be a senior development. Selectman Jenness stated that it probably would not be as there are wetlands and the properties would be widely separated. She believes that they are talking about 16 units. However, this is not before the Planning Board in any way as there are two lots and only

the front one is currently under consideration.

The motion to approve the budget at \$993,525 was approved unanimously.

Editor's note: See above. The principal and interest were apparently combined in this figure.

Town Administrator asked whether Selectman Musselman was talking about laddering. Selectman Musselman stated that the Conservation request would be coming right on the heels of a Town Hall construction and this might be a way for the Conservation Commission to make its case.

Town Administrator Magnant also talked about the Public Works site study. The time frame for completion is December or January. Ms. Gillespie stated that a place marker had been put in. *Editor's note: The only project related to the Public Works site in the draft CIP Plan as of October 18, 2013 is a new salt shed at a cost of \$250,000. See also the notes of the October 21, 2013 public hearing. Public Works Director Dennis McCarthy warned of large future environmental costs during that hearing.*

Selectman Mills asked Selectman Musselman what his estimate was for the Town Hall. He asked whether it was \$4 million or \$5 million. Selectman Musselman declined to provide an estimate. There will not be a firm number this year, only a sense, he said. This year would be only an appropriation for design, if they decide to do that. The following year there would be a construction manager on board and a firmer estimate for approval at the 2015 Town Meeting.

Selectman Mills asked whether there was a possibility of acquiring a site and building a building elsewhere. Selectman Musselman stated that this site was looking doable. Selectman Jenness stated that people wanted to keep the center of Town the center of Town. Selectman Musselman added that it would be hugely more expensive as there is office space here that can be used.

There was a discussion about the design presented as a separate building with a connection at grade, but underground. *Editor's note: See the notes of the Town Hall Committee's last two meetings..* Selectman Jenness stated that it was a creative look at the problem and an idea that nobody else had thought of.

Non-public session (423:03 elapsed)

After Selectman Musselman asked whether there was any news on a personnel matter, and Town Administrator Magnant responded that there was, the Selectmen voted to go into non-public session.