Joint Meeting between the Advisory Committee, Selectmen and Water Department.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Al Collings at 6:30 p.m.

A motion was made by Jack Tivnan to accept the minutes of November 12, 2008 as presented. Al Collings commented that he wanted to make sure the Committee understood the FY2009 & 2010 Guidelines that were in the minutes. Nicole Allen seconded the motion. Voted 6-0 to accept the minutes. Jack Tivnan asked that the original minutes of October 8, 2008 be corrected and e-mailed to him.

**MBTE Pollution Settlement:** The Water Department and Shira McWaters from Tata & Howard were present to answer questions. Well #1: The well was dug in the 60’s. The screen clogs up frequently with iron and must be cleaned every year compared to every five years. The cost to do this is $9,000. The Water Department would like to drill another well approximately 50-100 feet away from the original well. The new well will be gravel packed with newer well screens, which are more efficient with less cleaning. The estimated capital cost is $280,000.00. The estimated engineering cost is $100,000. 10% contingency (Engineering and Construction) is $45,000 and estimated land acquisition costs (excluding legal fees) $20,000. The total cost of Well #1 is $418,000.

Well #2: Water Department would like to develop this well. It has a current rated capacity of 0.43 mgd with iron levels within MCL guidelines. The new supply source has a potential yield of 0.68-1.0 mgd. There is a potential cost savings associated with reduced filtration costs. It would require Land Acquisition or Conservation Restrictions (approximately 3 acres). The time table is 3 to 5 years, estimated engineering services $200,000, estimated capital cost $250,000. 10% contingency (engineering & Construction $45,000 and estimated land acquisition costs (excluding legal fees) $20,000. Total estimated cost of Well #2 is $515,000. Discussion about whether Well #1 or Well #2 would be the backup well, all contingent on the success of new Well #1.
Time frame for Well #1 is six months to one year. There would have to be a Town Meeting to approve the funds. Suggested getting funds and dispersing as needed. Commit to Well #1 first.

Al Collings asked if there were other issues that should be addressed. The Water Department would like to pay off two loans totaling $198,000. There would be a savings in interest of $98,000 and free up $20,000 in the budget. There are water lines in Town that need to be replaced. Al Collings asked the Water Department to come up with a 5 year plan. Tata & Howard did a plan but it was 12 years old. This will be updated with priorities.

Marie Arsenault stated that in any physical year we are allowed to put in 10% of our prior year’s levy limit into stabilization. We can get permission from the Director of Accounts. It was suggested we explain and ask to be able to put up to 2.5 million dollars into stabilization. Selectman voted to do this as soon as possible.

Keith Arsenault said it would be more beneficial to have the Town meeting now. The money is now in the general account with less interest ($6000 versus 10,000) than in stabilization since receiving a few weeks ago. The Selectmen voted have a Special Town Meeting at the earliest possible time.

Fleet Account: No reports at this time. Fleet account is under $200,000 at this time. Marie will set up a date to meet with the auditors probably in February.

FY2009 & FY 2010 budget issues: We have received about a dozen budgets and departments are doing as asked. Al received from Joe Scanlon capital needs for the grammar school. Needs are building repairs and computers. Have not received capital needs for the middle school to date. Johanna reported the paperwork has been completed for the $31,000 recovery for the shingles on the grammar school and should have the check soon. Johanna said that on Tuesday an automated air vent on the rooftop heating unit failed to close allowing a coil to freeze. As a result, water poured into the computer room and ceiling panels fell. The heating is more than 20 years old and cannot get parts. The cost of replacing the heating system is estimated at $30,000 to $35,000.

WB School Student count status: The list has been sent to the school. Barry Nadon said that Sarah, Town Clerk, stated that there are probably about ten students that cannot be accounted for. This would represent about $4500 per student out of pocket expense.
Parents will be asked to state if their children are in private school or home schooled per a note sent with the census this year.

Tom Schnare noted the current fuel was running a deficit. Johanna explained that this is because it was pre-bought. The Town purchased 5,000 gallons at $3.45 a gallon. A letter was sent to Sherman Oil to see if an adjustment could be made and it cannot.

Jack Tivnan made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Nicole Allen seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine M. Long
Secretary