

1 Mr. Cutter noted (in his correspondence) that he was reviewing the itemized expense report for
2 2013 and had the following questions:

3
4 Q: The total budget for Assessing Services was \$43,722 of which \$39,000 was reported
5 expensed; however, the year-end report reflected the account was zeroed. Why?

6
7 A: A journal entry was performed to clear the prior year's encumbrance and refresh a new
8 encumbrance for 2014.

9
10 Q: There is a random account as of January 2014 called Transfer Out and an \$11,500 charge
11 against this line. What is it?

12
13 A: That is where the auditors asked that we book the transfer for ambulance bad debt, which is
14 why the Ambulance account for 2013 reflects \$0 expended.

15
16 Mr. Cutter thanked Mr. Hoch and Mr. Byron for their help.

17
18 Mrs. Couture mentioned that the information regarding the SB2 town meeting timeline was not
19 correct and Mrs. Flynn provided an accurate timeline. She reported that the District Monthly
20 Financial report, October 1 enrollments and enrollment projections prepared by the SAU.

21 22 **6. SCHOOL BUSINESS**

23 • **General Update**

24 Mr. Bourque reported that the Board has begun their budget process for 2016, the LSB
25 Building/Planning Committee is investigating reclassifying the GMS 1930s building for storage.
26 He noted that they are awaiting police and fire department approval and explained that using the
27 building for storage will alleviate the need for the PODs, which will save \$1,200 per year.

28
29 Mr. Pascucci asked if any issues prevent the approval of reclassifying the building. Mr. Bourque
30 indicated that there are no issues that prevent limited storage. He noted there are no sprinklers in
31 the building, but they may not be required.

32
33 Mrs. Couture asked if the School Board is on target with budget reviews according to the
34 timeline that was provided for the Budget Committee. Mr. Bourque indicated the budget process
35 is progressing according to the schedule.

36
37 Mr. Bourque mentioned if any Committee members would like to tour the schools that they
38 coordinate tours through the Chair and the Business Administrator.

39 40 **7. TOWN BUSINESS**

41 42 • **General Update**

43 Mr. Byron reported that the town has not received the cruiser that was purchased as yet. Mr.
44 Hoch indicated that the cruiser is being outfitted with a few more items and should be delivered
45 in a few weeks.

46

1 • **Budget Review**

2 *(Budget review items may not be taken in the order they appear.)*

3
4 **4130.1 Executive**

5 Mr. Hoch presented the 2015 Executive budget to the Budget Committee. He noted that notable
6 changes include an increase in the Town Administrator salary line and the restoration of Board
7 of Selectmen salaries.

8
9 Mr. Cutter asked what was done with the Board of Selectmen salaries in the 2013 budget, which
10 was a default budget year. Mr. Hoch indicated it was retained and paid.

11
12 Mrs. Couture mentioned it depends on the budget year and if the Board of Selectmen vote to
13 accept it.

14
15 Mr. Pascucci asked about the Board of Selectmen's conversation regarding restoring their
16 salaries. Mr. Bryon indicated that the salaries were always in the budget. He commented that
17 comparisons with other towns reflect that stipends for Board of Selectmen range from \$2,800 to
18 \$4,000.

19
20 Mr. Pascucci commented that the Board of Selectmen thought it was important to remove the
21 salaries when the voters said no more money. He indicated that the rationale must be that the
22 voters can afford it now.

23
24 Mr. Bryon commented that the Board of Selectmen do not speak for the voters.

25
26 Mr. Pascucci believes this should not be in the budget. He believes it is a \$6,000 raise over last
27 year and suggested it be placed on the warrant. He commented that the voters said no for two
28 years and if approved on a warrant article, he will not challenge it again.

29
30 Mr. Byron indicated it is not a \$6,000 raise. He noted it was included in the budget last year and
31 in the default budget. He explained that the Board of Selectmen made a decision to move it and
32 use it for other purposes because the budget was tight. Mr. Byron commented that Mr. Pascucci
33 is proposing to place something on the warrant that has been in the budget historically. He
34 indicated if it is believed that the Board of Selectmen should not get a stipend, it can be
35 discussed.

36
37 Mr. Pascucci commented that he agreed with Mr. Byron. He explained that when he looks at the
38 budget, he begins at zero for all lines. He indicated that it may have been removed by the Board
39 of Selectmen, which makes it a perfect opportunity to place it on the warrant so the voters can
40 decide.

41
42 Mrs. Couture commented that this came about historically as a warrant article.

43
44 Mrs. Douglas asked if the voters have been asked since there has been a town administrator. She
45 commented that many of the responsibilities of the Board of Selectmen have been delegated to

1 the town administrator. She expressed that she would not support the line item and would like to
2 task the voters if they would support it.

3
4 Mr. Hoch commented that the comparison Mr. Byron provided is relevant because the towns that
5 have town administrators pay a stipend to the Board of Selectmen. He noted that the majority of
6 other towns have not taken the route to deny that the stipend is important.

7
8 Mr. Byron indicated that the Board of Selectmen did not take any increase.

9
10 Mrs. Couture commented that the Board of Selectmen have provided a town to town comparison
11 and the salary has historically been given to them.

12
13 Mrs. Douglas commented that she sees no issue with asking the votes if they still approve.

14
15 Mr. Pascucci commented that if it is such a 'sure thing' there should not be an issue.

16
17 Mr. Peeples commented that he has been on both sides having served as a Selectman. He
18 indicated there is no way to equate the amount of time invested vs the amount of payment. He
19 noted that he was sitting on the Board when the salary line was zeroed out. Mr. Peeples
20 indicated that the Selectmen's salary line was on a warrant in the past and has always been
21 included in the budget. He commended the Board of Selectmen for giving the money to the
22 town and should not be chastised for that action. He indicated that there is some merit in
23 discussing it, but the reality is that amount is not a lot.

24
25 Mrs. Couture commented that much time is invested as a Selectman and there are many things
26 that are sacrificed when you become an elected official.

27
28 Mr. Cutter commented that the Board of Selectmen work hard. He indicated that it will be
29 unknown if the budget is approved by this Committee and not the approved by the voters if that
30 is part is the reason the budget fails.

31
32 Mr. Cutter asked if there is a new contract in place for the Town Administrator. Mr. Byron
33 confirmed that there is a new contract.

34
35 Mr. Pascucci asked how the increase of 8% was calculated. Mr. Byron commented that it was
36 decided by the Board of Selectmen.

37
38 Mrs. Douglas asked about the Town Administrator's performance review. Mr. Byron indicated
39 that is confidential information.

40
41 Mr. Pascucci commented that the increase is high. Mr. Byron indicated that Mr. Hoch has
42 passed up raises for many years.

43
44 Mr. Pascucci commented that is admirable, but we are representing the taxpayers and while they
45 are paying for this, they are not getting raises. Mr. Byron commented that the statistics regarding
46 raises in the workforce would disagree.

1 Mrs. Couture asked if there are statistics on this position for other towns. It was mentioned that
2 information from the NHMA is used. Mrs. Couture asked if that information can be provided.

3
4 Mr. Peeples commented that the NHMA publishes information, but he believes it has no value.
5 Mr. Hoch asked how Mr. Peeples made that determination.

6
7 Mr. Peeples indicated that the NHMA is a self-serving organization. Mr. Hoch strongly
8 disagreed and noted that he provides factual information to the NHMA annually.

9
10 Mr. Byron indicated that the information can be made available. Mrs. Couture commented she
11 would like to see the information. She indicated whether it is a circular or not, that is our venue
12 for information.

13
14 Mr. Pascucci indicated that the Budget Committee does have say over the bottom line.

15 16 **4130.3 Town Meeting**

17 Mr. Hoch presented the 2015 Town Meeting budget to the Budget Committee. He noted that the
18 total budget decrease is \$3,120 because there is only one election next year.

19
20 Mrs. Couture asked about the distribution of the electronic town report. Mr. Hoch indicated that
21 it was successful. He noted there was a limited number of printed reports.

22
23 Mr. Pascucci asked how people can find the annual report. Mr. Hoch indicated it is on the home
24 page of the town website.

25 26 **4140.1 Town Clerk**

27 Mr. Hoch presented the 2015 Town Clerk budget to the Budget Committee. He noted that a
28 decision was made to move a majority of the mileage and tolls out of this account and post it to
29 Accounting. He indicated there are no major increases in the Town Clerk budget. Mr. Hoch
30 commented that the postage line was an oversight over the years.

31
32 Mr. Pascucci asked why the Town Clerk would need overtime. Mr. Hoch indicated that there are
33 unusual transactions that occur close to closing time (i.e. multiple car registrations).

34
35 Mr. Cutter asked if the software support in line 342 is technology related. Mr. Hoch indicated
36 that it is related, but is department specific and not shared technology.

37
38 Mr. Cutter asked for an explanation of Inner ware. Mr. Hoch indicated it handles car
39 registrations, board licenses, etc.

40
41 Mr. Cutter asked if support service is fluctuating. Mr. Hoch indicated that the price increases
42 annually and that this is the number that was provided for next year.

43
44 Mrs. Douglas asked if the health insurance is split between two departments. Mr. Hoch
45 answered in the affirmative.

46

1 **4150.1 Accounting**

2 Mr. Hoch presented the 2015 Accounting budget to the Budget Committee. He noted that
3 changes reflected are movement through the office assistant and finance manager. He indicated
4 that mileage and tolls were moved into this account.

5
6 Mr. Pascucci asked if the treasurer position can be combined with the finance manager position.
7 Mr. Hoch indicated they are two distinct roles.

8
9 Mr. Pascucci asked if there is a law that says someone has to go to the bank every day. Mr.
10 Byron indicated there is a state law that says any time \$500 or more is collected deposits must be
11 made in the bank.

12
13 Mr. Pascucci asked if pictures of the checks can be submitted to reduce some travel. Mr. Hoch
14 indicated that we still take in that amount in cash.

15
16 Mr. Cutter asked why there is mileage in the tax collector and town clerk accounts. Mr. Hoch
17 indicated that department specific mileage is retained in those accounts. Mr. Byron commented
18 that mileage figures vary based upon the government criteria.

19
20 Mr. Peebles asked if the mileage is inclusive from the town hall back to the town hall. Mr. Hoch
21 indicated that it is and that mileage is calculated by day and not by trip. He noted that the law is
22 followed appropriated for the way we make deposits.

23
24 **4150.2 Information Technology**

25 Mr. Hoch presented the 2015 Information Technology budget to the Budget Committee. He
26 noted major increases and decreases in the budget.

- 27
- 28 • The telephone and data line reflects internet and phone budgets from other
29 departments, which are being listed in one budget account.
 - 30 • Software support is a regular itemization of what currently exists. Website hosting
31 had not been itemized in the past.
 - 32 • Equipment maintenance includes general routine items for maintaining firewalls,
33 routers, etc.
 - 34 • Shift to begin paying the IT manager a stipend of \$1,000 per month.

35 Mr. Hoch explained that the town has been carrying a minimal of contracting for computer
36 service over the years and benefitted from the donation of services that is valued at \$50,000-
37 \$80,000 per year. He indicated that Mr. Brunelle pointed out that his volunteer time will be
38 limited in the future. He commented that transitioning to contracted services in the area of
39 \$70,000 over time was discussed. Mr. Hoch noted that his suggestion was an approach of
40 recognizing Mr. Brunelle's work and a shift more to a contracted services line in five years with
41 a smooth transition. He noted the expectation would be to go forward with this model and in
42 future years the contracted services line would begin to grow. He indicated in five years we
43 expect total transition.

44
45 Mrs. Couture asked who the stipend is going to. Mr. Hoch indicated the \$12,000 will be paid to
46 Mr. Brunelle as IT Manager.

1
2 Mrs. Couture commented that the situation is complicated because he is a Selectman. Mr. Hoch
3 commented it is only complicated because we want to pay him.

4
5 Mr. Byron indicated that the Road Agent is an elected official and is also running that
6 department. He commented that he would challenge the Budget Committee to say if it is a
7 conflict of interest and that it is up to the Board of Selectmen.

8
9 Mrs. Couture agreed with Mr. Byron and commented she is trying to understand it.

10
11 Mr. Byron indicated this is not a new position; he is just doing it for free. He commented if Mr.
12 Brunelle decides to vacate the position it will result in the town putting a large sum of money
13 into the budget. Mr. Byron noted that we are trying to do this in a different model. He pointed
14 out we already have contracted service when Mr. Brunelle is not available and we have no
15 intention to hire anyone.

16
17 Mr. Hoch commented that we are trying to recognize what we received for free for many years.

18
19 Mrs. Couture explained that she is trying to understand attaching a stipend to it and expanding in
20 a few years. She was concerned if it is a new position and how the Budget Committee moves
21 forward. She questioned what the implications would be going forward.

22
23 Mr. Pascucci commented that he agrees with funding a position in the budget. He noted there is
24 one person who manages the technology for the entire district at a salary of approximately
25 \$60,000. He indicated that if we recommend the money that will be paid to Mr. Brunelle who is
26 also a Selectman and we believe there is an ethical position, then we are wrong making that
27 decision.

28
29 Mrs. Couture clarified that it is the Budget Committee's responsibility to determine if \$12,000 is
30 the correct amount and if it is a new position. She noted who is paid is not our responsibility.

31
32 Mr. Pascucci commented that the Board of Selectmen can say the money will be budgeted for
33 someone else under contracted services, bring it to voters who could approve it, and act
34 differently after it is approved. He believes it is an ethical responsibility.

35
36 Mrs. Couture commented that is not the role of a Budget Committee member.

37
38 Mr. Brunelle believes that Mr. Pascucci's statements are directed toward him. He commented he
39 has been performing the services since 2006 and averages 12 hours per week. He indicated that
40 Mr. Pascucci's comments are based on Mr. Brunelle being part of the governing body. He noted
41 when the governing body discusses this and decides, he abstains from voting. Mr. Brunelle
42 indicated that he brings forward the facts and the needs based on the requirement of the town.
43 He commented that the current company for contracted service estimated it would cost \$1,000
44 per week for 8 hours per week. He noted that the average junior IT employee starts at
45 approximately \$50,000 per year.
46

1 Mr. Cutter suggested that as a Committee we remove the item and recommend it be placed on
2 the warrant.

3
4 Mr. Peeples commented that the needs has to be determined. He asked how many users do the
5 town and police department have (break it out by active users per shift), how many servers and
6 work stations, and about hosting. Mr. Brunelle commented that the town leverages services for
7 daily use. There are 85 active accounts and the domain has approximately 150 employees. The
8 infrastructure consists of five servers, 25 actual physical work stations, and four virtual work
9 stations.

10
11 Mr. Peeples asked if that includes the systems in the police cruisers. Mr. Brunelle indicated
12 there are four of those as well.

13
14 Mr. Peeples asked for confirmation that the average hours for the work that Mr. Brunelle
15 performs for the town is estimated at 12. Mr. Brunelle indicated that he is working with the state
16 on different aspects that need to be monitored, that he provides backups daily, and that it takes an
17 average of 12 hours.

18
19 Mr. Peeples asked if state connections require special clearance. Mr. Brunelle indicated that it
20 requires clearance for background checks, fingerprinting and FBI. He noted there was some
21 concern about his access as Selectman.

22
23 Mr. Pascucci commented that he is not supportive of the proposed model and would be more
24 supportive of hiring someone for the position.

25
26 Mr. Cutter asked why the Budget Committee cannot recommend this be put on the warrant. Mrs.
27 Couture indicated that the Budget Committee cannot tell the Board of Selectmen to put items on
28 the warrant. She commented if we feel it is unjustified, we can reduce the amount.

29
30 Mr. Vaillancourt asked if due diligence was done to ensure this is legal or ethical.

31
32 Mr. Hoch commented that he resents the ethical questions as this was a non-issue when it was
33 being done for free.

34
35 Mr. Byron commented that he was a Selectmen for many years and Mr. Brunelle refused to
36 participate in votes with regard to information technology.

37
38 Mrs. Couture indicated that the Budget Committee has to consider if this is a volunteer position
39 becoming a paid position. She commented that she would like to ensure this is not about the
40 person, but the position.

41
42 Mr. Peeples asked if any upgrades are proposed for next year. Mr. Hoch commented that we are
43 looking for four or five desktop upgrades, as well as printer and copier upgrades. He explained
44 that we are taking some single use printers out of the town clerk's office. He noted that \$5,500 is
45 reserved for a copier/scanner for the fire department.

46

1
2 Mr. Brunelle indicated that he does not foresee any equipment replacement requirements and
3 does not anticipate any upgrades to the core systems for the next couple of years.
4

5 Mr. Pascucci asked why the \$12,000 for the IT Manager was not added to the Contracted
6 Computer Services line. Mr. Hoch indicated that we wanted to be up front and start the
7 transition process. He commented that we can do nothing and come back in a few years with a
8 proposal for a major amount of money, but we wanted to begin gradually. Mr. Hoch noted that
9 we have unique circumstances that we will never have again with Mr. Brunelle's level of
10 expertise. He indicated this is step one of a multiyear plan.
11

12 Mr. Pascucci commented that this is unique situation and it is difficult not to consider the person.
13 He indicated if this were just a citizen it would not be an issue because that person would be
14 volunteering services. He noted that you may be faced with a question of conflict of interest.
15

16 Mrs. Couture indicated that the question is what should we be budgeting for a unique
17 circumstance or more generically.
18

19 Mr. Cutter asked for year to date upgrade expenses, what has been spent for Parks and
20 Recreation, and the expenses for the new line under Telephone and Data.
21

22 Mr. Hoch indicated that the current number is zero because we started moving them into the IT
23 budget. He noted in the IT budget, the current year to date telephone and data line may end up
24 over budget as we are at approximately \$21,000 through August.
25

26 Mr. Peebles asked if this is the whole account structure or if there are sub-ledgers for different
27 accounts. Mr. Hoch commented we no longer charge out a master bill to every department and
28 offered to provide a breakdown of the information.
29

30 **4150.4 Tax Collection**

31 Mr. Hoch presented the 2015 Tax Collection budget to the Budget Committee. He noted the
32 only change is mileage and the total budget decrease is \$1,521.
33

34 **4153.1 Legal**

35 Mr. Hoch presented the 2015 Legal budget to the Budget Committee. He noted it is based on 10
36 hours per month at \$170 per hour. He commented that although the town had a successful year,
37 he is hesitant to decrease it further.
38

39 Mr. Byron commented there is always the potential for a lawsuit out there somewhere.
40

41 **4197.1 Advertising/Regional Assoc.**

42 Mr. Hoch presented the 2015 Advertising/Regional Association budget to the Budget
43 Committee. He indicated that the budget is relatively level with a small increase in printing
44 costs.
45

1 Mr. Pascucci commented that the NHMA membership was not reviewed last year and asked if it
2 is a good value. He indicated the town has an attorney. He believes the NHMA is there to
3 protect the Board of Selectmen as was evident in the issue with the inquiries regarding the leases.
4 Mr. Pascucci indicated there is an existing bias and he does not believe there is value to the
5 taxpayers.

6
7 Mrs. Couture commented by protecting the Board of Selectmen, the NHMA is protecting the
8 taxpayers.

9
10 Mr. Pascucci indicated that the Board of Selectmen utilize the attorney more than the NHMA.
11 Mr. Byron clarified that legal services are one service the NHMA offers. He noted that other
12 services include training, and courses for the police department.

13
14 Mr. Hoch indicated that we use their legislative services on topics within their expertise. He
15 commented that they are able to lobby on our behalf for many things – the restoration of the
16 rooms/meals tax, for example. He noted they offer training and technical support. Mr. Hoch
17 indicated knowing we have this as a resource helps make the decrease to legal services
18 acceptable. He commented that they offer a municipal conference and workshops, and their
19 training services are well utilized.

20
21 Mrs. Douglas commented that she is not as concerned about lobbying, but knowing there is
22 much training is helpful.

23
24 Mr. Peeples commented that lobbying is a concern. He indicated that he already elects his state
25 representatives to lobby on his behalf and does not want someone he does not pay directly to
26 lobby for him.

27
28 Mr. Hoch clarified that these are not faceless lobbyists. He indicated that the membership sets
29 the legislative priorities for the NHMA. He mentioned that he and Mr. Byron were part of one of
30 those priorities last year.

31
32 Mr. Byron commented that he was involved in legislation that affected Litchfield and was able to
33 lobby so that what happens with other towns does not impact Litchfield.

34 Mr. Peeples commented that we spend money on NHMA and legal. He suggested that the
35 NHMA membership fee can be recouped for the Selectmen salaries.

36 37 **4316.3 Street Lighting**

38 Mr. Hoch presented the 2015 Street Lighting budget to the Budget Committee. He noted the
39 budget is level funded.

40 41 **4321 Solid Waste**

42 Mr. Hoch presented the 2015 Solid Waste budget to the Budget Committee. He noted there is a
43 decrease in recycling and electronics and we are spending less for demolition and disposal
44 because we are recycling wood. He indicated that we are saving \$28 per ton. Mr. Hoch noted
45 that hauling charges will increase slightly because consumption and trash are picking up.

46

1 Mr. Pascucci asked if we lost a laborer. Mr. Hoch indicated that we lost a laborer and moved
2 some of the hours to the existing three positions.

3
4 Mr. Pascucci asked about the fees for household hazardous waste. Mr. Byron indicated that the
5 NRPC runs the program that collects hazardous waste and citizens have to take their waste there.

6
7 Mr. Pascucci questioned why we pay \$6,200 for the service and citizens still have to pay \$10
8 when they bring their waste there. Mr. Hoch indicated we would not be able to use that service
9 if we do not pay the fees. He commented that disposing of hazardous waste is not cheap. He
10 noted that it is all subsidized further through funds from the state.

11
12 Mr. Peeples indicated that he worked on this when he served on the NRPC board. He noted that
13 it is a valuable service.

14
15 Mr. Hoch commented that most of what they host is in Nashua, but we are hoping to get on their
16 schedule to host in Litchfield next year.

17
18 Referring to Line 630, Equipment Repair, Mr. Pascucci asked if we are getting a baler. Mr.
19 Byron indicated that one of our balers failed. He noted that the guides that ride up and down and
20 control the press are rusted through and the grooves are totally stripped out.

21
22 Mr. Pascucci commented on the amount of money budgeted for repairs. He noted we have a
23 new skid steer and asked if the amount would decrease if we have two new items. Mr. Hoch
24 indicated that the \$2,000 budgeted is for all equipment repairs.

25 26 **4445.2 Welfare**

27 Mr. Hoch presented the 2015 Welfare budget to the Budget Committee. He commented that the
28 bottom line is unchanged. He indicated that the distribution varies from year to year as we
29 never know what requests we will get.

30
31 Mr. Cutter commented that he sees the value in having this in the budget. He indicated he is not
32 advocating its removal, but noted that the town has never spent the entire \$20,000.

33
34 Mr. Spencer indicated that he recalls many times the budget was depleted.

35
36 Mr. Byron commented that state law requires the town to pay welfare without specifying the
37 bottom line. He noted that regardless of the total budget, welfare has to be paid no matter the
38 amount.

39
40 Mr. Pascucci agreed that we have to pay welfare. He suggested to appropriate an annual fund if
41 we are paying less.

42
43 Mr. Cutter indicated that in 2013, \$7,000 was spent; in 2012, \$16,000 was spent; in 2011,
44 \$15,000 was spent; in 2010, \$16,000 was spent.

45
46 Mr. Spencer commented that he can recall when the town has spent \$30,000.

1
2 Mr. Cutter commented \$17,000 should be budgeted for welfare.

3
4 **4583.1 Patriotic Exercises**

5 Mr. Hoch presented the 2015 Patriotic Exercises budget to the Budget Committee. He reported
6 that the account is unchanged.

7
8 Mr. Cutter commented that double was spent this year.

9
10 Mr. Pascucci asked what occurred this year. Mr. Hoch indicated that the Historical Society
11 handles that account. He commented that he believes they were replacing their flags.

12
13 **4723.1 Debt Service**

14 Mr. Hoch presented the 2015 Debt Service budget to the Budget Committee. He indicated it is a
15 zero budget.

16
17 Mrs. Couture indicated that the Budget Committee will go through these accounts and make
18 reductions and changes and hold the bottom line. She noted the concern last year was that
19 changes occurred late in December and the Budget Committee had to revote.

20
21 Mr. Pascucci suggested the Committee vote on all bottom lines in one meeting.

22
23 Mr. Spencer pointed out there are some accounts where we are going to vote the bottom line
24 anyway.

25
26 • **Review of Expenditures**

27 Mrs. Couture indicated that Mr. Cutter submitted some questions, which were answered. She
28 noted that the Budget Committee will be reviewing town budgets next week.

29
30 Mr. Spencer asked if the Budget Committee will be receiving weekly reports.

31
32 Mr. Byron commented that the Budget Committee asked for monthly reports. He commented
33 that weekly reports can also be provided.

34 Mr. Cutter commented that weekly reports will be sufficient. Mrs. Couture added that they will
35 be sufficient until the budget is completed.

36
37 Mr. Spencer asked if the Budget Committee has received the final school district budget report
38 for last year.

39
40 Mr. Cutter confirmed that it was received on September 18.

41
42 **8. MEMBER INPUT/NEW BUSINESS**

43 Mr. Pascucci made the following statements:

44 This is his fourth year on the Budget Committee and he has learned much. He knows his limits
45 and responsibilities. His personal beliefs include zero budgeting – starting from zero. Not
46 having all the information needed prompts questions. He know his questions are sometimes

1 uncomfortable and sometimes a person is impacted by that question. This is not about a person.
2 He is here for the taxpayers and questions deeper on certain things, trying to justify it five
3 different ways. His questions will continue to be uncomfortable sometimes and he apologized in
4 advance. He spends much time reading old town reports and sees things in the past (i.e.
5 warrants) that are asked many times and some that are asked just one. If voters said yes to a
6 question seven years ago and it took five years to do it, we are never going back. When the
7 voters vote no on the budget two years in a row they are trying to tell us something. We do not
8 know what that may be and we have to start presenting budgets that will be approved by the
9 voters. In 2007 there were 8,343 residents in the town with a \$4M budget. We now have 8,330
10 residents with a \$5M budget. We should try to give the voters a budget they will accept. If they
11 said yes to something ten years ago, we may have to ask them again.

12
13 Mr. Spencer asked if there is a revenue forecast. Mr. Hoch indicated the Board of Selectmen
14 wanted to review it again. He noted it is basically flat.

15
16 Mr. Cutter requested the questions he submitted be attached to the minutes.

17 18 **9. PUBLIC INPUT**

19 Jason Guerrette, 11 Perry Court, commented that he hears things differently when sitting in the
20 audience than when he sat at the board table. He noted that Mrs. Couture made an important
21 point with regard to ethics and the technology stipend. He indicated it is not about a person, but
22 it is about a member of the Board of Selectmen. He commented that a member of the Board of
23 Selected is proposed to be paid for something he or she is doing for the town. Mr. Guerrette
24 indicated that is problematic. He indicated that the problem is not that the person may be ethical
25 about what they are doing, but with elected officials it is combating the perception of impropriety
26 where you cannot disprove it. Mr. Guerrette noted you cannot undo a thought. He commented
27 that we need to trust the people we elect. He indicated a thought is created and cannot be
28 uncreated. He commented that the NHMA encourages that you avoid any perception because
29 you taint the public confidence. Mr. Guerrette questioned if the stipend is so important that it
30 needs to be paid and had to be discussed. He commented that it was stated there was no issue
31 when the person was doing it for free. He indicated that those conversations occur in the
32 community. He commented if the service is needed it should be budgeted. Mr. Guerrette
33 expressed that his concern is that perception is going to create ineffective governing. He
34 commented that he viewed the argument as arguing for the lowest possible perceptual ethics,
35 but we should be bargaining for the highest perceptual ethics. He indicated there was a major
36 perception of conflict of interest on the School Board recently. He repeated that this is not about
37 a person, but about a member of the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Guerrette commented it is not the
38 purview of the Budget Committee to decide what to spend, but it is certainly to decide what to
39 fund.

40
41 Mrs. Couture clarified that the Budget Committee was not asked to budget a payment to the
42 Board of Selectmen. She indicated that we were asked to budget an IT stipend. She noted
43 however the Board of Selectmen decide to act is their issue.

- 44
45 • **Upcoming meetings**

1
2 The next meeting of the Budget Committee is scheduled on October 30, 2014.

3
4 **MOTION:** by Mrs. Douglas

5 *Move to adjourn.*

6 **SECOND:** Mr. Peoples

7 **VOTE: 9-0-0**

8 **The motion carried unanimously.**

9
10 There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

11
12 **Minutes by:** *Michele E. Flynn (Recording Secretary)*

13
14 **Date approved:**

DRAFT