

MINUTES

WATERTOWN TOWN COUNCIL FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE

TOWN HALL ANNEX CONFERENCE ROOM

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2009

**Immediately Following Special Town Council Meeting
Scheduled for 7:00 p.m.**

PRESENT: Richard DiFederico
Richard Fusco
Carl Mancini
Gary Bernier, Chairman

ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Elaine Adams, Chairman, Town Council
David Demirs, Town Council
Chuck Frigon, Town Manager
Frank Nardelli, Assistant Town Manager/Finance Director
Raymond Primini, Town Council
Paul Rinaldi, Town Council

1. Call Meeting To Order - 7:00 P.M.

Mr. Bernier, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 8:05 p.m.

1A. Roll Call

Mr. Bernier, Chairman, executed the Roll Call.

2. Minutes

A. April 8, 2008

MOTION: (Mr. Fusco, sec. Mr. Mancini) to Approve the Meeting Minutes of April 8, 2008, as presented.

Discussion: None

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

B. December 10, 2008

MOTION: (Mr. Fusco, sec. Mr. DiFederico) to Approve the Meeting Minutes of December 10, 2008, as presented.

Discussion: None

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

3. Discussion Concerning Fiscal Year 2008/2009 Budget

Mr. Nardelli: As far as DriveSol goes, they now owe us the second half of the real estate, January, which is like \$85,000, they haven't paid that. The personal property, I know we had talked about how they owed us like \$430,000, and they made a couple of \$10,000 payments, they were making them, then they stopped, then Mary DiSisto got after them again and they made another payment for \$10,000, they were supposed to pay us \$10,000 a week, they stopped that. Now Mary's been calling them and they're not answering their calls or anything.

Mr. Frigon: There was a deal in the works where the employees were attempting a buyout of DriveSol, and Sun Financial declined any further offer and brought the building back to the realtor and said get rid of it.

Mr. Nardelli: We tagged all of the machinery and we have liens on the property.

Mr. Fusco: Big deal, we can't collect the money.

Mr. DiFederico: How much back are they now?

Mr. Nardelli: About \$410,000 on personal property. Real Estate they owe \$85,000. Sean Williams is trying to do some legislation. They owe a lot of this money because they didn't file their personal property taxes on time, if they had done that the State would have reimbursed us quite a bit of that through the manufacturing reimbursement program, so Sean Williams is trying to do some legislation to get that back on, so that the State will do that. If the State does it we'll get quite a bit of it, but good luck with the State.

Mr. Bernier: I don't see it with the budget the way it is in the State right now.

Mr. Frigon: We also have with the State, we have to work on hanging our hats on the CEA working on a loan agreement with Risdon, they simply just don't have enough money. If you look at their budget, it's just not there.

Mr. Fusco: Risdon owes us money too?

Mr. Nardelli: \$48,000 on personal property.

Mr. Frigon: At Risdon everyone is on furlough, they're closed down.

Mr. Nardelli: We tagged all of their equipment too.

Mr. Fusco: No property on that one?

Mr. Nardelli: They paid their real estate portion. But again we tagged all of their equipment. Mary has spoken to them and they said they have no money.

Mr. Fusco: Join the club.

Mr. Nardelli: Of course don't forget KX Realty, that was the building that we had looked at, they owe us like \$108,000 for real estate.

Mr. Bernier: We aren't going to see that either.

Mr. Nardelli: The real estate, eventually we'll get it, but probably not this fiscal year.

Mr. Mancini: So that's \$653,000 that we're in the hole.

Mr. Nardelli: It will chew up some of our fund balance, that's what is going to happen there. Now all of the other collections, the residential is good, everybody has been paying, the banks have been paying on mortgages, if it wasn't for DriveSol and Risdon, Mary said she would have another phenomenal collection year.

Mr. Mancini: I'll be the bad guy now. Either in November or December I said at a Council meeting, so Chuck, what is this Town going to do to help save some money for this year's budget, and you said to me, we are within budget, the taxpayers voted on a budget, we're in budget and we're staying within that budget. Here's \$653,000, we're going to be going to a Town Meeting for 70,000 for legal

Mr. Frigon: You may be looking at some money for snow.

Mr. Mancini: I'm not worried about snow yet.

Mr. Frigon: Well you should.

Mr. Mancini: It could be there.

Mr. Frigon: No, it is there.

Mr. Mancini: There's another \$50,000 for the Police Department for retirements.

Mr. Fusco: And Princeton, we've cut their tax bill down from one point something million down to \$850,000, we're not collecting that anymore. The Siemon Company.

Mr. Nardelli: We've already refunded that.

Mr. Mancini: So here's \$773,000 that, well we'll take it out of the general fund.

Mr. Frigon: I don't think anybody is that glib about it, but go ahead, Carl.

Mr. Mancini: I mean that's what we're saying.

Mr. Frigon: No, that's not what we're saying, we're saying right now it's February, it's not November, we're having this meeting to apprise you of the situation and we're asking for some input, not criticism.

Mr. Mancini: I know, I'm not criticizing, I'm just

Mr. Frigon: I thought you were criticizing.

Mr. Mancini: No, I'm not, I brought it up because of the \$50,000 for the Police that we did not anticipate in our budget.

Mr. Frigon: Quite frankly this is killing us. Frank and I talk about this every single day.

Mr. Mancini: I want to know if there's anything we're going to do between now and July 1st to save some money?

Mr. Nardelli: On the Police issue I know we've talked to John Gavallas and

Mr. Frigon: Carl, we've already done one hell of a lot okay? We're going to continue doing that. We have almost eliminated any overtime that we're working. Okay? I look at the overtime reports now and I've just started in the last 5 or 6 weeks, Frank, almost every single week, we've almost eliminated overtime. We have respectfully asked everybody to hold any capital expenditures until we have a better handle. Now we're getting a better handle. We said from the beginning that we have to let January get behind us, so we knew exactly what we were looking at. Now we know exactly what we're looking at. We have a problem. We have a problem.

Mr. Mancini: I tried saying this in November, that we were going to have a problem, and I didn't anticipate DriveSol and Risdon and KX so let's not even talk about that money. Legal fees, we knew we were going to have a problem, the Police Department we had a \$50,000 problem, and I showed this to Frank just a few minutes ago, but I heard President Obama said to the mayors at the Mayor's Meeting that we can't have business as usual. What I'm trying to say is government can't run same as usual.

Mr. Frigon: Right, we agree.

Mr. Mancini: Believe me I'm a Union guy, I don't want to see people get laid off, but sooner or later we're going to have to do something. That's the only place there is to save big money. You're not going to save big money by not buying a copier, you're talking about \$3,000. And I don't want anybody to get laid off, but when you're looking at \$773,000 short for our budget for this year, we're in trouble.

Mr. Frigon: But please understand, in the municipal arena, you're not saving money this year by laying anybody off because we pay for our unemployment, so you're basically paying them to stay home right now. We need to put our heads together at this meeting and at future meetings in the very near future, and we need to make some decisions as to how we're going to, as Watertown, deal with this. Laying somebody off right now for the sake of trying to mitigate the deficit that we're going to feel from the real estate and personal property is not going to do it. A copy machine, quite frankly, your analysis, the copy machine is a better savings than a layoff, you're going to save more money. Because you just don't, I mean you're paying on a layoff of a, any one of our average workers, Frank, probably \$550 a week.

Mr. Primini: For 46 weeks.

Mr. Bernier: What capital expenditures were (inaudible)?

Mr. Frigon: We had very little.

Mr. Nardelli: In the Police, we haven't replaced a couple of those positions.

Mr. Frigon: Right, that's where I was going. We have 3 policemen that I have not authorized to rehire yet, that's a lot of money right there that we're saving, a lot of money. So to speak to what you were saying, Carl, we are trying, we're not laying people off and we haven't stopped buying gasoline for the cars, but we are looking at our expenditures, we're taking it seriously and we didn't give Ken Gemmell a raise, we negotiated the best golf cart lease that we could, we need to talk about this, you're right Carl.

Mr. Mancini: New Haven is a big city and they're laying off over 200 people. Do you think they want to layoff 200 people? I don't want to lay off 2 people, but it may have to come to that. You and I have talked about possible layoffs next year in different areas where we don't need them, come the election or whatever, but if you don't need them in November, you don't need them today either.

Mr. Frigon: Well that's my point, Carl, and that's what we need to talk about. If we're going to lay off now to mitigate a deficit this year, then let's look in the long term and let's look at how we want to change the way we do business, because any layoff that we make this year is going to be something that, a body that we're not going to call in again in July.

Mr. Mancini: Right.

Mr. Frigon: So let's look at

Mr. Mancini: I don't want to wait until July to start talking about laying off bodies.

Mr. Frigon: No, that's why we're having this meeting.

Mr. Mancini: Chuck, we're in serious crap here.

Mr. DiFederico: You've talked to every department head about this, right?

Mr. Frigon: Yes.

Mr. DiFederico: And they know the figures?

Mr. Frigon: Yes.

Mr. Nardelli: He met with all the Union Presidents too.

Mr. Frigon: I met with the Union Presidents and I put them on notice. What I did and the way I structured the meeting was, I'm going to tell you what I do know and I'm going to tell you what I don't know. What I do know is what we're not getting in revenue, and what I don't know is what we're going to do about it yet. And what I asked them, and I was very, very, very frank with them, that they are probably a whole lot brighter than I am and I want them to come back with some suggestions that they think are going to make us a more efficient operation. If they don't have any, then yea, we are going to be looking at layoffs. Nobody is trying to deny that. We're not trying to avoid the inevitable. We just want to make sure we're doing the right thing. So we're ready, now that January is behind us we are now ready in this meeting to sit down with them and let's see what they have again.

Mr. DiFederico: You just said that if you lay them off this year, (inaudible).

Mr. Frigon: For this year it's almost meaningless.

Mr. Mancini: You save some money, it's not a lot.

Mr. Frigon: Right, you're not going to save a lot.

Mr. Mancini: But by the time, if you did lay them off now you won't save that much money now but you're going to save the full load

Mr. Frigon: In a year from now.

Mr. Mancini: In 6 months from now.

Mr. Frigon: Right.

Mr. Mancini: Because the unemployment is for 46 weeks, but we're only paying 26 I think it is, the government pays the other 20.

Mr. Frigon: Frank, do you know about that?

Mr. Nardelli: Not that I'm aware of.

Mr. Frigon: I'm not aware of that either.

Mr. Mancini: That was extended by the federal government, it wasn't extended by the State.

Mr. Frigon: Yea, but that's for business.

Mr. Primini: Municipalities don't pay unemployment tax.

Mr. Frigon: That's for business, not for towns.

Mr. Mancini: If we lay off people, Frank says we're self insured, but if they're costing \$250.00 we're actually paying that \$250.00 a week.

Mr. Nardelli: Right.

Mr. Mancini: But the sooner they exhaust those 26 weeks, we don't pay that \$250.00 a week any longer.

Mr. Nardelli: I think what Ray is saying is it's 46 weeks.

Mr. Mancini: It's 26 from the State and 20 from the federal government.

Mr. Primini: I believe they mandated that, though.

Mr. Mancini: I think the federal government is picking up the tab for the other 20.

Mr. Frigon: I don't know, I thought that was

Mr. Nardelli: We're self insured, we pay our own.

Mr. Mancini: I understand, but that's, find that out, who pays?

Mr. Bernier: We certainly could.

Mr. Fusco: My question is yea, we could solve this problem, we can start raising taxes and raising taxes until we get so much money in and then everything is covered.

Mr. Frigon: Motion to adjourn, I like that.

Mr. Fusco: There is so much we can do, there's so much money we're going to be able to raise. Now we know the school bonding is going to bring us up 2/3 of a mill, correct?

Mr. Nardelli: Yes.

Mr. Mancini: This year.

Mr. Fusco: Now if we were to keep this scenario, what we have right now, cut all the fat that we can out of the budget, what are we talking about as far as a mill increase for the coming year?

Mr. Nardelli: You have to remember, now, we have revaluation.

Mr. Fusco: I know, but we need some type of a number.

Mr. Mancini: Not a mill increase, a tax increase percentage-wise.

Mr. Fusco: We need something to go by.

Mr. Nardelli: Revaluation, we're talking about the Grand List at the end here, with revaluation the Grand List will increase.

Mr. Bernier: Rich, we're actually jumping ahead a little bit, that's the next item, the next budget.

Mr. Frigon: To answer Carl's question, and this is precisely where I want to go, is we're not going to solve this by, we need to dive into the budget process, we need to go line item by line item, department by department, and we need to as we go into the departments say you know what, building inspection fees are way down, we don't have 3 schools, we don't have Taft going on, none of that is going on, so we only need 1 building inspector and a part time clerk for the next 5 years. That's what we need to do. We need to take a very broad look at this, and not just a short term, this fiscal year, look at it. We need to get into that budget, the sooner the better, and we need to make some decision. Now I use that as an example, Richie, because we know

Mr. Fusco: What I'm trying to say is there's just so much money we're going to be able to draw from the people before they get up in arms. We put that money on the table, we say here's what we're going to do. We're going to increase 1.5 mills, 2 mills, whatever it is we can squeeze out of the poor people that can't afford it because everybody is losing their jobs and so forth, and say this is the money we have. That's all we can play with. I mean how are we going to cut

Mr. Bernier: The number that I have in my mind, Rich, I mean last year

Mr. Fusco: We're thinking the same here, go ahead.

Mr. Bernier: The number I had in my mind was between a 3.0% and 3.5% increase.

Mr. Fusco: So you're talking a mill and a half.

Mr. Bernier: Right.

Mr. Frigon: But Richie, you've got to lose that mentality because in all fairness the mill rate is going to go down because of revaluation, so be careful of that, because you're going to scare people, so be careful.

Mr. Mancini: I think what he's saying (inaudible). 3.5%, if you're paying \$1,000 you're going to be paying 3.5% more next year, that's what I . . .

Mr. Fusco: That's what I would like.

Mr. Mancini: We're not talking mills or whatever here. Whatever tax we're paying now he wants to be at 3.5%.

Mr. Bernier: That's my target. Now where, I don't think we're going to get there but that's where I'd like to see it.

Mr. Mancini: I think the bonding and if you look at the Board of Education budget that's over 3.5% (inaudible) that's well over 3.5% and that's giving the Town absolutely nothing.

Mr. Bernier: I kind of showed my hand a little bit where I am with 2009/2010 for the Board of Education in the last meeting.

Mr. Mancini: I'm glad to hear you say that.

Mr. Bernier: But where we're going right now, and what Chuck is alluding to, is we need to make some steps in 2008, right now, not tonight, but now to reduce staffing. Those reductions in staffing will (inaudible) into next year, is an automatic, we need to, who we cut now we're not looking to bring back in July.

Mr. DiFederico: I think we should go line item by line item again.

Mr. Bernier: We're not going to bring back in July either of 09, 10, 11, you know maybe 12, maybe 13, but the 3 to 5 year window is . . . we're looking at that.

Mr. Frigon: That's exactly what I was saying, that's the window you're looking at.

Mr. Bernier: 3 to 5 years.

Mr. Frigon: If we're going to have a change, make it a meaningful culture change, we're going to change the way we do business, not temporarily, but for the long, foreseeable future.

Mr. Mancini: And this is all because of the economy. It's not because we want to save taxpayer's money, it's still going to cost the taxpayers a lot more money anyway, but it's the economy, it's the lack of this Town, the failure to increase the tax base. Had we done something with the tax base, 262, two years ago, you would at least have had . . . no wait a minute, I'm not saying we'd have the buildings all up, even if we didn't have any buildings up, you'd probably have \$500,000 to \$750,000 worth of permit fees coming into the Town right now. Heritage Woods got delayed for years and years and finally got approved, but then the economy went bad and they put a hold on everything. There's another \$1,000,000 a year in taxes over there. That's what this Town needed and we can't keep on affording to keep on paying like Richie had been saying because the thing is . . . we have to go to drastic measures here to help the taxpayers.

Mr. Fusco: If we use the 3.5% is the number or the target area that we're going for, we all have to start tightening our belts, which includes the school budget.

Mr. Mancini: That's the biggest one.

Mr. Bernier: Absolutely.

Mr. Fusco: Okay, so now we're going to get a lot of screaming and hollering and so forth.

Mr. DiFederico: That's the one you need to go line item by line item and do it right this year. We went through it line item by line item with everybody else last year.

Mr. Mancini: The Town can't afford to cut as much as

Mr. DiFederico: Listen, I talked to (inaudible) I went up last year and I bust my ass about these psychologists, they said in the meeting that 8.8, I talked to Karen, they don't even have 6. You paid them. And I'm saying to myself well what the hell did we pay you for 8.8 for if you only had 6? I think that's a good thing. So you paid them for 2.8 more people. Listen, they confused me on all these line items last year, this year they're not going to get me. I'm going to tell you right back (inaudible).

Mr. Mancini: I agree with you.

Mr. DiFederico: Now listen, the second thing is that you have to find out what other funds they have. I've been asking and I'm going to find out about this principal's fund. If there's \$60,000 or \$80,000 in it, you give that to the kids, there's your pay to play. What is the money for? I mean that's the thing. There are 3 things that I want to know. But this year this is what I want this year, and I'm going to tell you all right now, I want the list of every teacher, their job, and their salary, I want that so I can match it with their line item from last year. That's what I want.

Mr. Bernier: No, Rich, that's fine, we most certainly can do that.

Mr. DiFederico: I want, you're the Chairman, I want how much money is in the principal's fund, and I want how much money are they collecting off of our children. My kid comes home and I have to buy \$100 worth of tickets for some stuff and I don't even . . . that's what I want.

Mr. Bernier: (Inaudible.) I don't care if we have to find out

Mr. DiFederico: And then one year, and I'll show you a thing, I don't understand a lot of things, but those things I want this year. Okay? In order to go forward. I went up, I talked to Karen and everything, but those are the things I want. I also want to know, you can call Paul Jessell, I think that parking charge fee is illegal and I also think charging admissions is illegal. I even (inaudible).

Mr. Bernier: Rich, I didn't stop you but we're still talking about next year.

Mr. DiFederico: I'm talking about next year too.

Mr. Bernier: But we're talking about this year right now. I didn't stop you, but that's next year.

Mr. DiFederico: We're going to meet with all these departments and everything I want to know the answers.

Mr. Nardelli: Don't forget we start next week with all that (inaudible).

Mr. Bernier: We're all sitting here

Mr. DiFederico: We can't attack this right now until we sit down and go through it line item by line item.

Mr. Bernier: We are talking about, and I don't know what that number is, but we're probably talking about 25% if the tax dollars on the Town's side, when you take the capital for the schools and the school budget, it's no longer 60/40 but where I'm going is right now we're anticipating somewhere around a \$775,000 deficit. Can we look at the 60/40 and go to the school and say because of the budget the way it is, whatever 60% is of \$775,000, you need to cut from your budget this year?

Mr. Frigon: Wow.

Mr. Bernier: If we're going to do it, then let's do it.

Mr. Nardelli: We met with the Superintendent though, Chuck, and we talked about (inaudible) issues.

Mr. Frigon: Yea, and they are doing exactly what you're saying. I don't know that they are going to come up with those percentages, but what they've done over on the Board of Ed's side is they've frozen, they've actually, or what I was told is that they've gone a step further where they've frozen all of their accounts, whether it's office supplies, isn't that what she said, Frank?

Mr. Nardelli: Yes.

Mr. Frigon: That's exactly what she said.

Mr. Mancini: You want to save how much money from this year's budget?

Mr. Bernier: Yes I'm asking, can we go back to the School Board and say hey

Mr. DiFederico: Why not ask the guy who does what Frank does?

Mr. Demirs: \$600 (inaudible).

Mr. Bernier: Don't even get me started there.

Mr. DiFederico: Who's that guy?

Mr. Bernier: Don't even get me started there.

Mr. Frigon: With what, Gary?

Mr. Bernier: That guy that they're paying hundreds of dollars a damn day.

Mr. Mancini: \$600 a day.

Mr. DiFederico: Tell the Board of Education get a new guy, lay him off.

Mr. Bernier: He's making more money in 3 days don't get me started on that.

Mr. DiFederico: Can we request that to the Board of Education?

Mr. Frigon: Yes.

Mr. DiFederico: So we can request that. He's making \$1,800 a week, am I right?

Mr. Frigon: Right.

Mr. DiFederico: I'm asking you what he's making, you don't have to say anymore.

Mr. Frigon: But what I do want to say to you is last Thursday I had my head handed to me again because I asked Risdon's attorney what's going on. You're going to get paid damn it, you're going to get paid, you're going to get paid. Okay so I'm just saying

Mr. Fusco: The check is in the mail.

Mr. Frigon: Let me tell you

Mr. DiFederico: In manufacturing I owned a company down in Oakville and let me tell you something, you're not going to get paid, I can tell you that.

Mr. Bernier: What (inaudible) and Risdon going to give us the \$40,000, we're still hundreds of thousands of dollars in the hole.

Mr. Frigon: But I have to tell you, Frank and Carol are already working on next year's grand list and we're pulling it out of there, cause we're anticipating that it's not going to be there, so we're making those adjustments.

Mr. DiFederico: You have to look at it that way.

Mr. Frigon: Right, we have to.

Mr. Bernier: Can you inform us on what the Board of Ed is doing?

Mr. Frigon: And I'm only telling you what, both Frank and I had an informal conversation with Karen and they had talked about the Board of Ed wanting to do their part in assisting in funding whatever deficit there was, so to do that they were looking at, or they had implemented a freeze on all of their non-essential line items, whether it be office supplies, whether it be whatever non-essential is over at the Board of Ed, I'm not that familiar with their process, and that's what we were told. Now what we're looking at is as soon as we want to make the deficit official, or not the deficit, I don't want to call it that, but the shortfall in revenue official, now we've got to think about how we're going to fund it. Is it just going to be as Carl said, is it going to be as blasé as just pull it out of the General Fund, that's it and walk away from it, or are we going to try and fund it out of our existing funds, and that's where Carl is going, that's where we are all going.

Mr. Mancini: (Inaudible.)

Mr. Frigon: Because we can't afford to do that. Right.

Mr. Bernier: I mean I was talking (inaudible) but there was

Mr. Frigon: And in reality on the Town's side, we're funding a lot of that already with 3 cops.

Mr. Bernier: No, that's where I was going.

Mr. DiFederico: I don't see how you can cut that much more on the Town's side for the productivity, management maybe, but not

Mr. Bernier: We have no capital expenditures, which we really don't.

Mr. Frigon: I honestly don't know if there's \$20,000 there but whatever it is

Mr. Mancini: You mean for the board of Ed?

Mr. Frigon: No, on the Town's side, capital, cause we cut most of those at the beginning of the year.

Mr. Mancini: We didn't have much to cut. This poor Town doesn't have much to cut. The Town's side went bare bones last year.

Mr. Bernier: Where I'm going is if you don't have capital expenditures to cut, if we take \$773,000 in labor, guys there's going to be no one left in the Town.

Mr. Mancini: It's not all labor.

Mr. Bernier: I mean the people around this table, who are you going to take?

Mr. Mancini: You can't afford to take \$773,000 from labor.

Mr. Frigon: Can you imagine, Frank can't drive his car, let alone a plow.

Mr. Bernier: 60% of the money, and I'm being generous saying 60%, it's probably, and I don't know what this number is closer to 80% of the money that's going in taxes is going to the schools.

Mr. DiFederico: 82%.

Mr. Frigon: It's high, but it's

Mr. Bernier: I don't know what it is but when we get to next year we'll talk about that, but I most certainly think that the Board of Ed has got to step up and understand it's going to be freezing more than a couple of line items.

Mr. Frigon: I'm going to meet with Karen again unofficially tomorrow, I will give her a call, I will ask her to meet and I will relay the sentiment of where we're looking at going this year and we're all going to need to belly up.

Mr. Bernier: That's what I'm saying. The Town's side cannot be the only one responsible to make up this deficit.

Mr. Frigon: That's going to be one way we're going to look at it.

Mr. Primini: I'm looking at it, obviously maintenance isn't there compared to last year. I don't see anybody mowing the lawns over there but I'm just saying if you did it month by month there has to be some savings in maintenance.

Mr. DiFederico: What I don't understand on the school grounds, is I know how Louis Sirois used to go out there and do the sidewalks, whatever, but I don't understand when we have like a 90 minute delay or an hour delay, I don't understand why the Town doesn't plow the schools?

Mr. Frigon: Why doesn't the Town?

Mr. DiFederico: Yes.

Mr. Frigon: Because we're on the streets. We're trying to get the streets reedy for the school busses.

Mr. DiFederico: Yea, but even when the schools are closed, I mean you know.

Mr. Frigon: Yea, you never

Mr. DiFederico: They can't make a sweep through the school on their way by? You're paying them

Mr. Frigon: Not when there's a 90 minute delay. When there's a 90 minute delay that's almost impossible. If there's no school that day then you're going to pay the overtime for our guys to come in which is more expensive than the overtime for the school because one way or the other they're

Mr. Bernier: Since we are talking about the way we need for this Town to look (inaudible) we have redundancy in services.

Mr. Frigon: And that's what we're going to talk about when we do the budget.

Mr. Bernier: And they most certainly need to be addressed. We're paying the Town's side, we're paying the Board's side. We need to combine these things. I'll tell you right now, the Town's side thinks out of the box, they do what needs to be done, they look at it, I mean this gentleman over here spent his holiday going over numbers. You don't see that on the other side.

Mr. Mancini: No. (Tape #1, Side A ended – may have missed some.)

Mr. Bernier: Pay this guy consultant fees every week . . . every single week.

Mr. Mancini: \$600.00 a day.

Mr. Bernier: He is making more than some of our department heads.

Mr. Frigon: He's making more than every department head, and the Town Manager.

Mr. DiFederico: The two of them together.

Mr. Frigon: Absolutely. He's making \$145,000 a year.

Many people talking at once (inaudible).

Mr. Fusco: Going back to that 3.5% increase, percentage-wise, if we do go to 3.5% will that bring us into the ballpark or are we just scraping the barrel to get there?

Mr. DiFederico: You can't tell until you start going through it.

Mr. Bernier: I think that's taking into consideration the (inaudible) that we're talking about here, and I don't know if we can get that low.

Mr. Frigon: You're talking about the overall?

Mr. Fusco: Yes.

Mr. Frigon: Because I can tell you right now unofficially on the Town's side, we were at before the Public Works Subcommittee added some more, we were at just a 1% increase in spending, so we're not at a 5.9%, we're at a 1%, we're at about a 1.2% right now, with the additional. Obviously we are going to sit down now and we're going to talk about the way we do business, and that's going to change. Right now the budget that's going to be presented to you at about a 1.2% increase is typically the way we provide services today. Now we can sit down and roll up our sleeves. What do you want to talk about?

Mr. Bernier: In the grand scheme of things, just to jump ahead, what I'd like to do once we come up with numbers is say okay, if this basically is business at status quo, if we have to go to this level, these are the services that you're going to lose, and put it up front, and if we have to drop to this level, this is the services and then

Mr. DiFederico: You're saying put it out to the people that way.

Mr. DiFederico: Don't do that.

Mr. Bernier: No, no, I'm saying right up front

Mr. DiFederico: It's our job and it's their job to be pissed off at us. Don't put that out to the people. This year I want to be a horse. I mean you're going to use a scare tactic.

Mr. Bernier: There's no scare tactics involved. Tell them upfront, Rich. What happens in this Town is everyone wants everything for nothing. They have to understand, they don't want to pay taxes, they can't pay taxes, then this is what you're going to end up with.

Mr. DiFederico: Be honest with the people and you'll find out you'll get a lot more.

Mr. Bernier: I'm being honest with the people.

Mr. DiFederico: No, we weren't last year. Be honest with the people and you'll get a lot more. I'm telling you.

Mr. Frigon: How were we misleading last year?

Mr. DiFederico: Because I believe we were misled with the NEASC, I was misled because of that damn line item thing, the way I was (inaudible).

Mr. Frigon: I'm looking at it from the Town's side.

Mr. DiFederico: (Inaudible) the Town's side you weren't misleading. The only thing I feel bad about the Town's side, I really believe in that communications systems, I really believe in that and the thing is is that I'm not saying, I know most likely we're going to have to lay off, and you know that, and the problem is I see everybody scared to attack the schools. The thing is the way you give us our line items, it's read, it's easy. Their line items, I just remember when I asked them about a line item I said what the hell is that in there, she said well that's three more, it was a different, psychology, psychology, it said some other name, it was misleading to me. But when we walked in last year I did not know, this year I do know, was how to ask a question each line item. I believe we were misconstrued on the Board of Education's side. I believe there are a lot of things, they're going to get \$2,000,000 this year. I don't think they're set back for that and last year they got \$500,000 more, we gave them \$600,000, they got \$500,000 from the State, \$600,000 from us, that's \$1,100,000. I mean holy mackerel and we still gave them all that money. I believe we were, I want to say deceived.

Mr. Bernier: I didn't think so but I think (inaudible).

Mr. DiFederico: I think we were deceived.

Mr. Nardelli: Carl and I were just

Mr. Mancini: Are we now in 09/10 or (inaudible). I thought Frank was supposed to give us like an overall or something?

Mr. Bernier: We are right on the cusp of going there, I know we need to go there. Let's just review 08/09. We've got somewhere around \$700,000 debt.

Mr. Nardelli: In that deficit, we don't budget 100% collection rate, we budget 98.4% so we have some wiggle room. So if all of that money were to come in, Mary would be up to her 99.2% so we have some wiggle room so it's not going to impact the whole \$773,000, we don't know, I mean there's going to be some impact, there's no question.

Mr. Mancini: But 98% of \$773,000 is

Mr. Nardelli: Yea, but you have to remember we factor in 2% on \$30,000,000 not (inaudible).

Mr. Frigon: Not the \$700,000, right.

Mr. Nardelli: So we do have some wiggle room there.

Mr. Bernier: I understand. Where I was going and it kind of leads to where Richie is right now, we're going to go back to the Board of Ed and have more unofficial discussion about the fact that whatever deficit that we need to make up will be made up. . . .

Mr. Frigon: Proportionately.

Mr. Bernier: Proportionately. You have a feel, you've already talked to your department heads with layoffs, if they were necessary?

Mr. Frigon: I didn't talk about specifically layoffs, I talked about if they had some efficiencies that they can introduce, otherwise that's where I think we're going to end up going.

Mr. Bernier: The Union has not categorically declined from

Mr. Frigon: No, I haven't met with them again because once again, and going back to what Carl said and the point I was trying to make is where are we going with all of this, what are we looking at, what are we trying to make up, are we looking at 1 job or 50 jobs, there's a lot that we need to talk about, so I haven't really gone back yet and I haven't made any threats or promises if you will to where we're going to go. Quite frankly, a lot of our bargaining units have and I'm just being the devil's advocate here for a second, they've given a lot over the years as well. It's not going to sit well in a lot of their craws to have to give right now, a lot of them quite frankly are pretty ticked off at the \$70,000 overrun and they're saying why do we have to fund this, why does our salary have to go down or why do we have to get laid off to fund this. You know?

Mr. Bernier: The same reason why my salary went down.

Many people talking at once (inaudible).

Mr. Primini: If you did a month by month comparison of what they had last year, come like especially this time of year, March, April, they pretty much know what they're going to be like for the rest of the year. I'm looking at if there is some money left over come May, that they don't just piss it away come June because we have \$100,000, there's got to be some money left over in the maintenance budget, there's got to be something there. If you start looking over March, April, it might not be as severe as you think it is.

Mr. Bernier: Well that's kinds of where

Mr. Frigon: What you're looking for, right.

Mr. Bernier: Right, that's kind of where I'm going, the discussion is early. If you get any concessions from the Union even minor concessions, they factor into this. I truly believe on the Town's side, and Rich you're absolutely right on the Board's side, I think that all the department heads have done an exemplary job with staffing appropriately and getting efficiency from their staff. I understand the Police Department gave (inaudible) 3 cops and that's appreciated.

Mr. Frigon: It's also a big savings.

Mr. Bernier: That's what I'm saying, it's appreciated.

Mr. Primini: How much longer can you keep going like that too? I mean there's another one that's out obviously sick.

Mr. DiFederico: Let me get back to something, you said that we budget 98.4% so really you can knock this down?

Mr. Nardelli: Yea, we're just telling you

Mr. DiFederico: Exactly what it is.

Mr. Nardelli: Yea, I mean what we usually budget, she usually collects over 99%. We don't budget that because that's a phenomenal number that she comes in with. There us, some of that will go into the uncollected column that we had that we usually budget \$300,000 or \$400,000 that's not going to come in anyway, so some of that will be alleviated by that but not all of it.

Mr. Primini: When you talk about layoffs, you have to be very, very careful on the Town's side because it's not what you think it's going to be, you have contractual. You can't just say because we don't have building permits up we're going to lay off the Assistant Building Inspector because there's a procedure in place, you have to lay off

Mr. Frigon: There's going to be bumping, there's going to be all right, that's why I'm saying the change is not going to be short term, this is going to be

Many people talking at once (inaudible).

Mr. DiFederico: Went through this with a fine toothed comb, I think you come out smelling a little better, I really believe that, and I believe like I said, if we paid somebody for 2.8 people last year and to me, maybe if they're not there, that's what I'm saying, that's what you need to go through with a fine toothed comb, cause something doesn't seem right there. Not just 1, but I had 3 of them. I learned a lot last year and that's one thing, but you have to be able to, when the other department heads came in and sit down it was a whole different category than sitting down with the Board of Education. The Board of Education really did, the teachers didn't hurt us, I think they actually did pretty good the year with the raise cause we saved money on the insurance cause it costs (inaudible) am I right?

Mr. Bernier: It was half a million dollars more.

Mr. DiFederico: But we saved on insurance, am I right?

Mr. Frigon: Yes.

Mr. DiFederico: So listen I do pay attention sometimes, I don't say much, but I do pay attention, so I think it's just the way the money is spent, the way it's budgeted out up above, and I think the guy, that's his problem, and I think the thing is get another guy in there. I'm not afraid to say lay off that guy and put a new guy in there.

Mr. Bernier: Unfortunately we can't say that but we can most certainly limit the amount of dollars that they get. And don't misunderstand, I'm saying the same thing I said to you last year, we can't pick and choose their budget and tell them we're not going to fund this or that, all we can do is give them a dollar amount.

Mr. DiFederico: You are absolutely right. But you can ask any questions and I told you the questions I wanted to know, I told you I already talked to Karen, she had 6 I believe she said (inaudible) what I'm saying is that those are the things that need to be brought up. I don't care the Highway Department, they maybe have 8 guys down there and you only pay for 6. We have a problem here.

Mr. Bernier: By the way we are in 2009/2010.

Mr. DiFederico: But we're talking about this for next year.

Mr. Bernier: So with that in mind, why don't we go ahead.

4. Consider Concerning Fiscal Year 2009/2010 Budget

Mr. Nardelli: I just want to mention, with the Governor's proposed budget, we're going to get \$118,000 less.

Mr. Frigon: That's not bad actually considering, not bad.

Mr. Nardelli: We're losing \$37,000 from the Pequot Mohegan Sun Grant. Roy is going to lose \$47,000 in his Town Road Aid. Those are the two biggies. I have a list (inaudible). That's on the Governor's proposed budget. Now what finally comes out of the legislature we'll have to wait and see.

Mr. Bernier: Did they give us anything for the education assistance?

Mr. Nardelli: Zero.

Mr. Mancini: How much is the Board of Education asking, the 5.9%, what's that equal to in dollars?

Mr. Frigon: I don't know. Their budget last year was 85?

Mr. Mancini: So 5.96 so \$1,800,000?

Mr. Nardelli: A couple million.

Mr. Mancini: Okay, let me say something then. Remember when Joe Erardi made a presentation to us 2 or 3 years ago, saying he was asking for 7.17 and the State is giving us all this extra money, so it's not going to cost the taxpayers a penny. His increase was not going to cost the taxpayers any money.

Mr. Frigon: I remember it well.

Mr. Mancini: So he wanted the money from the State, and he didn't want any money from the Town. Well I propose the same thing right now. We'll give you the same money we got from the Town from the State last year, we didn't get any increase, and we can't afford to pay anymore and that's what you're going to get. (Inaudible.)

Mr. DiFederico: And they're getting \$2,000,000.

Mr. Mancini: Let's see what they do, see how (inaudible).

Mr. DiFederico: The State gives them so much money, they gave them \$1,200,000 last year.

Mr. Fusco: (Inaudible) you get the teachers at a public hearing and everybody caves in.

Mr. Mancini: Not me, I didn't cave in.

Mr. DiFederico: Not me.

Mr. Fusco: But they cave in, (inaudible) and it doesn't work out.

Mr. Mancini: Everybody deserves something but

Mr. Fusco: You understand the teachers got a raise, they got a 3.5% raise.

Mr. Mancini: Well maybe they should rethink that for the benefit of the Town.

Mr. Fusco: They're not going to rethink it, and their thinking is you'll lay off teachers before they reduce your taxes.

Mr. Mancini: And that's all high seniority people saying that too.

Mr. Fusco: So they're going to see layoffs, and you're going to be the bad guy because they're going to say we can't do this, pay for play is going to go, no more gym teachers, no more basketball (inaudible).

Many people talking at once (inaudible).

Mr. DiFederico: You guys are all afraid of this Board of Education.

Mr. Mancini: I'm not afraid of the Board of Education, I've taken them on 3 years in a row.

Mr. Fusco: I got chased out of the building, swearing at.

Mr. Bernier: One of the things you most certainly made a valid point with NEASC is we do away all of their NEASC and what happened? Nothing.

Mr. DiFederico: I had the papers, they weren't threatening (inaudible) I talked to the (inaudible) who signed the papers. And now they backed up on it. So we're down \$118,000.

Mr. Mancini: The Board of Education is looking for \$1,800,000.

Mr. Bernier: I'm pretty sure (inaudible) building permits are going to be close

Mr. Nardelli: They'll be down. This year we (inaudible) Taft but conveyance fees will be down, interest on investments will be down.

Mr. Bernier: (Inaudible) Baldwin School?

Mr. Frigon: I'm not talking about Baldwin School, it's not on the agenda.

Mr. Mancini: Well it's part of our discussion about 2009/2010, he's asking a question about are we getting any taxes from Baldwin School. I think it's a legitimate question. Do you know something about Baldwin School that we don't know that we should know?

Mr. Frigon: No, I just think you should be directing your questions to the Finance Director.

Mr. Nardelli: Yea, we get taxes on the building.

Mr. Mancini: Is anything being done?

Mr. Frigon: No, I talked to Richie, he's not doing anything right now.

Mr. Mancini: And here's a guy who told us the day you sign my check, in 30 days you're going to see improvements, you're going to see work being done.

5. Discussion Concerning Sweeper Costs

Mr. Bernier: The sweeper was dying a terrible death last year. We're running out of rubber bands and bubble gum.

Mr. Mancini: I can work the machine to make the parts for you.

Mr. Cavanaugh: Right now we have 135 miles of road we're responsible for sweeping. Street sweeping is one of the primary responsibilities of the Public Works Department, both from the citizen's expectation aspect, from the sanitation aspect, and it's actually required by law on the permit. Right now we've got two sweepers in the Town, we've got a Bear which is 10 years old and we've got the Elgin which is 20 years old. We run them both to take care of the roads and it takes us about 12 weeks to do it, and there's a couple of breakdowns we factor into it, but it takes about 3 months to sweep the whole Town. In addition we take care of the Board of Ed, we take care of all the parking lots, and we take care of parades and miscellaneous events.

So the sweepers are a critical part of the Department of Public Works. One is 20 years old and one is 10 years old. Right now the 10 year old one is the primary sweeper and the 20 year old is what I call the secondary sweeper, it follows along behind and picks up what the first one misses. The 20 year old, we've got prices to refurbish the machines and the prices were somewhere between ridiculous and astronomical. We provided that information before. The Bear, the new one, is currently running but it's on its last legs. If we're going to keep it going we'll need about \$18,000 in round numbers, \$17,700 to be specific, and we think we can probably keep it going all year. We don't have that kind of repair money in the budget. If we're going to run the Elgin this year, the Elgin we need about \$2,300 just for parts. We don't think it's going to make the year, whatever we dump in there, so we'll be down to 1 sweeper by the end of the year. If we do dump the \$18,000 into the Bear which is a 10 year old piece of equipment which has been run hard, I'm not going to guarantee and nobody can guarantee that I won't be back here in a couple of months looking for many, many thousands of dollars more to repair it because it's (inaudible). We're not looking at (inaudible) to do with the power train, or the truck or body or anything else, we're looking at the elevators (inaudible) and the body of the sweeper portion of the machine. So that's where we are at right now. We don't have the money to fix it, we don't have a machine that can run, we can either fix it and buy a new one and make it a secondary piece of equipment or we need to fix it, put a Band-Aid on the Elgin and send it out there.

We're talking about how we're going to fund this. Currently there are a couple of open purchase orders and this is going to revert back to the General Fund, they were left over from the Sylvan Lake right of way before that project. There are two open purchaser orders right now in the amount of about \$94,000 and Frank desperately needs that for his purposes which we already know what they are. We do have a way of paying for it out there. My first recommendation would be to fix the Bear and do a lease purchase on the new piece of equipment and that would get us through, at least we think by putting the Bear back in secondary status and we'll probably get at least 5 years out of it and the Town should be good for at least that long. I think if we dump \$20,000 to repair it this year, next year we'll be back asking the same thing, we don't know.

Mr. Bernier: Lease (inaudible) about \$75,000 from last year?

Mr. Cavanaugh: No, it's a leased by Pelican and a new Elgin is about \$160,000. We've got a quote here for \$160,000 from CM Moore Connecticut. You're talking a 5 year, if you made a down payment this year of about \$30,000, you're looking at a 5 year lease purchase of \$30,000, locking in \$30,000 for 5 years, beyond that and that would be fair, (inaudible) sucking wind this year for money.

Mr. Bernier: Absolutely. What we are talking about is \$50,000 to fix the Bear and replace the first year of a replacement . . . and about somewhere around \$30,000 so it's about \$48,000.

Mr. Cavanaugh: Yea, we usually budget around \$30,000, so we're talking close to \$50,000.

Mr. Bernier: So about \$50,000 to replace the 20 year old Pelican that's dead.

Mr. Cavanaugh: It's not dead, we're going to send it out and we're going to run it as long and as hard as we can, but it's not, it's 20 years old, it's tired, if we dump this money into it, it's good money after bad money.

Mr. Bernier: Is there any trade-in on this?

Mr. Frigon: It's a 20 year old machine.

Mr. Cavanaugh: Whatever we get in there would be scrap, minimal.

Mr. Mancini: Don't we have \$14,000 in the budget for parts for those machines? Remember last year when we were negotiating the budget, and we said there's money in the parts for the 2 sweepers, about \$14,000, and if we allocated \$30,000 a year for 5 years for a brand new machine, we can subtract money from the parts for it for the sweeper?

Mr. Frigon: Yea, you are correct, Carl.

Mr. Mancini: I remember saying if we buy a new machine we won't need that much money in parts. It's going to cost us \$30,000 but we were saving. . . . I was in favor last year of buying that machine at \$30,000 for 5 years and we would subtract the money for the parts.

Mr. Cavanaugh: In (inaudible) we rolled the dice on this, we went to the casino and rolled the dice, we came up snake eyes because now we're short on the parts and we've got no sweeper. We also allocated money in there to sandblast and paint a couple of trucks and we're not doing that this year either.

Mr. Mancini: Roy, the Budget Committee proposed buying the new sweeper last year, it got taken out in the second round when Chuck was told to cut the budget down to 4% cause we thought we needed the new machine last year. My second question would be

Mr. Bernier: Well we (inaudible).

Mr. Mancini: I remember there's money that we can cut the budget by so much, there's one of those line items that came out of equipment.

Mr. Frigon: Yea, but we took that Elgin apart in the past year. Some of that money was, remember Mr. Duffy went out and had a lot of work done to it and we've done a lot of work to the Elgin, that's why it's the older machine at 20 years old

Mr. Mancini: Another thing, 135 miles, if we wanted to outsource what would that cost to outsource for a year for 135 miles?

Mr. Cavanaugh: We provided that analysis.

Mr. Mancini: I don't have the numbers with me so I just wanted to see what that costs. \$45,000 maybe?

Mr. Primini: We looked into seeing if we could rent a truck with our guy, it couldn't be done.

Mr. Mancini: I know that DeSantis in Middlebury, they provide street sweeping services. What would it cost to have all the streets done

Mr. Cavanaugh: Approximately \$60,000 cash to a subcontractor. That's based upon last year's rate, DeSantis actually was the low bidder for the area, and (inaudible) rates for last year.

Mr. Mancini: You've got to think about it in the sense that

Mr. DiFederico: It almost comes out the same.

Mr. Mancini: If you think about it

Mr. Demirs: You don't have to pay for a driver.

Mr. Mancini: That's what I'm saying, you're saying you're running 2 machines for 3 months, there's 1 guy for 6 months that you don't have to pay, what's his salary, \$50,000, so that's \$25,000 savings plus benefits plus \$30,000 for a new machine, that's \$55,000.

Mr. DiFederico: It's cheaper to contract it.

Mr. Mancini: It's almost cheaper to contract it out. But you still are spending \$30,000 a year.

Mr. Fusco: You would do that if you believe the economy is going to change in the next couple of years, you would do this just to carry you over.

Mr. Mancini: Plus all the other costs that go along with, all the parts that you're going to have to put into these machines every year. We're spending over \$55,000 a year.

Mr. Bernier: Now that number is to do the 135 miles, that's not doing the parades and the . . .

Mr. Frigon: Or the chip sealing or the

Mr. Cavanaugh: Or the chip sealing or the schools or the parking lots.

Mr. Frigon: Yea, let me tell you, chip sealing in and of itself . . . yea, I understand what you're saying.

Mr. Mancini: No, I'm just looking at other options.

Mr. Frigon: And you should, Carl.

Mr. Mancini: I'm not saying let's do that, I'm saying what does it cost. I thought I remembered \$45,000, but Roy said \$60,000, so I wasn't that far off really.

Mr. DiFederico: Either way we need the damn thing.

Many people talking at once (inaudible).

Mr. Mancini: Even if we outsource some of it, we still need a machine to do a little here and a little there.

Mr. Bernier: At the end of the day, beyond the citizen's expectation, sanitary and E.P.A. are basically requirements. It's not a warm fuzzy to have our streets swept, it's a necessity.

Mr. Mancini: There's \$30,000 I'm willing to spend.

Mr. Bernier: We were willing to spend it last year, I just don't know how we're going to fund it but we need to fund it.

Mr. Mancini: I think so.

Mr. Fusco: We just complained that we had no money for nothing, not that I don't agree . . .

Mr. Mancini: Well there are a lot of other places where we put money in the bank for future uses 4 and 5 years down the road, maybe that fund can't get funded this year.

Mr. Fusco: There you go, you've come up with a way of doing it.

Mr. Mancini: Yea.

Mr. Bernier: (Inaudible) has to be funded, there's no doubt about it.

Mr. Mancini: I mean that other fund (inaudible) maybe for one year when times are really bad we can't fund a certain item.

Mr. Frigon: Frank, is there any legitimacy in that open purchase order?

Mr. Nardelli: The other night we just appropriated \$57,000 (inaudible) so I mean that's \$57,000 out the window.

Mr. Mancini: What?

Mr. Frigon: I asked if there was any legitimacy in using the open purchase order that's out there now for Sylvan Lake?

Mr. Nardelli: I mean when you cancel a purchase order it goes back into the fund balance (inaudible) approved \$57,000 the other night for Sunnyside that came out of the fund balance.

Mr. Mancini: We can't keep hitting this fund balance too hard because . . . we're raiding, when we go for bonding . . .

Mr. Bernier: That was our point, whatever, going back to this year, whatever that number becomes, if you take that out of the fund balance, we're already starting to affect our bond rating.

Mr. DiFederico: (Inaudible) try to work that in.

Mr. Bernier: No, whatever that number is, but we are looking to spend \$50,000 that we don't have, but it's the best \$50,000.

Mr. Fusco: Carl had a good suggestion. Chuck is going to have to go through the budget and see where we're taking money with these, so much a year, and we're going to have to move it to this project if this is very important. Somebody else is going to suffer to take this. There's nothing wrong with that.

Mr. Mancini: Well the sweeper is going to cost us \$30,000 this year if we buy a brand new one.

Mr. Bernier: Plus \$18,000 in repairs.

Mr. Mancini: It's going to cost us \$20,000 for repairs because one is \$17,700, the other one is \$23,000 so that's \$20,000, for \$10,000 you've got a brand new machine, even though you've got to pay \$30,000 next year, let's hope the economy turns a little bit, maybe something can come into this Town and help us out a little bit. Maybe next year Heritage will start coming in and a little bit of permit money. Maybe Mr. Fusco gets lucky and sells his property and we start getting permit money over there up on the hill, and permit money we're talking \$600,000.

Mr. Frigon: He was talking \$30,000 plus the \$20,000 to refurbish the old one and getting rid of the older one, so \$50,000, \$52,000.

Many people talking at once (inaudible).

Mr. Fusco: If he can take it from another project . . .

Mr. Mancini: He might have to.

Mr. Fusco: It's not going to affect the taxpayer. Through the Chair, ask him to do some research and see where we can take it from.

Mr. Mancini: I think he already knows that. That's a sore issue in this Town (inaudible).

Mr. Fusco: That's why he gets paid the big bucks. (Tape #1, Side B ended – may have missed some.)

Mr. Frigon: I remember one time when I was trying to earn my big bucks and I went down to the Building Inspector's Department and I said what the hell are you spending this money for (inaudible) oh My God, I've got to have that money.

Mr. Mancini: He was driving around in a damn truck that had holes in the floor.

Mr. Frigon: Holes in it? You were driving around in a brand new 2004 Ford Explorer with a sun roof (inaudible) seats.

Mr. Bernier: Do you have a feel for delivery?

Mr. Cavanaugh: I think this is an off the shelf item, I think we can expect it within a month, this sweeping season.

Mr. DiFederico: Do we have to have another meeting to see where we can rob Peter to pay Paul?

Mr. Bernier: Yes. (Inaudible) before Monday?

Mr. Nardelli: How can we do that if we don't know if the snow (inaudible).

Mr. Frigon: We can't.

Mr. Bernier: I know, that's why I asked delivery. By April we'll need the

Mr. Frigon: With all due respect, I think what we need to do somehow, someday, is give the guy \$20,000 to fix the one sweeper. Regardless of where we're going, that sweeper is going to get fixed in either equation, so we have to come up with \$20,000, let's get the sweeper authorized, let's get it fixed and let's move on. The new sweeper, we'll look at it as we go through the budget, again that comes into that whole culture thing.

Mr. Bernier: Right. So we need to get the \$20,000 added to the agenda for Monday. I don't see any other way around it.

Mr. Frigon: Right.

Mr. DiFederico: Well we don't have to.

Mr. Bernier: Right. Agreed. So we'll do that, we'll put that \$20,000, we'll get the Pelican too, at least put the money there for the Pelican, worst case it's already been done.

Mr. Fusco: Where are we getting the money, did we figure that out?

Mr. Nardelli: Roy is going to go up there and take one of those machines to DriveSol and sell it (inaudible).

Mr. DiFederico: You're going to go up to the Danbury Prison and hire the chain gang, they only get \$.22 an hour.

Mr. Frigon: Roy, who did you get a price from for fixing that?

Mr. Cavanaugh: I want to say C.M. Moore.

Mr. Frigon: That's where we bought the machine?

Mr. Cavanaugh: Yes.

Mr. Frigon: Isn't that DeSantis' machine, didn't he design that machine?

Many people talking at once (inaudible).

Mr. Frigon: No everything, it buys us a refurb on the sweeper portion of the

Mr. Nardelli: (Inaudible) go for a bid waiver?

Mr. Frigon: Yea, put that on there as well. We just don't know, we better work real hard on

Mr. Fusco: Chuck, does the State have any of those machines they've been selling?

Mr. Frigon: Yea, but again, you know what Richard, you've been in the business, a sweeper runs so much dirt through it, the wear factor on them is ridiculous. The dirt wears them right out, so I don't care if you (inaudible)

Mr. DiFederico: (Inaudible) new one 20 years out of it (inaudible).

Mr. Frigon: No, I know, but if you buy a used one, you're buying something really used.

Many people talking at once (inaudible).

Mr. Bernier: So are we good with the sweeper?

Mr. DiFederico: Yes.

Mr. Fusco: Did we figure out where we're going to steal the money from?

Mr. Nardelli: We'll have to appropriate it out of the fund balance.

Mr. Frigon: Yea, that's where it's going to have to come from and then we're going to have to

Mr. Bernier: Try to (inaudible).

Mr. Frigon: Right.

Mr. Bernier: And then just back flush the fund balance (inaudible).

Mr. Frigon: As Roy said, he's giving it \$90,000 from the closed purchase order so that's \$58,000 minus \$20,000 and he's trying anyway.

Mr. Bernier: Right, but it will have to come from the fund balance. You don't have a problem with that?

Mr. Fusco: I don't disagree with this, I just, the times are tough and we just have to look at

Mr. Bernier: For all intents and purposes, Frank has already funded this by giving back money to the fund balance from the open purchase order.

Many people talking at once (inaudible).

Mr. Bernier: We have to figure out how to get the new one in the new budget. We have to work hard to do that.

6. Discussion Concerning Communications System

Mr. Frigon: Northeast Communications continues their study, they were in Town last Wednesday, they're going to be in Town again this week, and they continue their study of our topography. They're re-doing the whole thing that we once paid something for. They're re-doing the whole thing and they're doing it a no cost. Larry expects for them to be finished certainly within the month. They're behind schedule right now. So the good news is they are doing it, they're doing it for nothing. The reality is, I think it was in last week's paper twice again, where some consultant came out with a price of some dollar amount and Motorola is saying it cost a different dollar amount, there's going to be a disparity, I don't know what it's going to be when he comes out with a price, but what I'm going to suggest is as soon as that study is finished, I would like for Mr. Bernier to consider a finance subcommittee meeting just on the communications system, let Motorola come in, let the Fire Department come in, let the Police Department come in, and let the Public Works Department come in, and let them make a case for where we have been, where we are, and how the hell we're going to get there. I'd like to dedicate it if we can just to this topic.

Mr. Bernier: We're going to be going a couple of nights a week anyway so we'll just find a night that we all can get together and do it.

Mr. Fusco: We all agree we need it, but paying for it, that's what we have to know.

Mr. Frigon: Rich, I understand completely.

Mr. Fusco: Okay, but we need something to come back, we're going to agree 100%, I can see we're all going to agree this is certainly (inaudible) but pay for it.

Mr. Frigon: I understand.

Mr. Bernier: I think we all feel this way, I was a volunteer fireman, and I have to tell you, that (inaudible).

Mr. Mancini: I was for the communications system when it first started. If it (inaudible).on the agenda with the budget, it would have passed last year.

Mr. Bernier: I mean last year with the busses, you had the tow truck on this side and the bus on this side and they couldn't communicate, I mean that's bad, that's dangerous.

Mr. Fusco: I don't disagree with that. But how are we going to pay for it?

Mr. Frigon: But you also have to remember, Rich, and this is why you get paid the big bucks, okay, that if you don't pay for it, the lawsuit it going to be a hell of a lot more than the payment.

Mr. Fusco: I'm not saying we don't pay for it, but we have to know where (inaudible) more taxes (inaudible).

Mr. Frigon: Right, absolutely, I understand. Actually you don't add that in, you go to referendum for it, they decide, you don't.

Mr. Fusco: It still costs money.

Mr. Frigon: Right, but they decide yes or no.

Mr. Bernier: The \$13,000,000 what is that going to do to our percentage?

Many people talking at once (inaudible).

Mr. Frigon: I mean we have to, about \$20,000 of that is to defend all of the P & Z stuff. I'm going to respectfully ask them litigation, wait until next year, whatever you have to do wait. The other \$40,000, you know where that's coming from, we go to court on the 21st (inaudible).

Many people talking at once (inaudible).

7. Discussion Concerning 10/01/08 Grand List

Mr. Nardelli: Motor vehicle went down about 5%, personal property went down about 14%, and of course revaluation, the real estate went up about 17.6%, so overall we had about a 13.5% increase in the Grand List, and again that's because of revaluation of real estate. I had her give me the numbers if revaluation didn't occur, and we were going to be down about 2/10 of 1%. In all the years that I've been here, the Grand List has never really gone down, but it was going down if it wasn't for revaluation. With reval commercial and the resident real estate, the commercial went up about 19%, the residential about 16%, and industrial only about 6%. Usually, the last revaluation there was a big shift on residential, the commercial did not go up that much but that did go up so at least you're not going to see that much of a, well obviously there's going to be a burden on the residential, but it's going to be equally displaced between the commercial and the residential.

Mr. Primini: Will that be published in the paper?

Mr. Nardelli: I'm not sure.

Mr. Frigon: I don't think that those (inaudible).

Many people talking at once (inaudible).

Mr. Bernier: We needed to be there a couple of years ago.

Mr. Frigon: But remember, what Frank is saying we're not comparing Grand List to Grand List, we're comparing Grand List to Reval.

Mr. Nardelli: (Inaudible) reval the Grand List was actually gone down (inaudible). Everything had stayed the same, if expenses had stayed the same people's taxes were still going to go up because the Grand List went down.

Mr. Fusco: It's still going to have an impact on it.

Mr. Nardelli: Yea. I haven't gotten the Board of Ed's numbers yet.

Many people talking at once (inaudible).

Mr. Mancini: The last 3 years the Board of Education (inaudible) the exact same thing as the Superintendent, you kidding me? You think there's going to be a cut?

Mr. Nardelli: I haven't seen the numbers, that's all I'm saying.

Mr. Mancini: The last 3 years did we have a difference between the Board of Education's numbers and the Superintendent's numbers? It's a rubber stamp, are you kidding me? They are a rubber stamp of the Superintendent, well as long as Joe Erardi was there.

Mr. Bernier: Our next meeting is this coming Tuesday.

Mr. Nardelli: We have P & Z at 7:30 and Roy is coming back. Thursday we have the Library and the Fire Department.

Mr. Bernier: Next week we have the Monday Board Meeting, Tuesday and Thursday Subcommittee Meetings.

Mr. Fusco: Did you ever think about combining the departments together and have one?

Mr. Frigon: We tried that with P & Z and the Building Inspector once, remember that?

Mr. Mancini: We brought that to the Board of Education a couple of years ago but (inaudible) they didn't want nothing to do with it.

8 Adjournment

MOTION: (Mr. Fusco, sec. Mr. Mancini) to Adjourn the Regular Meeting at 9:25 p.m.

Discussion: None

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Regular Meeting Adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gary Bernier, Chairman
Finance Subcommittee

Lynn M. LaForme, Clerk