

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
Approved
January 31, 2008
Town Hall, Groton, Massachusetts 01450

Board of Health Members Present:

Jason Weber, Chairman; Dr. Susan Horowitz

Board of Health Member Absent:

Robert Hanninen

Others Present:

Debra Butcher; Bruce Dubey, Transfer Station Supervisor; Tessa David,
North Central Regional Solid Waste Cooperative Director

Meeting Called to Order:

Chairman Weber called the meeting to order at 8:05am.

FY09 Board of Health & Solid Waste Budgets

Chairman Weber informed the Board that he attended the Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee's joint meeting on Saturday, February 2, 2008 where he was asked to restructure the Solid Waste labor line. He stated that the departments were asked to resubmit their budgets with a 5% and 8% decrease in labor costs.

Mr. Dubey stated that he has spoken with his staff and at this point, there were no issues expected in reducing their work hours, however, the Union might have issues with it. He stated that he could not run the Transfer Station with (2) employees if the Town chose to eliminate one position due to safety concerns.

Chairman Weber questioned how busy Wednesdays were at the Transfer Station. Mr. Dubey stated that the Transfer Station services approximately 200-300 people and more as the week progresses.

Member Horowitz questioned why there was a reduction of \$10K in the purchase of trash bags next fiscal year. Mr. Dubey stated that he would buy enough bags this year to carry over into next year, however, that would decrease over time. Member Horowitz questioned whether the budget amount was inflated this year. Mr. Dubey stated "no" because the cost of bags increases each year.

Recycling Committee Member Tessa David added that they increase their offer of bag sizes which allows them to spread the quantities.

Member Horowitz questioned whether the reduced Tipping Fee amount would be sufficient to cover next year. Mr. Dubey stated that our Finance Committee member calculated the fees and increase from Covanta to sufficiently cover the costs.

Member Horowitz questioned the need for the request for a capital expenditure for the pick up truck with a plow and whether its use would be for other departments beyond the Transfer Station's. Mr. Dubey stated "yes". He stated that it was costly to constantly repair the existing truck for the town vs. the purchase of a new vehicle. Mr. Dubey stated that he was meeting with the Capital Planning Committee on February 7, 2008.

Member Horowitz recommended to wait until after that meeting to discuss this as a Board.

Member Horowitz questioned what Mr. Dubey was proposing as a result of Mr. Delaney's letter dated January 30, 2008 proposing two different proposals for personnel reductions. Mr. Dubey replied that it would not work to reduce his staff because they are required to work Saturdays.

Recycling Committee member added that there needed to be some coordination between the two departments that she sees resource sharing in her other towns.

The Board voted to submit the reductions in the FY09 Solid Waste budget proposed by Mr. Dubey in his memorandum dated January 25, 2008 reducing the labor line by \$20,498.

The Board voted unanimously to resubmit their FY09 Board of Health budget with proposals for a 5% and 8% reduction in labor costs and to eliminate the \$2K engineering/consulting line item and reduce their expense line by \$1775. The Board acknowledged that this would result in reduced hours in the Board of Health office and would impact services to the townspeople.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55am.

GROTON BOARD OF HEALTH

Members in attendance,

Jason Weber, Chairman

Dr. Susan Horowitz

Respectfully Submitted,
Debra A. Butcher