

**MARION BOARD OF SELECTMEN
WATER/SEWER COMMISSIONERS
March 3, 2009
Minutes**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Present were Chairman Jonathan F. Henry, Board members Roger F. Blanchette and Stephen M. Cushing and Town Administrator Paul F. Dawson. Also present were Lee Craver, Ricky A. Pursely of *The Wanderer*, Gretchen Grundstrom of *The Sentinel*, Town Accountant Judith Mooney, Finance Committee members Richard A. Kemp, Alan Minard, Hamish Gravem and James Baron, Steven Grima, Conservation Commission Chairman Norman Hills, Carol Sanz and Helene Craver, secretary.

Mr. Cushing moved the minutes of February 17, 2009; the motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Mooney presented "bring down" certificates for signature. She explained that these certificates are unusual, in that the Town already has the authorization to borrow the money from the Pollution Abatement Trust for the I&I project and is now requesting to use the funds. (The Board signed the certificates.)

The Board then met with members of the Finance Committee. Dr. Kemp summarized estimated revenues, the draft budget and budget comparisons with the prior fiscal year. (The Finance Committee's presentation is attached to these minutes and made a part by reference.)

During a discussion of the budget for the schools, Mr. Blanchette objected to the District's estimating an 8% increase in health insurance costs, when the Town estimated that such costs would rise by 5%. Mr. Blanchette requested the District change their estimate to 5%. Messrs. Henry and Cushing agreed. Mr. Dawson offered to discuss this with the Superintendent of Schools.

Mr. Blanchette also objected to salary increases for Sippican School teachers above the 3% requested of all the other unions of the Town. Mr. Blanchette said that the 3% increase message had been sent to the School Committee, but, with some shifts in step increases, the total amount was above the 3%. Mr. Blanchette said that whatever the number was above 3%, he wants it removed from the budget. Mr. Blanchette recounted how the Town "won't notice", but we did. Dr. Kemp said that members of the School Committee took exception to this assertion. Mr. Blanchette said that all of the other groups have accepted the 3% raise and this isn't right. Dr. Kemp said that there is a lot of pressure from the parents to provide certain services to the students; the teachers' contract has been negotiated, signed and implemented and he can't overturn it—he can only ask the School Committee for an alternative. Dr. Kemp said that, historically, the Town supports education to a much higher degree than the foundation budget. Mr. Henry expressed his concern with peoples' ability to pay. Mr. Cushing expressed concern on possible impacts on the other union contracts. Mr. Dawson said that those contracts would not be reopened.

The Town's health insurance was briefly discussed. Mrs. Mooney expressed her confidence in the present practice of using Gateway for this purpose, as comparisons with other methods are saving the Town money.

Mr. Henry applauded the Finance Committee and noted that, in Marion, the Finance Committee is empowered to a large degree to help the Board run the Town and thanked the Finance Committee for its willingness to carry out whatever instructions are necessary, but "the buck stops" with the Board in these difficult times. Mr. Blanchette said that the Townspeople should be made aware of the amount over and above the foundation school budget funded by the Town. Mr. Blanchette said that the Townspeople should be proud of what we are doing.

The Board discussed the appointment of Wendy Carreau to the Conservation Commission as an Associate member. Mr. Hills said that he would recommend the appointment and explained that, whenever a member has a conflict of interest, they excuse themselves and leave the room for the discussion. Mr. Hills said that Mrs. Carreau's employer comes to the Conservation Commission only occasionally, at a rate much lower than some of the others. Mr. Dawson pointed out that the members of the Conservation Commission are designated as special municipal employees, which gives them slightly more authority to act, although doesn't excuse any deliberations involving them and family members with a financial interest.

Mr. Cushing moved the appointment of Wendy Carreau to the Conservation Commission as an associate member; the motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Mr. Blanchette moved the reappointment of Andrea Keene as Registrar; the motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

The Board briefly discussed replacement fees for resident stickers. Mr. Blanchette suggested the old sticker be peeled off and returned to the Town.

Mr. Cushing moved not to charge for replacement stickers, as long as the owner provides the appropriate proof; the motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Mr. Cushing moved final water bill commitments of \$1,203.53 and \$449.16; the motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Mr. Dawson reported that he has submitted an application for Community Preservation funding for a study of renovations for the Town House. Mr. Dawson said that this would provide an assessment of the building and its layout and prioritize repairs.

Mr. Dawson reported that there were no bidders on moving the Captain's Cottage, which will have to be demolished for the expansion of Littleneck Village.

Mr. Dawson reported that there were no bidders on the Papageorge property, in which the Town holds a 20% interest. Mr. Dawson requested this issue be discussed at the executive session following the meeting.

Mr. Dawson noted that he had attended a meeting in Fairhaven, sponsored by SRPEDD, regarding regional purchasing, which specifically targeted DPW supplies as its first attempt.

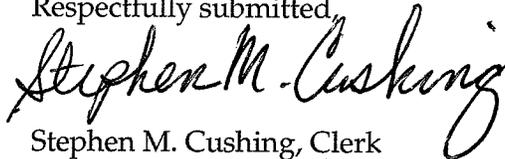
Mr. Dawson said that a number of trees on Point Road had been marked by NSTAR as "trees of interest". Mr. Dawson said that all of the Point Road area in particular is identified as one of the highest in the state with tree-related power outages. Mr. Dawson said that the arborist from the company will attend the next Selectmen's meeting to discuss the situation. Mr. Henry asked what authority the Town's Tree Warden might have with regard to tree removal. Mr. Dawson said that the Tree Warden has all the authority to call a public hearing and make decisions.

Mr. Dawson said that, with new trench regulations, the Town needs to appoint a person to issue permits for excavation and Richard Marx, Building Commissioner, has volunteered to fill that position. It was agreed to act at the next meeting.

The Board reviewed a letter from Cathryn MacLean relative to "Cody", with various complaints and assertions as to the legality of the hearing. Mr. Dawson said that there is an appeal process available to the MacLeans. Mr. Dawson said that the MacLeans were represented by counsel, who understood and approved the motion at the hearing; Town Counsel indicated that no further action is necessary.

Mr. Blanchette moved to go into executive session at 9:20 p.m. to discuss strategy for negotiations with non-union personnel and to consider the value of real property and not to return to open session following the executive session; the motion was seconded and carried unanimously, Messrs. Henry, Blanchette and Cushing voting aye.

Respectfully submitted,



Stephen M. Cushing, Clerk

Date approved: 3/17/09

Attachment

TOWN OF MARION
Fiscal Year 2010 Estimated Revenues

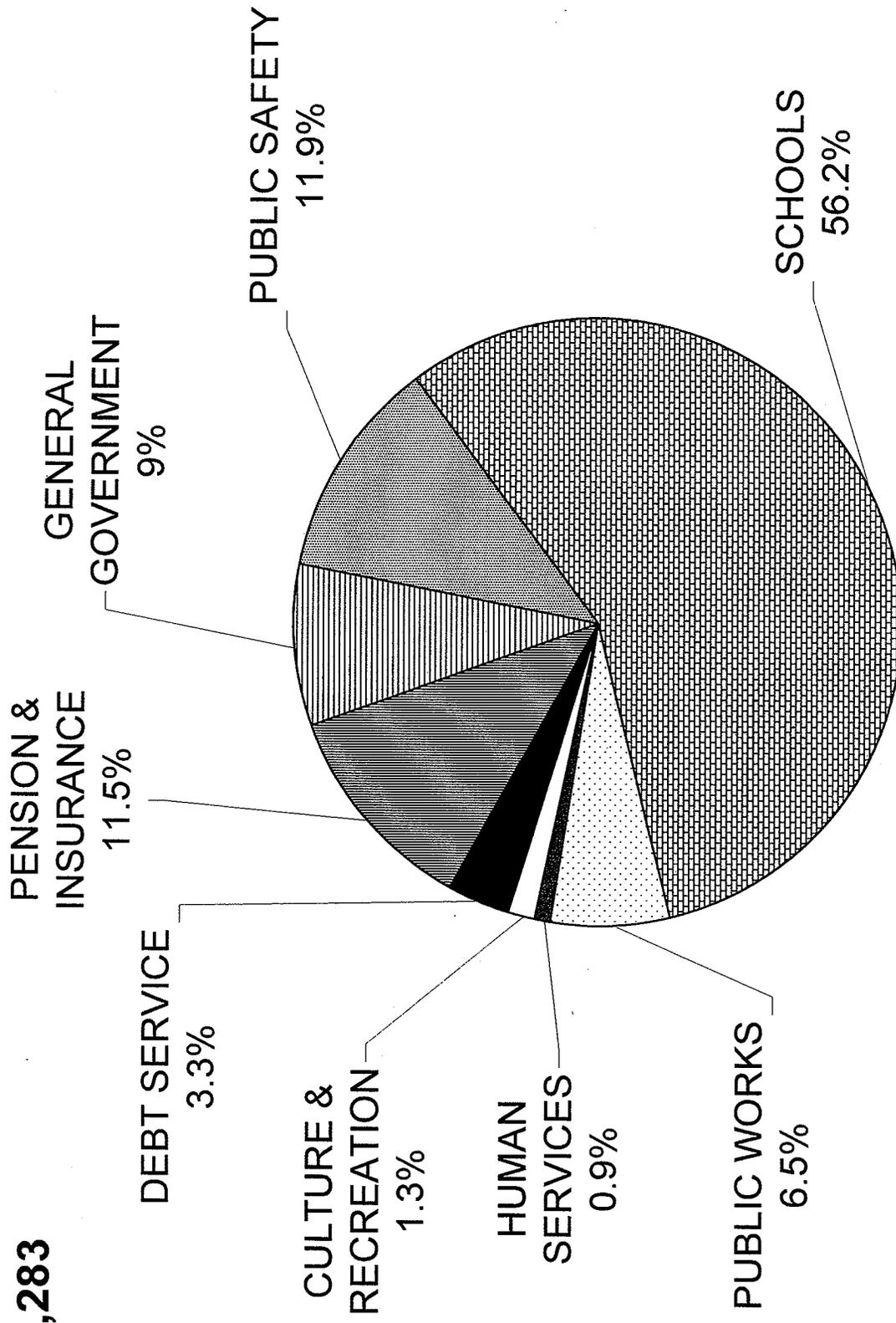
REVENUES SOURCES

	FY09		FY10
	Est. Revenues	Recap Revenues	Est. Revenues
Levy Limit (FY09 Base)	12,464,609	12,464,609	12,966,520
Override	0	0	0
Prop. 2 1/2	311,615	311,615	324,163
New Growth Est.	75,000	190,296	40,000
FY Debt Exclusions	12,851,224	12,966,520	13,330,683
	843,233	901,341	817,120
	13,694,457	13,867,861	14,147,803
FY10 Maximum Levy			
Actual FY09 Levy on Recap		13,834,900	
Chester Vose - Reduction in Taxes		9,000	
State (Local) Aid	844,305	844,435	789,606
Overlay requirement	(200,000)	(250,000)	(250,000)
Other amts to be raised (County & State assessment)	(81,624)	(73,706)	(72,186)
Overlay surplus	0	0	0
Local Receipts	1,535,000	1,486,079	1,450,000
	15,792,138	15,850,708	16,065,223
Total Raise and Appropriate			
Other Transfers - Free Cash	444,367	444,367	283,258
Other Transfers - Overlay Surplus/Reserves	200,000	200,000	150,000
Other Transfers - Indirect Costs	355,712	355,712	400,902
Other Transfers - County Dog Fund	4,000	4,000	4,000
Other Transfers - State Aid to Libraries	5,800	5,800	5,800
Other Transfers - Wetlands	7,000	7,000	4,500
Other Transfers - Waterways	150,000	150,000	180,000
	16,959,017	17,017,587	17,093,683
TOTAL GENERAL FUND REVENUES			
TOTAL FY10 GF OPERATING BUDGET	16,959,017	17,017,587	17,229,324
<i>Increase from year to year</i>			1.24%
VARIANCE (Revenue shortfall)	0	0	(135,642)
		Level Funded	Level Services

** Before final review and not including non-union pay increases.

**Town of Marion
FY10 Draft Budget**

\$17,133,283



TOWN OF MAPLETON
Fiscal Year Comparison by category)

	FY09	FY10	% of	% Difference	Category
	Appropriation	Proposed Budget	Budget	09 to 10	Totals
	\$	\$			
GENERAL GOVERNMENT	1,496,647	1,462,857	8.54%	(33,790)	(33,790)
				-2.26%	
PUBLIC SAFETY					
Police	1,279,577	1,279,525	7.47%	(52)	0.00%
Fire	316,409	319,633	1.87%	3,224	1.02%
EMT	101,670	119,790	0.70%	18,120	17.82%
Marine	168,634	168,634	0.98%	-	0.00%
Misc	144,213	145,063	0.85%	850	0.59%
SCHOOLS					
Sippican	5,049,736	5,159,178	30.11%	109,442	2.17%
ORR	3,825,666	3,890,179	22.71%	64,513	1.69%
ORR Debt	314,987	289,455	1.69%	(25,532)	-8.11%
Upper Cape	315,199	258,333	1.51%	(56,866)	-18.04%
Upper Cape Debt	26,380	24,597	0.14%	(1,783)	-6.76%
PUBLIC WORKS ADMIN.	1,082,899	1,116,051	6.51%	33,152	3.06%
HUMAN SERVICES	146,329	146,741	0.86%	412	0.28%
CULTURE & RECREATION	219,443	222,783	1.30%	3,340	1.52%
DEBT SERVICE	615,456	557,590	3.25%	(57,866)	-9.40%
PENSION & INSURANCE					
Pension	517,052	528,581	3.09%	11,529	2.23%
Group Insurance	1,016,230	1,051,860	6.14%	35,630	3.51%
Town Insurance	381,060	392,433	2.29%	11,373	2.98%
TOTALS	\$ 17,017,587	\$ 17,133,283	100%	\$ 115,696	0.68%
Excluding Debt	\$ 16,060,764	\$ 16,261,641	\$	\$ 200,877	1.25%