SELECTBOARD MEETING OF NOVEMBER 20, 2006

Members Present: Shaun Bryer, Chair; Brian Kellogg, Todd Yando, Steve Bousquet, David Yacovone

Department Heads: David Crawford, Bob Melfy

Guests: Mark Leonard, Planning Administrator; Josephine Fogg; David Parsons, Little River Engineering; Matthew Burgess, Fourth of July Committee; Judy Bickford; Alexandra Garven

Shaun Bryer called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM at the Tegu Conference Room.

CHANGES AND ADDITIONS

Addition of Mark Leonard with update of the Sutton case to Old Business and Judy Bickford discussion of personal concern to Guests/Presentations

GUESTS/PRESENTATIONS

CONSIDERATION OF A SEWER DISPOSAL PERMIT FOR 690 STANCLIFF ROAD: M. Leonard presented a request for variance for the installation of a septic system which is a deviation from the State's standards and, therefore, requires Selectboard approval. Members discussed with Josephine Fogg details of the request and concerns of the neighbors. Discussion was tabled until the engineer, David Parsons of Little River Engineering, could be present.

FOURTH OF JULY COMMITTEE: Matthew Burgess presented a resolution for the Selectboard approval which would identify the responsibilities of the Fourth of July Committee, grant the committee authority to act independently, and provide liability coverage under the Town's umbrella policy. After considerable discussion, Board members recommended Dave Crawford and Mr. Burgess meet to address the issues raised and present a revised proposal.

SEWER DISPOSAL PERMIT (CON'T): David Parsons addressed the inquiries of the Board regarding Fogg's failed system, distance of new system from boundary lines and who is liable in the case of contamination of neighbor's source of water.

Motion by David Yacovone, seconded by Steve Bousquet, to approve the deviation from site requirements for isolation distances from potable water supplies as presented. Motion passed unanimously (5/0)

CITIZEN SAFETY: Judy Bickford presented a concern regarding issues with a neighbor, which she believes threaten the safety of her family and property. While various departments of the Town have been cooperative to whatever extent they are able,

she requested the assistance of the Selectboard to give further direction to her. Members suggested courses of action which might be of use and instructed D. Crawford to meet with Chief Keith regarding the matter.

OLD BUSINESS

COLE PROPERTY LOAN/EXPECTED LOANS: D. Crawford presented draft copy of a Municipal Corporation Note with the Union Bank for $115,000 at a rate of 4.20% for one hundred twenty (120) months to be used to purchase the Cole property.

Motion by Brian Kellogg, seconded by Steve Bousquet, to sign the Municipal Corporation Note with the Union Bank for $115,000 for the purpose of purchasing the Cole property. Motion passed unanimously. (5-0)

D. Crawford discussed with the Board members an expected loan for the Rescue Building renovations including a proposal to lengthen the terms to 20 years. Members instructed Mr. Crawford to move this business forward.

VILLAGE TRUSTEE LETTER RE SEWER ISSUES: The Selectboard will respond to the letter agreeing with the suggestion to meet on a regular basis. D. Crawford will try to schedule a meeting for December 11 or 18 to address issues that will impact the '07 budget.

UPDATE ON THE SUTTON PROPERTY: Mark Leonard gave an update report to the action initiated against the Sutton property on Bridge Street. The deadline for clean up has passed (November 17) and although some activity has begun it has not been completed. The lengthy history of contact with Mr. Sutton regarding this issue was reviewed.

Motion by Steve Bousquet, seconded by Shaun Bryer, to direct Mark Leonard to proceed with the enforcement of zoning bylaws against the Sutton property. Motion passed. (4-1)

NEW BUSINESS

APPOINTMENT OF STEERING COMMITTEE AT-LARGE MEMBERS: The Selectboard reviewed the letters of interest received from interested persons for positions on the Ad Hoc Steering Committee. Four at-large members are needed and one member to represent the business community. Alexandra Garven, an applicant for an at-large seat, presented her qualifications to the Board.

Todd Yando, with a second by David Yacovone, nominated William Bourne to the seat representing the business community. Nomination carried 5-0.

Shaun Bryer, with a second by Steve Bousquet, nominated Alexandra Garven to one at-large seat. Nomination carried 5-0.

Todd Yando, with a second by Steve Bousquet, nominated Brent Paine, Dennis Smith and David Stevens to seats on the Committee.

David Yacovone, with a second by Shaun Bryer, nominated Matthew Burgess to a seat on the Committee.

Voting as follows:	*Yes*	*No*	*Abstain*	
Matthew Burgess	*1*	*3*	*1*	*not appointed*
Brent Paine	*5*	*0*		*appointed*
Dennis Smith	*4*	*1*		*appointed*
David Stevens	*5*	*0*		*appointed*

Brian Kellogg, with a second by Todd Yando, nominated Shaun Bryer as Selectboard Representative.

Meeting was then turned over to Steve Bousquet, Vice-Chair, as Shaun Bryer recused himself.

Nomination carried 4-0.

All other Selectboard members were named to serve as alternatives should the need arise. Shaun Bryer will schedule a meeting of the Steering Committee to review and agree upon the scope of the Committee's charge and the structure of its membership.

The School Board has named Peter Jones to the Committee; Friends of Morristown Taxpayers has named Sondra Sanborn. The Planning Commission has yet to name their representative.

SCHEDULING OF BUDGET MEETINGS: The existing schedule of Selectboard meetings was reviewed with the following recommendations:

- Review of two departmental budgets were scheduled for 5 pm on December 4 followed by the meeting with DOT from 6 pm to 8 pm and concluding with the final two departments at 8 pm. Twenty minutes will be allocated to each department.
- On December 11 General Government requests and other auxiliary funds will be scheduled along with the possibility of meeting with the Village Trustees.
- December 18 is designated as a working session to determine disposition of a all budget items. This meeting is also held open for a scheduled meeting with Village Trustees should they be unavailable on the 11th.

PRESENTATION OF 07/08 BUDGET

Dave Crawford led the Selectboard through a discussion of the highlights of the budget workbooks emphasizing the following:

- '06 rate of 1 cent on grand list raised $40,000 in revenues
- '07 a .034 cents rise in tax rate equals a 4.4% increase to tax payers

- wages and benefits are 53% of the budget
- departments are attempting to absorb inflation within their proposed budgets
- a 10-cent increase of the tax rate would result if all departmental requests are approved
- deadline for action on the budget will be the meeting of January 19
- Grand list will increase 20 to 25% due to the reappraisal; however, increase in grand list may be offset by reduction in tax rate.
- Revenues will be lost in the area of State subsidies for paving

Members will review the detailed notebooks in preparation for the budget meetings. Thanks were expressed to the staff for the excellent preparations in development of the notebooks.

SELECTBOARD MEMBER CONCERNS
Todd Yando: Furnished Dave Crawford with comparative insurance figures
Steve Bousquet: Inquired of Bob Melfy the disposition of a guard rail issue
Brian Kellogg: None
Dave Yacovone: None

CONSENT AGENDA APPROVAL

Motion by Steve Bousquet, seconded by Todd Yando, to approve the consent agenda with the exception of Item #5 Correspondence in Reading File. Motion passed 5-0.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT: In addition to budget considerations, Selectboard members were asked to consider as separate items on the warning library renovations/repairs, new ambulance, paving and other capital items.

Bob Melfy responded to questions regarding the system of resurfacing the Randolph Road and the fact that yellow line striping would not now occur until next spring.

Scott Green wishes to pursue the subject of gating Watanjay Road. In the meantime, the chain is to be lowered. Should the chain continue to be in use, it will be removed.

The Rescue Board elected as Co-Chairs Dot and George Cook. There has been no further comment or discussion regarding recent resignations. In other business they discussed flags and banners on poles and opted to by a power stretcher with available matching funds.

Discussions have been held with VTrans regarding the Tenney Bridge. This project is four to six years out.

EXECUTIVE SESSION
On a motion by David Yacovone, seconded by Brian Kellogg, the Board entered into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing wages and benefits. Motion passed 5-0