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**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING
May 18, 2011
Meeting Room A**

Present: Philip J. Miller, First Selectman
Norman M. Needleman, Selectman
Joel B. Marzi, Selectman

Philip Miller called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. and made an announcement that due to the number of attendees at tonight's meeting the meeting will be moved downstairs to the auditorium.

Philip Miller called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.

Mr. Miller stated that this is a regular Board of Selectmen meeting and not a public hearing.

Approval of Agenda:

Motion was made by Philip Miller to approve the Agenda. Norman Needleman seconded the motion. All in favor.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion was made by Philip Miller to approve the May 4, 2011 Meeting Minutes. Norman Needleman seconded the motion. All in favor.

Communications and Correspondence: None

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

STEAP Grant

Mr. Lee Thompson reported on a STEAP Grant Program opportunity for fiscal year 2012. The award could be up to \$500,000. Mr. Thompson discussed the application proposal involving the purchase of a trolley that would help with transportation for tourists during the summer months and would also provide transportation for seniors. The trolley would be run by the Estuary Transit. Mr. Thompson stated that the trolley will cost around \$160,000.

The grant award funds would pay for the trolley, signage, storage of the trolley, and three years contingency for operating expenses. The trolley would most likely be operational from Memorial Day to Labor Day.

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Essex Village Parking

Mr. Lee Thompson reported that at the May 11th Economic Development Commission (EDC) meeting a motion was made to recommend to the Board of Selectmen that they address the issues of parking in Essex Village, with particular emphasis on enforcing the Parking Ordinance.

Mr. Thompson proposed to the selectmen several ideas and recommendations from the EDC to rectify the parking problems. EDC felt the parking ordinance was not being enforced strongly enough.

Mr. Needleman requested that this item "Parking Ordinance" be tabled to the next Board of Selectmen meeting.

Mack Lane - Mr. Miller stated progress is being made to rectify this situation.

Pension Plan

Mr. Needleman stated we are tabling this topic and all three pension plans will be completed and presented by June 30th. Mr. Marzi stated that all three plans must go to Town Meeting.

2011-2012 Budget Review / Adjustment

The Selectmen reviewed and discussed the 2011-2012 budget and proposed the following cuts to the budget:

Description	2009-2010 Actual	2010-2011		2011-2012				May 18th		Dept.
		Budget	Oct YTD	Original Request	Budget Request	Increase/ (Decrease)	% Change	Budget Change	Change	
Elected Payroll	83,826	84,899	28,559	86,597	86,597	1,698	2.00%	84,899	(1,698)	Selectmen
Elected Payroll	12,750	12,878	3,219	18,000	16,098	3,221	25.01%	14,610	(1,488)	Elections
Elected Payroll	52,927	53,251	18,433	54,316	54,316	1,065	2.00%	53,251	(1,065)	Tax
Elected Payroll	53,945	54,484	18,860	55,698	56,812	2,328	4.27%	55,698	(1,114)	Town Clerk
Elected Payroll	23,863	24,102	8,343	24,584	24,584	482	2.00%	24,102	(482)	Treasurer
Retirement	217,449	257,449	0	296,672	296,672	39,223	15.24%	276,672	(20,000)	Fringe Benefits
Technology Equipment	13,440	10,500	2,007	3,000	16,000	5,500	52.38%	11,000	(5,000)	Technology
Contingency*	3,315	125,000	0	125,000	125,000	-	0.00%	75,000	(50,000)	Finance
CME (4)	38,000	40,000	10,881	48,000	43,000	3,000	7.50%	40,000	(3,000)	Planning
Full-Time Payroll	276,023	276,515	78,909	282,948	313,274	36,758	13.29%	282,046	(31,228)	Highway
Medical & Dental Insurance	290,586	329,303	110,073	391,945	376,424	47,121	14.31%	360,212	(16,212)	Fringe Benefits
Essex Library	250,000	250,000	125,000	275,000	265,000	15,000	6.00%	261,000	(4,000)	Library
Ivoryton Library	99,000	99,000	49,500	102,500	100,000	1,000	1.01%	99,000	(1,000)	Library
Fire Department Sinking Fund	100,000	75,000	75,000	150,000	85,000	10,000	13.33%	75,000	(10,000)	Sinking

Motion was made by Norman Needleman to recommend to the Board of Finance the budget cuts listed above in the amount of \$146,288. Philip Miller seconded the motion. Joel Marzi stated that he wanted this Board of Selectmen meeting continued to tomorrow's evening joint meeting with the Board of Finance. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Philip Miller to schedule a Special Town Meeting for Tuesday, May 31, 2011 at 8:00 p.m. to make the necessary appropriations as prepared and recommended by the Board of Finance for the support of schools, highways and the general government and other necessary objects, in such total amount as recommended

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by the Board of Finance at its meeting on May 19, 2011. Norman Needleman seconded the motion. All in favor.

Motion was made by Philip Miller to remove said annual budget item on the Annual Town Budget Meeting call to a referendum vote to take place at the Essex Town Hall, 29 West Avenue, Essex, CT 06426 on Tuesday, June 7, 2011 between the hours of 12:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m., or at such other hours as authorized by statute as may be determined by the Town Meeting. Norman Needleman seconded the motion. All in favor.

Public Comment

Melanie Phoenix requested that the fire department and libraries do not have their budget cut.

Mr. Philip Beckman inquired about the police union contract and whether there are salary increases in the contract. Mr. Needleman stated the contract expires on June 30th and negotiations are underway.

Mr. Beckman inquired if we pay unemployment compensation to employees who have quit. Mr. Miller stated that he did not believe so, but could find out.

Don Shannehan inquired about the cost of the plotter and whether the town looked into the possibilities of leasing the plotter. Mr. Miller stated this option had been looked into.

NEW BUSINESS - None

Appointments and Resignations Boards and Commissions - None

Public Comment: None

SELECTMEN GENERAL DISCUSSION: None

Motion was made by Norman Needleman to adjourn the regular meeting at 9:15 p.m. Philip Miller seconded the motion. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Maria Lucarelli