

**Disclaimer.** Please note, these Minutes have yet to be approved. Check with the department or Town Clerk for updated versions.

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
SPECIAL MEETING  
May 19, 2011  
Auditorium**

**Present:** Norman M. Needleman, Selectman  
Joel B. Marzi, Selectman  
Members of the Board of Finance  
Members of the Board of Education  
Treasurer, Robert Dixon  
Deputy Treasurer, Kelly Sterner

Norman Needleman called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.

**Approval of Agenda:**

**Motion** was made by Norman Needleman to approve the Agenda. Joel Marzi seconded the motion. All in favor.

Mr. Robert Dixon handed out financial reports and discussed the status of the auditors.

Selectmen Needleman and Marzi presented to the Board of Finance the Board of Selectmen recommended cuts from the March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2011 regular meeting.

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

Mr. Needleman stated that the total recommended reduction is \$146,288.

Mr. Marzi stated that we should keep the funding recommended by the actuary for the pension plan. Mr. Marzi stated that the Board of Selectmen went into a contract with a second constable so we currently have two resident troopers and 4 officers. Mr. Marzi stated that he would like resolution prior to July 1.

Mr. Needleman stated the resident trooper is a month to month contract. There are some confidential employee matters that we cannot discuss at this meeting tonight.

Mr. Lon Seidman reported from the Board of Education total is \$7,402,790.

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**Public comment**

Lynn Herlihy inquired about why the need for legal council at every zoning meeting. Mr. Marzi responded that zoning is currently budgeted at \$25,000. The cost is approximately \$7,000 for the lawyer to sit there. Mr. Marzi stated that it could be more expensive for the town if a lawyer is not present but he did recommend that the zoning office could possibly group the questions. Ms. Herlihy suggested recording the meetings and the lawyer could listen to the parts that may need to be addressed. Mr. Marzi stated that there are a lot of zoning regulations that need legal guidance.

Wally Schieferdecker inquired about the constable salaries and the Town of Essex employees. Mr. Needleman stated that some employees are union and some are not. Mr. Needleman agreed that salaries should be based on merit, not just for coming.

Mr. Seidman discussed the teacher's bargaining agreement and how it works.

Mr. Needleman stated that the town has a lot of elected officials who are town employees and full-time employees who not elected and that we need to treat them all the same.

Mr. Jim Rawn inquired about the state number that we receive. Mr. Dixon stated it is approximately \$780,000 and includes the manufacturing credit so we are estimating about \$700,000 in revenue.

Ms. Herlihy requested the \$5,000 cut from the libraries be cut from somewhere else. Mr. Marzi suggested taking the money from legal fees. Mr. Needleman suggested taking \$2,500 out of legal preserve and \$2,500 out of legal zoning fees.

There was a request from a resident for a zero increase in the budget.

Mr. Vollono stated that he felt the increases are in order and deserved. Mr. Vollono believes that the people will say they want this budget. To reduce this budget to a zero percent increase would mean to reduce over \$600k. If dramatic cuts are deemed necessary, then the Essex Elementary School may need to take drastic cuts with teachers being dismissed, and the libraries, and fire department, and park and recreation.

Mr. Vollono stated that everyone has worked very hard on this budget. He is comfortable submitting this budget with the changes discussed at tonight's meeting and to go to Referendum. Mr. Vollono stated that they are all elected to find out what the people want and everyone did their jobs responsibly. If the budget is voted down, then we will have to look at some very serious cuts.

Mr. Vollono felt that most people do not want items cut dramatically. We need to be particularly careful with how we set the mill rate. He is happy to vote for the budget with a few minor adjustments.

**Motion** was made by Norman Needleman to adjourn the regular meeting at 9:50 p.m. Joel Marzi seconded the motion. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,  
Maria Lucarelli