



Warner Municipal Budget Committee

Meeting Minutes
Thursday, January 18, 2018

APPROVED

Chair Mike Cutting opened the meeting at 7:00 pm.

Committee members in attendance:

- ◆ Martha Bodnarik
- ◆ Mike Cutting - Chair
- ◆ Alfred Hanson
- ◆ Jonathan Lord
- ◆ David Minton
- ◆ Martha Mical - Vice Chair
- ◆ Peter Newman

Not present: Kimberley Edelmann - Selectmen's Rep, Jim Bingham - Town Administrator

Also present: Marianne Howlett - Tax Collector, John Leavitt, Ray Martin - Water District, Ed Mical - Emergency Management Director, Ed Ordway, Christine Perkins - Supervisors of the Checklist, Judy Newman Rogers - Town Clerk

1. Agenda

Mike previewed the agenda:

- ◆ Approval of minutes
- ◆ Questions, which would not be answered without someone from the Selectmen's office
- ◆ Memo from Kimberley - Town Report submissions are due
- ◆ Operating Budgets - Looking at Water Precinct's operating budget, then the Town's
- ◆ Capital Budget - The committee was welcome to go back to that again
- ◆ Other Business
- ◆ Next meetings planned

2. Minutes

Mike Cutting: So, the first thing I need... We've got the minutes of January 9. I need a motion to accept the minutes of January 9.

Alfred Hanson: Before we do that, can I ask a question?

Mike Cutting: Absolutely.

Alfred Hanson: I know at the beginning of the season, there was discussion about minutes. Can someone enlighten me about what we talked about and what is taking place now? Because the last couple times I read the minutes, it seems to be... I know we talked about scaling down... but I think there's some stuff missing in some of the minutes that shouldn't be. Does anyone else see the same thing?

Martha Mical: There was a point at the beginning of December, maybe, when Jim said Mary was swamped and that the minutes were going to be abbreviated. But I felt the minutes had come back to being more to our normal

minutes in the last couple of times.

Mike Cutting: What do you find missing?

Alfred Hanson: I think in the last meeting, there was some stuff missing.

Mike Cutting: Some heated discussion? Is that politically correct?

Alfred Hanson: Whoever was doing the minutes....

Martha Bodnarik: Kimberley

Alfred Hanson: I hope they are not being directed. That's all. I think what happened at the last meeting should not be ignored.

Martha Bodnarik: I think Kimberley was trying to smooth through that with the idea of not getting everyone arguing again. Did you notice she also added things that were not there; they are pretty, but she adds tabular things... and it's like..... embellishing in a way that she thinks makes it better for everyone to see. For example, when Jim highlighted the 3 or 4 things that created \$100,000 difference, she put it in a lovely neat table, colored even, very pretty. If it was a technical report, it would be nice to have. But it was not the way it came out in the minutes. No one showed a chart or table. She is trying, with best of intentions, but the minutes are cleaned up. If you're going to go over the parts where there is dissension among the groups, then you shouldn't be expanding on points that you would like to see more people focus on. It's either quick and dirty across the board, or in-depth across the board.

Alfred Hanson: I think in the year coming, with the discussion we had this past fall about the minutes, we have to look at it differently. Something has to be different. The concern that I have is that sometimes, like you just talked about, the minutes sometimes favor... I'm sorry... I want the minutes to be about the Budget Committee; what was said. I do not want it to be favoring the Budget Committee, nor the Selectmen's office. I want a straight shot right down the middle. This last year, I've seen a little bit more of what I don't want to see. It's nothing about Kimberley. We need to fair up and square up this situation as quick as possible, so that it doesn't....

Martha Bodnarik: I understand where Kimberley is coming from with her background, not only was technical but as a technical writer as well, that she would want to clarify information with lovely charts, if she could. That's just the nature of her background and has nothing to do with ... whatever.

Judy Rogers: Having done minutes for many many years and being the keeper of the minutes, it is important to have the record be accurate. So if you can't be impartial or objective, probably someone else should do the minutes. When you talk about things being omitted, I had submitted something for the December 14 meeting because, what I call censored, the fact that the question was the discussed last week was completely left out of the December 14 meeting and if you were the audience and you're reading nothing happened at the 14th meeting, then you go to read last week's meeting and there's this big event that occurred, that if you're attending the meeting you would know, but reading the minutes you don't know. I think it needs to reflect what happened at the meeting. If people don't want what they say to be in the minutes, then they need to censor themselves...

Mike Cutting: Don't say it.

Judy Rogers: Right. We should not censor our minutes. Historical documents and reference in the future for what happened. And people do it all the time. Let's just take the minutes. Let's see what happens. Not just for people's opinions. You want to take the facts.

Mike Cutting: And in relationship to that, we only have a small portion of the Town who attend the meetings, such as yourself. We only have 8 plus... We have how many people in Town? 3,000 or something like that. The minutes need to reflect what is actually going on so that they can better understand what is happening at these meetings.

John Leavitt: I missed the last meeting due to a communication, I was pretty upset. That being said, I talked to a couple of people who attended the meeting and asked them...

Mike Cutting: ...what happened...

John Leavitt: And they went into a little bit of detail about the big debate on the police services for the Fall Foliage Festival. So I got the minutes this week, being unapproved minutes, and went immediately to that section cause I wanted to see what happened. And, I read through what he said and not only did it not show or say what happened, it was gobbledygook. Anybody who reads the first two paragraphs can't make any sense of it. From the back... if they attend the meeting, it makes absolutely no sense. And it is obvious to me, and I will be a little more blunt, that somebody was

Mike Cutting: (Laughs) No...

John Leavitt: That the effort was specifically made to not inform the public about what happened in that meeting, by these minutes. And, every time I see "discussion followed, debating about the agenda". It's not just here. It's in Selectmen's meeting minutes, it happens quite frequently that that one line statement, "discussion followed", the minutes should reflect what that discussion is.

Martha Bodnarik: Except... There can be.... John, we have been on this board together. And we have pushed each other's buttons at every meeting. And I don't know that we always have to record our reactions to each other....

Alfred Hanson: I'd like to read your reactions.

Martha Bodnarik: The idea is that we are not trying to put out transcripts of a soap opera here or anything, either. But, if there was a differences of opinion, at least put that. Just say, "Differences of opinion arose about presentation" or the nature of our agenda and just left it at that. But to totally breeze over it. I don't particularly want to see in print every time my temper flares.

John Leavitt: It should be. It should be. Every time your tempers flare, the public has a right to know.

Martha Mical: Then they can come.

Martha Bodnarik: They can come.

John Leavitt: That's not what the minutes are for. The minutes are not for that. The minutes are for the public. I have said a lot of things at meetings that I would rather not have published in the minutes. But if I said it, it should be in there.

Martha Bodnarik: We could just say, "John went on as he is prone to".

Mike Cutting: We need to start looking at ... and we made a decision years ago and we've reiterated it a couple of times. We didn't want the minutes to be a verbatim of what's said.

Martha Mical: It's not a transcript.

Mike Cutting: It's not a transcript. It's not a verbatim. It is merely a reflection of the actions at the meeting and the conversations and the subject matters that were discussed. And I agree with you that we shouldn't, and I will use the word sterilize, we shouldn't sterilize the minutes to eliminate those. But also, I don't want to get into the minutes becoming, as someone said, a soap opera or something like that. They can be said in such a manner to reflect what was happening without getting into a confrontational situation.

John Leavitt: A lot of these minutes that line was used, "discussion followed". But then, a summary of the discussion, which is fine. But the different points of view, not verbatim, but just a summary. This is nothing. This is nothing.

Mike Cutting: I asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Do you want to approve the minutes?

Alfred Hanson: I make a motion that the minutes of January 9, okay, get reviewed and rewritten.

Mike Cutting: I need a second on that. I need a second on that.

Jonathan Lord: I'm censoring myself.

Martha Bodnarik: I am, too.

Alfred Hanson: You're what?

Jonathan Lord: Censoring myself. I think this discussion should go on, but I think Kimberley should be here.

Alfred Hanson: I agree, but she's not. Okay. So, let's just vote on it.

(Several voices cross talking.)

Martha Bodnarik: Do you want to vote on or pass?

Alfred Hanson: I take my motion back and motion you to accept the minutes.

Jonathan Lord: I motion to put it on hold for now.

Martha Bodnarik: I agree.

Mike Cutting: Let's do one motion at a time. You made a motion.

Alfred Hanson: I withdraw my motion.

Mike Cutting: He withdraws his motion. So, now it's back to you.

Jonathan Lord: I make a motion to put the minutes on hold so that everyone can see and talk about it.

Mike Cutting: A motion has been made to put the minutes on hold until our next meeting. Do I have a second?

David Minton: Second.

Mike Cutting: Any further discussions? Hearing none, all in favor signify by saying, "Aye".

Several voices: Aye.

Mike Cutting: Opposed? Thank you very much. The minutes will be, ah, transferred to the next meeting.

Alfred Hanson: Can I make another motion?

Mike Cutting: Yes, you can.

Alfred Hanson: The motion I would like to make is that the subject of our minutes need to be brought up in our April meeting agenda. Okay? I would like to have that on the agenda.

Mike Cutting: Okay. I was going to ask about the cost of the Solar Array, what the final cost is, so since there is no Selectmen here tonight, so we won't get an answer on that. I want to read a memo sent to me by Kimberley, after reviewing the draft minutes by Martha the following paragraph has been corrected as follows: "The vehicle being replaced is a 2006 Ford F350. The new vehicle is a GMC 2500 6.6 Diesel Double Cab. It is about 600 pounds

lighter than the F350. The quote obtained last year for a new Ford F350 was for around \$41,000. The new GMC 2500 was purchased for \$23,680 and included a V-plow."

Martha Mical: It was \$43,680.

Mike Cutting: Excuse me, \$43,680 including a V-plow. "Also, I have to say Martha did a fine job running the meeting. One suggestion we need to remember, keep the tape recorder further away from the main speaker. A centralized spot on a chair would probably be great. Regards, Kimberley." That is why I put it behind my...

Martha Mical: She got blasted a couple of times.

Mike Cutting: One correction. Tim will tell us if he gets here. He will tell us, it is not a double cab. It is an extended cab. So it does not have. If you go a short distance, yes, a person could ride in the back seat. It's for the carrying of his laptop, his rain gear, all the crap you guys carry around in your trucks. And to me that is important because it implied he was getting a pickup truck to carry 4 men around. That is not the case. It is an extended cab.

Alfred Hanson: He bought a pickup, Martha, out of the scope of the pickup that he bought.

Martha Mical: It was approved by the Board of Selectmen.

Alfred Hanson: They can approve anything that they want. He bought a pickup that he can no longer do his sanding...

(Cross talk)

Alfred Hanson: ...first bought by this Town years ago by Allan Brown is that buying this pickup was that he could carry sand and salt and plow and do his night patrol work and all his other work in the year to save the Town money. The pickup is now out of the scope because it can not carry sand which is used 4 or 5 months out of the year. So now, in my book, if he does his night patrol, he finds out needs sand, he has to call in another truck.

Martha Mical: No, he can go to the shed and get a truck.

Alfred Hanson: The idea of the matter is that, in my book, when you purchase equipment, there's a scope, a job description for each piece of equipment. When you take the job description out of the piece of equipment, you automatically add. It's a fact. You go to any construction company and any of this, any of that, if you change the scope of one piece of equipment, you are bound and determined that you will add another vehicle or another person or another anything to fill the scope that is lacking from the purchase that you made. And personally, I don't just don't understand why it was done. I really don't.

Mike Cutting: I had a discussion with Tim the other day. He called me. And one of the comments he made about this was... two or three times... one was that the F350 that he was replacing had a sander on it. When you haul around sand, you are hauling around three and half tons of sand all the time. It killed the 350. As far as he is concerned, the 350 is worth about zero because it just doesn't last hauling around three and a half tons all the time.
Alfred Hanson: What year was that truck?

Mike Cutting: That truck was a 2006.

Alfred Hanson: 2006. Eleven years old.

John Leavitt: Was it a 350 or a 550?

Mike Cutting: It was a 350. The old truck was a 350. The new truck is a GMC 2500. The 2500 is a three quarter ton. The 350 is a one ton.

Alfred Hanson: Now if you want to research a one ton pickup, for normal use or construction use, the Town got about four and a half more years of use out of that truck than typically in a usual setting for that truck. So I wouldn't

say that eleven years is all that bad.

Mike Cutting: I'm just relaying what he said. The second thing he said was that with the sander on the back and the configuration of the 350, he had no place to put chains, chainsaws, axes, equipment, except underneath on the sander you've got the plywood skirts, you could put it underneath there. But when you got to a job it was always covered with snow, sleet, etc. With an extended cab or a cab and a half, it could put that type of equipment, including his laptop and things like that, inside for better protection of the equipment. It was not as it was explained to us, it was not to be able to move people around but more for equipment. That was one of the comments that he made to me during the conversation. One was to better protect his equipment that he was hauling around and number two was because of the three and a half tons, it would just kill it. He related a quick little story that I'll relate to you for what it's worth. He said you know, just this last storm or so, he had an incident where they blew a tire up on Horne Street. He had to go get the loader, take the loader off the job, put a tire on the loader, put his equipment in it, take the loader up to Horne Street to change the tire. Which meant he was not only taking the loader out of existence, but the guy who was driving it out of existence, to go change a tire. Where it was a pickup truck, this 350, he wouldn't have to do that. I'm just relating what he said. Tim is expected to be here later this evening, we can get into further discussions later on, if you want.

Martha Bodnarik: Could I add that as long as we're hoping this will be all included in the minutes, my concern is that with the old 350 we saw a need to have its capability in going out and sanding roads because we needed so many trucks to sand our many roads in Town. Well, in the eleven years since we've had that truck, we don't have any less roads, our winters haven't gotten so much easier that we don't need to sand as much, and suddenly we have one less sanding vehicle. And that is where the concern comes in, that if we have a regular schedule of replacement of trucks, it's based on needs that have to be continually addressed and we have replaced a truck while not addressing the needs to keep the road sanded. And that is where my concern is.

Alfred Hanson: Well that is exactly what I tried to explain. When you take one out of the line, and you change the scope, you're going to some where down the line have to fill it in.

Martha Bodnarik: And if they're going to continue to ignore the reasoning behind that schedule, that it was to always have certain capabilities for dealing with our roads, it may come to the idea that we're going to have to readdress funding their replacement vehicle schedule.

Alfred Hanson: It's gonna cost you money.

(Cross talk)

Mike Cutting: Tim will show up later, he's supposed to be here somewhere at 8 o'clock or so this evening. Let's address any other concerns when he's here so he can better answer them. I can only relate what he said and things like that. Let's move on from there. Is that reasonable?

Alfred Hanson: Sounds good.

Mike Cutting: Next thing I have is the Town Report. I've got to write it up. What would you like, folks, included in the Town Report this year about the Budget Committee?

Mike Cutting: Don't anyone speak up at once.

Mike Cutting: Is there anything specific that you would like me to include in the report to the Town?

Alfred Hanson: First of all, are you going to do presentation at Town Meeting?

Mike Cutting: I plan on it, providing that I am here.

Martha Mical: He is going to be here.

(Laughter)

Martha Bodnarik: I would like to see a request for resident input on what they see as most important when we are looking at the budget, whether it is to maintain Town services at a certain level, whether it is to reduce the taxes or keep them flat, or are they looking for some juggling... You know the point where they stand now, there's always a push to improve services, which we can't afford to do, which we all know. But there is something on either those that they would prefer to see, like a shift in which services are of more or less importance. We'd like everybody to please make some effort to have in place a site for emails could be sent and collected and we could through them. It is very unlikely, in this day and age, that people are going to take the time to write a letter and put a stamp on it and get it to the mailbox. So it would have to be a site where emails could come in and be collected and looked at and preferably as many people as possible would write something instead of one person writing fifty.

?: (unable to hear)

Martha Bodnarik: Well, I'd really love to know. And there are only so many people I can accost at Market Basket.

(Laughter)

Martha Bodnarik: Is there is some other direction they'd like to see us go? Is there something that is concerning them?

Mike Cutting: Is there anything else?

Alfred Hanson: I think Martha comments.... ask... to come to the meeting. Unfortunately it is difficult for some people to come. I think that there is a turning point that's going to happen in this Town at Town Meeting. We're going go from... to a Saturday. It will be very interesting to see what that day brings.

(Cross talk)

Martha Mical: Saturday.

Alfred Hanson: I think it will bring a lot more input, unless Ray shuts them off.

Mike Cutting: Mr Martin would not do that.

Martha Bodnarik: I think, though, that we need their input before the meeting because there are a lot of people ...

Alfred Hanson: Right, I understand that.

Martha Bodnarik: ...who unfortunately get to the meeting and think, "this is it, I don't have any choice, I can only vote yea or nay, I don't have way of influencing it" and if they would give us their opinion, it's how we could craft the budget over the months we worked on it, so that when they get it at the meeting, it reflects what they want.

Alfred Hanson: I think that is going to happen at this Saturday meeting. They are going to see more of the function of the departments in Town being a longer meeting. And maybe the following years, there will be some questions asked somewhere along the line. I think the Wednesday night meeting is so short that it's like this.

Mike Cutting: Everyone voting (cross talk) to get out of there before 3 o'clock in the morning.

Alfred Hanson: I think now that's it on the Saturday, we'll see a little bit more of that. But maybe not. But at least it will set up what you're talking about, that maybe we can have happen next year. All those things, as Mike would say in his presentation, we would love the input. I think people will be able to comprehend more in a day than they would in a Wednesday night meeting.

Martha Bodnarik: Except on that, keep this in mind, Alfred. I know you stand in the back most of the time.

Alfred Hanson: Who?

Martha Bodnarik: When your Town meeting.... standing in the back, right?... I'm telling you there are only so many hours that your butt can sit in that chair without getting numb.

Alfred Hanson: Now you can get out, leave, and come back. Before it was dark.

Mike Cutting: Is there anything else you would like to include in the report for the Town Report? Suggestions from the audience? Don't everyone speak up at once.

?: Will the actual budget be in the Town Report?

Mike Cutting: Yes, it is. It is not part of the Budget Committee's report, but it is part of the Town Report. Both the operating budget and the capital budget. The capital budget, you'll have warrant articles. The operating budget, so you'll see exactly what that is.

?: Can you put a breakdown of the what the largest expenditures are going to be per person given that 2010 census was 2,800 people in Town? Let's say that the fire department has \$3,000,000, how does that affect as tax wise per household? Can you put that in before? And on that note, so that people kind of like, but I suppose that would affect the fact...

Martha Mical: It can be amended on the floor.

Mike Cutting: Anything you put in there can be amended on the floor. I hesitate to put something in there that's going to get amended. I can tell you right now, the way it, and I may be wrong, but I have a feeling based on the way the Selectmen are progressing on the fire station, it's going to be presented in the manner of a "up to amount". In other words, it's not going to be a set amount that the fire station is going to cost you \$2,000,849.62. It's going to be... the cost of the fire station would be up to and not to exceed whatever dollar amount is presented based on the bidding process, which is out right now. So, they're not going to have firm dollar amount. They're going to have a "up to, not to exceed" amount.

David Minton: And they are going to have that broken down to exactly what is included in that amount?

Mike Cutting: They are supposed to.

Alfred Hanson: I think what's looking for is what we do at the end, what Martha computes, after we are done, after everything passes. Martha gives us an idea of the possible tax rate would be for the next year. That is what this gentleman is asking.

Mike Cutting: And I can break that down per \$1000 for our tax value, so I can say, okay the....

?: And I suppose that would be the fire department's, in reference to the budget. If that's coming to the Town, correct me if I'm wrong, I just, and I'm thinking, I've heard the number \$3,000,000. With 2,800 people, and \$3,000,000 how does that work out?

Martha Mical: Because it will be a bond, you will be paying a payment each year....

Mike Cutting: For the next 20 years or 25 or 30 years....

Martha Mical: So you aren't going to pay \$3,000,000 in one year.

Mike Cutting: You can't just take \$3,000,000 and divide it by 2,800 people.

?: You ain't getting \$100,000 out of me.

(Laughter)

Mike Cutting: You're right. What I have heard that based on the \$2,500,000 to \$3,000,000, it will affect the tax rate

somewhere between 65 and 95 cents a \$1,000. In other words....

?: For every assessed \$1,000, it's gonna be 65....

Mike Cutting: Somewhere in that range. They haven't come up with the figure yet.

?: 65 cents or \$65?

Mike Cutting: 65 cents per \$1,000.

?: 65 cents a \$1,000?

Mike Cutting: 65 to 95 cents a \$1,000. Somewhere there. We'll know better when we get the bidding process finished off and we have a better idea of the dollar amount. They are working right now with the Bond Bank to find out what the cost is, vis a vis, 20, 25, 30 year bond. And when you go to the Bond Bank, you have some substantial expenses that you don't have if you go to a bank. You've got attorney fees which are substantially more than if you go to a bank. So, they're looking at of those avenues right now.

Chris: To this gentleman's point, he is kind of also looking for information about how much the departments are spending of his tax dollars.

Mike Cutting: That is in the operating budget. So you can look at the operating budget to see exactly what the highway department....

Chris: Right.

Martha Mical: He wants pie charts.

Chris: By pennies. If the police department is so many \$1,000's of dollars, how many pennies is that to your tax dollars? Because it's a percentage. Is that what you were looking for?

?: No. (cross talk)

Chris: I don't know if that's possible.

Martha Mical: Pie chart.

Martha Bodnarik: What I would suggest, as you're looking at this bond and you're thinking about, let's say you have the average \$200,000 house, though it's probably more than that, it's \$130 dollars. That's \$130 each year. And that means when next year's budget comes in, unless we cut something in the operating budget, it could be an extra \$130 each year. If you would like the tax to stay the same, we are going to have to cut each year.

Marianne Howlett: It's not just about building the building. In the future, you're going to have costs associated with running it.

Mike Cutting: Operating costs.

Marianne Howlett: I think he has a good point. Maybe if you devote a paragraph to what you think the estimated running costs and say a worse case scenario for the bond amount, and let people know ahead of time so that they can make the appropriate decision.

Alfred Hanson: I would hope that the Board of Selectmen would have all of that intact before they approach the Town. This idea of having.... last year one of the Board of Selectmen was sat right here and said he would have definite numbers for this article coming up. Now we have another Selectman sitting there saying it should not exceed a this certain amount. Well, here we are. To me, I don't know how they are thinking up there. I would do something different, than write an article like that.

Ray Martin: One thing, when you write a warrant, you have to write the warrant article within the next week, so it can be published. So the warrant, I think what they might be referring to is that they have to put a number in there, at this time, up to, and then I assume at the March meeting, they would have very specific numbers. I think the problem is, right now, they have to have a number.

Mike Cutting: That's right. You can't put a warrant article together....

Ray Martin: If you put an article in for 2.5 and it all of a sudden it comes in at 2.8, you have to have a Special Meeting to get the last .3.

Jonathan Lord: They have a rough draft already.

Mike Cutting: The rough draft of the warrant article right now reads, "To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,800,000", that's maintained, "to construct a fire station on Town land and further to authorize the issuance of not more than \$2,800,000 of bonds and notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act, RSA 33, and to authorize the municipal officials to issue and negotiate such bonds and notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon; further, to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000 through taxation for the first year's bond payment." And you know, that's the way they've written right now. It may be changed. There is some talk about changing it to be the sum and not to exceed or something like that.

Alfred Hanson: Ray, in order for them to get questions answered on the bond, wouldn't they have to have concrete number? Because, if for some reason, it either exceeds or decreases, doesn't that also affect the percentage rate of the bond?

Ray Martin: I believe, they will get from the Bond Bank, they will get a number that says your interest rate will be 2.4% for 20 years, 2.5% for 30 years, they will get a number. But without knowing a true cost of how much they will bond, you might put a few \$1,000 of reserve into the fire station and bond last, that gets your bond payment. But that doesn't come, sometimes, until a job is almost done. They have a budget they can't exceed.

Mike Cutting: Right, it will be a figure up to and not to exceed.

Alfred Hanson: The only thing that scares me about that article, say the Town approves it for 2.8, they can spend 2.8. Even though it may come in at 2.5 or 2.4, all of the sudden they can say, "we didn't get this, let's get this now". They can actually spend up to 2.8. The townspeople need to be prepared, as far as I'm concerned, to pay on a bond of 2.8.

(Cross talk)

Ray Martin: Don't get hung up on that number too much, you know, the 2.8. Throughout the bidding process, if the number comes up a few hundred thousand above it, you have to cut things out of it, you have to play games with it, because you already put out a warrant for up to 2.6, if you want to reduce from 2.8. I would have a hard time believing they would spend the full 2.8 if the bids come in at 2.4, adding \$400,000; I think you're being very cynical.
Alfred Hanson: I am hoping they will have definite answers.

Ray Martin: Sure, for Town Meeting they definitely would.

Mike Cutting: I expect the bidding and numbers to be finalized in the next couple weeks.

Ed Mical: As part of the process, they will do a Public Hearing about the bond.

Mike Cutting: They have to.

Ed Mical: They think the answers will be made available at the Public Hearing.

Mike Cutting: So the next thing on our agenda.

Judy: As for your request about input for the Town Report, this is only one article. This is only one amount that we will be spending. It does not include the other 20 that are usually on the warrant. Maybe if you help people understand that the operating budget plus the capital budget is what our total budget if we approve all of the articles at Town Meeting. The fire station building might only be 65 cents or \$130 on the tax bill, but that doesn't include the capital reserve, capital reserve, capital reserve and those other things that add up and might be another \$400 on your taxes, even though the big one is the fire building.

Alfred Hanson: You do that in your presentation though, don't you, Mike?

Mike Cutting: Listening to this... I like it. First of all, not everyone goes to Town Meeting. We only have 200 or 300 some odd people who show up at Town Meeting, we have 2,800 or 2,900 people in Town. So we have less than 10% of the people in Town that show up at Town Meeting. This gives everyone who gets a book, which is every resident in Town, everyone gets a copy of it. At least to know what's going on, even if they don't show up at Town Meeting. And yes, I usually reiterate this and more during the presentation.

Mike Cutting: Let's move on from there. I'm going to turn it over to Mr. Martin for the Precinct because the budget presented to us some time ago has been altered. Did I say that correctly?

Ray Martin: I wouldn't say altered. Updated. The original budget was like 417,000 something. That information was put together, then the budget was reviewed and presented to the budget committee back in November 11. Since, in November and December, we had two things happen. One, our emergency generator went down. We had to get a new generator. We just got it installed. The total, the new generator, the new switching equipment and the lines and the installation was around the \$30,000. So we aren't adding \$30,000 to the total budget. At the same time, we have to update our processes about how we treat waste water. The Federal EPA lowered the minimums to a very tough.... we can't meet, as well as several other sewerage treatment plants. So we are looking at the ways, we studied three or four different ways that we can reduce copper and phosphorus to meet the new standards. We get a discharge permit from the Federal EPA out of Boston every 5 years. It was renewed in late 2015. That's when the new minimums came in. And then they noticed that we were not meeting those. We send them reports and test results on a monthly basis. They came back with an order that by 2021, we have to have a new system and meet the new standards. So, we put in a ground water discharge system, not discharging directly into the river but discharging into a large septic system that goes into the ground, perks down and down. You have to remember this is not raw sewerage. It is treated sewerage. It's the same water we discharge into the river. You can drink it. I actually drank it.

(Cross talk & laughter)

Ray Martin: I want people to understand this isn't like at your home, a discharge system. Instead of dumping into the river with very low minimums.... as an aside, we can have more copper in the drinking water that we supply to homes than we can put into the river. If it is going in at this rate, how do we get it down to that rate? There is no magic bullet. If we start adding more chemicals, it screws up other tests. So, we found a piece of land right across the river from us, from the existing plant. We can get to it very easily. So far, it has tested out very very good. To purchase that land, it's around \$45,000 and that's in the negotiation process. Then, to take the next step of engineering, to test, we would not purchase the land unless all of the tests and DES in Concord and the Federal EPA say it works.

Mike Cutting: You can't use the land that we currently own that we were going to put the fire station on?

Ray Martin: The engineer said the land wasn't big enough and it wouldn't work. And there's the old issue that came up to the forefront, erosion. This is just beyond that. The land on the corner. It's not Whiting. Part of this will be part of the rail trail. So, that's \$45,000. And the engineering on that part is an additional \$20,000 or \$25,000 to do test borings and to get a finalized approval. The last \$20,000 added to the budget... As you all know, there will be a new sprinkler system in the Town Hall. In order to supply water to that system, we have to put in a 6" pipe into the side of the building. The District will do the engineering. The Town will pick up the cost of construction and putting it in. Per our by-laws, anyone who wants to hook into the system, they are responsible up to the curb stop. Our main is going down Main Street or up Kearsarge Mountain Road. Technically, the Town has to bring all

construction and engineering all the way to where we shut it off, which is just off the curb. But we are going to engineer all the way in, as part of our contribution, because it is upgrading a piece of pipe. So that's \$20,000. It adds up to \$125,000 with the generator, the land, the engineering on the land and the sprinkler water. We are applying for a \$25,000 grant and we will borrow \$100,000. The overall effect on the operating budget from last, including \$5,350 to pay the interest on the new \$100,000 borrowing, is probably increased from \$423,000 for \$432,000 or about 2%.

Mike Cutting: And the budget you came to us with before was \$412,007, so it's increased by about \$20,000.

Ray Martin: Okay, thank you. So, it's up to \$432,000. There's all kinds of little pieces that make it up. The rest of the numbers in the budget papers stay the same. Now, to get the extra money, going from 412 to 432.... Last year we increased the water rates by 5%. This year, we get a full year. We are still experiencing a significant drop in revenue in water and sewer rates.

Mike Cutting: Due to conservation....

Ray Martin: Conservation. We did a survey last Spring. We got 75 responses out of 180 residential hookups. There were of the 75, guess how many had more than 2 people living in the house. Only 5 or 6. If you take the average, it was below 3, if not below 2. So, over the last 5 or 10 years, the number of residents living in these large houses has gone down to 2.

Mike Cutting: Kids have gone off to school; moved south.

Ray Martin: That is a simple number... They don't use as much water.

Martha Bodnarik: (Something about her neighborhood)

Ray Martin: Our revenue has dropped off \$40,000 from 3 years ago. Just from water and sewer.

Mike Cutting: And your expenses have not decreased proportionately.

Ray Martin: It costs a little bit more every year to run that plant.

Alfred Hanson: For the foreseeable future, knowing that households are down to 3 or 2 less, what are you looking for in the future?

Ray Martin: I think this year is a little bit exceptional. We have a lot of one time expenses. We're putting variable speed drives on the wells, so we don't have to build new wells. Pumps. That's \$10,000 or \$12,000. We have put a whole new head works control system to control the pumps. That's going 24 hours per day, 7 days a week. We only have 2 employees. They're not there all the time. That's another \$10,000. We've got about \$20,000 to \$25,000 one time expenses. That will bring the budget back down. In the future, you asked about water. The two ways we raise. We can get grants for capital expenditures. And we will get more grants, as this ground water discharge project goes forward. But if we can raise real estate taxes. The small... Around \$1.92, \$1.93 per \$1,000 for this year. We raise about a quarter of our budget from property taxes in the Precinct. We raise the other three quarters from the rates or maybe new hookups. But as you know, there are not a lot of new hookups.

David Minton: You said you raised the water rates last year.

Ray Martin: Yes, by 5%. Prior to that, we went 12 years without raising the rates. To really answer Alfred's question, going forward five years from now or less, we will probably raise the rates. This year, we will raise some extra money from the property tax. Hopefully that will be a one time increase and then it could go back down.

Alfred Hanson: The question, if the headcount has gone down....

Ray Martin: Average household dropped...

Alfred Hanson: Where do you make your adjustments? What do you think the future of the Town in your Precinct is?

Ray Martin: I believe we're down at the bottom for occupants per household. I think we had the most houses turnover in the Precinct. I've changed the name on water bills, maybe 10 or 12. I think we're at the bottom of the residents per house. There are a lot of large houses in the Precinct. I think they will fill up. Maybe not to the old School Street 29 kids in a quarter of a mile, but it will increase. I think I can answer your question, Alfred. We have been running on a fairly even keel for the budget for years. I went back 10 years. We went between 406 and 417 thousand a year. The revenue was good until the last year and a half, two years. I think we just decided to get these things out of the way, which sets us up for the next 10 or 15 years and takes care of the EPA issue and the generator issue. We have to have an emergency generator. Even though we are doing all these projects, the overall impact on the budget is about \$20,000, that would be 5% or a little over 5%.

Alfred Hanson: You can't do the leaching near your solar array? You don't have the area...?

Ray Martin: First, there is a lot of water that runs off the highway, comes right through there. Second, do you know how much higher that is from the river? About 3 feet. The solar system was set up on the higher part. You get down to the edge of the solar array setups near the river, I mean, if you drew a straight line with a plume, you would probably be 4 feet above the summertime level.

Jonathan Lord: And it floods sometimes.

Ray Martin: Right up to it. It did last week, right up to the edge. Now the solar array is working as advertised. It's saving us... it's frozen our electric. It's even paying the loan. We're saving a few thousand even though the carbon credits have gone to hell. Price of those, by that I mean they have gone way down. Net metering is about what we expected. By that, I mean our old production...

Mike Cutting: The other alternative is expansion. I know you get grants to facilitate expansion. Is it possible to expand at all the serviceability in the area or is it out of the question?

Ray Martin: Warner... the ideal place would be down by exit 9, if someone built on the south side across from McDonalds. If somebody builds there, or around there.

Mike Cutting: The problem you have then is, let's look back at the liquor store. They had a hook up, but they only use 3 gallons of a water a day or some ridiculous amount.

Ray Martin: But the flip side is that it's a million dollar project, million dollar building, I'm just guessing. \$2 times that, or \$1.92, we get that revenue. It added, I would guess, 3 or 4 thousand dollars a year going forward in revenue in the real estate taxes.

Mike Cutting: How about expanding out lines either going south or going north?

(Cross talk)

Mike Cutting: ...concentration of houses in the area to make it useful.

Ray Martin: It's two fold. It's probably not enough concentration unless somebody decided to make a big development somewhere on the side of the hill or... the terrain isn't great.

Mike Cutting: Yup.

Ray Martin: If we just expanded the boundary of the Precinct and said to Mike Cutting, "Hey, we're down there by your house. Now, you have water and a nice well, you paid for it and you've got a septic system. Shut that off. You've got to start paying us." So, expanding the existing line would be a very difficult political issue.

Alfred Hanson: I don't think you'd survive.

Ray Martin: No. I'm, not proposing that at all. The commercial side, yes. There's some opportunities but it's pretty much concentrated at Exit 9 going north of DeMoulas or south and next to Evans. It's not a lot.

Martha Bodnarik: You've got to get the school to add a gym with shower facilities.

Ray Martin: Well the school right now, yes,

Martha Bodnarik: If that school had a gym with lockers and shower facilities...

(Cross talk)

?: That would be in our school rate.

(Cross talk)

Mike Cutting: Any other questions on the Precinct Budget? Any questions from the audience? Thank you, Mr. Martin.

Ray Martin: You'll vote on this sometime, right?

Mike Cutting: We'll vote on it sometime in September or October.

Ray Martin: Next year.

(Laughter)

Ray Martin: Just so I... when you vote on it... I'll find out. So, I can put it my budget that it's approved.

Alfred Hanson: Don't you come to the public meeting?

Ray Martin: Oh yeah, you vote after that.

Mike Cutting: Our agenda right now is....

Ray Martin: February 1 is the public...

Martha Mical: February 1 and February 6 are the public hearings.

Ray Martin: Okay.

Martha Mical: And then...

Ray Martin: ...after it will be sometime...

Martha Mical: It's like the 8th or the...

Ray Martin: It's not critical to us as the District Annual Meeting is a week after the Town Meeting.

Martha Mical: Right.

Mike Cutting: Okay, the way we stand right now, we've got February 1st is the public hearing, and then it's continued until February 6th if we have to, February 8th we are voting on everything, and then March 17th is the Town Meeting. So, the Budget Committee voting is gonna happen on February 8.

Ray Martin: Great. Thank you. Any other questions?

Mike Cutting: Any other questions?

Ray Martin: Thank you.

Mike Cutting: Thank you, Mr. Martin. Okay, the next order of business is the Capital Budget, excuse me, the Operating Budget for 2018. Consolidated Operating Budget. What I'd like to do is go down through this, and I think Martha sent out a memo or whatever last week, you know, we're down to the point in time where we need to make some recommendations. So, what I'd like to do is take it by department and then, if we have to, break that into lines. The Selectmen's budget is requesting \$146,221 which is down 2.6% from last year's budget. Any suggestions?

Martha Mical: I have a problem with... the Selectmen gave 35 cent raises an hour to the employees.

Mike Cutting: Right.

Martha Mical: But on the increases, not one of them is the same. We've got like five people that are 40 hour, they're salaried, so they're 40 hours a week is the increase. And yet, every single one of them has different increase on the numbers. And, I have an issue with that. They aren't big, but they should be... we aren't getting good numbers. And if you were 40 hours a week at 35 cents an hour times 52 weeks, that comes out to \$728. Now on the first one, under Town Administrator's salary, he's got \$725. Grant you it's a \$3 difference, but it's wrong. And you go down through them, and none of them are right. To me, it's not hard to figure out 35 cents per hour. The other issue I have is under the Secretary's salary. They are in the process of hiring a new Secretary, the number that is in this line, requested for 2018, is doing it at the highest rate of the range.

Mike Cutting: You read my memo, okay.

Martha Mical: No I didn't.

Mike Cutting: Why are we budgeting for the higher...

Martha Mical: Why are we budgeting for the higher...

Mike Cutting: ...higher rate when we, we started someone off at a rate plus?

Martha Mical: The person that left was here for 17 years in that position and she finally made it to the top step. I don't care who they hire.

Mike Cutting: So, are we hiring somebody at the top step plus another 35 cents an hour? That's what it looks like.

Martha Mical: It is.

Alfred Hanson: That's what the budget says.

Martha Mical: I think that includes the difference.

Alfred Hanson: I don't remember last week him telling us that this is there final proposal.

Martha Mical: They were supposed to present to us their final budgets.

Alfred Hanson: Right. And this is it, or no?

Martha Mical: Yah.

Mike Cutting: Guess so. They didn't give us anything else.

Martha Mical: This is supposed to be their final numbers to the Budget Committee.

Mike Cutting: We haven't got anything else.

Alfred Hanson: When did they tell us that?

Mike Cutting: They told us by, the fact that they aren't presenting anything else.

Alfred Hanson: The update date on this is 1 / 3 of 2017?

Mike Cutting: That should be 2018.

Martha Mical: They didn't change the year.

David Minton: Martha, on line 6 for the Secretary's salary, you go over to H, that's what the person was making before she left.

Martha Mical: H is what they had spent. That's what she....

Mike Cutting: Yup.

Martha Mical: That's what that position had spent for 2017.

David Minton: For 2018, it does not show that 35 cents an hour.... I agree with you that we don't need to start at the line for a new hire.

Martha Mical: Right. I believe the \$34,000 includes the 35 cents.

David Minton: If you do the math, the old salary plus the \$728, does not come out to \$34,220. That's what I'm saying.

Alfred Hanson: It comes out to more than that.

David Minton: It comes out to \$34,702.

Alfred Hanson: That's what I'm saying, yah.

David Minton: But, that being the point, so who authorized....

Mike Cutting: Yah, if you take the \$33,974 plus \$585, it comes up to \$34,559 not \$34,220.

David Minton: Right.

Martha Mical: Right. The \$34,220 is \$19.94 or .96 an hour.

Martha Bodnarik: Even so, you have 1716 hours, and multiply by 35 cents, you hit \$609.60 as what the increase would be supposedly. That's the 35 cents an hour.

Alfred Hanson: Well, has the hire been...

(Cross talk)

Alfred Hanson: Is the replacement in?

Martha Mical: No. They're still working on this. I just have a problem with hiring somebody brand new, even if they have lots of secretarial experience, and starting them at the top. You don't do that.

???: I used to work in HR and that makes no sense whatsoever.

Mike Cutting: No. Sometimes you have to pay for experience, but I mean, you know, are you going to pay for....

?: Town of Warner experience. They don't know where things are or how things are different in our Town.

Martha Bodnarik: Even beyond that, if it is the top of the scale, there's no place to go. Who takes a job that says, great wage, but no way to ever increase?

?: Oh yah. They'll say they want... a next step.

Alfred Hanson: Hopefully, they are going to take our advice as far as some of that stuff, and come up with the caps that Michael expressed two meetings ago, somewhere along the line. I mean, we spent \$10,000 on this wage study. It's funny, every time we do these wage studies, we never hear where does that wage cap. Which has to happen. They seem to never want to do that. But it has to happen.

Martha Mical: I will recommend that we cut.

David Minton: They have 1716 hours, so that's not a full year.

Martha Mical: No. It's 33 hours per week. And that is what the position is, and has been advertised as.

Judy Rogers: I'm sorry, I missed the beginning of the.... Is that number of hours, that was grandfathered position. Does it just include wages and no other benefits?

Mike Cutting: Right. The benefits are included down at the bottom under benefits.

Martha Mical: Right.

Judy Rogers: It's not a benefited position. It was grandfathered in.

Martha Mical: 30 hours, I believe, is...

Mike Cutting: ...Benefited position.

Judy Rogers: It was raised to 35 about 5 or 6 years ago. So anybody who was getting benefits and working less than 35 hours a week was grandfathered.

Alfred Hanson: So what did the previous...

Judy Rogers: So taking the benefits from that line...

Martha Mical: ...No, the benefits aren't in that line.

Mike Cutting: If benefits are included, they're in the benefits line down below.

Judy Rogers: Since our previous Secretary had health benefits...

Martha Mical: ...Right, off and on she did.

Judy Rogers: Is that an amount that's still in the health benefits line?

Martha Mical: I do not know the answer to that as I have not found out if.... It's more difficult to find out how many people have the 2 person plan, the 1 person plan, and the family plan and then figure out what the totals are supposed to be. And there is always an extra one in the budget in case somebody changes.

?: You should be able to look at a bill.

Judy Rogers: Or be told that. Because I think the Selectmen wanted to take out the...

Martha Bodnarik: Does your Deputy Town Clerk get benefits?

Judy Rogers: No.

Alfred Hanson: So Martha, what do we want to do with that? We talked about cutting it. We just did some figuring and the hourly wage is around \$20 an hour. What do you want to do with that?

Martha Mical: I would like to reduce that line which makes the statement that the Budget Committee is saying, "You should not be hiring at the top of the wage."

Alfred Hanson: Okay.

Martha Mical: It doesn't stop them from doing that, because they can take money from any line and put it in another one. But it does tell them, we don't agree.

Alfred Hanson: Is this position discussed in the wage study?

Martha Mical: Yes.

Alfred Hanson: What are the high and lows for this position?

Martha Mical: The high and low that was advertised was \$12 and, I want to say 38 cents, but I won't guarantee that, to \$19 and either 94 or 96 cents.

Alfred Hanson: Cut it in half and let's go.

Mike Cutting: What's your recommendation, Martha?

Martha Mical: Well, I'm not willing to cut it in half.

Martha Bodnarik: Make it 17.

Martha Mical: I would recommend we take it down to \$30,000.

Jonathan Lord: I'm not convinced this is the final. It would say "Final" on it like it did last year.

Alfred Hanson: That's what I'm saying.

Jonathan Lord: I don't think this is the final.

Martha Mical: Well, on our agendas, it has said already that they were to present their final budget to us, like several meetings ago.

Mike Cutting: Yes.

Jonathan Lord: Do you want me to go upstairs and ask them? I'll go upstairs and ask them.

Martha Mical: Go ahead. If they're there. I don't guarantee they're still there.

Martha Bodnarik: I bet Kimberley's there.

Martha Mical: Just go ask them if what we have is their final budget. I believe it is.

(Cross talk)

Alfred Hanson: He's got \$14.50.

Martha Mical: \$14.62 does \$25,000 something.

Alfred Hanson: You just want to cut it 4?

Martha Mical: No. I would take it down to \$30,000.

?: What would that hourly rate be?

Martha Mical: You could get someone who is highly qualified as a secretary.

Alfred Hanson: And that gives them some leeway over the years.

Martha Mical: The person will also have 6 months probation at their beginning rate, in this same year they will have pretty close to 6 months at a rate that is from an increase.

Jonathan Lord: It's final.

Mike Cutting: What?

Jonathan Lord: It's final.

Martha Mical: That's what I told you.

Jonathan Lord: Supposedly, we make the final one now. Last year. they gave us one that said, "Final".

Alfred Hanson: Then we will make it final.

Jonathan Lord: We will make it final.

Martha Mical: So, I would... it still gives them leeway. It just...

?: And the \$17.50 includes the 35 cent increase?

Martha Mical: Yah. That's the line.

Mike Cutting: Are they coming down at all?

Jonathan Lord: No...

Alfred Hanson: I'll make a motion that...

Jonathan Lord: Kimberley just left. There's nobody one up there.

Martha Mical: Right.

Alfred Hanson: They're not coming?

Martha Mical: No.

Alfred Hanson: Well, I'll make a motion that we do change Line 6 for the Town Officers Salary to read \$30,000 instead of \$34,220.

Mike Cutting: Is there a second?

Jonathan Lord: Second.

Mike Cutting: Motion been made and seconded. Any further debate? Hearing none, all those in favor signify by saying, "Aye".

Many voices: Aye.

Mike Cutting: Opposed? Okay. Anything else you want to adjust in the Board of Selectmen's budget?

?: Do you want to adjust the Town Administrator's salary to reflect the 35 cent raise, just to make it consistent like you said. It's not consistent. It should be \$728.

Alfred Hanson: I think that we need to change them all.

Martha Mical: So that was 40 hours times 35 cents times 52 weeks, is \$728.

Mike Cutting: So \$728 plus \$70, 691.

David Minton: That's for what?

Mike Cutting: The Town Administrator.

David Minton: We've got him down for \$725.

Mike Cutting: So it's only going to change it by tiny dollars. What's the next one you want to adjust.

Martha Mical: The newsletter, they have \$1,900 in. But they have not... In 2016, I believe, I won't guarantee, they did 4 in 16. They spent \$1,633. This year, they only spent \$1,356 because they didn't do 4. And they're asking for 19. I know this is being minuscule, I would go down to, I would minus out \$200.

Mike Cutting: So take that down to \$1,700?

Martha Mical: Yes.

Mike Cutting: Okay.

Martha Mical: And the other one....

Alfred Hanson: Well, hold on for a minute, Martha. I think that you can even go lower than that. If 2017, they only spent \$1,356, why don't you take them down to \$1,500?

Martha Mical: Because, they didn't do 4 issues.

Alfred Hanson: Who's to say they aren't going to do 4 issues this year?

Martha Mical: Well, except that's what it was planned for...

Mike Cutting: ...designed for.

Martha Mical: The other one that I had was "Expense of Town Officers". So you go back to 2015, we really blew it out of the water. We budgeted \$800 and spent \$2,142. But in 16 and 17, we budgeted \$2,000 but we only spent \$590 and \$325. So, I think we could cut \$1,000.

Mike Cutting: Cut \$1,000 out of what?

Jonathan Lord: Line 18.

Martha Mical: Expense of Town Officers.

Mike Cutting: So you're going to reduce that down from \$2,000 to \$1,000?

Martha Mical: Yes.

Mike Cutting: Okay.

Martha Mical: And I mean... that you see, if you have a bunch of funerals and you have to do flowers, then that's where that fund comes from. But.

Martha Bodnarik: We have a contingency fund, too, to take care of that.

Martha Mical: That's true, too. That's it on the Selectmen's budget.

Alfred Hanson: So that reduces the Selectmen's budget to what?

Mike Cutting: Ah, I'll have it for you in a second. Brings it down to \$140,792.

Alfred Hanson: 140, 7 what?

Mike Cutting: 792. Okay, let's go down to the next one. Election, Moderator and Assistant. And I believe we have an adjustment to that.

Martha Mical: No. After that line.

Mike Cutting: Excuse me.

?: The next line.

Mike Cutting: Anything on Elections?

Martha Mical: Yes. Checklist Supervisors Salary. We had one election in 2017. It cost us \$1,105. We have three elections this year and it's only been budgeted at \$1,314. And in doing the hours that...

Mike Cutting: ...are necessary...

Martha Mical: ...are necessary...

Mike Cutting: ...to do the job...

Martha Mical: ...it should be...

Mike Cutting: ...20...

Martha Mical: ...\$2,956 including a pay raise of 35 cents an hour.

Alfred Hanson: It should reflect what you did in 2016. Correct? Am I correct?

Judy Rogers: It was 4 elections.

Alfred Hanson: It was 4 elections. So now we're doing 3. What do you think that is needed for the 3?

Chris Perkins: The reason it was lower amount was because our pay rate was lower. We only made 8 something an hour.

Alfred Hanson: Okay.

CP: Now we're at \$9.25 because they gave us a raise.

Alfred Hanson: Okay, so you've got 3 elections. What do you think that money should be?

CP: Well it should be 309 hours. I made the mistake of only budgeting 142 hours because that's what it is for one election. I forgot to do times 3.

Alfred Hanson: So we if do the times 3 plus the raise, we should have a number. Correct?

CP: Yes.

(Cross talk)

Mike Cutting: So that comes out to be a total budget going from \$3,364 to \$5,016.

Alfred Hanson: That's the total budget. But what's the....

Martha Mical: The line would be...

CP: That line item would be \$2,966 or \$2,96 whatever you want.

Mike Cutting: \$2,967 takes it to \$5,017 for a total budget.

Alfred Hanson: Is that the only adjustments you're going to make in that?

CP: Yes.

Alfred Hanson: Okay. What is it again, Mike?

Mike Cutting: It's \$5,017. Adjusted for 3 elections.

Martha Bodnarik: It's a strange thing to (?) moderator (?) stipend (?) but he has to put in the same amount of hours.

Martha Mical: No, he doesn't put in the same amount of hours.

Judy Rogers: Last year or the year before they...

(Cross talk)

Mike Cutting: Anything else on elections that you want to adjust? So we're going to take that from \$3,364 to \$5,017. Okay. Finance offices.

Martha Mical: The only thing that changes is the 35 cents an hour times 40 is \$728.

Mike Cutting: \$728. So, we're going to take that \$728, plus.

Martha Mical: \$37,405.

Mike Cutting: \$37,404.

Martha Mical: \$37,405, because that's what was budgeted.

Mike Cutting: So it's going to go to \$38,133.

Alfred Hanson: Wait a minute.

David Minton: You're going from \$37,405.

Martha Mical: Yah, to \$38,133.

Alfred Hanson: First of all, is that office 40 hours?

Martha Mical: Yes. The year that there was a substantial increase, she was taken to 40 hours a week.

Alfred Hanson: I thought it was 28 hours.

Mike Cutting: No.

Martha Mical: No.

(Cross talk)

Martha Mical: It was not 28 hours.

Alfred Hanson: When it first started, I think it was. The first year it was proposed, it was 28 hours.

Martha Mical: Well I know when Mike had it, it was 32 hours.

Mike Cutting: And then the decision was made to take it a full time, to a salary position.

Alfred Hanson: You're right. 32. And then it went... I'm sorry, you're right.

Mike Cutting: Accounting Software Tech Support, no changes on that, right? \$3,720. Auditor's Expenses. You know, I had a question on here. With a potential change in auditors, is this sufficient? I mean, what they've done is they've budgeted the auditor's position at \$17,000. Last year they spent \$16,947. They're looking at a new auditor. I just question if that \$17,000 is a realistic figure.

Martha Mical: Well they'll probably stick with the old one, if it's not.

Mike Cutting: Okay, let's go with the \$17,000.

Martha Mical: You have to go...

Mike Cutting: You have to go out to bid.

Martha Mical: Right. It's kind of late to be going out to bid for 2018.

Mike Cutting: So that takes the total for that department to \$58,853. Tax Collector. Any changes on that?

Martha Mical: Somebody needs to do the math. It's 35 cents times 35 hours times 52. I came out with \$637.

Mike Cutting: 35 cents an hour times...

Martha Mical: ...35 hours...

Mike Cutting: ...35 hours...

Martha Mical: ...times 52.

Mike Cutting: ...times 52 weeks is \$637.

Martha Mical: That's what I came out with. That would go down \$20.

Mike Cutting: So, we're going to take \$637 plus

Martha Mical: \$39,250 because they over...

Mike Cutting: So, it's going to be \$39,887.

Alfred Hanson: My question is, somewhere along the line, we're spending some money on a computer that runs all this stuff, how can they be off? Can somebody answer that question?

Mike Cutting: Yah. Because, Jim has explained it to me, which I'm sorry, but it doesn't make a lot of sense. But he says he does this exactly as I'm doing it right now, he's putting it in piece by piece by piece rather than... you know, I put it in and then I let the computer calculate it.

Alfred Hanson: But if you're talking about rounding off numbers

(Cross talk)

Martha Bodnarik: And put in the same line, \$39,249.60 or \$39,250 and added \$657 and somehow came up to \$39,900.

Alfred Hanson: That's exactly what I...

Martha Bodnarik: It's not even good grade school arithmetic.

(Cross talk)

Martha Mical: Let's move on here.

Mike Cutting: The total for that department is gonna end up to be \$49,260. Treasurer? Any changes there?

Martha Mical: My only comment is that there is no 35 cents per hour. He's not hourly. It says he's salary, but he's certainly not. I would say, "Stipend".

Alfred Hanson: First of all, how many hours are involved in this job? Does anybody know?

Martha Bodnarik: It goes back and forth, Alfred. I remember that when Gail Holmes did it, she put in a lot more hours than the person before her had.... (Voice faded)

Alfred Hanson: Right.

Martha Bodnarik: She had to work with the bookkeeper and then the auditors to take care of all sorts of problems that had shown up over the years and had just kind of, like a rock rolling down the hill, accumulating a little more a little more each year. I don't know what hours they're doing now. Obviously, they had an increase a year ago and they're keeping it.

Alfred Hanson: Any questions?

?: No.

Mike Cutting: Okay, let's move on to Tax Collector, excuse me, Town Clerk.

Martha Bodnarik: How many hours a week do you do, Judy?

Martha Mical: No, definitely does 1,516 a year.

Martha Bodnarik: You get to set your own hours. So how can we (??) 35 cents (??)? (Adding machine noises)
Judy Rogers: 35 was set... (Adding machine noises)

Mike Cutting: To 30 (??) a week.

Martha Mical: \$546. It's off by a dollar.

Judy Rogers: So that's what just stuck.

Martha Bodnarik: Are you considered...

(Cross talk)

Mike Cutting: So we're going to change that to...

Martha Mical: I would add the...

(Cross talk)

Martha Mical: ...\$25,453 to the \$546.

Mike Cutting: So, we're going to take that to \$25,999.

Alfred Hanson: What's that?

Mike Cutting: \$25,999.

Alfred Hanson: On the Deputy?

(Cross talk)

Alfred Hanson: How are you coming up with that?

Martha Mical: Because it's spent in 2017, was \$25,453. Then, you add the \$546 that should be the increase.

Judy Rogers: The spent amount doesn't include

(Cross talk)

Jonathan Lord: Would you use the budgeted amount?

(Cross talk)

Martha Mical: Obviously she used more hours somewhere along the line, for some reason.

(Cross talk)

Martha Mical: That's the choice you guys have to make.

Jonathan Lord: Well, you've already made that choice on previous numbers. You've added the budgeted figures. So to be consistent...

Martha Mical: I've also added the...

Alfred Hanson: To be, you're right.

Jonathan Lord: To be consistent, you ought to run that all the way through.

Martha Mical: Well, on one other one we added it to the spent.

Mike Cutting: Judy, let me ask you. Can you control the Deputy to stay at the \$25,165?

Martha Bodnarik: Control?

Mike Cutting: (Laughter) Was that a loaded question?

Judy Rogers: I'm sorry, because there aren't any hours in there for her to work the elections. So we're back to that cutting back in the week of an election, where she works a 13 or 15 or 16 hour day, then some other part of that two week pay period she has to cut back. So, the hours for working an election are not in there.

Martha Bodnarik: Is the election part of the work, job workload?

Judy Rogers: It was pointed out to me that it was. And I didn't even know that this was adjustable. But

Martha Mical: Well, I don't know that it is, but they said this it was their final and so now we can adjust.

Judy Rogers: So, if we were to use the spent

Mike Cutting: Use the spent amount. For the dollar amount

(Cross talk)

Martha Bodnarik: Put it under elections for Michelle.

(Cross talk)

Judy Rogers: The Deputy line was overspent because my department was helping to cover planning & zoning, Land Use.

Martha Mical: Oh, that's right. That's right, too.

Judy Rogers: So, we were helping for the couple or three months and Michelle was getting paid...

Martha Mical: ...to cover...

Judy Rogers: ...to cover while I was helping them.

Alfred Hanson: Shouldn't that come out of Land Use?

Martha Mical: Ah, yes. Well, yah.

(Cross talk)

Mike Cutting: Moving chairs on the Titanic.

(Cross talk)

Judy Rogers: It was discussed that it should come out from where it was spent from, spent from where it was used.

Martha Mical: Right.

Judy Rogers: So, that's the way we submitted time sheets, that it was Land Use.

Mike Cutting: So, we're going to take the Town Clerk to \$53,237.

(Cross talk)

Mike Cutting: Okay, so now we've got Computer Expenses are going to stay the same at \$3,726. Membership dues, we can't afford to belong to anything, so. Besides we don't pay attention when we belong to those organizations anyway. Excuse me, Judy. (Laughter) Okay, and \$885

David Minton: No meetings, no seminars?

Judy Rogers: No. I've done a lot on there (??) Was that the one that was combined?

Martha Mical: Yah. Conferences. Education.

(Cross talk)

Mike Cutting: Mileage, we've got \$200. And then we've got Books & Periodicals, we've got \$25 there. And \$780. And that gives us a total of about \$29,000 to run that department.

(Laughter)

Judy Rogers: I'll do my best.

Mike Cutting: Okay, we'll try to stretch that a little further for you, Judy. \$85,497.

Judy Rogers: Thank you.

Alfred Hanson: Can I ask a question?

Mike Cutting: Yes you can.

Alfred Hanson: I have to ask you again. Jim does what with the numbers?

Mike Cutting: He doesn't use, he writes formulas, but he does it by hand. And I'm not so sure that some of his formulas work out properly, you know.

Alfred Hanson: Well that statement is scary, in my book. My suggestion is that we did agree with the Selectmen about the 35 cent raise. Why are we doing, computing this? Okay, because it's inaccurate from the Board of Selectmen's office. Why don't we just turn and tell them to fix their mistakes?

Martha Mical: ...Well, because...

Alfred Hanson: ...I understand that, Martha. We can review all the other line items, but I mean for us to sit here and for a couple of bucks here and couple of bucks there, it's got to be right, in my book. Let them fix it.

Martha Mical: Well, they said this was their final budget and so...

Alfred Hanson: Then, we'll do it on our own.

Mike Cutting: Yup.

Jonathan Lord: They're not here.

Mike Cutting: Okay, Assessing Salary.

Martha Mical: It's going to be a nightmare for a year. That's what it is.

Alfred Hanson: Well, here you go again. Okay. It's the same scenario as the Secretary. You're going to turn around and pay this new Assessing Clerk the same amount of money that we're paying you?

Martha Mical: No.

Alfred Hanson: Okay, then that figure should change.

Martha Mical: Well, except, the problem, the reason that it is up is that will be three months, hopefully, where we will both be there. So, you have to pay the new person and you have to pay me.

(Cross talk)

Alfred Hanson: How many hours are you planning on being there?

Martha Mical: 27 hours a week is what I'm scheduled for.

Alfred Hanson: Okay, so if you're saying that for three months, at 27 hours per week, we should be able to come up with what we need to pay you.

Martha Mical: Right.

Alfred Hanson: Okay, so what is that?

(Cross talk)

Martha Mical: No, it's three months that there'll be two of us...

Mike Cutting: ...Six months, she's gonna be here....

Martha Mical: ...I will be here actually through June 30.

Alfred Hanson: I understand. When you said that after that, that you would be...

Martha Mical: No. Wrong.

Mike Cutting: April, May and June we're gonna have the double coverage. April, May and June we're gonna have double coverage. for..

Alfred Hanson: So, they're planning on filling your position before you actually leave.

Martha Mical: Right.

Mike Cutting: So, they have three months of...

Alfred Hanson: Do they know that?

Martha Mical: Yes.

Alfred Hanson: That's not what he said last week. He said last week in this meeting, correct me if I'm wrong, that they are now going to start the process of hiring your replacement.

Martha Mical: Right.

Alfred Hanson: Because they got a little bit caught under the fire when they didn't have a replacement for the Secretary.

Martha Mical: Well, the Secretary only gave a two week's notice, so they couldn't...

Alfred Hanson: I understand that. I understand.

Martha Mical: They couldn't.

Alfred Hanson: But it was my understanding, the way Jim had explained it to us, was that they were going to get a jump on this and have your replacement ready for June.

Martha Mical: That's right.

Mike Cutting: Which means that they are going to come in and start training with her in April, May and June.

Alfred Hanson: That was not told to us. That was not in the discussion. What it was was that there would be two people that you would be assisting, that you hire, during the...

Martha Mical: ...Three months...

Alfred Hanson: ...During three months after the new hire was in place.

Mike Cutting: No.

Martha Mical: Well. That person will be in place, hopefully in April. So, April, May, June there will be two of us being paid for. I'm being paid for 27 hours per week. The new person, I have not seen a job description for them or anything.

(Cross talk)

David Minton: \$33,415. Is that you in there up in your room plus the three months for....? Plus, the remainder of the year for the new person starting in April.

Martha Mical: Right. There is probably, because I believe what he....

David Minton: ...Six months for you and nine months for the other person.

Martha Mical: Right.

Mike Cutting: Right.

Martha Mical: Yes.

Mike Cutting: So, are you looking at leaving that at \$33,415?

Alfred Hanson: That's not true.

Martha Mical: Yes, it is.

David Minton: New person starts in April, so she has nine months.

Martha Mical: And I'm here until the end of June.

Alfred Hanson: Okay, so you've got six months and the new person nine months.

Martha Mical: Right.

Alfred Hanson: Oh, I thought it was the other way around.

Mike Cutting: The difference is...

Alfred Hanson: So, what is Martha's pay for three months? Anybody know?

Martha Mical: Hang on.

(Cross talk & adding machine noises)

Jonathan Lord: She got enough paper?

Martha Mical: I don't know about that.

(Adding machine noises)

Mike Cutting: Put it back in and roll it back.

(Cross talk)

Mike Cutting: We can't afford it. We didn't put enough money in the budget for more rolls of paper.

Martha Mical: So, 27 a week.

Alfred Hanson: 12 weeks.

Martha Mical: Times 12.

(Cross talk and adding machine noises.)

Martha Mical: This says \$6,470.28.

Alfred Hanson: Okay, so you're close enough. Because the extra is \$5,700. But for 6 months out of that year, that she will be

Martha Mical: It will be

Alfred Hanson: My question again. Okay. There has to be some padding in here.

David Minton: When she starts in April, is she on full salary? I mean, the replacement or whoever.

Mike Cutting: They haven't written a job description, so we don't know if they're going to be hiring her for 27 hours a week or 15 hours a week or 2 hours a week (??). They haven't made that decision yet.

David Minton: April is around the corner.

Mike Cutting: You think so?

Martha Mical: The other, the Outside Services is the assessor himself. And they have signed a contract with him for \$24,000 for the year to do all of the things he has to do.

Mike Cutting: Up to and not to exceed \$24,000.

Martha Mical: Right.

Mike Cutting: So, why did they only put \$18,000 in here?

Martha Mical: That was Jim that changed it to \$18,000. I have \$24,000 in there, because I believe if you sign a contract for \$24,000, you put \$24,000 in there. He feels that they will not...

David Minton: Is there a contract signed for \$24,000?

Martha Mical: Yes. But, Jim feels that, and I believe the Selectmen feel it, too, that they will not be requiring his services one day a week for the six months I am not here.

Alfred Hanson: Well, Martha, the last three years you haven't spent anywhere near \$18,000.

Martha Mical: Right.

Alfred Hanson: Last year, you budgeted \$12,000 and you only spent \$6,400.

Martha Mical: I know. But then...

Alfred Hanson: ...And now you're going to turn around and ask...

Martha Mical: ...I'm not doing...

Alfred Hanson: ...for \$24,000

(Cross talk)

Mike Cutting: She is leaving, so she's not going to be doing...

(Cross talk)

Mike Cutting: So, we're going to have to hire an outside company to do it.

Alfred Hanson: I understand, believe me, I've heard all that. But, I still don't believe that....

Martha Mical: ...It's true that the assessor who is the one that they, the current one is the one we signed a contract with....

Alfred Hanson: ...Yah...

Martha Mical: ...And he very seldom uses all the money that the contract is for.

David Minton: That's fine. But, I think if you have a contract signed for \$24,000, it has to be reflected in the budget. You can't just pick a number out of the air and say, well.... I think that has to be changed.

John Leavitt: It's a signed contract.

David Minton: For \$24,000.

Mike Cutting: The same concept would apply for building that fire station. It's a up to and not to exceed, whatever it's going to be, let's say \$3,000,000. You can't put into the warrant article to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,400,000 because we think it's going to come less. But you've got a contract that says up to and including and not to exceed.

Alfred Hanson: First of all, first of all, why would the Board of Selectmen sign a contract for \$24,000 when in the past two years...

Martha Mical: ...Because....

Alfred Hanson: ...I've heard that many many times, but I have a hard time believing. Martha is doing the training

that is needed for this position for 3 months, so after that 3 months is done, you're gone. Then, you're going to turn around and say that, as far as I'm concerned, the new employee will be equipped, as you were, okay, you're saying...

(Cross talk)

Alfred Hanson: There's a lot more we don't know and I would like to know. There's a lot more. Like another \$12,000 that we don't know about.

Mike Cutting: She is trained to do pickups and things like that. They are not looking to hire a person at this time that has the experience or the license to do the pickups and things like that.

Alfred Hanson: I understand that. I understand all that. But, what I'm saying is that the transition in this job, as it's been explained many many times, about her assistance, all of a sudden, this whole thing, as far as I'm concerned, is baloney. Now, if she's trained, again I'm going to say this again, if she is trained, I still do not see the increase of another \$12,000 on top of that, that she's going to need help for (??). That's what you're trying to tell me.

Martha Mical: I'm trying to tell you, that by law, this person, unless this person is. I'm the lister and measurer. If this person is an assistant assessor, they can do everything. Or almost everything. But, by law, if this person is a lister and measurer, they can not do. The example I used last time was the current use penalties. The assessor has to then come in and do the those penalties.

Alfred Hanson: So, a lot of times, then, what you're saying is that a lot of that \$12,000 that (??) you used to do.

Martha Mical: The assessor has not felt it necessary to be here one day a week while I've been in this position.

Alfred Hanson: And I understand the language that you're using.

Martha Mical: He feels

(Cross talk)

Alfred Hanson: This is costing us a ton that you're leaving.

Mike Cutting: Yes.

Marianne Howlett: I would just like to say that if the assessing piece of it, if it isn't right, would be very difficult, because then you'd be sending out tax bills that were in error. I mean you have to have that information right. And there is a deadline of September 1st for this new person that's very important one because that's part of setting the tax rate. So, you're going to want to make sure those things are right. Or you're going to be redoing a lot of things.

Mike Cutting: Or you're going to paying it back in abatements.

Marianne Howlett: You're going to be what?

Mike Cutting: Paying it back in abatements.

Marianne Howlett: (??) It's important that it be done right.

Alfred Hanson: I'm not saying it won't be done right. And I have no question of the offices. It's just that I'm having a hard time understanding....

Marianne Howlett: ...A new person won't be...

Alfred Hanson: ...To me, the way that I understand this is that 3 months is not enough training. That's what I'm saying. Because you're going to get done training, okay, then all of the sudden, the assessor's going to take over

and he's going to train more.

Martha Mical: Absolutely, he will. When he comes one day a week, he will be doing other things with the new person, teaching and / or confirming that they know how to do whatever they're doing.

Alfred Hanson: Well, I would hope they would do that before you hired the person.

Mike Cutting: Depends on what they have for experience.

Martha Mical: Right. (??)

Alfred Hanson: I understand that. I perfectly understand. Believe me, Martha, this is... to me, we are double dipping on education. Or, I shouldn't say that. Explaining or providing the education needed for this job, to me we are double dipping.

Mike Cutting: Before we go any further, I had request that we take a 10 minute break. Are there any objections to taking about a 10 minute break?

Many voices: No.

Mike Cutting: Okay, let's take about a 10 minute break and then we'll come back and resume.

*** BREAK ***

Mike Cutting: Okay, it's 7:59, let's resume our meeting.

John Leavitt: 7:59?

Mike Cutting: Excuse me, 8:59. Thank you. I was on Central Time. We're still working on the Assessing. We've got \$33,415 for the Assessing Salary. What do you want to do, folks, with the Outside Services, we're going to stay at \$24,000 since that was the contracted amount?

David Minton: I think whatever the contracted amount is.

Mike Cutting: And maybe building as...

Martha Mical: Can we take?

John Leavitt: Obviously, the \$24,000 is a not to exceed number. And they honestly think they can do it for 18. And there's plenty of fluff in this thing anyways.

Mike Cutting: Are you sure of that?

John Leavitt: Yes, I'm positive of it. So, why are you giving them more money, proposing to give them more money?

Martha Mical: I would feel more comfortable, and I don't know how to do this, I think there is enough in this budget to take out the \$6,000. I don't know that I'd take it out of that line, but I couldn't figure out what other line to take it out of.

John Leavitt: That really doesn't matter.

Alfred Hanson: I think David's point is...

Martha Mical: ...You signed a contract.

Alfred Hanson: The intentions of the legality of the contract, and all, that is not said or known somewhere, that somewhere down the line something could happen or whatever.

Mike Cutting: What happens if, I'll just throw a monkey's wrench into it, what happens if we put \$18,000 and we end up spending \$22,000 and people come back to us and say, "Well, you knew the contract was for \$24,000, why did you arbitrarily just cut it to a certain figure, knowing that that contract was for \$24,000?"

David Minton: And if they arbitrarily just cut this figure, what else did they arbitrarily cut?

(Cross talk)

Mike Cutting: I understand what Mr. Leavitt is saying, you know, that we hate to, but.

Martha Mical: What if we put it in at the 24 and take \$6,000 out of the Salary line? You're still keeping the number.

David Minton: I don't care how you do it. I just think if you have a contract signed...

(Cross talk)

Martha Bodnarik: That would mean you would have to volunteer your extra time, Martha.

Marianne Howlett: Was the 6 months at your rate of pay? The remaining 6 months of the year, were they at your rate? When the new person was on, was it lower?

Martha Bodnarik: 6 months at her rate is \$14,000. Okay? And so then, if you took \$6,000 out of the 33, you're down to 27.

Mike Cutting: I think we are finagling with figures. I think we are manipulation figures.

Jonathan Lord: Keep it at 24, keep an eye on it as we go along. Look at the bills.

Alfred Hanson: Let me ask you, Martha. What was the contract for in 2017 with this gentlemen?

Martha Mical: \$12,000.

Mike Cutting: \$12,000.

Martha Bodnarik: But, you only spent \$6,400.

Mike Cutting: But we only spent \$6,398.

Alfred Hanson: So.

Martha Bodnarik: So, if you figured it was going to take \$12,000

Alfred Hanson: So, why has the contract doubled?

Martha Mical: Because.

Alfred Hanson: Because you have informed him that you are leaving and there will be a new employee.

Martha Mical: And he feels that he will have to be here one day a week. At \$65 an hour. That's what adds it up.

David Minton: Why \$65 an hour?

Martha Mical: Because that's his rate.

David Minton: (??) under that rate?

Martha Mical: That is the standard rate for an assessor. They're expensive on an hourly basis.

Marianne Howlett: And I would speak that David is pretty conservative when dealing with us and he's also very familiar with the Town. So, there is...

Mike Cutting: ...saves us time.

Martha Mical: I really think...

Martha Bodnarik: But, that's saying that when you leave. He doesn't need to do one day a week while you're here.

Marianne Howlett: If he doesn't need to come in one day a week, he won't.

Martha Mical: Right.

Martha Bodnarik: For only six months, he comes in one day a week. He's talking to you like \$1,000 a day. 24 weeks and \$24,000, that's \$1,000 a day.

Martha Mical: No. Because it increased \$12,000 because he's coming one day a week. It was already, he's doing all the pickups, he's doing all the data entry, which is the normal stuff.

Martha Bodnarik: But, from what you've actually spent, he increased \$18,000.

Martha Mical: From what...

(Cross talk)

Martha Bodnarik: So, he's increased \$18,000. Increased. And that's a little much.

Mike Cutting: Okay. What do you folks want to do? We've talked...

Martha Bodnarik: For six months.

Alfred Hanson: I just want to ask one more question, because this starting to...

Mike Cutting: ...Add up...

Alfred Hanson: ...Show stuff and add up. I don't know anything about assessing, but, if you take the increase of \$12,000, and you take, on top of that, Martha's help, which is another \$5,800, that's close to \$18,000 worth of training for this job?

David Minton: Where you getting (??) ?

Alfred Hanson: Because, you take \$12,000 for the increase, which was what was explained to be for training and this on top, and then you add the hours that Martha's going to stay for those three months, which adds up to close to \$5,800. So, the training for this one job at 1,400 hours per year is \$18,000.

Mike Cutting: Stupid.

Alfred Hanson: Something just doesn't add up in my book. And I agree with what David says, but I also agree with myself. Something just doesn't add up here.

Jonathan Lord: When is he going to start? Is he going to start in July? When is this person going to start?

Martha Mical: The new person?

Jonathan Lord: No. The assessor.

Martha Mical: I would assume he would start June 1st.

Jonathan Lord: June 1st. Okay. So, that's seven months. That's seven times. That's about \$14,000 to him. Because, he's making \$65 an hour, one day, 65 times 8, that's roughly about \$2,000 a month, times 7, that's 14 roughly. So, round up a little and that's it. That's one day a week. What am I missing?

Martha Mical: Then he... In the six months before he starts, from January to June, he does all the pickups.

Jonathan Lord: So, he's doing the pickups now?

Martha Mical: He starts those about March 1st.

Jonathan Lord: March 1st.

Martha Mical: He will do the abatements.

Jonathan Lord: So, when is he starting everything? I mean, is he starting everything March 1st?

Martha Mical: His contract started January 1st.

Jonathan Lord: January 1st.

Martha Mical: Right.

Jonathan Lord: But, he's not physically going to here until March 1st, to start?

Martha Mical: He doesn't need to be here.

Jonathan Lord: So, he doesn't need to be here. So, we're not paying him the hourly rate until he's physically here.

Martha Mical: Right.

Jonathan Lord: So, how many hours do we think from January to March, or for that matter January to...

Martha Mical: ...I would say the \$6,000 that we paid him last year would be what he would, because this year, his big amount of work is like from the middle of February 'til June.

Jonathan Lord: Five months. Four months. Whatever

Martha Mical: Yah.

Alfred Hanson: So, if he's not taking effect until March 1st, what is March 1st until the end of the year? Is what? (??) June start date. We've got March, April and May. Three months in front of that, so...

Martha Mical: But he's not doing it at \$65 an hour.

(Cross talk)

Alfred Hanson: Somewhere around \$18,000.

Jonathan Lord: \$18,000. Yah. That's probably how they figured it.

Martha Bodnarik: I'd leave it at the 18.

Martha Mical: I would leave it at the 18. I would let it go at the 18. I mean, I think that there is, in that budget, there is enough money. You may be shifting lines, but there's enough money in that budget. And there's probably extra.

Marianne Howlett: But, it also depends on how your Selectmen write the job description. If Dave was here one day a week, they may elect to cut the position back to something less than 27. I mean, it depends on what their plan is.

Martha Mical: And I don't know that.

Alfred Hanson: There's just one clarification, then we can move on. What is that, you made a statement Marianne, about everything that the assessing has to happen before, there's a due date of September 1st.

Marianne Howlett: Really. Yes.

Alfred Hanson: So, then, if the assessing is done and has to be due by September 1st, why are we retaining him after September 1st?

Marianne Howlett: Well, you have to run your tax bills...

Alfred Hanson: ...I understand that. But, somewhere along the line, the bulk of his work has got to be done before September 1st. Am I correct?

Martha Mical: The bulk of it.

Alfred Hanson: The bulk of it. Which is the \$65 an hour deal. One full day. After September 1st, it may only be a couple hours a day.

Martha Mical: Maybe, it may be one day every other week.

(Cross talk)

Alfred Hanson: Even more, this what I've been trying to get at. You tell us that he starts, really, on March 1st. He's got a contract for a complete year, but he doesn't start digging into his papers until March 1st. So, he's gotta go from March 1st to September 1st.

Marianne Howlett: That's his busiest time.

(Cross talk)

Alfred Hanson: That's what I'm saying. I understand that. I perfectly do understand that. Now, it even makes me think more that that \$24,000 a whole lot of fluff. Now, when you break the year down, you're only March, April, May, June, July, August....

Martha Mical: ...But, you've got...

Alfred Hanson: ...September. Okay, so now you're only at seven months.

Martha Mical: But, you've got to do, I mean, that \$12,000 was figuring one day a week at \$65 an hour, for, I can't tell you if it's June 1st or July 1st.

Alfred Hanson: So, that's six months.

Martha Mical: Yah. That's where that number came from.

Alfred Hanson: I suggest that we leave it at 18, too.

Martha Mical: And it's true. They can move the numbers around between the lines.

Alfred Hanson: Well, if it runs over, then...

Martha Mical: ...Then, they'll take it out of...

Alfred Hanson: It shouldn't run over.

Martha Mical: No. He is not.

Alfred Hanson: Did you question the \$24,000 contract?

Martha Mical: No, because I read it and I said that...

Alfred Hanson: ...So, who negotiated the contract?

Martha Mical: Well, I guess he and I did.

Alfred Hanson: Okay.

Martha Mical: But, they signed it.

Alfred Hanson: Right. Okay. So, who came up with the \$24,000 figure? Him?

Martha Mical: Yes.

Alfred Hanson: Okay.

Martha Mical: I said, "Dave, we need your contract." He sent it over. And, I can't remember why, I sent it back and said, "You need to change this wording" because Kimberley wanted some words changed.

Alfred Hanson: Well, history shows it must be well confident in your office. I can't imagine that, I think the 18 is plenty. I think you even won't spend anywhere near that.

Mike Cutting: Okay, we'll leave it at 18.

Marianne Howlett: I might ask Martha this question, because of the recent results of the court case in Bow...

Martha Mical: ...That could...

Marianne Howlett: ...If we had to reevaluate our utilities, that's another whole expert. If you think Dave is expensive, wait until. Because the Supreme Court case in Bow may very well have trickle down effects.

Martha Mical: Hopefully, it may take them a year.

Alfred Hanson: We won ours, didn't we?

Martha Mical: No. Eversource put the cases on hold until the Supreme Court made a decision. I guess, the last time I checked, we are still in negotiations with them.

Alfred Hanson: So, the money that we set aside should still be here. What is that figure, Martha, so we know that? I don't want you to retire without knowing that. You set aside how much?

Marianne Howlett: Oh, the overlay he's talking about.

Martha Mical: The overlay is set aside each year. We set aside, I believe...

Marianne Howlett: ...Varying amounts...

Martha Mical: I want to say...

Alfred Hanson: It's a very large amount.

Marianne Howlett: We can look that up. It's on tax rate papers.

Alfred Hanson: I think that that number should be well advertised.

Mike Cutting: It's 500 and some odd, almost \$600,000, isn't it?

Martha Mical: No. No.

Marianne Howlett: One year, we did set aside quite a significant, but I don't think it was that much.

Martha Mical: No. We've only, I think \$200,000 is the highest we've ever gone.

Marianne Howlett: I would say we did \$200,000 one year.

Martha Mical: Well, we did do it for a couple years. But, they use some of it each year, too. Because, you use it for abatements and.

Mike Cutting: Okay, let's move on. So, that brings the Assessor's bill at, right at, what it was before, \$57,265. \$12,000 for Legal. Do you want to leave Legal alone?

Martha Mical: Yes, because they put Legal....

Mike Cutting: ...They put Legal in other areas...

Martha Mical: ...in Planning.

Mike Cutting: Okay, Benefits. We're going to leave the Benefits alone.

Martha Mical: I haven't had time to go through the Social Security and Medicare costs, partly because the wages are hard to figure out, that I haven't done that this year, yet. And I did have a question on the health benefits, but I haven't had a chance to talk to the bookkeeper to find out how many one, two, and family plans we have.

Mike Cutting: The final on that was last week, for everybody to make a decision on how many plans, you know, what plan, wasn't the employee...? What was the date? What was the cutoff date? Was it last week or the week before last?

Judy Rogers: It was the middle of December.

Mike Cutting: I thought it was the middle of January. Next one, is the Land Use. Any changes you want there, folks?

Martha Mical: Well, the raise should be \$473.20. It's not in there, but she should get one.

Alfred Hanson: Is she a new hire?

Martha Mical: She was new in June, no, when was she hired?

(Cross talk)

Alfred Hanson: That's probably why it's not there.

(Cross talk)

Martha Mical: Well, then she would get a raise after six months, so.

Marianne Howlett: Wasn't the 35 cents given to everyone, though?

Martha Mical: Yes, that's the way I understood it.

Martha Bodnarik: (??) November, they adjusted up her hiring rate at what they were bringing everyone else.

Mike Cutting: So, what do you want to change on Land Use?

Alfred Hanson: The \$20,000.

David Minton: With Dragonfly put to bed, do we anticipate?

Martha Mical: Oh, yah, that's not, that's not to bed.

David Minton: I mean, the ZBA.

Mike Cutting: They've made a decision

(Cross talk)

Martha Mical: They made their ruling, that's still in court with the Planning Board, but, and he can still appeal, although he said he wasn't going to, I don't think. And, like, I happen to know that Monday night's agenda for the Planning Board has five new cases on it. This. She's getting slammed. She is getting absolutely slammed. So.

HA: Five new cases of what?

Martha Mical: Well, McDonald's is coming in. And we all know how McDonald's went the first time around.

Mike Cutting: What are they looking to do?

Martha Mical: They're looking to make this McDonald's look like all the other McDonald's.

??: Really?

Martha Bodnarik: It was requirement of their coming in that they, they...

Mike Cutting: ...It had to be a clapboard Colonial look.

Martha Bodnarik: Yah, it had to look....

Martha Mical: ...All I'm telling you is what I heard.

Alfred Hanson: Yah, they couldn't have a brick building. They had to make it this way. And what does the Town do two or three years later? They build a fire station in a brick building. Okay, we shoved it right in their face.

(Cross talk)

Martha Bodnarik: Golden arches and the red and white (??), that's the only difference I would ever approved.

Martha Mical: I would...

Mike Cutting: ...Legal secretary?

Martha Mical: No. The Land Use Secretary, I would do \$20,801 and that includes the 35 cents.

Martha Bodnarik: I just don't understand though, if we only... you have a job and a month and a half later you get a raise, that's not quite right either. She only started in November.

(Cross talk)

Marianne Howlett: 35 cents across the board.

Martha Mical: That's what they said.

Mike Cutting: Yup.

Martha Bodnarik: But, I guess a new hire, I mean like when they hire somebody to do the Secretary job, do you think they're going to hire her at one price and then add 35 cents an hour on top?

Marianne Howlett: I have no idea what they're going to do.

(Cross talk)

Martha Bodnarik: I thought the increase was built into the hire price.

(Cross talk)

Martha Mical: But, they hadn't created the increase when this woman was hired.

Martha Bodnarik: Oh, they had talked about it quite a bit by November.

Alfred Hanson: That's because, when it comes to wages, every time they come to this, they just stick their foot in their mouth. Every time. And is this another perfect example of, okay, we'll just go 35 cents across the board. Well, to me, when I heard that, I'm saying, "Oh, this is going to be even better than the one before." Because, of this same situation that you have right now. I mean, I don't understand. We spent 10,000 more dollars this past year for this study and here we are just rolling out numbers left and right. Without even doing any. When did we receive the report? When did we get it as a Budget Committee? This summer, right?

Martha Mical: No.

Mike Cutting: No.

Alfred Hanson: This fall.

Martha Mical: We didn't get it until, I would have said November.

Alfred Hanson: No, the wage study.

David Minton: November.

Martha Mical: Yes, we got it in November.

Alfred Hanson: (??) What did you think of it?

David Minton: Read it once. And that was (??)

Mike Cutting: Okay, what are we doing on. Do we want to change that to \$20,800. You've got Professional

Services, you're still going to maintain at \$500? Legal expenses at \$20,000. Registry of Deeds at \$300. Printing at \$200.

Martha Mical: I wouldn't change anything else.

Mike Cutting: Don't change anything else. So, that takes it to \$44,801. Okay, Custodian's Salary.

Martha Mical: When I did. 260 hours times point 35. It comes \$91, not \$110. So, I set the wage to be \$3,181.

Mike Cutting: \$3,181.

Martha Mical: Now, maybe there's a step in there. I don't know that.

Mike Cutting: Building Maintenance with zero electricity, we're still going to hold at \$2,800.

Alfred Hanson: What's that?

Martha Mical: The Town Hall electricity. Does anybody else want to make any other changes to the Town Hall budget?

Marianne Howlett: I'll ask a request. \$40 for the plug-in electric so we can leave the stove on all the time.

Martha Mical: The gas detector. Isn't it a gas detector?

Marianne Howlett: Yes. Carbon monoxide. The carbon monoxide plug-in detector, I think they're about \$40.

Martha Mical: But, I thought it was gas we wanted to detect.

Marianne Howlett: Carbon monoxide is gas.

Martha Mical: Well, yes, but it's not the gas that comes out of the stove.

Marianne Howlett: But, that's what you use to detect propane.

John Leavitt: It's a separate detector. You can get it through Lowe's. A propane detector is different from a CO detector.

Marianne Howlett: Well, whatever we need in here. Is maybe \$100 enough for a plug-in one? So that we can leave the stove on all the time.

Martha Mical: Well, they have under Supplies, they have \$1,200 and under Maintenance & Repairs, they have \$3,380.

Marianne Howlett: Or we could put in the hood that they said. How much money was that?

Martha Mical: No, we need the suppression...

Mike Cutting: ...You need the suppression system.

Martha Mical: Not a hood.

Alfred Hanson: So, answer me a question. Then, when they did this inspection of this building, and so called condemned this room and that room, I never remember anyone saying that, as far as I'm concerned, isn't that kind of detection, wouldn't you have that already in this building?

Martha Mical: No.

Alfred Hanson: So, I've never heard Mr. Ed Raymond discuss that. All he was talking about was the fire suppression. Wouldn't you already have that? And why wouldn't he bring that up?

Martha Mical: He did bring up a suppression system. It's gotta be dry chem.

Alfred Hanson: He never brought up anything about detection in here, about what Marianne's talking about.

Martha Mical: No, he didn't bring up the detection thing that Marianne's talking about. He did bring up...

Alfred Hanson: ...I would imagine that if you (??) that now, with the building being occupied with the departments.

Martha Mical: But, when you shut, when you're required to shut off the gas.

Marianne Howlett: I'm asking that we get it so, like today, Martha and I had to light the stove. And, so if you have that detection thing, you can leave that stove and oven on.

Mike Cutting: And not have to light the pilot.

Marianne Howlett: Not have to light the pilot.

(Cross talk)

Alfred Hanson: The point that I was making, we never heard (??) during Jim's description of what

(Cross talk)

Martha Mical: No, because the Fire Chief was saying you need a fire suppression system in the hood of the stove. He doesn't care if we detect in advance. He wants it put out if something happens. So, he wants a suppression system in the hood.

Alfred Hanson: Right. I understand that. But, Marianne's point is that if you did leave your pilot on on that stove and it did go off and you didn't have that detection, you would fill this place with gas.

Martha Mical: Right. The Fire Chief said, "You will shut off the gas." So, then you don't have the gas coming into the building, so you.

Alfred Hanson: Yes, you do. You still have the gas coming into the building. Yes you do, Martha, because it's piped right into the stove.

Martha Mical: But, there is a valve you shut off.

Alfred Hanson: Where?

Martha Mical: Right beside the stove.

Alfred Hanson: Okay. That is inside the building. If that pipe breaks, or that valve breaks, or leaks propane, same thing as if you were lighting the pilot. Okay?

Martha Mical: Okay.

Mike Cutting: Okay, we're not solving that problem. We're not solving that problem. Moving on.

Martha Bodnarik: Can I suggest... The Heating & Propane line, for two years, they've been running at \$1,000 less than what they proposed at \$5,000. Let's drop it.

Alfred Hanson: Where? In the Town Hall?

Martha Mical: Oh. Wait a minute. Okay.

Martha Bodnarik: Where are we?

Martha Mical: The propane.

Martha Bodnarik: Yah, Town Hall.

Martha Mical: Town Hall Propane is a...

Mike Cutting: ...is a new line. \$265.

Alfred Hanson: That's just for a new line.

Mike Cutting: No. That's a new line this year, we added. Remember we put Propane into each one of our chart of accounts.

Alfred Hanson: I see.

Martha Bodnarik: Is your showing the same as mine is?

Martha Mical: \$25 under Spent for 2017?

(Quiet talk)

Alfred Hanson: So, propane was taken out of line 106?

Mike Cutting: Propane was taken out of line 106 and put into line 107.

Alfred Hanson: What is the asterisks about propane for?

Martha Bodnarik: The thing is when it was in "Heating Fuel", it was \$5,500 budget, only spent \$4,400. \$5,100, only spent \$4,000. Instead of putting it at \$5,300 this year, let's make it \$4,300.

Ed Ordway: You don't want to do that. Propane costs are going to go up this year. It's a very simple fact. In Europe right now, Russian is trying to build a northern pipeline through Scandinavia, Kazakhstan and Turkey. They're in direct competition with the American's who are trying to sell their propane to the European market. So, there's a clash of empires taking place. If the American's win, propane gas, the cost will skyrocket.

Martha Bodnarik: But, we use very little propane here. It's basically for the stove and generator, right?

Ed Ordway: My suggestion is that you make it \$5,500. Cover yourselves. You might not spend it, but you will be covered. Because, the gas wars is taking place in Europe and (??). That is why all this heat between Russia and America, all this rhetoric, the politics (??) hangs on the gas problem. If Russia makes (??) supply propane to Europe (??) pay attention.

Mike Cutting: Mr. Leavitt.

John Leavitt: The Heating & Propane cost for 2018 is actually \$5,565 because he's pulled the propane out of the Heat. So, we're looking at \$5,565.

Martha Bodnarik: Which is more than \$1,000 more...

John Leavitt: So, I would say that Heating Oil could go down.

Martha Mical: Right.

John Leavitt: Leave the propane alone.

Mike Cutting: Leave the propane at \$265.

Martha Mical: Yah and...

Mike Cutting: ...I'm not sure what the new rate, what is the new?

Alfred Hanson: The bids are already in.

Mike Cutting: When they signed the new contract, did the price per gallon go from a year ago?

Alfred Hanson: We have it. They gave it to us.

Martha Mical: Hold on.

(Cross talk)

Alfred Hanson: Isn't it true that in that contract

Martha Mical: They end in June.

Alfred Hanson: Yah, I understand that. But, isn't it also true that in those contracts that there's a clause in there to protect your oil companies or whatever if the price raises to a certain amount when they're buying, that they do have the justification to adjust, even though you have a contract here?

(Cross talk)

Alfred Hanson: I think that is in there. I don't either. That clause is in there.

John Leavitt: It is on residential. I'm not sure about commercial.

Martha Bodnarik: I would just say cut it.

Ed Ordway: (??) They cap your price and guarantee your price, if the market climbs. But it gets you back the following year.

Mike Cutting: The propane, in 2016 and 2017, we were paying 99 cents a gallon. This year, we're paying \$1.19 a gallon for propane.

Martha Bodnarik: (??) It has to do with how the companies want to make their profit. Like, how many have gone to pumps and seen that diesel fuel costs more than regular? And you realized that diesel fuel uses less processing than regular. It's a lot cheaper to produce, but they're charging you more for it. (??)

?: (??) off shore.

(Cross talk)

Mike Cutting: In Heating Oil in 2016 and 2017 contract, we're paying \$1.65 a gallon. And in 2017 - 2018, we're at \$1.927. So, that's the reason why that increased.

(Cross talk)

Alfred Hanson: So, you're saying our contract is (??) in June?

Mike Cutting: We buy it from Huckabees.

Martha Mical: Yah, I believe they come up

Alfred Hanson: So, if they do it in June, how come we get this information in the fall?

Mike Cutting: Say that again.

Martha Mical: We don't have meetings until the fall.

Alfred Hanson: A lot things we ask for, we don't get in until the fall. So, if our contract ends in June, when we're meeting in October, November. So, we are in that contract year that he's talking about?

Mike Cutting: Yes.

Alfred Hanson: That's what it is. Screwed up dates. Let's go.

Martha Bodnarik: But, you're looking at \$5,600. The bills before were less than \$4,100.

Mike Cutting: So, what do you want to do on Heating?

Martha Bodnarik: I want to cut \$1,000 off.

Mike Cutting: You want to cut Heating Oil back from \$5,300 to what?

Martha Bodnarik: \$4,300.

Mike Cutting: Even though we're paying...

Martha Bodnarik: ...Look how much we paid last year. Look how much we paid the year before.

Mike Cutting: Yah, but the price, I just told you the price went up.

Alfred Hanson: We just talked about that. It was almost a 40 cent increase.

Mike Cutting: 40, 35, 40 cent increase a gallon.

Alfred Hanson: I don't think you can cut that much, Martha.

Martha Bodnarik: Cut \$500, then. We've got to cut something.

Alfred Hanson: Well, if we're under contract.

Martha Bodnarik: We have a \$24,000 contract, we budgeted 18 for. Don't tell me (??) contract.

Alfred Hanson: That's a good point.

(Cross talk)

Alfred Hanson: But, I'm saying if we're under contract right now, then the number, you could cut the \$500 out of there.

Marianne Howlett: You were down in usage the year before and you know your

Alfred Hanson: He's talking about a 40 cent raise since 2016 - 2017, so now we're into the 2017 - 2018 with a contract of 40 cents more. Correct, Mike?

Martha Mical: Yah, the contract is 40 cents more than what we were paying last year at this time.

Alfred Hanson: I don't think, I think that that number should stay.

Mike Cutting: 3,100 gallons.

Alfred Hanson: I know. Maybe not.

Martha Bodnarik: You watch next year, it will come in, it will come in as having \$1,000 in it...

Mike Cutting: It's 27 cents more a gallon, times...

Martha Bodnarik: ...it will be spent for something fun they want.

Mike Cutting: ...837. If his figures are correct, if we're gonna base it on that, the difference between \$1.92 and \$1.65 times 3,100 gallons is \$837. Increase.

David Minton: (??) as last year.

Alfred Hanson: So, you're talking about \$4,800

(Cross talk)

Martha Mical: But, you have six months where you don't know the price.

Alfred Hanson: The other thing we also have to think about is that December was brutal.

Mike Cutting: Brutal.

Alfred Hanson: Believe me, I was out there everyday. January, I don't know. January. It does really matter. If you have one month of brutal weather, you still suffer from it, as far as usage and stuff.

Martha Bodnarik: Okay, I'll let you leave it. Just, promise me one thing.

Alfred Hanson: Yes.

Martha Bodnarik: Don't ever let Mike use that phrase again, "If his numbers are right."

Alfred Hanson: Move on.

Martha Mical: Okay, Old Graded School.

Mike Cutting: Okay, so the total for the Town Hall is \$19,347. Old Grade School.

Martha Bodnarik: We just talked about heating oil.

Alfred Hanson: Can I ask a question?

Mike Cutting: What happens if one of these times I say, "No"?

Alfred Hanson: I bet you don't. Who provides the janitorial services at the Old Grade School? The occupants?

Martha Mical: Yah, the occupants keep it clean.

Alfred Hanson: Keep what clean? Their area?

Martha Mical: Their area.

Mike Cutting: And the public area?

Alfred Hanson: So, other janitorial stuff would fall under Maintenance & Repairs?

Martha Bodnarik: I'm showing red here. What does your's say?

Martha Mical: Is everybody alright with the Old Graded School?

Mike Cutting: Any problems there?

Martha Bodnarik: Heating.

Martha Mical: Heating?

Martha Bodnarik: Well, seeing as we budgeted 57, spent 59 and we're budgeting 57 again. And you all just went through the process of saying it's going up. What the heck?

Alfred Hanson: It's confusing.

Martha Bodnarik: How can we sit here and say we have to spend more heating the Town Hall that has come in \$1,000 under for two years running, but we're gonna hold steady for the Old Graded School that's gone up?

Marianne Howlett: But, you just had an energy improvement grant at the Old... right? Didn't you have that?

Martha Mical: Yah, they did.

Mike Cutting: They had the energy improvement. Also, we've moved the CAP from the front office down to the back. Are they even using the whole thing now?

Martha Mical: The basement level is used. The next level is used on Wednesdays.

Mike Cutting: Because CAP's not there anymore. They're down below.

Martha Mical: They're down below.

Mike Cutting: So, that part's not being used now. Ed, is that zoned so that you separate that?

Martha Mical: I don't think it is. The basement is separate.

Ed Mical: There are two thermostats. Or there were two thermostats.

Marianne Howlett: For that whole building, there are only two?

Ed Mical: Yah.

Mike Cutting: One is for the basement level, where everything is now.

Ed Mical: And the other one, the thermostat was in the old (??)

Martha Mical: Which was on the main floor.

Mike Cutting: Which was on the main floor, right on the front.

Martha Bodnarik: We can leave it there, and when run over there, they can use the money they didn't use here.

Mike Cutting: Leave it there. Okay. Anything else you want to change on the Old Grade School? Okay, that comes out to \$15,801. Same as it was. Cemeteries and all that.

Martha Mical: I have a question. There's nobody to answer it. Have we signed? I think we have a contract for lawn care for the cemeteries.

Mike Cutting: Yes.

Martha Mical: I was just wondering if we had signed a contract and we'd know the answer to, "How much is it?"

David Minton: Wouldn't Jim sign that?

Martha Mical: I believe the Trustees of the Cemetery actually sign it, but then it comes to the Selectmen's office.

Martha Bodnarik: Does anyone remember when the cemetery people were here? Did they suggest that we cut the amount of money we put aside for repair? Headstone monument repair? It had been like \$5,000 a year, forever.

Alfred Hanson: No, they did not. And actually, if you go back to that meeting, and you listen to Mr. Gerry Courser, he thought it was a great idea that the \$5,000 was in there to start fixing these headstones. I didn't notice that he had cut that. Why would he cut that?

Martha Mical: Because they only spent \$2,143 this year.

Martha Bodnarik: That's a bad reason. On the history of it, and what if, I think we should put it up. And I don't have anyone buried in this Town, but I still would like to see our headstones maintained.

Alfred Hanson: Well, that was first introduced back then when Allan Brown was telling about that, putting that money in there so that headstones could get started to be repaired.

Martha Mical: Right. And they did catch up for a while.

Mike Cutting: You want to go back and put that back to \$5,000?

Martha Bodnarik: Please.

Alfred Hanson: Yes. But, before we do that, I think we need to ask why only \$2,100 was spent.

Martha Bodnarik: Except, when Gerry was here, he didn't say he didn't plan on doing any more headstones, alright? He seemed to like it.

Alfred Hanson: It was my understanding in listening to him, he was excited that that money was now being...

Martha Mical: ...Consistently put in....

(Cross talk)

Alfred Hanson: ...Right, to get these repaired. Now, if you listen to the number of stones that need to be repaired, and there are a lot of them, my question is why we only spent \$2,143. I guess we didn't have a chance to ask that question.

Judy Rogers: I wonder. You just made me think of something. When you set the final budget, do you know, Martha, if this is the final spent for the year? Because, they keep the books open for...

Mike Cutting: ...No, it's not the final spent.

Martha Mical: It's not the final spent, but it is spent through...

Mike Cutting: ...as of January 3rd.

Judy Rogers: It's spent as of January 3rd. But, should it be spent as of December 31st and then this is updated as of 1/3?

Alfred Hanson: Right. Still. But, the idea of the matter is...

Judy Rogers: So, if they get an invoice, they might have an invoice

Martha Mical: Right, there may be an invoice that hasn't shown up on these numbers.

Alfred Hanson: And, they took it upon themselves, well, I haven't seen an invoice, and we've only spent \$2,100, so let's set it to 25.

Martha Mical: We don't know.

Alfred Hanson: We need that question answered?

Martha Mical: Okay. So, the question is?

Mike Cutting: Why did we only \$2,143 in 2017? And why did they reduce the budget to \$2,500 for 2018?

Martha Mical: Yes.

Martha Bodnarik: It would be almost like if Judy or Marianne forgot or didn't get a book sent in and we suddenly cut how much we put in for records. I just think it's (??).

Mike Cutting: Okay. Moving on to Property Liability. We're going leave that as it is. \$52,250.

Martha Mical: Our insurance totals are \$88,342.

David Minton: Why did our (??) Insurance go off so much?

Alfred Hanson: Accident free year. As it was explained to us.

Mike Cutting: Because of our accident rate.

Alfred Hanson: Which takes two years to happen, as you actually pay for the year ahead, up front, on Worker's Comp payments.

Martha Mical: Central Regional Planning?

Mike Cutting: Yup, I just left that alone.

Martha Mical: Okay.

Mike Cutting: General Government Agencies total is \$20,822. Same as it was before. Now are down to PD.

Martha Mical: No, it's gone up a little bit. It was \$20,658. Now it's \$20,822.

Martha Bodnarik: You have to adjust Billy's Department Head Salary because he didn't get the right amount on the 35 cents an hour either. They gave him \$781.

Martha Mical: Alright. Can you say that again, Martha?

Martha Bodnarik: The salary line, the first line. They gave him a \$781 increase.

Martha Mical: It should be \$728.

Martha Bodnarik: So, you adjust that.

Alfred Hanson: I wouldn't do that to him. He's likely to shoot you.

Martha Bodnarik: He'll just laugh about it.

Alfred Hanson: So, what is it supposed to be? 728?

David Minton: Right.

Martha Mical: Added to.

Mike Cutting: \$76,669. So, it comes out to \$77,397. And full time wages?

Martha Mical: The full time wages. There are 4 people who are 40 hours a week.

Mike Cutting: 40 times 4 is 160 hours a week, times 35 cents an hour, times 52 is \$2,912. \$2,912 plus \$200,598 equals \$203,510. \$203,510. Okay. Part time hours?

Martha Mical: That one I couldn't figure out. I believe it.

Martha Bodnarik: We were dropping the wages, so we have no idea what the 35 cents is.

Mike Cutting: We'll leave that at \$19,050.

Alfred Hanson: Well, he doesn't even have a part time officer. So, they wouldn't be granted a 35 cent raise. How can you give a 35 cent raise to a ghost?

Mike Cutting: They'll find a way. Mikey's not being nice again. Okay, so now have overtime.

Martha Mical: You can't figure it.

Alfred Hanson: How do you do that?

Martha Mical: Because, you can't figure that. You don't know who's doing the job.

Mike Cutting: Building custodian is 150 hours, times 35 cents, is \$52.50, \$53. Plus \$2,061. So, that's \$2,114. Lawn care, we don't care about the lawn.

Alfred Hanson: Yah, we do.

Mike Cutting: We've replaced it enough times.

(Cross talk)

Alfred Hanson: Last year, that's what they said.

Martha Mical: Astroturf is going in next.

Alfred Hanson: Tim said, "One more time."

Mike Cutting: Although, that last try has taken pretty well, so far.

David Minton: Wait until the winter (??)

Mike Cutting: We'll see what happens this spring.

Alfred Hanson: Wait until the spring leaching is over.

Mike Cutting: That's what I mean. We'll wait until the spring.
(Cross talk)

Martha Bodnarik: Chipmunks dug it up.

Mike Cutting: Okay, so we've got NH Retirement, it'll will stay the same at \$78,000. Telephone, 49, 47, 49, 47, 49, 21.

Alfred Hanson: I wanted to ask you, Michael, a question. Do they have a cell phone program over there? A contract? Other than a land line.

Mike Cutting: Yah.

Alfred Hanson: Does the Highway Department have that?

Martha Mical: No. Tim uses his own cell phone. And I don't...

Mike Cutting: The Police Department used to be tied in with Sprint. We had a contract through Sprint, 'cos Sprint was a government agency that provided, that was doing a lot of local communities. I don't know what Billy's got now, whether it's still Sprint or whether it's somebody else.

???: I think it's Verizon.

Martha Mical: That's what Ed is.

Mike Cutting: Telephone? Do you still want to leave it at 49?

Martha Mical: Yes. Give it another year.

Mike Cutting: Contract Services, that's 16 5.

Alfred Hanson: That's his dispatch, correct?

Martha Mical: Yah.

Mike Cutting: Dispatch and the County Attorney's office.

Martha Mical: And, like the copier contract and junk like that.

Mike Cutting: Electric.

Martha Mical: I'd leave it alone. Can you do your math again. 2,010 gallons, times whatever propane is.

Mike Cutting: \$1.92? I can't remember that far back.

Alfred Hanson: No, it's cheaper than that.

Martha Mical: Did you we have a problem with the water and sewer at the PD? I think we had a leak.

Mike Cutting: We had a leak.

David Minton: We had a leak.

Martha Bodnarik: We had a leak, and it was running into the yard. The sprinkler system was leaking in the yard.

Mike Cutting: \$3,873.

Martha Mical: So why are we?

Mike Cutting: Give it to me again. We're at \$1.927 a gallon. Time 2,010 gallons. Equals \$3,873.

Martha Mical: There must be something wrong here. Because, he only spent...

Mike Cutting: Sorry, I was looking at oil. Getting past my bedtime. Propane. 2,010 gallon, times \$1.19. That's \$2,391.

Martha Mical: Well, they're only budgeting \$1,785.

Mike Cutting: Leave it alone.

Martha Mical: Okay.

Martha Bodnarik: He said he put in locking thermostats in and he said that some guys would come in in the night and turn up the thermostats and forget to turn them down.

Martha Mical: Oh, alright.

Alfred Hanson: So, down on the next line, you're going to tell me the water precinct charges them money for water that was wasted?

Martha Mical: Oh, yah.

Mike Cutting: They were fighting with the precinct to get a rebate back, but I never heard if they got it or not.

Alfred Hanson: They explained that. Or is this part of the money in fixing the leak? Because, if you go down to the maintenance thing, somewhere along the line the leak had to get fixed. Where is it?

Mike Cutting: And the other comment that was told to us was that it was an increase because of the irrigation, when they put in that new lawn and all that.

Alfred Hanson: And I understand all that. But, where is the fix for the problem? It's not showing up in here.

Martha Mical: Well, it could be in the Maintenance.

Alfred Hanson: It could be in the Water & Sewer, that \$3,590.

Martha Mical: Or it could be in the Building Maintenance. I mean, they spent \$2,000 almost in Building Maintenance.

Alfred Hanson: Right, which is the same thing that they've done for the last couple of years. Somewhere along the line.

Martha Bodnarik: But, the fix could have been real minor. To have a leak, with something outside with the water, it could something as simple as replacing a faucet or cutting and replacing one section of pipe. It's not a major thing.

Alfred Hanson: Martha, for that amount of water, it's a major thing.

Martha Bodnarik: They lost, for quite a while, an amazing amount of water.

Alfred Hanson: Well, you would think, I mean the building is occupied almost everyday. Somebody's there, everyday, most of the time. So, was the leak underground? Leak above ground? In the building?

(Cross talk)

Marianne Howlett: Doesn't he have to sign off on the water bill?

Martha Mical: I don't know if he does on the water bill. But, he'd see it on the monthly sheets, when the water bill shows up.

Mike Cutting: Okay, so takes the Police Department to \$513,371.

David Minton: Mike, on the vehicle fuel, they haven't used \$6,000 worth of fuel in two years. Why is it \$8,400? They spent \$5,800 in 16 and \$3,800 in 17.

Mike Cutting: Part of the reason is because he did not have a full contingency of manpower because we had the officer that was, a military officer that was out on a disability, so we were running short on manpower. So, by short on manpower, we weren't driving the vehicles as much for patrols, etc, etc, etc. Now he's got a full contingency of manpower and he anticipates that he will put that mileage on again. So, bringing the Police Department to \$513,371.

Martha Mical: \$513,371.

Mike Cutting: Ambulance. He budgeted it in at \$77,000.

Martha Mical: Yup.

Mike Cutting: But, we don't know if we got the bill or not.

Jonathan Lord: We're getting older.

Martha Mical: I don't know if we've got a bill or whether that's a guestimate. I have no idea.

Martha Bodnarik: (inaudible)

Mike Cutting: Okay, I'm going ask you folks. It's 10:00. How much longer do you want to go?

Alfred Hanson: I suggest that we adjourn 'til the next time.

Mike Cutting: And then finish it up next week?

Alfred Hanson: What is next week's schedule? A work session again, right?

Mike Cutting: We don't have a budget meeting scheduled for next week. We were going right straight through to the month ending one on the 29th, but we've got the 25th. We ought to finish this thing up.

Alfred Hanson: I suggest that we meet again next Thursday.

Martha Mical: Okay, to continue with the...

Alfred Hanson: Why didn't we do that at 9:00?

Martha Mical: Because you needed to get further along.

Alfred Hanson: You know why we're here at 10:00? Because you're retiring. That's why.

Martha Mical: So, next Thursday night, we'll do the rest of this, and the Capital Budget....

Mike Cutting: ...Then, we'll review the Capital Budget again.

?: What time?

Martha Mical: 7:00 pm.

David Minton: Can we have Jim go back to the payroll thing and do the computer calculations (??)

Alfred Hanson: Why don't we just continue it...

Mike Cutting: ...Why don't we continue the way we're going?...

Alfred Hanson: ...And show...

Mike Cutting: ...We seem to have control of it.

Martha Mical: Maybe I can get him to email me these sheets and I can go through and change the numbers that we have changed.

Mike Cutting: You want me to send it to you?

Martha Bodnarik: Did we say, "Goodnight, Mikey?"

Mike Cutting: What I did was, I put in a red column here. It says, "Adjusted amount by BC, Budget Committee". And I'm just running the total right through there now, changing each one of them as we're changing them. And if I've got

Martha Mical: Do you have the new number that would go in the requested?

Ed Mical: Are they adjourned?

Mike Cutting: I've got a motion to adjourn? Is there a second?

Martha Bodnarik: Second.

Mike Cutting: Seconded. Say, "Goodnight, Mikey".

The meeting adjourned at 10:02 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberley Brown Edelman
Acting Recording Secretary

(These minutes were approved at the meeting of February 1, 2018)