

Approved: January 14, 2016

Posted: January 20, 2016



Town Council Meeting Minutes

Thursday December 17, 2015, at 7:00 PM, in the Matthew Thornton Room

Chairman Harrington called the meeting of the Town Council to order at 7:00 p.m. Present at the meeting were Vice Chairman Mahon, Councilor Boyd, Councilor Dwyer, Councilor Koenig, Councilor Rothhaus (arrived at 7:15 p.m.), Councilor Vaillancourt, and Assistant Town Manager/Finance Director Paul Micali. Town Manager Eileen Cabanel was excused.

Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Harrington led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Announcements

Town Offices will be closing at 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 24th, and will be closed on Friday, December 25th for the Christmas holiday. The offices will also be closed on Friday, January 1st in observance of New Year's Day. The Transfer Station will be open on Thursday, December 24th.

The Town Council will conduct budget meetings on Thursday, January 7th, Monday, January 11th, Thursday, January 21st, and Monday, January 25th at 6:00 p.m. in the Matthew Thornton Room.

Regular meetings of the Town Council will be conducted on Thursday, January 14th and January 28th at 7:00 p.m. in the Matthew Thornton Room. The FY17 proposed budget will be finalized, if necessary, at the January 28th meeting.

The Public Hearing on the proposed FY17 budget is scheduled for February 11th.

There being no objection, the Council went out of the regular order of business to take up Recognitions, Resignations and Retirements.

Recognitions, Resignations and Retirements

1. Recognition of Employees for their Years of Service to the Town of Merrimack

Submitted by Human Resources Coordinator Sharon Marunicz

Town Council to present awards in recognition of years of service to the following employees:

Fire:	20-Year Plaque	Lt. Thomas J, Dalton, DOH 7/2/1995
	25-Year Watch	Asst. Chief Richard W. Pierson, DOH 9/10/1990

Brian Borneman, Assistant Chief, Merrimack Fire and Rescue, stated Lt. Dalton was hired full-time in July of 1995, and promoted to Master Firefighter in July of 2000. He was promoted to Lieutenant in November of 2014. Lt. Dalton is an EMTI and a Certified Firefighter III, Company Officer I and II, and a Hazardous Material Technician. He also holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Industrial Engineering from the University of Massachusetts, Lowell. He currently serves as the C Shift Lieutenant and is the department's Forestry Officer.

Assistant Chief Borneman remarked Lt. Dalton has been a great Firefighter and now Lieutenant for this community. His ability to maintain focus and remain steady and calm in emergency situations is a

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testament to his quiet confidence and is an asset not only to the men and women he serves with and supervises, but the entire Town of Merrimack.

A plaque in recognition of his 20 years of service to the Town of Merrimack was presented to Lt. Thomas Dalton.

Chairman Harrington noted Assistant Chief Richard W. Pierson was unable to be in attendance. He will be presented with a watch in recognition of his 25 years of service to the Town of Merrimack.

Police:	20-Year Plaque	Mptl. John A. Dudash, DOH 12/31/1995 Lt. Matthew J. Tarleton, DOH 7/2/1995
	30-Year Clock	Lt. Paul A. Trepaney - DOH 9/9/1985 Lt. Daniel Edmonds – DOH 9/3/1985 Chief Mark E. Doyle – DOH 8/11/1985

Chairman Harrington noted Master Patrolman John A. Dudash and Lieutenant Matthew J. Tarleton were unable to be in attendance. They will be presented with plaques in recognition of their 20 years of service to the Town of Merrimack.

Lieutenant Paul A. Trepaney is retiring, and received a clock in recognition of his 30 years of service to the Town of Merrimack during the Employee Recognition Breakfast.

Judith A. York, retired Secretary for the Legal Division, received a clock in recognition of her 30 years of service to the Town of Merrimack.

Police Chief Mark E. Doyle commented it seems like yesterday that he and Lieutenant Edmonds were hired by then Captain Mulligan who took a risk and put an ad in the Lowell Sun. A few from Massachusetts came up to apply, and here we are 30 years later.

Lt. Edmonds was hired in September of 1985 and went to the 74th New Hampshire Police Standards and Training Academy. He has served the community and the Police Department as a Patrolman, Detective, Master Patrolman, Patrol Sergeant, and a Patrol Lieutenant. He has always been one who has stepped up to fill a void. When it was recognized there was a void relative to technology and computer skills in terms of someone being able to coordinate all of that, Lt. Edmonds was the one the department tapped into.

He was also the Accident Investigation Team Commander, an Honor Guard founding member, and worked diligently with the vendor for our Identi-Kit training to make sure our officers are as well trained as they should be. He is extremely trained in a number of areas. He has an Associate Degree in Criminal Justice from Hesser College, attended Babson College, and graduated from the New England Institute of Law Enforcement Management, has over 2,500 hours of in-service training over the last 30 years, was Police Officer of the Year in 1996, received the Meritorious Service Award, the Chief's Achievement Award, the Life Saving Award, several distinguished unit actions, the Purple Heart for being injured on duty, and the Exceptional Service Award.

He has worked diligently with the department's computer vendor to ensure the system is updated to the point where it is tweaked necessarily to allow the officers to do the work they need to do to continually, effectively, and efficiently serve the community of Merrimack. He worked to develop a problem-solving model through a grant with Michigan State University on a project regarding domestic violence. He also wrote a paper back when he was promoted to Sergeant, which was titled Why I Want to be a Merrimack Police Sergeant. Interestingly enough even before he became that individual who we tapped into for the coordinator of our technology direction and our vision, he wrote this: "Relative to technology, using these concepts and lessons learned to the community's benefit because they are part of the problem-solving equation." That really sums up what his commitment and level of dedication has been to not only the Police Department, but to everyone in the community.

Chief Doyle noted today was Lt. Edmonds last day on the job. When he leaves he leaves with the knowledge, skills, and abilities that he has learned and developed over the last 30 years, and also leaves with institutional memory of the Merrimack Police Department. Chief Doyle commented we can backfill the skills and the knowledge and training, but we can't backfill that level of institutional knowledge and history that he will walk away with. On behalf of everyone at the Police Department and the Merrimack community, he thanked Lt. Edmonds for his years of service.

Lt. Edmonds thanked the Chief for his kind words, and recognized former Chief Bill Mulligan who is the reason he is here, Captain Mike Dudash and Captain Pete Albert, but also Mrs. Helen Cross, her Daughter Tiffany, and her two Granddaughters, and Pat Murphy. He stated these to be people he has come to know in Town. He commented he met Mrs. Cross through her Husband Brad who worked for the Police Department. He was a great friend and a good Police Officer. He has enjoyed his time in Merrimack, and thanked the citizenry for allowing him to serve them.

To his Wife and children he stated if it were not for them behind him going the 30 years with him....thank you very much!

Assistant Town Manager/Finance Director Paul Micali, Captain Peter Albert, and Captain Michael Dudash presented Chief Mark E. Doyle with a clock in recognition of his 30 years of service to the Town of Merrimack.

Assistant Town Manager/Finance Director Paul Micali remarked it has been his pleasure to work with Chief Doyle over the past 11 years. He commented Chief Doyle has always been kind and the utmost professional.

Captain Peter Albert spoke of the many years he and Captain Dudash have worked with Chief Doyle. In 1985 then college student and Bradlees Security Guard Mark Doyle answered an ad in the Lowell Sun newspaper. He took the department's written and physical exams, passed with high scores, and was invited to the oral board interview. The board was very impressed with this young man and recommended that he be hired. Joe Devine did so in July of 1985. Then recruit Doyle attended the 73rd New Hampshire Police Academy in which he graduated earning the Outstanding Officer Award. This award is given to the Officer who attempted to reach the highest levels of achievement during that Academy. He also received the Notebook Award. Back in 1985 we didn't have computers or word processors. When a recruit was in class he had to do a lot of note taking. It was then required that they type the notes while the Cadre would come in and make them do pushups, sit-ups, and run.

Upon graduation from the academy, then Officer Doyle completed the field training program with then FTO Mike Dudash, and worked as a Patrolman from 1985 to 1988. During that time he joined the department's motorcycle unit. Chief Doyle was also a member of the Accident Investigation Team and the Dive Team. In 1988 he was promoted to Sergeant. He became an Assistant Squad Leader. In 1994 he was promoted to Lieutenant and became a Squad Commander. Captain Albert remarked he was lucky enough to be his Sergeant at the time. Many of the members of the Squad, due to Chief Doyle's mentoring and leadership were able to attain higher ranks. In 1995 the Chief obtained his Bachelor Degree from Franklin Pierce College.

A few years later he was transferred to Detective Lieutenant and then promoted to Captain in 2002. Captain Doyle completed tours in both the Administrative and Patrol Divisions, and was promoted to Deputy Chief in 2007. He graduated from the 244th FBI National Academy in March of 2011, was promoted to Chief in April of 2011, and received the Businessman of the Year Award that same year from the Merrimack Chamber of Commerce.

Captain Albert commented what is probably one of the most significant moments in Chief Doyle's career came when he cancelled Halloween. His popularity among the elementary schools took a significant dip. He has since threatened to cancel Christmas, and on many occasions threatened to cancel Captain Albert's Birthday.

Captain Albert stated the Chief has lead by example. He would not ask anyone to do what he wouldn't do himself. He has mentored many, emphasizes the focus on training, and is deeply concerned about each and every member of the department.

Captain Dudash commented it is important to let people know more about the Chief as Mark Doyle. Everyone in this Town should know he is a great person, has an unlimited amount of energy, and is always willing to help others. Mark is a leader in the State when it comes to Special Olympics. He has always supported it, he is always at the events, and he supports all of the guys who donate their time.

Captain Dudash stated for the 30 years he has known Mark there is nobody more giving. Every Christmas Mark has given out gifts to the employees. When it comes to Birthdays there is always a Birthday cake. Captain Dudash spoke of working with Mark at the Mall on Black Friday. As they were walking around they went through the main entrance and saw the Christmas tree. On the Christmas tree were envelopes. He commented he has been seeing this for 20-30 years from Mark Doyle, at the Hot Rize Café and now at the Mall; Mark went over and picked up an envelope to ensure he can give to somebody. That is Mark Doyle. Everybody who works for him knows that is the way Mark is. He is always giving his time and something to somebody because he cares.

The other night they were off duty and Mark mentioned he and his Wife were going to Milford to visit one of our former good morning callers who is now in a nursing home. That is Mark Doyle. He is that type of person who will go above and beyond always. He commented if you look at some of our programs such as the good morning luncheon we had today Mark Doyle is the first one to sign up and be there. He is always giving of himself to others. Captain Dudash thanked Chief Doyle for his service to the community, and on behalf of the Police Department and the community, he congratulated him on his 30 years.

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Chief Mark E. Doyle thanked Captains Dudash and Albert for their words. He remarked he wants to look forward to many more years of their mentorship, and commented were it not for the both of them, their mentorship and the examples they set, he would not be where he is today. He thanked Chief Mulligan for giving them all the opportunity. He thanked his Wife, Mary for the last 29 years of marriage and the support she has provided. He remarked it is the Wives that stand behind us all.

Public Works Equipment Maintenance Division: 30-Year Clock - Brian J. Friolet, DOH 5/6/1985

Public Works Wastewater Division: 30-Year Clock - Lee R. Vogel – DOH 9/30/1985

Chairman Harrington noted Brian J. Friolet, Public Works Equipment Maintenance Division, and Lee R. Vogel, Public Works Wastewater Division, were unable to be in attendance. They will be presented with clocks in recognition of their 30 years of service to the Town of Merrimack.

Chairman Harrington spoke of the Town's employees who were represented well by those being recognized and who are the ones that run the Town. Those individuals keep the citizenry safe. On behalf of the citizenry of Merrimack, she thanked all Town employees for their service.

Dan Edmonds, 9 Clay Street

Lt. Edmonds stated a desire to recognize Larry Westhome, former Lieutenant, Killkelley, Gregg Walters, Ted Dillon, and Chris Dowling for being in attendance. He thanked the Council. To Chief Doyle he stated you have been a good friend for the last 30 years, you have done good things, and he values that friendship and the memories from the last 30 years.

The Council called for a five-minute recess at 7:30

The Council reconvened at 7:40 p.m.

Chairman Harrington informed the viewing audience of the passing of Stephen G. Mroz. Mr. Mroz was a frequent audience member at Town Council meetings when many of the Eagle Scout project presentations were made. He was the Committee Chairman of Boy Scout Troop 424, and was also the past Grand Knight of Bishop Primeau Council 10896 Knights of Columbus at St. John Neumann Church in Merrimack. Upon his passing, on November 27th, Merrimack lost a very important mentor for the many Boy Scouts in our community. His leadership helped develop so many young men to be successful in pursuing their Eagle Scout. We wish his family and the Boy Scouts our sincere condolences, and know that he will be remembered for years to come in the lives of those boys he influenced. May he rest in peace.

The Council observed a moment of silence in memory of Stephen G. Mroz.

The Council returned to the regular order of business.

Kinder Morgan – Proposed Northeast Energy Direct (NED) Pipeline Project

● Informational Reports and Updates

Vice Chairman Mahon spoke of attending a meeting of the New Hampshire Municipal Pipeline Coalition at which Governor Hassan and a few of her staff members that handle environmental issues for the State and her office were present. The purpose was to discuss the information the Coalition presented the Governor regarding the discharge issues for the blowdowns for the compressor station and the meter station. A Physician from the Boston area who has been doing his own work on gathering information presented information, a copy of which was provided the Council. The Governor was quite concerned about the potential health issues that were raised in the physician's comments. The Governor reiterated what her position has been with regard to the pipeline in the State of New Hampshire.

Vice Chairman Mahon commented a lot has been made about this opposition that is talked about. He requested those reading the letters do so carefully because they are opposed because certain questions haven't been answered and certain issues haven't been dealt with by Kinder Morgan. They are opposed to the pipeline going forward at this time unless and until they are more forthcoming with information and answers to the questions. It is not an unqualified opposition.

The Governor also made clear her role as the Chief Executive Officer for the State; that she has other responsibilities with regard to other issues in the State. She has to take the whole totality of the issue in hand and take a look at it, and in the end determine what is in the best interest of the State.

Vice Chairman Mahon spoke of two representatives from Kinder Morgan attending the most recent Conservation Commission meeting. They were in attendance to discuss conservation land and mitigation issues. With regard to mitigation, when pressed, they said what they felt was involved was barely an acre and a half. Vice Chairman Mahon reminded the Council this is a straight and narrow line 50' wide that they are talking about impacting on the piece of property at the intersection of Naticook and Continental Boulevard.

They were looking for a response from the Commission within 30 days. Chairman Tenhave pointed out that was probably not going to happen. It had to do more with the calendar than anything else. The representatives were insistent on the 30 days. Chairman Tenhave let it go at that, and had nothing to offer in terms of what we might consider for the mitigation.

Councilor Vaillancourt spoke of having attended the December 3rd Site Evaluation Committee (SEC) public information sessions along with a few of her colleagues on the Council. They sessions were in regard to the Certificate of Site & Facility to be filed with the New Hampshire SEC by the pipeline now that the application has gone in. They held an open house on one floor of the building where information was provided and they had a project overview, with a panel of 9, where the representatives from Kinder Morgan provided the overview, which is a report the Council has seen on numerous occasions. There was then a question and answer period, which was moderated by Kathleen McGuire, a retired New Hampshire Superior Court Judge.

Following the question and answer period was a time for public comment. Questions from the audience were handed to Lucas Meyer and another representative from Kinder Morgan before they were presented to the panel to answer. A lot of members of the public came forward. There were a lot of comments that have been heard before, but there were also some good new points that were made. There were a few union members in attendance. Councilor Vaillancourt stated her understanding there have been some contracts signed with some New Hampshire unions. Some members of unions spoke regarding the temporary jobs that would be afforded them as a result of this project. Councilor Vaillancourt remarked the majority of public comment provided was in opposition. She stated her belief the meeting would be transcribed and provided to the SEC.

With regard to the recent Conservation Commission meeting, Councilor Vaillancourt noted the 1.5 acres of disturbance that was being discussed with regard to mitigation, is permanent impact. That does not take into account the amount of temporary impact that will result from the project. The representatives indicated the temporary impact would be addressed by bringing the area back to its natural state onsite.

The Conservation Commission will meet again on Monday, December 21st at 6:30 p.m. in the Memorial Conference Room. There will be an item on the agenda for the Commission to meet with representatives of Kinder Morgan related to the survey agreement for Commission parcel 2B-358-1. Kinder Morgan has requested the Commission agree to sign a survey agreement. The property is located off of Continental Boulevard. There is a conservation restriction on the Deed, which will be discussed at the Commission meeting.

Chairman Harrington stated earlier in the day an application was received from Kinder Morgan for a Right-of-Way Permit. According to Town Ordinances, they have every right to be approved for this purpose. Because of the complex nuances of our Kinder Morgan relationship, the Town Manager would like to know if there are any questions/concerns of the Council, prior to approval.

Councilor Boyd commented he thought the testimony provided by the consultant for the Merrimack Village District at the SEC public information session was absolutely fantastic.

Chairman Harrington noted additional correspondence was received from Jeff Strong, Inspection Foreman, Public Works Department Highway Division, stating Kinder Morgan must meet all of the requirements mandated by the Ordinance such as insurance, more specificity related to streets and location and the scope of work. The scope of work is written "We are going to be surveying the edge of roads. We will also be surveying existing features for aerial targets like the corner of stop sign lines painted on roads, manhole and storm drains, these may be a half mile away from our proposed center line location. We will also be surveying the control points along streets and right-of-ways." There is the need for more specificity with regard to location, and if they are in fact only taking photos, that should be identified as well.

Chairman Harrington noted it is pretty clear in terms of the requirements, and as was mentioned, legally they have the right because it is a road. That is what needs to be very specific.

Councilor Vaillancourt stated she is vehemently against it. She commented she does not know enough about the legalities regarding the ordinance pertaining to the right to survey to really have an educated opinion one way or the other. She is not comfortable with them moving forward with something like this. She remarked Jeff Strong had indicated the scope of work looks like a request for a blanket

permit request for anywhere in the Town right-of-way. We clearly, on this permit request, don't have the information that we need in order for our Public Works Department to approve it. For that fact alone, she is not in favor of it. She questioned if that information were to come forward from Kinder Morgan, as it should, would the Council revisit the issue again as a Council.

Chairman Harrington stated her understanding that legally Kinder Morgan has every right to request a right-of-way permit. However, she believes it reasonable to hold them to the letter of the law/Ordinance including specificity over what streets and in terms of the scope of work; literally have them put in writing "taking pictures". Also to make it clear to them they are not allowed to go on private properties. She remarked although she understands the concern, it is a legal process the Council cannot stop. However, the Council can request specificity.

Councilor Vaillancourt questioned where the impression came from that photographs would be taken. Chairman Harrington stated the Town Manager had a discussion with John Proulx, Land Agent, Tennessee Gas Pipeline, a subsidiary of Kinder Morgan. When asked if it was John Proulx that stated it would be photographs, Chairman Harrington indicated it was.

Councilor Vaillancourt commented the general conditions under the Right-of-Way permit talk about pavement to be excavated, cut, and removed, etc. His telling the Town Manager over the phone that all that will take place is the taking of photographs is not good enough. Chairman Harrington stated agreement. Councilor Dwyer remarked, at this point, the Council has not seen a completed application form. Chairman Harrington stated it was emailed out. What was received is not complete.

Councilor Koenig stated his belief the point being made is if they in fact present the Town with a valid permit request we should follow our laws, rules, and regulations, and grant them that. But as has been pointed out, they do have to provide information on what they intend to do. That is clearly outlined in the Ordinance. He remarked there is no reason we should treat them differently than we do Comcast, Eversource, or any other entity that wants that kind of an effort.

Chairman Harrington restated her direction is to provide guidance to the Town Manager to convey to Kinder Morgan the request for additional specificity in terms of the site, the scope of work, and they are to reiterate, in writing, that they are not allowed on any land off of the right-of-way.

- **Action Items**

- Continue to press Kinder Morgan for a Public Meeting in Merrimack - **Meeting held 3/26/15**
- Place an action item on Feb 12th agenda requesting the council to take no action regarding request from Kinder Morgan to survey town-owned parcels until Merrimack Public Meeting - **Completed**
- Place NED Pipeline Update on future council agendas - **Completed 2/12/15**
- Update list of properties that directly about proposed pipeline route with a list of properties that fall into pipeline hazard zone - **Completed**
- Consider consultant to:
 - Research communities' property value effects of recent pipeline installations - **Engaged Avitar**
 - Evaluate impacts on the sewer line - **Engaged Wright Pierce****Reviewed first draft. Final Report should be provided by 6-5-15.**
- Support Conservation Commission's efforts to update data for environmental impacts on HHNP and Gilmore Woods - **Ongoing**

- Support Merrimack Village District's efforts to protect Wellhead Protection Zone and Aquifer Protection Zone - **Ongoing**
- Request Kinder Morgan list of abutters notified of project and requests for permission to survey – **At the 4/28/15 meeting, Town Manager Cabanel asked Jim Hartman, Kinder Morgan Principal Land Specialist, for map and lot numbers of affected land owners and was denied the request.**
- Work with property owners to develop a list of who has been notified of the project and requests for surveys - **Completed**
- Maintain contacts at FERC and NH Congressional delegation - **Ongoing** (NH delegation attends Managers meetings)
- Consult with PSNH (Eversource) regarding where they are in the process with Kinder Morgan and Public Utilities Commission - **No response - No contract between parties (4/23/15)**
- Consult and share information with large companies (A-B/InBev, Elbit, Premium Outlets, Fidelity, PanAm, PSNH, Pennichuck, etc.) - **Meeting held 2/26/15; will be ongoing**
- Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA) - **Pending formal application**
- Council voted to stand in strong opposition to the NED pipeline - Send letter to Governor/Federal Delegation
 - Letter to Governor - **Letter sent 4/14/15**
 - Letter to Congressional Delegation - **Letter sent 4/14/15**
 - Letter to Local Reps - **Letter sent 4/14/15**
- Council to continue attempts to settle on the Survey Access Agreement with Kinder Morgan – **Ongoing (between the Town's legal counsel and Kinder Morgan's legal counsel). The agreement is being "actively worked". Two issues remain; the confidentiality piece and access to adjoining properties (10-22-15).**
- Town Council Letter to the FERC re: Town and TGP Survey Access Agreement Negotiations - **eFiled 9/4/15.**
- Town Council Letter to the FERC re: Amherst Alternative Route 1 Impacts to the Town of Merrimack - **eFiled 9/4/15.**
- NH Municipal Pipeline Coalition Letter Re: Oversight of FERC and Approval of Gas Pipelines **(9/14/15)**
- Letter to FERC re: Additional Scoping Comments from the Town of Merrimack specific to a Meter Station sited in Town - **eFiled 9/30/15**
- Letter to FERC re: Response Request from TGP and Request for Additional Extension of Scoping Period - **eFiled 10/16/15**
- Town Council Workshop with Kinder Morgan representatives - **held 10/8/15**
- Notice received indicating Kinder Morgan's intent to file a formal application with the FERC on November 20th. Once received the FERC has 10 business days to act on it. If they act on it within those ten days, that starts the clock running on the 21-day filing period for intervenor status. The Town's legal counsel has been preparing the Town's request to be designated as interveners.
- The Merrimack Village District (MVD) received a formal request from Kinder Morgan to attend one of their meetings - **Meeting scheduled for 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. on December 3rd in the Matthew Thornton Room.**
- Notice received (TGP) will hold public information sessions to present information regarding the Application for a Certificate of Site and Facility to be filed with the New Hampshire Site Evaluation Commission (SEC) - **Hillsborough County session scheduled for Thursday, December 3, 2015, Hampshire Hills, 50 Emerson Rd., Milford, NH**

- Town Council asked to consider signing on to a letter written by the Northeast Municipal Gas Pipeline Coalition, Municipal Coalition Against the Pipeline and the New Hampshire Municipal Pipeline Coalition letter to the FERC and to the Federal Congressional Delegation Members of Massachusetts and New Hampshire requesting the FERC combine the proposals for additional gas pipeline capacity into New England into one consolidated review - **Council authorized Chairman Harrington or Town Manager Cabanel to sign on behalf of the Council (11-19-15)**
- Application received for Right-of-Way Permit (12-17-15) - **Town Manager to convey to Kinder Morgan the request for additional specificity in terms of the site, the scope of work, and they are to reiterate, in writing, that they are not allowed on any land off of the right-of-way.**

Comments From the Press and Public

Gina Rosati, 15 Dunbarton Drive

Clarified the job of the Merrimack Town Council would be to represent the Town of Merrimack and the people of Merrimack. The Merrimack Village District, the Merrimack Conservation Commission, the Merrimack School Board, and the Merrimack Town Council have all come out in opposition to the proposed NED pipeline. However, at the last meeting, there was one person that argued for Kinder Morgan as opposed to for Merrimack. She stated that concerned her greatly. She commented on having gone through the meeting minutes and highlighted things, and that she later received an email that made her even more uncomfortable. She remarked she wonders where loyalties lie; if we are being represented the way she wants to be represented.

She requested Councilor Dwyer be recused from further Kinder Morgan discussions. She stated she is not comfortable that he is working in Merrimack's best interest.

Ms. Rosati provided Chairman Harrington with materials. Chairman Harrington stated, with due respect, this is the Public Comment section of the meeting, and she would not answer anything or make a comment without being able to review any information. She stated she could not speak for any of the other Council members. She added Ms. Rosati had every right to say anything she wished, but no one on the Council need respond. She requested Ms. Rosati speak into the microphone and state what she had provided.

Ms. Rosati stated she provided Chairman Harrington with a copy of examples of reasons why she believes Councilor Dwyer's loyalties are not as much with the people of Merrimack as they are with Kinder Morgan. She commented the Council just talked about John Proulx, and clearly he has made no secret that he is a friend of John Proulx. At the last meeting everything that was said Councilor Dwyer argued that no Kinder Morgan, no Kinder Morgan, no Kinder Morgan. She stated she provided a copy of the minutes so that they could be reviewed.

She stated that in further discussions if we have a motion to intervene, she is concerned, he voted against the last letter, if he votes against this one. She reiterated she is very concerned, and commented everyone else on the Town Council has stated the Council is opposing this, yet Councilor Dwyer fights for Kinder Morgan. She stated she would like to know since the citizenry voted for him to represent the people of Merrimack, is he representing the people of Merrimack or is he representing Kinder Morgan.

When asked, Chairman Harrington stated what was submitted were minutes of the Town Council meeting of Thursday November 19th and also a picture from a Facebook page. Councilor Boyd called for a Point of Order. He questioned if the meeting minutes had been approved, and was told acceptance of those meeting minutes was on the agenda.

Wendy Thomas, 10 Wildcat Falls, Merrimack

Stated her opinion it is beyond reprehensible that any Council member would laugh at a resident's comments. She spoke of having attended the rally in Concord on Friday the 11th to present the over 10,000 signatures on a petition opposing the pipeline to Governor Hassan. A few hundred people were there. She stated her belief the Governor as well as a few other elected officials got the idea. There were a lot of concerns about land and eminent domain expressed as well as health and impacts on the environment. There were quite a few elected representatives there that spoke. Their concerns were again eminent domain, health, and environment. There are currently a few bills in process most having to do with eminent domain. One of the elected officials reminded everyone that surveyors need to have a license to survey in New Hampshire. Even if licensed in other states, they must be licensed in New Hampshire to survey.

Residents of Merrimack have the right to go up to any survey team and request to see the New Hampshire license. If they do not have one or they cannot provide one, then you can kick them off your land. You can call the police because they are breaking the law.

Ms. Thomas stated the Governor was not there. Her representative took the petition. She is unsure if a statement has been issued since that time.

Councilor Boyd stated his father is a land surveyor. He requested Ms. Thomas be a little cautious about her comment only because growing up his Dad used to take his brother out in the field with him at the ages of 10, 11, and 12, and used to send him 400 yards down a line holding a rod and say find the bound and put it there. He stated his brother certainly was not licensed in any capacity, but he was helping his Father, who was licensed go about the task of accomplishing the job that was assigned to him.

Ms. Thomas stated her belief it is the team that needs to be licensed not necessarily every single person, but she may be wrong.

Councilor Boyd responded he is just saying there could be a team of rodmen that don't necessarily need to be licensed, they are just there to do labor work to assist whoever the license....

Ms. Thomas interjected and stated she would have to read the law, she does not know what the law states. If the law states that everyone needs to be licensed then everyone needs to be licensed. Councilor Boyd responded that he accepts the point.

Ms. Thomas stated if you are going to confront someone else on a survey team please do it with someone else as a witness. This is obviously a very heated topic and people sometimes don't behave the best they can.

James Ferreira, 7 Maryann Lane

Remarked to Chairman Harrington's last point in regard to whether we are legally able to withstand survey rights, she is correct we're not. North Reading along with other small towns in Massachusetts has denied public survey rights to Kinder Morgan regardless of the law. Kinder Morgan is now spending money to go through the courts to get that overturned. They will be overturned, but it is another roadblock. He commented they put the Council and Merrimack's residents through difficulties for the better part of a year so why not throw another curveball at them and make them do that.

He commented they are actually withholding dividends in quarter 4 to help raise money and solidify the company. It is the first time they have done so in years. It is either \$.11 or \$.13 a share, which equated to almost \$300 million. To date, 70% of land owners in New Hampshire and about 62% in Massachusetts have denied survey rights. Councilor Boyd suggested their bond rating is much more worthy of attention than a cut in a dividend because a cut in a dividend would indicate that they are looking to retain capital to be able to do what they need to do. Mr. Ferreira responded part of the reasoning for retaining some of that dividend profit was to stabilize another company that they actually purchased about 50% of. They are not using it to fight necessarily the NED project, but they had to do that to balance out their portfolio to stabilize that other company because it was kind of heading south. Vice Chairman Mahon commented the stock price is down 65% since April.

Gina Rosati, 15 Dunbarton Drive

Stated the price of the pipeline has all of a sudden dropped from \$5 billion down to \$3.3 billion, and that is because only the market path has actually been approved for investors and that is the part that goes from Wright, New York to Dracut, MA. The part that goes from Pennsylvania to Wright, NY has not yet been approved by their investors.

Appointments – None

Public Hearing

1. Public Hearing – NH Highway Safety Agency Grant for Merrimack Police Department

Submitted by Lieutenant Paul Trepaney

The Town Council will hold a public hearing to consider the acceptance and expenditure of a grant in the amount of \$7,547.28, from the New Hampshire Highway Safety Agency for the Merrimack Police Department to pay overtime DWI patrols, pursuant to Charter Article 8-15 and RSA 31:95-b.

Captain Michael Dudash stated for the past 15-20 years the Police Department has applied to the New Hampshire Highway Safety Agency for grant funding. This year the Department was awarded a grant in the amount of \$7,547.28 to be utilized for DWI patrols. There would be twenty 6-hour patrols that are paid by overtime. The patrols are separate from the regular shifts that are out there. It supplements the patrol force to specifically look for the impaired driver.

Assistant Town Manager/Finance Director Micali noted there is no intent to conduct roadblocks. Councilor Vaillancourt stated appreciation for the information that was provided the Council, and questioned the spreadsheet for match tracking for personnel and other costs; specifically if that is something the Department is required to fill out, and was told that is a requirement, and is completed by Assistant Town Manager/Finance Director Micali. When asked what needs to be tracked, Assistant

Town Manager/Finance Director Micali stated the number of hours, the individual officer, and associated benefits are tracked for reimbursement.

Councilor Vaillancourt questioned the scope of services for traffic enforcement grants; specifically language that states "Departments are recommended to conduct a minimum of 3 documented stops per hour." She questioned how that number was derived, and what would occur if the officer(s) did not encounter that number of people warranting a stop. Captain Dudash responded that is something that is asked for. It is not always possible to make 3 documented stops, but from the stats that the Department has provided for the past 15-20 years, 3 stops per hour is about right. A stop could be anything from someone with a headlight out, to speeding, to a red light violation, going over the double yellow line, etc. That is simply an approximate figure that the New Hampshire Highway Safety Agency would like to see. When asked if the Town would be in jeopardy of losing grant funding if only two stops were made per hour, Captain Dudash stated the requirements are getting tighter, and there is that possibility.

Councilor Koenig stated every other time this has been before the Council he has asked, and been told there is no quota, restriction, etc., and that the idea is to try and improve safety on the roads. Now it sounds as if they are tightening up and we are going to try and meet quotas. He commented if that is the case he is not sure he is interested in accepting the grant funding. Captain Dudash responded he cannot say it is a quota, but what has happened from what he was told is there have been some departments in the State that have basically gone out and done zero so they came out with a number of 3 documented stops. They are not saying it has to be exactly 3, but they are looking for the Police Departments to do something, not just receive some money and do zero. It has happened in New Hampshire, not Merrimack, but it has happened in New Hampshire.

Councilor Koenig remarked that is what he read when he read through the paperwork is that they want you to do something, they want you to document what you are doing, and if you don't have any arrests or stops then you can document that as well, and explain what was going on, e.g., for some reason traffic was down. It is not like they are going to penalize you if you don't make your 3 per hour type numbers. Captain Dudash stated agreement.

Councilor Koenig noted language that addresses in-kind services the Department is providing in the order off \$1,455, and questioned if there is a percentage the Department is supposed to be matching. Captain Dudash stated there to be no matching element.

Councilor Koenig noted on Part 7, Budget, at the bottom it states: "Please also provide the amount of matching funds you intend to contribute to this project. Matching funds are your department's contribution to this project. For example, additional enforcement patrol fuel costs, administrative time and Supervisor time that are not funded by this grant." It says administrative cost \$1,155.24, vehicle fuel and maintenance \$300. Captain Dudash responded he believes what they are saying is if an arrest were made there would be supervisory oversight; that we wouldn't charge for that, obviously we would use our fuel so if you were calling it matching we would be paying for the fuel and pretty much anybody else for backup officers who were part of an arrest. In other words, we would not bill for that.

Councilor Koenig noted the Notice of Public Hearing states the public hearing is for overtime patrols for DWI enforcement by officers of our agency pursuant to RSA 31:95-b, but in the proposed solutions part 5 on page 4, it says that although the focus will be on removing impaired drivers from the

Approved: January 14, 2016

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roadways, all motor vehicle laws will be enforced by these patrols to include the recently enacted Hands Free Law and the New Hampshire Child Safety Restraint Laws. He remarked the Department would not be solely focused on DWI and the removal of potential crash situations you are actually doing a full patrol search while you are out on the roads. Captain Dudash stated that to be correct.

Councilor Koenig reiterated it comes across in the Public Hearing Notice that it is strictly for DWI patrols, and in the past that is what he has heard; these are officers that will spend their time focusing on DWI, and this proposed solution says they will spend their time focusing on all police work with a concentration on DWI. Captain Dudash remarked he believes it to be all motor vehicle related. He remarked most DWI arrests come from minor things. It could be someone on a cell phone, etc.

Councilor Boyd noted language that states "If patrols result in few traffic stops please provide an explanation on the activity report as to why an officer was unable to make the recommended number." It is not a requirement, it is recommended. He provided the example of an officer in a particular location of Town clocking drivers and not picking up anyone in which case the report would be the officer was at X road between X hour and X hour; heavily traveled road, bus stops, typical route to the Transfer Station, etc., and people were driving the limit. He imagines the New Hampshire Highway Safety Agency will look at that information in terms of driver behavior at a given time on a given day with specific conditions. Even though there may not be any complicity to whatever the recommended number is of the grant, at least they are providing data back to the people in question so that information can be filtered down not just to Merrimack but all of the other law enforcement agencies in the State.

Chairman Harrington declared the Public Hearing open at 8:24 p.m.

No public comment was offered.

Chairman Harrington declared the Public Hearing closed at 8:25 p.m.

MOTION made by Councilor Boyd and seconded by Councilor Dwyer to accept and expend a grant in the amount of Seven Thousand Five Hundred Forty Seven Dollars and Twenty Eight Cents (\$7,547.28), from the New Hampshire Highway Safety Agency for the Merrimack Police Department to pay overtime DWI patrols, pursuant to Charter Article 8-15 and RSA 31:95-b, and furthermore that the Town Manager and/or her proxy be authorized to sign any and all documents necessary to accept and expend said grant funding.

ON THE QUESTION

Councilor Boyd commented on having learned that Lt. Trepaney is retiring from the Merrimack Police Department. He remarked he has been a key component in a lot of the grants brought before the Council to make us one of the safety communities in the United States, but also to edify the commitment that Chief Doyle and all of us have made to community policing. He thanked him for the work he has done, and remarked he looks forward to learning who will take over for him acknowledging they are big shoes to fill.

Captain Dudash stated that would be Sergeant Levesque, soon to be Lieutenant Levesque.

MOTION CARRIED 5-1-0

Councilor Koenig voted in opposition

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Councilor Rothhaus remarked Councilor Koenig's commentary has him questioning this grant as well to a degree. He remarked he is very frustrated over the Hands Free Law as he feels it unnecessary. Had he felt it appropriate, one of his questions would have been how many people have been ticketed for cell phone use. He stated he is supportive because he wants to believe it is for the primary purpose of DWI patrol.

Legislative Updates from State Representatives - None

Town Manager's Report

The Parks & Recreation Department's new Winter Activities Brochure is now available. Printed copies can be picked up at Town Hall, Merrimack Public Library, and the John O'Leary Adult Community Center. They are also available online through the Parks & Recreation Department's website at www.merrimackparksandrec.org.

The Annual Holiday Parade & Tree lighting ceremony was held on Sunday, December 6th. An estimated 600 people were in attendance at the Tree Lighting.

Update on the Bean Road and McGaw Bridge Road bridge replacements:

Bean Road Bridge:

Tree clearing is complete and the contractor is preparing for the installation of the waterline (the existing waterline runs under the existing bridge and needs to be relocated). The waterline work should last through the next couple of weeks. The contractor is installing erosion control measures to protect Baboosic Brook as they disturb each area.

McGaw Bridge Road Bridge:

Work is scheduled to begin following the closure of the bridge on December 28th. Please help spread the word of the road closure. The detour route will be signed to utilize Wire Road and D.W. Highway for the duration of the project. Tree clearing is scheduled for the 29th and 30th.

The Planning Board granted conditional approval to the Flatley multi-family site plan at their meeting on December 15th. The project calls for the phased construction of 240 multi-family residential units, and is the first phase of the mixed-use development of the property.

The Planning Board heard presentations from the Town and School District on their proposed Capital Improvements Plans on December 15th. Memos with the Board's recommendations have been sent to the Council Chair and the School Board Chair. The Board will review the MVD's CIP in January.

Merrimack Fire Rescue would like to remind everyone to use care when celebrating this Holiday Season:

- Fresh cut Christmas trees need water daily.
- Keep trees at least 3 feet from all heat sources.
- Replace any lights that are worn or have broken cords or loose bulbs.

- Unplug the tree lights before leaving your home or going to bed.
- Blow out all candles when you leave the house or go to bed.
- Do not leave cooking unattended.
- Ask smokers to smoke outside and provide a large deep ashtray away from combustibles.
- Treat ashes from wood stoves or fireplaces like they are not completely extinguished.
- Place ashes in a covered metal bucket and store the bucket outside your home on a non-combustible surface.

If you follow these simple tips you can ensure you and your family has a safe, enjoyable holiday season.

Councilor Boyd stated he was driving Wire Road and saw the sign at McGaw and Wire. He questioned if there is a comparable sign at the other end; D.W. Highway and McGaw. Kyle Fox, Deputy Director, Public Works Department, responded one will be placed there.

Consent Agenda - None

Old Business

1. MYA Financial Audit Review

Submitted by Finance Director Paul T. Micali

To review the financial audit statements of the Merrimack Youth Association (MYA) for the year ended June 30, 2015.

Assistant Town Manager/Finance Director Paul Micali, stated there to be a few issues with the report on the MYA Financial Audit for June 30, 2014 provided by Melanson Heath Accountants/Auditors. They have provided a Disclaimer of Opinion, which usually is not a huge deal; however, in this instance it is important to understand why it was received. This is the second year in a row that the MYA's audit resulted in a Disclaimer of Opinion. If they were an organization seeking financing from a bank, the bank could pull financing, close out their line of credit, call lines of credit, etc. based on this Disclaimer. The Disclaimer received this year was based on the auditors not being provided with enough information to conduct the audit. What was provided the Council is not an audit but rather a compilation. They did not have enough facts to be able to report that the numbers are solid. The MYA is a \$500,000 organization. They had about \$436,000 worth of expenses during this year and about \$65,000 worth of profit.

Assistant Town Manager/Finance Director Micali stated what concerns him about the Disclaimer is the recommendation to improve internal controls over their financial reporting. That is a material weakness. When asked, he explained internal controls are procedures put in place to provide assurances the financial wellbeing of the company is looked after, e.g., cash management/documentation, expenditure management, etc. Approximately three years ago when the Town was working on the last contract with the MYA that was one of the major issues the Council was concerned with. He stated reading this documentation about internal controls, centralized set of books, supporting documents, copies of checks, invoices, bills, etc., those are all things that were discussed three years ago with the MYA. He stated his understanding it is a volunteer organization, that Ms. Golden is new in the position of Treasurer, and that there are volunteers in the position of Treasurer in

each of the programs. However, it might be time that a \$500,000 organization hired a Treasurer on a part-time basis to come in once a week to do deposits, write checks, etc.

Chairman Harrington stated her recollection that discussion had occurred previously, and she believed there to have been some assurance provided that would be done. She questioned if that has not occurred. Brian Harris, Vice President, MYA, responded it has not.

Assistant Town Manager/Finance Director Micali stated there are some practices that need to be in place. They have the tools, the documentation, and the internal controls that were written up three years ago, which were vetted through Melanson Heath. He noted the current contract expires on June 30, 2016. As of this time half of the year's payment or \$36,000 has been provided to the MYA. They are due another payment on January 8, 2016 of \$18,000 with the final yearly payment of \$18,000 in April for a total of \$72,000. He noted Item #17 of the contract (page 3 of 8) states that the MYA should "adopt and apply the internal control procedures attached immediately and provide this by each October 31st". They are not compliant with that.

Chairman Harrington stated the MYA received a letter of non-compliance in November, but that had to do with the timing of submittal of the audit.

Mr. Harris stated the MYA did everything it could to get that audit in on time to the Town Council to show the efforts being taken to get controls in place. They were waiting for one program to get information to them, which did not happen. Without a response Tom Thornton, President, MYA, made the decision to get the information they had in. After that submittal, they were finally provided with the reports, and all of the information was provided to the Auditor. However, the information was late and was not included as part of the report.

Assistant Town Manager/Finance Director Micali stated he has no knowledge of that, but if that is the case, he would ask the Auditor to revise his Management Letter to the MYA, actually issue financial statements and remove their Disclaimer.

Mr. Harris questioned if the financial Disclaimer was a way for the audit firm to protect themselves. Assistant Town Manager/Finance Director Micali responded the financial Disclaimer is a way of their protecting themselves, but it is a way to make anybody who reads the financial statements aware not to rely on the numbers that are being presented. It is a way for the Auditor to tell the public you cannot rely on these numbers because he could not verify the numbers. Mr. Harris remarked he does not understand why the Auditor could not verify the numbers as he was provided with all of the information the MYA has. Assistant Town Manager/Finance Director Micali remarked now he does, which is why he was saying there is the need for the Auditor to re-issue the financial statements. He stated the Management Letter is damning; an internal control material weakness on any financial statement is one of the worst things you could possibly get.

Councilor Dwyer noted page 4 of the report identifies the numbers provided to the Auditors. The two big numbers that come together are the total revenue (\$501,543), total expenses (\$436,000), and a change in net assets of \$64,000. He remarked he is trying to focus on the audit recognizing and not challenging revenues and expenses. At least these numbers are the heart of the matter on how they are running. He remarked he is looking for some silver lining that can be built upon. He remarked

everyone would like the MYA to have the assistance they need to become more professional because they are dealing with half a million dollars and that type of assistance is necessary.

Chairman Harrington questioned if the numbers are accurate or not. Assistant Town Manager/Finance Director Micali stated this is what they received from the MYA and how they generated the report. He stated he is unsure of which program had not provided information in a timely manner. If it was one of the smaller programs the auditors could probably verify most of the income. If it was one of the larger ones, then they could not verify it. They verified some amount of the revenue, but could not verify all of it. Councilor Dwyer remarked his point is had there been a red flag he believes they would have pointed to that, e.g., instead of a general Disclaimer they would have been more forceful in their language.

Assistant Town Manager/Finance Director Micali stated everybody watching these proceedings should understand there is some good that came out of this. He quoted from the report the following: "We have not identified or obtained information that indicates that fraud may have occurred." That is a financial assurance here. They need to follow their procedures, get them up and running, centralization, get the information to the Auditor in a timely manner, and get their report reissued.

Mr. Harris commented they have started internal controls. He spoke of having changed firms and no longer being with Vachon & Clukay. The transfer of information took time. Ms. Golden has just stepped up into the position of Treasurer. She recently came on the Executive Board. This was thrown on her to complete in 3-4 weeks' time. He spoke of a good deal of turnover occurring at the MYA. Chairman Harrington commented that only enforces the idea of hiring a part-time Treasurer. The consistency that can be gained to ensure stability in that position is something that needs to be considered.

Holly Golden, Treasurer, MYA, remarked one of the reasons she stepped up to be on the Executive Board was due to the fact she is an Accountant by trade. She does not perform auditing, but does financial accounting for corporations. She understands how it all works. She stated her hope, after the audit and having the findings, they can make good going forward.

Vice Chairman Mahon stated the Council has been hearing this for 6 years. It is the same thing every year. The Town put a contract in place with the MYA three years ago, and they remain out of compliance with the contract in terms of internal financial controls. Looking at the audit statement, it appears they are not in need of the Town's funding. He spoke of the need to be in compliance with internal financial controls, which are for the protection of the MYA and the kids they are trying to provide programming for.

Vice Chairman Mahon suggested the first question that should be asked of the Auditor is do you have the information so you can issue us an amended report. If they can't you don't want to waste any more money after having spent \$14,400 to get this kind of report. He commented, from his perspective, it is exasperating. He remarked when you see the number of youth organizations around the State that had their people embezzling money from them because they didn't have the internal financial controls in place because everybody thought everybody else was honest and they were all trying for the benefit of the kids. Times have changed and the insistence of the financial accountability has increased exponentially in the last ten years. He added it is very hard to sit in this position for the time he has

spent on this Council dealing with these kinds of issues, and hearing the same thing every year; the same issues and the same assurances.

Councilor Vaillancourt stated while she agrees with a lot of what Councilor Mahon has stated, she wished to thank Mr. Harris and Ms. Golden for stepping up to leadership positions as she understands it is a thankless job. She commented they are new to this, have just stepped up, and we don't need to be beating them about the head, which she feels like Councilor Mahon just did. She stated his frustration was not with them but rather the process and what has happened. The issues raised regarding embezzlement are, unfortunately, very real. She spoke of the Council being responsible for taxpayer money going to an organization that doesn't have the checks and balances in place. She is not sure what the answer is. The Council has been hearing this for a long time. She sees a lot of progress being made and believes things are headed in the right direction. She stated her opinion the part-time paid Treasurer position might be the ticket to gain the needed stability. She remarked she personally likes the fact that the Town supports the recreation efforts of the MYA. She reiterated she would not want them to walk away from the meeting thinking the situation was being taken out on them personally. She commented she appreciates the fact they attended the meeting knowing they would probably hear it.

Chairman Harrington stated she agrees with both of the speakers, and commented she has been on the Council long enough to have dealt with this for several years, and unfortunately it sounds as if we are killing the messenger. She remarked there is a certain amount of frustration. People come with all good intentions, but the Council has a responsibility to the taxpayers. She stated her belief 90% of the issues would be resolved through the hiring of a part-time Treasurer. She spoke of the nature of the organization; as people's children age up there is turnover. Were there a part-time person employed the MYA would not have to continually be picking up the pieces resulting from turnover as there would be consistency in that Treasurer position.

Mr. Harris stated they do not disagree on the issue of a part-time person. But they have someone that is qualified willing to step up and take that role. He stated it was a mess, and Ms. Golden has done a fantastic job. If she is volunteering her time, while she is still here, why can't she do the job? He suggested she be given a chance before looking for someone else. Chairman Harrington responded there is a middle ground; you can still have a part-time person with people augmenting and assisting along the way. Mr. Harris stated he agrees with that, but why have two people doing the same job butting heads.

Councilor Boyd responded because two sets of eyes are better than one. Mr. Harris remarked now we have two hands in the till. Councilor Boyd stated that would be instead of the number of organizations that have individual Treasurers. Councilor Rothhaus commented he believes Ms. Golden is qualified and the MYA does not have to hire someone. If Ms. Golden has given a commitment, hiring someone doesn't change it if that person is part-time. He remarked he can see the difficulties in having a program that won't cooperate, etc. There has to be some mechanism in place whereby if a program does not provide the necessary financial information then you prohibit the individual from operating as Treasurer for that program, and take it over. He stated if they would do that he would be much more comfortable. He is not willing to pull the plug on the contribution, but he definitely needs some assurances. If that could be a primary focus, he would be thrilled and content knowing that those priorities are taken care of. As Councilor Mahon stated it is for your protection. Even if the Town didn't put a penny into it you should really still do this and make it work.

Assistant Town Manager/Finance Director Micali stated he and Ms. Golden met tonight. He is sure she is qualified to do it. The thing is with a volunteer it is just that a volunteer. Nothing against Ms. Golden, but she is sure to have other obligations. If you are paying someone to do it, pay Ms. Golden, now they have a responsibility to the organization to get it done. The problems in the past have always been stated as the individual is a volunteer and has other obligations, etc. A paid position would provide more continuity to the program.

Councilor Rothhaus remarked he suspects unless hiring an accountant from an established firm to come in and do that; if it is a part-time person who is certified correctly and that is the only thing they are doing, you have about as much commitment as a volunteer who is there with the same credentials and not getting paid. If hiring an Accountant from an established firm and that person is dedicating 4 hours a week to the MYA and they are working for someone and held accountable that is the only way you will have something different.

Councilor Dwyer questioned what support there might be for a motion stating the Council would no longer be making payments to the MYA until an accountant has been hired.

MOTION made by Councilor Dwyer and seconded by Councilor Harrington that until such time as the Merrimack Youth Association hires a professional Accountant to handle their books, all future payments to the organization will be withheld

ON THE QUESTION

Councilor Vaillancourt questioned if that is something that would be addressed with the contract. She remarked she does not know that the Town Council has jurisdiction over their Executive Board to force them to hire someone. She questioned if that is something that would have to be addressed in the next contract, and reiterated her belief the only thing the Council has control over is whether or not the funds are provided.

Vice Chairman Mahon stated the Council ought not to be dictating how they organize their organization. What we ought to be saying is there are certain standards we want to have observed like two people signing a check and some kind of a check and balance on the process. Some of the things mentioned in the Auditor's comments have been talked about for the same period of time and it hasn't been implemented yet.

Councilor Dwyer stated he has been on the Council for 5 years and has gone through it all too. One of the things he said many years ago was up your prices for your league so you don't need our money, and then you can tell all of us to go to heck. That has always been an option too. Then there is no contract, and there is no supervision. It is an out. Mr. Harris stated that is not the out they are looking for. They don't want to do that. They want to do it the right way. Councilor Dwyer responded then he would say order the MYA to hire an Accountant.

Councilor Rothhaus commented if Ms. Golden gets \$5/week then perhaps that is a hired paid professional. He stated he does not get the point of the motion.

MOTION FAILED

1-6-0

Councilors Harrington, Mahon, Boyd, Koenig, Rothhaus, and Vaillancourt voted in opposition

Chairman Harrington suggested the Town Council write a letter of non-compliance related to the point of not having internal controls, and that funding be withheld until the MYA can demonstrate they have internal controls.

Ms. Golden stated she has made a commitment, and they will commit to try and make that change happen. She noted she would only have 6 months before the next contract. Chairman Harrington stated she has the ability to work with Assistant Town Manager/Finance Director Micali who stated he would help her.

Ms. Golden stated she has worked with the auditing firm in the past, and she chose them knowing they would support her and her efforts to try and get the MYA uniform and internal controls in place.

Vice Chairman Mahon noted, per the contract, it is a 30-day notice. Ms. Golden questioned the kind of changes the Council would expect to see in 30 days. Chairman Harrington commented she had not intended a 30-day period. Speaking in regard to the expectations, Vice Chairman Mahon there are four issues identified within the Management Letter. Those are the issues the auditors believe to be the major issues. That is the starting point; those four items need to be dealt with in some fashion. He commented he realizes centralizing the books is going to be like pulling teeth, and will likely be the most time consuming piece to address. However, the other pieces are pretty simple.

It was suggested the Assistant Town Manager/Finance Director report back to the Board in a month's time on whether or not progress has been made. If, at that time, it is reported sufficient progress has not been made, the Council could consider further action.

MOTION made by Councilor Harrington and seconded by Councilor Boyd that a letter of Non-Compliance be sent to the Merrimack Youth Association relative to contract language around internal controls (#17), and that payments be suspended unless and until authorization is received from the Council to resume payments

ON THE QUESTION

Chairman Harrington stated the expectation would be that the Council would receive periodic updates on progress being made to implement the recommendations of the Management Letter.

MOTION CARRIED

6-0-0

Councilor Dwyer was not present for the vote.

Chairman Harrington stated her desire to continue supporting the MYA. However, stated there has to be a reckoning. Councilor Koenig remarked he has been on the Council for several years and is aware the Council has gone through this over and over again. The action being taken is not an attempt to discredit those appearing before the Council, but the Council has heard the same thing year after year. The woman that was before the Council last year had stated she was coming in new and was working on it. Councilor Koenig stated he has a lot of confidence in the abilities of the individuals now appearing before the Council, but is concerned that the same story is heard year to year; because of volunteers, etc. He stated it to be critical that controls are put in place that can be passed to the next

person so that we don't have to start from ground zero each time. We have to get beyond the scenario of I just started so I don't know and I can't explain.

He stated they are in a position where they are responsible for half a million dollars of other people's money, and they have to be responsible for that and careful for it. He commended them for their efforts, and stated his hope progress can be made.

New Business

1. Road Acceptance of Pollard Road and Lexi Circle

Submitted by Public Works Deputy Director Kyle Fox

At the Planning Board meeting on December 1, 2015, per Subdivision Regulations Section 5.01.1(f) the Planning Board has released the performance bond in favor of the two year maintenance bond and recommended acceptance of Pollard Road and Lexi Circle by the Town Council. Acceptance of the road is conditioned upon receipt of the two year maintenance bond in the amount of \$107,574.40.

Deputy Director Fox remarked he was before the Council to pass on the Planning Board's recommendation to accept Pollard Road and Lexi Circle, which are part of the Wildwood Acres Subdivision. Prior to this project Pollard Road was a private road that had 1 home on it. It was previously called Birch Hill Road. The subdivision as approved by the Planning Board in August of 2013 and the contractor did a really nice job building it. Work started in March of 2014 and is now complete. The Public Works Department has completed all of the inspection work, and recommends the roads be accepted by the Town Council for maintenance by the Town.

Councilor Rothhaus remarked construction of the road is complete, and questioned the purpose of the maintenance bond. Deputy Director Fox responded any time a road is accepted the Town requires a two-year maintenance bond. What that covers is any deformities in the work that show up within the first two years. Being of limited staff the Public Works Department does not have the luxury of inspecting the project full time so we rely on the contractor to build the job per specification and we do intermittent inspections as we can. The two-year maintenance bond allows us to have some security that the job will last. What you might see is a small crack might develop. We have had instances where we have had contractors go back and do some crack sealing. If the grass doesn't grow they address that, etc. It is typically very minor things if anything at all. He stated his experience has been that projects go through the maintenance bond period without any issues at all.

Councilor Rothhaus commented he was thinking of a road where work was performed. There was a maintenance bond that covered the final coat, which was missing on that project. The work was never completed, and he believes the Town had to go in and take care of it. The cost actually exceeded what he thought was a maintenance bond. It could have been the original bond for the road. When asked, he stated he was referring to Merrill Road. Deputy Director Fox stated that had been the original bond. A maintenance bond had not been issued as the project had never been completed. When the bond was called there wasn't enough money left in the bond to cover the remainder of the work. Councilor Rothhaus noted acceptance of the road means the Town owns it. Deputy Director Fox noted until the Town accepts the road the Public Works Department cannot perform any maintenance on it. Once the road is accepted it legally becomes a Class V road instead of a private road and the Town has full maintenance responsibility for the road.

MOTION made by Councilor Mahon and seconded by Councilor Koenig to accept Pollard Road and Lexi Circle conditioned upon receipt of the two-year maintenance bond in the amount of One Hundred Seven Thousand Five Hundred Seventy Four Dollars and Forty Center (\$107,574.40). MOTION CARRIED 7-0-0

2. Motion to Intervene - FERC Proceedings

Submitted by Town Manager Eileen Cabanel

Town Council to discuss intervening in the FERC's proceedings on the Kinder Morgan application. Chairman Harrington suggested an amendment to the proposed Motion to Intervene. The Hospice facility should be added to page 2 in the listing of properties that would be impacted by the proposed route.

Councilor Koenig questioned the reasoning for amending the document noting it is a Motion to Intervene. If the Hospice facility is not listed that does not mean the Council could not intervene on their behalf. Chairman Harrington commented given the Motion identifies the others by name and knowing one has been missed, it could easily be added in advance of submittal.

It was noted the Docket # listed on the draft Motion was incorrect.

MOTION made by Councilor Boyd and seconded by Councilor Mahon that the Town Council file a Motion to Intervene before the United States of America's Federal Energy Regulatory Commission as it relates to the Application by Kinder Morgan/Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company LLC, Docket #CP-16-21-000

ON THE QUESTION

Councilor Vaillancourt stated her support of the motion. She commented on the multitudes of intervenor motions filed, a good many from municipalities. The Merrimack School District has recently formally filed a Motion to Intervene as well as the Merrimack Village District. By voting to approve the motion the Council would be following suit with the other municipalities in Town to engage in the process.

Chairman Harrington stated her understanding intervenor status allows the Town the legal right to express its opinion regarding the process and the information. Vice Chairman Mahon stated it gives the Town standing. If there is some objection to or some part of the law that we feel the FERC did not comply with we could proceed through the Federal Court system. However, it is necessary to understand this is an Administrative Law proceeding so there has to be an error of law in their decision before we would have any chance of success at that type of a proceeding. It was noted it is anticipated it will take a year before a decision is reached.

Councilor Vaillancourt noted if there were hearings and the Council had not gained intervenor status, it could not participate. She stated that to be very important. She noted, as a result of intervenor status, all of the information that is submitted is available to the Council.

Assistant Town Manager/Finance Director Paul Micali read the following from the FERC's website: "An intervenor is an official party to the proceedings and enjoys distinct advantages over those who

only file comments. Interveners have the right to participate in hearings before the FERC's Administrative Law Judges, file briefs, file for re-hearing of a Commissioner's decision, have legal standing in the Court of Appeals if they challenge the Commissioner's final decision, and are placed on a service list to receive copies of case related Commission documents and filings by other interveners."

MOTION CARRIED 7-0-0

3. Presentation of Proposed 2016/17 Town Manager Budget

Submitted by Town Manager Eileen Cabanel

Town Manager will present her recommended 2016/17 budget to the Town Council.

Assistant Town Manager/Finance Director Micali provided a PowerPoint presentation (can be viewed [here](#)). When looking at the budget there is the need to take into account both revenues and appropriations. At a Council meeting in November there was discussion of a decrease in revenues of approximately \$300,000. Since that time other revenues have been reviewed, and increases in revenues have been identified, which will offset that shortfall of \$300,000 in insurance rebates.

Motor vehicle permits are running at about \$4.2 million. As a result it is believed the anticipated revenue can be increased by \$175,000 above the FY16 budget. An additional \$50,000 of cable franchise fees could be allocated to General Government to make the total revenue allocation from cable franchise fees \$150,000. Currently the Town receives approximately \$360,000/year in cable franchise fees. Ambulance revenue is anticipated to increase by \$25,000. A very good job is being done of collecting those costs. The court went to electronic filing, which has increased the number of people who are paying those costs perhaps because they are receiving notification from the Sheriff. An increase of \$5,000 has been attributed to miscellaneous revenue. Revenue from sale of property has increased by approximately \$20,000. As a result, the net revenue decrease is approximately \$25,000.

With regard to appropriations, property liability came in with a Guaranteed Maximum Rate (GMR) increase of 7% or \$15,000. The largest appropriation listed was the 53rd week of payroll at \$226,000. This happens every 5-7 years. The Town signed some very lucrative contracts for electrical and natural gas. The increase is \$18,000. Vehicle maintenance is estimated at \$17,000. Street sweeping, to go along with the permit, has to be increased by about \$7,000 (cost of \$56,000/year). Office and communication equipment is estimated to increase by \$9,000. Tipping fees are increasing \$1/ton or approximately \$34,000. The Town has signed a three-year contract to dispose of recyclables. We are in the second year of our contract, which increased to \$15/ton or \$14,000. It still takes money out of our stream (\$15 versus \$68 for a savings of \$53/ton). The rate has been increased to commercial haulers that come in and dump recycling (\$15/ton). Library materials increased by about \$6,000 (above the FY16 budget). When asked what was budgeted for FY16, Assistant Town Manager/Finance Director Micali stated it to be around \$70,000 - \$75,000.

The GMR increase for health insurance came in at 6.4% or \$77,000. Miscellaneous wage adjustments account for \$50,000, costs associated with elections (1 additional election) increased by \$9,000. The budget for the Last Rest Cemetery increased by about \$5,000. The Cemetery has used their capital fund to perform maintenance on the Town's portion. The belief is \$5,000 would be a reasonable amount to help offset the cost for the Town portion of the cemetery. They have a plan to keep expanding more on Hill Side Terrace (back portion of the cemetery). Miscellaneous is \$33,000. That

is the pluses and minuses throughout the budget. The Adult Community Center is an increase of \$7,000. The Center is looking for help in painting the inside of the building. In addition, the two glass front doors are not up to fire code and have to be replaced. Overtime was identified as \$123,000; Highway is about \$15,000 (average of past 3-4 years), Solid Waste is about \$7,000. When they bring in help on a Saturday it is overtime. Although their employees work Tuesday through Saturday, if someone takes the day off, the person that provides coverage has already worked his 40 hours. The intent is to increase their overtime line to more accurately reflect actuals. Miscellaneous is \$4,000 and includes Police, Communications, Town Government, etc.

Fire is identified as \$97,000. A review was done of the number of calls, runs, duplicate runs, and the potential for 4 new firefighters. Consideration was then given to four new firefighters for half a year. The yearly cost for four new firefighters is roughly \$372,000. They work 24/hour shifts and there are 4 battalions. Half a year would cost about \$183,000. They looked at what it would take to staff the Fire Department. They figured the cheapest way to do that was to increase their overtime by \$97,000 instead of bringing in four new firefighters with benefits, etc. Total increase is approximately \$816,000 over the FY16 budget.

There are savings in the following areas: Debt service is being reduced (\$14,000), compensated absences is being reduced (\$14,000). There is the need to account for costs that would be incurred if those employees who are eligible to retire chose to do so, e.g., accrued sick time, vacation time, etc. Other capital/building maintenance will be reduced (\$62,000). Dispatcher/Animal Control Officer position was reduced (\$16,000). Total savings is anticipated to be \$125,000. That results in a total General Fund increase of \$691,000.

Assistant Town Manager/Finance Director Micali stated there was an opportunity to look at the Dispatcher position and that of the Animal Control Officer through vacancies. Being proposed is reducing two part-time Dispatchers (currently vacant positions), which have been hard to fill and hard to keep people in the positions, and adding a full-time Dispatcher. That will be a net cost of \$27,000. Not wanting to increase full-time staffing, the decision was made to reduce the full-time Animal Control Officer to a part-time position at a savings of \$43,000. The net result was a savings of \$16,000.

A slide was displayed titled Town Manager Proposed Budget – General Fund. Assistant Town Manager/Finance Director Micali explained the first column is the total appropriation the Town Manager is proposing for the General Fund. He reminded the Council the top half of the slide represented just the General Fund (all departments). The total proposed budget for FY17 is \$28,654,835. In order to do an apples-to-apples comparison from year to year the Capital Reserve Fund Deposits were removed from the proposed appropriations (\$1,612,000) as well as one-time capital building maintenance items (\$194,500), allocations associated with road infrastructure (\$750,000) and Capital Reserve Fund Expenditures (\$4,058,500; also includes State funding; for TAP Grant and 80% match for the Bedford Road bridge project). Chairman Harrington requested clarification the Town has to list monies received from the State as a capital expenditure. Assistant Town Manager/Finance Director Micali responded it is gross appropriation. The State of New Hampshire has an RSA that says Towns have to gross appropriate meaning you have to account for all appropriations. Councilor Rothhaus commented it was not long ago that it was not done this way, and in fact we held Public Hearings to do that. This is a more honest transparent way to do it, but it is a little more difficult because when you see from \$22 million to \$28 million from one year to the next it can be frightening. Chairman Harrington commented slightly over \$4 million of that is one Capital

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Reserve Fund, which means the monies are already in place, and will be spent. Assistant Town Manager/Finance Director Micali remarked we are spending our savings account for what we saved for, and the State monies. Total operating fund request is \$22,039,835 for the General Fund.

The lower portion of the slide identified self-supporting funds. These are items such as outside details, the cost of which is paid for by outside vendors utilizing that service, day camp, which is covered through their revenues, fire protection services off of Manchester Street, which is provided by Pennichuck. The Town is billed and then in turn bills those who are actually involved in that fire district. Wastewater is an Enterprise Fund. Total Enterprise Fund is \$5,711,271. There is offsetting revenue of \$5,711,271. An apples-to-apples comparison from FY16 to FY16; the net increase is about \$586,000 or 2.7%.

With regard to Capital Reserve Funds, in FY16 the Town had \$1.4 million, and is looking for an appropriation of \$1.6 million or an increase of \$166,000. Assistant Town Manager/Finance Director Micali remarked it was not long ago that the Town was only putting \$300,000 in the Capital Reserve Funds, and was still spending the \$3 million - \$4 million. The Town Manager has indicated in the past a desire to see about \$1 million put into the Capital Reserve Funds. We are trying to make up for those years where we had \$300,000 - \$500,000 that we put in.

With regard to Building and other Capital, it was noted renovations are needed at the South Fire Station (#2). The concept of looking at another station has been moved out another year, and there are some improvements that need to be done at the current facility. Parks and Recreation went from \$40,000 down to \$3,000. Highway is a wash (\$11,000 versus \$12,000). Building Maintenance and Highway went from \$75,000, which was a roof repair, down to about \$18,500, which is a fire alarm system upgrade to code. The buildings and grounds repairs are associated with windows for the east building. Those windows are about 30 years old. Road infrastructure is zero. General Fund, before Capital Reserve expenditures is \$690,842 or a 2.89% increase. Then there are the Capital Fund expenditures of \$4,058,500 resulting in a total General Fund of \$28,654,835.

A slide was shown highlighting the projects being proposed that would utilize funding from the Capital Reserve Fund. Under Computer Equipment; licensing/computer server upgrades (\$30,000), under Fire; pickup/forestry truck (\$85,000), inflatable boat (\$15,000); if a boat launch is not available that is the boat the Fire Department would use on river rescues. Under GIS; thermal imaging cameras (2 for \$40,000), upgrade to the GIS system (\$135,000). That expense is associated with the aerial photography. The GIS system is over 10 years old. This will be the third year of savings (\$65,000); however, \$135,000 is being utilized for the photography. Under Road Infrastructure; Souhegan River Trail (\$586,000) of that \$436,000 is TAP funds. The Bedford Road bridge (\$2,727,500) of which \$2.1 million is State Bridge Aid. Under Highway; dewatering improvements (\$100,000), 6 wheel dump truck (\$170,000) and sidewalk tractor (\$125,000). Under Library Maintenance; sidewalk/parking lot repairs (\$45,000). The total is \$4,058,500. Sewer Infrastructure (\$248,000) brings the total to \$4,306,500.

Total Appropriations to the General Fund were listed as \$28,654,835 and self-supporting funds as \$5,711,271. Grand total for all funds was stated to be \$34,366,106.

A slide was shown providing a summary of revenues. General fund non-tax revenues will increase by \$274,905. Insurance Rebate Health Trust is a decrease of \$300,000. The Health Trust has informed

the Town we will not receive a rebate next year. Capital Reserve increase is \$1,336,166. Self-supporting funds revenue is an increase of \$831,950. The grant total for revenues is \$2,443,021. Detail was provided for sale of property, ambulance fee, cable franchise fee, motor vehicle permits, and miscellaneous increases (\$274,905) and the reduction of the insurance rebate (\$300,000). The total net revenue decrease for the General Fund is \$25,095.

Vice Chairman Mahon questioned what is seen as sale of property. Assistant Town Manager/Finance Director Micali responded sale of property is any vehicle, fixed asset that is for sale. He commented the Purchasing Agent has worked diligently. She has put stuff on eBay, Municibid, etc. We sell tables, chairs, video cameras, etc. Whatever is good enough to sell, based on the municipal law that says if it is bought with appropriated dollars from taxpayers you need to have an auction to sell it. We utilize every auction imaginable. When asked, he stated the amount is based on a moving average. It was noted if a property were taken for Tax Deed it would be included under that category.

The slide titled 2016 Proposed Tax Rate lists the subtotal for appropriations (\$34,366,106). From that the total revenue number (\$18,413,354) is subtracted. Overlays are listed as \$375,000. Next December the Town will undergo a revaluation. Property values are anticipated to increase, which necessitates planning for additional abatements. Veterans' credits are approximately \$691,000.

Total to be raised by taxes is \$17,018,752. That is divided by the value, which is \$2,967,701,632 to come to the Town Tax Rate of \$5.73, which represents an increase of \$0.24.

Assistant Town Manager/Finance Director Micali spoke of pending items. We are in the second year of the State budget. The only two items of revenue the Town receives from the State are Rooms & Meals and Highway Block Grant. There is always discussion of whether we will get more or less. The Town is negotiating 6 union contracts.

A slide was provided indicating how the 2015 tax bill is broken out. Another showed the typical bill for a home with an assessed value of \$250,000.

Chairman Harrington questioned the amount of the unreserved fund balance. Assistant Town Manager/Finance Director Micali responded it is approx. \$5 million. When asked what the recommendation was with regard to the percentage of the operating budget that should be maintained in the unreserved fund balance, he stated it to be 4-8%. The current balance is slightly above 4%.

Councilor Dwyer stated he is not comfortable with an overtime number of \$500,000 for the Fire Department. The cost will go from \$500,000 to nearly \$600,000. He questioned if it would not make sense to hire four additional firefighters and reduce the overtime budget to a more reasonable number. He questioned at what point you can say overtime is not necessary because the department has sufficient manpower. Chairman Harrington remarked it is a reasonable question, and that is the type of information that will have to be presented to the public. Assistant Town Manager/Finance Director Micali stated the Fire Chief and his two Assistant Chiefs will be able to present that. He commented the department will be able to provide a more detailed accounting during its presentation. He commented on the discussions around the cost of additional firefighters and the numerous emails that went back and forth around overtime costs; coverage for sick, vacation, and personal time. Then there is coverage for worker's comp., military leave, etc. The total that they arrived at was just over a \$97,000 increase. Councilor Dwyer remarked the only other benefit is if you have a high overtime

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budget, and keep the same personnel, the most glaring benefit is no additional costs related to pension, health benefits, retirement, etc. Those are the numbers that stay more even over the years.

Vice Chairman Mahon commented there are two apartment complexes out there that are 500 units potentially. The other single-family home projects that are out there add another 150 residential units. Councilor Boyd commented at least in the south end the project has a fire station nearby. Councilor Dwyer remarked the argument can be made now that the department is already down 4 firefighters, so it is not far-fetched to say within 3-5 years 8 more positions will have to be filled, Vice Chairman Mahon did not agree with 8.

Assistant Town Manager/Finance Director Micali stated the current cost to add one additional firefighter is approx. \$94,000 (fully loaded).

Minutes

Approve the minutes from the Town Council meetings of November 5, 2015 and November 19, 2015.

November 5, 2015

The following amendments were offered:

Page 1, Line 46; replace “pre-application” with “application”

Page 4, Line 43; correct spacing

Page 17, Line 24; replace the sentence that reads: “She remarked she gets the impression the Town receives a lot of calls it is not equipped to answer.” with “She asked if the quantity of calls was the issue.”

Page 18, Line 12; replace “Councilor Rothhaus” with “Councilor Boyd”

Page 18, Line 15; replace “she” with “he”

Page 20, Line 9; replace “Operation Safe Commute” with “Merrimack Safeguard”

MOTION made by Councilor Boyd and seconded by Councilor Mahon to approve the minutes of the November 5, 2015 Town Council meeting as amended. MOTION CARRIED 6-0-0
Councilor Dwyer was not present for the vote.

November 19, 2015

MOTION made by Councilor Mahon and Seconded by Councilor Boyd to approve the minutes of the November 19, 2015 Town Council meeting as presented

ON THE QUESTION

A discussion ensued regarding the wording on Page 3, Line 40, which reads “Kinder Morgan does not want to build this pipeline.” Councilor Dwyer stated he could not have said that as it was in the theme of that is the business of what they do. He suggested replacing that wording with “Kinder Morgan is in the construction business.” Councilor Vaillancourt stated even though that is not what he meant, she believes that to be what he said. Councilor Dwyer responded he cannot believe he said the words Kinder Morgan does not want to build this pipeline because they do. That is what they do. He reiterated the wording is not what he said. Councilor Vaillancourt reiterated she thinks it is not what he meant, but it is what he said. Councilor Dwyer stated a need to correct the wording because it is not what he meant. What he intended to say is Kinder Morgan is in the pipeline business; that that is what they do. On its surface it is a contradiction of what he believes.

Councilor Dwyer also noted the sentence that reads: “The letter is deceiving, that sentence makes it sounds like Kinder Morgan wants to build this pipeline for profit, etc.” He stated it to be unacceptable to just state “etc.” when he said all kinds of things. He remarked “You guys said the Star Bangled Banner was playing in the background as I was speaking. We could add that in there too.” He commented of course they want to do it for profit, they are a private enterprise in the business of constructing pipelines.

Vice Chairman Mahon requested the Clerk go back and review that portion of the meeting, and make the changes to that. He suggested it may be that paragraph should be transcribed verbatim. It was suggested Councilor Dwyer speak with Becky Thompson, and resolve the issue.

A question was posed regarding incorporation of a link to a presentation that was provided the Council. Assistant Town Manager/Finance Director Micali stated the link could remain for use in the electronic copy posted to the Town’s website, and a hard copy can be attached to the paper copy of the minutes.

MOTION WITHDRAWN

MOTION made by Councilor Dwyer and seconded by Councilor Mahon to table the minutes until the next regularly scheduled meeting. MOTION CARRIED 7-0-0

Comments from the Press - None

Comments from the Public

James Ferreira, 7 Maryann Lane

Asked if the Thorntons Ferry School is going forward with the Preschool program. Vice Chairman Mahon stated the Council is not aware. Councilor Vaillancourt offered to help get him in touch with someone who could answer his question.

Mr. Ferreira commented on having attended Council meetings pretty steadily for the past six months. He remarked he has learned a lot, appreciates everything the Council has done this year and the amount of time members have put in with the various projects.

Comments from the Council

Councilor Boyd thanked his colleagues for observing a moment of silence in memory of Stephen Mroz. He noted the day following his funeral was the actual construction of the bridge along the trail in Grater Woods. His Son said we are going to go ahead because that is what my Father would want to do. He remarked it is a tremendous testament of character that Stephens's Son, Joseph preceded with the construction. He could have taken some time and mourned the loss, but he had a mission to complete. Joseph deserves a lot of credit for following through and completing that project. Councilor Boyd expressed his condolences to Joseph and his family. Chairman Harrington commented she heard about 45 volunteers showed up to help.

Councilor Boyd noted Joseph Parker's archery platform is completed, and is visible from Naticook Road. He spoke of how nice it looks coming from both directions.

Councilor Boyd stated the United States Senate Youth Program is a unique educational experience for outstanding High School students interested in pursuing a career in public service. The program will run in March of 2016. Two student leaders from each state are nominated and selected and spend a week in Washington experiencing national government in action. It is sponsored by the Hearst Foundation. Each delegate is awarded a \$5,000 college scholarship. Councilor Boyd remarked he is pleased to announce that Merrimack's Jacob Marcus was one of two selected to attend this program and receive a \$5,000 scholarship. Jacob is a Senior at Merrimack High School.

Councilor Boyd requested the letter of recommendation by Principal Ken Johnson be entered into the record as it illustrates the quality student that Jacob is, but it also is illustrative of the type of students we have here in the Town of Merrimack. He congratulated Jacob and his parents.

The letter reads as follows:

To Whom It May Concern:

Articulate, thoughtful, and responsible are words that come to mind when I think of Jacob Marcus. Jacob is a member of the Class of 2016 in excellent standing. He is an active and highly visible member of our school and a fine ambassador for the Merrimack community at-large.

To date, Jacob has taken full advantage of his high school experience and he has demonstrated an unmistakable pattern of success. In the area of academics, Jacob ranks among the top fifteen of his class; he has nearly exhausted our Honors and Advanced Placement course, and his name is ever-present on the High Honor Roll.

This past year, Jacob was elected to several leadership positions including the following: president of the National Economic Summit team, president of the band, and he was elected to serve as the student body representative on the School Board. He founded the Young Politicians Club this year, and he became active in the community by serving as one of Merrimack's community organizer for a leading presidential candidate.

Indeed, Jacob has been honored with many awards for academic achievement; he is a member of the National Honor Society, and he is on pace to become a New Hampshire Scholar; he is also a highly valued member of the band, our Student Council, and our Student Congress. Some additional honors worth specific mention include; Scholar of the Month in Social Studies, World Language and Mathematics; Outstanding Student in Spanish for which he received the Rensselaer Medal; he is a two time member of the National Young Leaders Conference, serves on countless committees, and, of course, Jacob is ever-present on the Principal's All-Academic Team. These awards alone distinguish him from so many of his illustrious peers.

As demonstrated heretofore, Jacob was born to lead. He humbly makes positive suggestions to improve the school's climate, he exudes a mature personality, and his work ethic is worthy of emulation. He has a genuine passion for learning, understands commitment as demonstrated by his tireless work with the band, and, on each and every level of activity he is engaged and always challenging himself.

Jacob is very interested in politics and law and plans to pursue a career in one if not both of these fields. Heretofore mentioned, he continues to strive for academic excellence and takes on a rigorous course load – especially in the area of government and Social Studies. Stated succinctly, Jacob Marcus personifies Merrimack High School's very best.

If you have any additional questions about this quality person and outstanding student, please do not hesitate to call me.

Thank you for your attention to this letter. Sincerely, Kenneth W. Johnson"

Councilor Boyd spoke of the Explorer's program that is offered through the Scouting program. The Daniel Webster Council has been promoting Exploring for several years. They have an award called the William H. Spurgeon III Award, which is given in recognition to an individual who has contributed significant leadership to the Explorer program. The Daniel Webster Council's awardee was Merrimack's own Christopher Wyman. Chris is active with the antique firetruck we have in Town and with the Auxiliary program. He also serves as an investigator with the State Fire Marshall's Office. He and his Wife have been very actively involved in the Explorer's Program for well over ten years. They have put together programming for boys that are interested in exploring and focusing on a specific career choice. Obviously with Chris being active with Fire prevention and public safety that is where his interests have brought him to the Explorer program. He was recognized in November for the level of leadership and mentoring young boys in fire prevention/public safety.

Councilor Boyd stated a desire to recognize Chris for the work he has done with the program, and congratulate him for winning an award that exemplified the type of leadership they seek from mentors in the Explorer program.

Councilor Boyd wished a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukah, and Happy New Year to the residents of Merrimack and his colleagues on the Council.

Councilor Vaillancourt stated the project to expand the parking lot at the Horse Hill Nature Preserve (HHNP) is moving forward. The Conservation Commission is currently working on a Charge for the HHNP Sub-Committee. The Commission has had new volunteers come forward to participate on the

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Sub-Committee. Several people have expressed interest in the work of the Grater Woods Sub-Committee as well.

The Conservation Commission, however, is still in need of volunteers. Councilor Vaillancourt commented she believes people may think you have to know everything about conservation before signing up, and that is not the case. The Commission welcomes the opportunity to train volunteers. The Commission meets twice a month. Residents can volunteer for as much or as little as they have time for. The Commission is in need of 1 full-time member, and 3 alternate members.

Councilor Rothhaus remarked earlier in the evening it was mentioned that the entire Council had been opposed to the pipeline, and he wished to clarify he is not opposed to a pipeline running through our country, he was opposed to the locations that were chosen and spoken of in Merrimack.

Councilor Rothhaus wished his colleagues and the community at-large a Merry Christmas and happy holidays.

Vice Chairman Mahon spoke of having attended the quarterly meeting of the Nashua Regional Planning Commission (NRPC) Commissioners at which a presentation was provided by a resident of Hollis regarding the Hollis Energy Committee. Hollis is using wood pellet furnaces in some of their Town buildings, and it is being proposed to utilize a wood chop generation facility to heat some of the schools. He commented when he heard the number he believed it would even give Hollis pause. It is a pretty ambitious project that will probably get funded eventually. It could get done this year.

The NRPC Bicycle Pedestrian Plan was accepted. There was considerable discussion about bicycle and pedestrian access throughout the region particularly some of the work that is being done in Nashua, which has a lot more compact area to deal with. One of the things brought up was the Souhegan River Trail that we will be funding. He noted the newsletter, which is the program highlights, is on NRPC's website. They talk about helping to develop a GIS map on the project. There is a very nice map they have put together that will be available once that project gets underway in the spring.

There was an Energy Facilities Advisory Committee update. They are still in the data gathering/data resource mode. It is likely they will bring additional information forward at the March meeting.

Vice Chairman Mahon remarked this evening the Council has heard about the HHNP, Wasserman Park, Conservation Commission volunteers and committees. He commented isn't it great that we have the ability to do this and we have these facilities and amenities available to the community. It is something we have been working on for a long time, and all of a sudden it is all coming together. That critical mass is there. He commented it is awful to have the problem of you've got to build a bigger parking lot so people can walk on the 540 acres behind my house.

He commented when the Conservation Commission was talking about the parking lot expansion at the HHNP. They looked to lessons learned when the parking lot was put in at Wasserman Park. That was helping them to think about materials and some of the things they could use; low cost/no cost things that they could use in order to take care of that parking lot. Those kinds of connections and things that are there are really working to the advantage of the residents of the Town and offering a lot of

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opportunities for people to really get to know each other and take advantage of the trails and things we have in the community.

Councilor Koenig wished his colleagues and residents of Merrimack happy holidays and a great New Year.

Councilor Dwyer stated the desire to clarify he is for pipelines in America, has been for infrastructure in America as well as New Hampshire, but what he would like to think is his voting and words have also been united on the Council on Kinder Morgan from day 1 that it be done right; that we oppose it from being in our nature preserves, that we oppose it from being in our wellhead protection areas, and that we make sure that we hired a lawyer and ensure everything was done and in place. He remarked he can get a little bent out of shape when accusations fly about where his loyalties lie, he would think his loyalties lie on the record and the votes that we have taken for almost a year now. As far as energy in America he is all for it, he would like to stop buying from foreign sources and overseas.

He commented, even when a solar project came up on the Council regarding Pennichuck, we tried to everything we could to bend over backwards to see if we could make it work. It didn't work but this Council has always taken Merrimack first, and he would like to think that is what we have been doing here.

Chairman Harrington wished the citizenry of Merrimack and her peers happy holidays.

Adjourn

MOTION made by Councilor Dwyer and seconded by Councilor Mahon to adjourn the meeting.
MOTION CARRIED 7-0-0

The December 17, 2015 meeting of the Town Council was adjourned at 10:31 p.m.

Submitted by Dawn MacMillan

2016-17 Budget

Presented to the
Merrimack Town Council
December 17, 2015

Budget Highlights

- Revenue

- Increase

■ Motor Vehicle Permits	■ \$175,000
■ Cable Franchise Fees	■ \$ 50,000
■ Ambulance Revenue	■ \$ 25,000
■ Misc.	■ \$ 5,000
■ Sale of Property	■ \$ 20,000

- Decrease

■ Insurance Rebates (Health Trust)	■ (\$300,000)
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Net Revenue Decrease

(\$25,000)

Budget Highlights Cont.

- Appropriations

- PLT came in at 7% GMR
 - \$ 15,000
- 53rd Pay Week
 - \$226,000
- Natural Gas & Electricity
 - \$ 18,000
- Vehicle Maintenance
 - \$ 17,000
- Street Sweeping
 - \$ 7,000
- Office and Communication
 - \$ 9,000
- Equipment
 - \$ 34,000
- Tipping fees increase \$1 per ton
 - \$ 14,000
- Recycling Tipping fee is \$15 per ton
 - \$ 6,000
- Library materials
 - \$ 6,000

Budget Highlights Cont.

▪ GMR Health came in at 6.4%	▪ \$77,000
▪ Misc. Wage adjustments	▪ \$50,000
▪ Elections (1 additional election)	▪ \$ 9,000
▪ Last Rest Cemetery	▪ \$ 5,000
▪ Adult Community Center	▪ \$ 7,000
▪ Miscellaneous	▪ \$33,000
▪ Overtime	▪ \$123,000
▪ Fire (\$97,000)	
▪ Highway (\$15,000)	
▪ Solid Waste (\$7,000)	
▪ Misc. (\$4,000)	
▪ CRF funding	▪ <u>\$166,000</u>
▪ Total Increases	▪ \$816,000

Budget Highlights Cont.

▪ Savings	
▪ Dispatcher/Animal Control Officer	▪ (\$16,000)
▪ Debt Service	▪ (\$14,000)
▪ Compensated Absences	▪ (\$33,000)
▪ Other Capital/Building Maint.	▪ <u>(\$62,000)</u>
	<u>(\$125,000)</u>
▪ Total GF Increase	\$ 691,000

Dispatcher/Animal Control Officer

- Reduce 2 part-time dispatcher (vacant) & Add Full-time Dispatcher
 - \$27,000
- Reduce 1 Full-time Animal Control officer to part-time (vacant)
 - (\$43,000)

Net Savings (\$16,000)

Town Manager Proposed Budget – General Fund

	Total Expend.	CRF Deposits	Other Capital/ Building Maint.	Road Infrastr.	CRF Expend.	TM Operating Request
GENERAL FUND EXP.						
General Government	\$1,808,268	\$45,000			\$30,000	\$1,733,268
Assessing	\$314,134	\$15,000				\$299,134
Fire	\$5,819,502	\$245,000	\$40,000		\$140,000	\$5,394,502
Police	\$5,799,890		\$111,000			\$5,688,890
Communications	\$912,678	\$182,000				\$730,678
Code Enforcement	\$366,968					\$366,968
DPW Admin.	\$378,756					\$378,756
Highway	\$7,969,733	\$960,000	\$30,500	\$750,000	\$3,708,500	\$2,520,733
Solid Waste Disposal	\$1,387,452	\$65,000				\$1,322,452
Parks & Recreation	\$371,546		\$3,000			\$368,546
Library	\$1,123,678	\$35,000			\$45,000	\$1,043,678
Equipment Maint.	\$433,894					\$433,894
Buildings & Grounds	\$226,351		\$10,000			\$216,351
Community Development	\$661,628	\$65,000			\$135,000	\$461,628
Town Clerk/ Tax Collector	\$489,300					\$489,300
Welfare	\$155,590					\$155,590
Debt Service	\$435,467	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$435,467
GENERAL FUND	\$28,654,835	\$1,612,000	\$194,500	\$750,000	\$4,058,500	\$22,039,835
SELF SUPPORTING FUNDS EXP.						
Fire Protection	\$86,063					\$86,063
Day camp	\$221,429					\$221,429
Day Care	\$0					\$0
Outside Details	\$416,304					\$416,304
Library	\$3,500					\$3,500
Fire Outside Detail	\$7,095					\$7,095
Media	\$277,541		\$45,000			\$232,541
Wastewater	\$3,838,603	\$75,000			\$248,000	\$3,515,603
Wastewater Debt	\$860,736	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$860,736
Subtotal Self Sup. Funds	\$5,711,271	\$75,000	\$45,000	\$0	\$248,000	\$5,343,271
GRAND TOTAL EXP.	\$34,366,106	\$1,687,000	\$239,500	\$750,000	\$4,306,500	\$27,383,106

Appropriations General Fund

<u>General Fund</u>	2015-16 <u>Operating</u>	2016-17 <u>Operating</u>	Increase (Decrease)	
General Government	\$1,681,845	\$1,733,268	\$51,423	3.06%
Assessing	\$294,036	\$299,134	\$5,098	1.73%
Fire	\$5,176,866	\$5,394,502	\$217,636	4.20%
Police	\$5,638,691	\$5,688,890	\$50,199	0.89%
Communications	\$686,999	\$730,678	\$43,679	6.36%
Code Enforcement	\$359,323	\$366,968	\$7,645	2.13%
DPW Admin.	\$371,138	\$378,756	\$7,618	2.05%
Highway	\$2,458,289	\$2,520,733	\$62,444	2.54%
Solid Waste Disposal	\$1,257,547	\$1,322,452	\$64,905	5.16%
Parks & Recreation	\$346,113	\$368,546	\$22,433	6.48%
Library	\$1,004,243	\$1,043,678	\$39,435	3.93%
Equipment Maint.	\$427,447	\$433,894	\$6,447	1.51%
Buildings & Grounds	\$208,249	\$216,351	\$8,102	3.89%
Community Development	\$460,641	\$461,628	\$987	0.21%
Town Clerk/ Tax Collector	\$476,735	\$489,300	\$12,565	2.64%
Welfare	\$155,057	\$155,590	\$533	0.34%
Debt Service	\$449,874	\$435,467	(\$14,407)	-3.20%
Subtotal G/F Operating	\$21,453,093	\$22,039,835	\$586,742	2.73%

Appropriations General Fund- Capital

<u>CRF Deposits</u>	2015-16	2016-17	
Gen. Govt.-Computers	\$35,000	\$30,000	-14.29%
Gen. Govt. - Milfoil	\$15,000	\$15,000	0.00%
Assessing - Reval.	\$15,000	\$15,000	0.00%
Fire- Ambulance	\$60,000	\$85,000	41.67%
Fire-Trucks	\$95,000	\$160,000	68.42%
Communications-Equipt.	\$146,000	\$182,000	24.66%
DPW Equipt.	\$300,000	\$300,000	0.00%
DPW Roads & Bridges	\$600,000	\$600,000	0.00%
DPW- DW Highway	\$50,000	\$50,000	0.00%
Solid Waste- Equipt.	\$45,000	\$65,000	44.44%
Traffic Signal Preemption	\$10,000	\$10,000	0.00%
GIS	\$65,000	\$65,000	0.00%
Library	\$10,000	\$35,000	250.00%
Subtotal CRF Deposits	\$1,446,000	\$1,612,000	11.48%
Other Capital / Building Maintenance			
Fire Sation 2 Repairs	\$0	\$40,000	100.00%
Parks & recreation	\$40,400	\$3,000	-92.57%
Highway Equipment	\$11,000	\$12,000	9.09%
Highway Build Maint.	\$75,000	\$18,500	-75.33%
Police- Vehicles	\$106,000	\$111,000	4.72%
Library Bld repairs	\$15,000	\$0	-100.00%
Bldg. & Grounds- Repairs	\$9,000	\$10,000	11.11%
Subtotal Other Cap.	\$256,400	\$194,500	-24.14%
Road Infrastructure	\$750,000	\$750,000	\$0
GF Totals Before CRF Expend.	\$23,905,493	\$24,596,335	2.89%

Appr. General Fund- Capital Cont.

GF Totals Before CRF Expend.	\$23,905,493	\$24,596,335	\$690,842	2.89%
<u>CRF Expend.*</u>	<u>\$2,722,334</u>	<u>\$4,058,500</u>	<u>\$1,336,166</u>	49.08%
General Fund Totals	\$26,627,827	\$28,654,835	\$2,027,008	7.61%

CRF Funds

	Actual 2010-11	Actual 2011-12	Actual 2013-14	Actual 2014-15	Budget 2015-16	Balance ** 6/30/2016	Budget 2016-17	Est. Expend 2016-17	Balance ** 6/30/2017
Ambulance	50,000	50,000	12,000	50,000	60,000	29,931	85,000	-	114,931
Athletic Fields	-	-	-	-	-	174,213	-	-	174,213
Communications Equipment	-	-	10,000	25,000	146,000	204,745	182,000	-	386,745
Computer Equipment	5,000	-	35,000	35,000	35,000	24,975	35,000	(30,000)	29,975
Daniel Webster Highway	-	25,000	25,000	50,000	50,000	8,036	50,000	-	58,036
Fire Equipment	100,000	100,000	100,000	75,000	95,000	300,088	160,000	(140,000)	320,088
Highway Equipment	168,000	176,960	300,000	300,000	300,000	83,274	300,000	(295,000)	88,274
Land Bank	-	-	-	-	-	413,512	-	-	413,512
Library Building Maintenance Fund	2,000	2,000	2,000	17,000	10,000	12,891	35,000	(45,000)	2,891
Playground Equipment	-	-	-	-	-	45,228	-	-	45,228
Property Revaluation	-	-	15,000	15,000	15,000	(8,133)	15,000	-	6,867
Road Improvements	-	-	-	-	-	246	-	-	246
Salt Shed	-	-	-	-	-	20,566	-	-	20,566
Sewer Line Extension	-	-	-	-	-	475,108	-	-	475,108
Solid Waste Disposal	40,000	-	75,000	75,000	45,000	131,554	65,000	-	196,554
Fire Station Improvements	-	-	-	-	-	280,272	-	-	280,272
Traffic Signal Pre-emption	-	-	-	-	10,000	10,976	10,000	-	20,976
GIS	-	-	-	10,000	65,000	75,016	65,000	(135,000)	5,016
Road Infrastructure CRF	-	185,000	400,000	400,000	600,000	1,301,333	600,000	(795,500)	1,105,833
Total CRF	365,000	538,960	974,000	1,052,000	1,431,000	3,583,830	1,602,000	(1,440,500)	3,745,330
State Bridge Aid/TAP Grant							(2,618,000)	(2,618,000)	
Milfoil			-	25,000	15,000	28,446	10,000	-	38,446
Total GENERAL FUND	365,000	538,960	974,000	1,077,000	1,446,000	3,612,276	1,612,000	(4,058,500)	3,783,776
Sewer Infrastructure Improvements	350,000	225,000	25,000	25,000	75,000	520,476	75,000	(248,000)	347,476
Operating budget	715,000	763,960	999,000	1,102,000	1,521,000	4,132,752	1,687,000	(4,306,500)	4,131,252

Capital Reserve Funds (CRF) Purchases

CRF	2016-17 Projects	\$	\$
Computer Equipment	Licenses / Computer-server upgrades		30,000
Fire	Pickup (1 ton) Forestry Truck F1	85,000	
	Boat Inflatable B2	15,000	
	Thermal Imaging Rescue Cameras	40,000	140,000
GIS	Upgrade GIS System		135,000
Road Infrastructure	Souhegan River Trail *	586,000	
	Bridge replacement - Bedford Road **	2,727,500	
	Drainage Improvements	100,000	3,413,500
Highway	6 Wheel dump truck, H-21	170,000	
	Sidewalk Tractor H-43	125,000	295,000
Library Maintenance	Sidewalk/Parking Lot repairs		45,000
Total General Fund			4,058,500
Wastewater Fund			
Sewer Infrastructure	Manhole/sewer line repair (AB flume and coating)	25,000	
	Sewer Maintenance/camera E-350 box van	32,000	
	Cross Country Sewer Easement Project	20,000	
	3-replacement hypochlorite pumps	13,500	
	2-Replacement Make Up air units	90,000	
	Replacement Generator and ATS for P. Square pump	50,000	
	Replacement centrifugal drain pump and controller	5,500	
	Replacement screw for septage wash press	12,000	
Total Wastewater Fund			248,000
Grand Total CRF Purchases			4,306,500

* Includes *80% match from Tap Funds (\$436,000)

** Includes 80% match from the State (\$2,182,000)

Total Appropriations

	2015-16	2016-17	Increase (Decrease)
General Fund Totals	\$26,627,827	\$28,654,835	\$2,027,008
			7.61%

Self Supporting Funds

Fire Protection	\$86,063	\$86,063	\$0	0.00%
Day camp	\$174,199	\$221,429	\$47,230	27.11%
Day Care	\$0	\$0	\$0	100.00%
Outside Details	\$422,133	\$416,304	(\$5,829)	-1.38%
Library	\$3,500	\$3,500	\$0	0.00%
Fire Outside Detail	\$7,095	\$7,095	\$0	0.00%
Media	\$267,351	\$277,541	\$10,190	3.81%
Wastewater	\$3,557,359	\$3,838,603	\$281,244	7.91%
Wastewater Debt	\$361,621	\$860,736	\$499,115	138.02%
Subtotal Self Sup. Funds	<u>\$4,879,321</u>	<u>\$5,711,271</u>	<u>\$831,950</u>	17.05%

Grand Totals All Funds	\$31,507,148	\$34,366,106	\$2,858,958	9.07%
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Summary Of Revenues

	2015-16 Revenue	2016-17 Revenue	Increase (Decrease)
General Fund Non- Tax Revenue	\$8,228,678	\$8,503,583	\$274,905 **
Insurance Rebate Health Trust	\$315,000	\$15,000	(\$300,000)
Motor Vehicle Road Infrastr. Rev.	\$125,000	\$125,000	\$0
Capital Reserve Withdrawals	\$2,722,334	\$4,058,500	\$1,336,166
Self Supporting Funds Revenue	\$4,879,321	\$5,711,271	\$831,950
Revenue Grand Totals All Funds	\$15,955,333	\$18,398,354	\$2,443,021

** Detail of G/F Revenue Increases & Decreases

	Increase (Decrease) From 2016-17
General Fund Revenue	
Sale Of Property	\$20,000
Ambulance Fee	\$25,000
Cable Franchise Fees	\$50,000
Motor Vehicle Permits	\$175,000
Miscellaneous	\$4,905
	\$274,905
Insurance Rebate Health Trust	(300,000)
Net Revenue Decrease General Fund	(25,095)

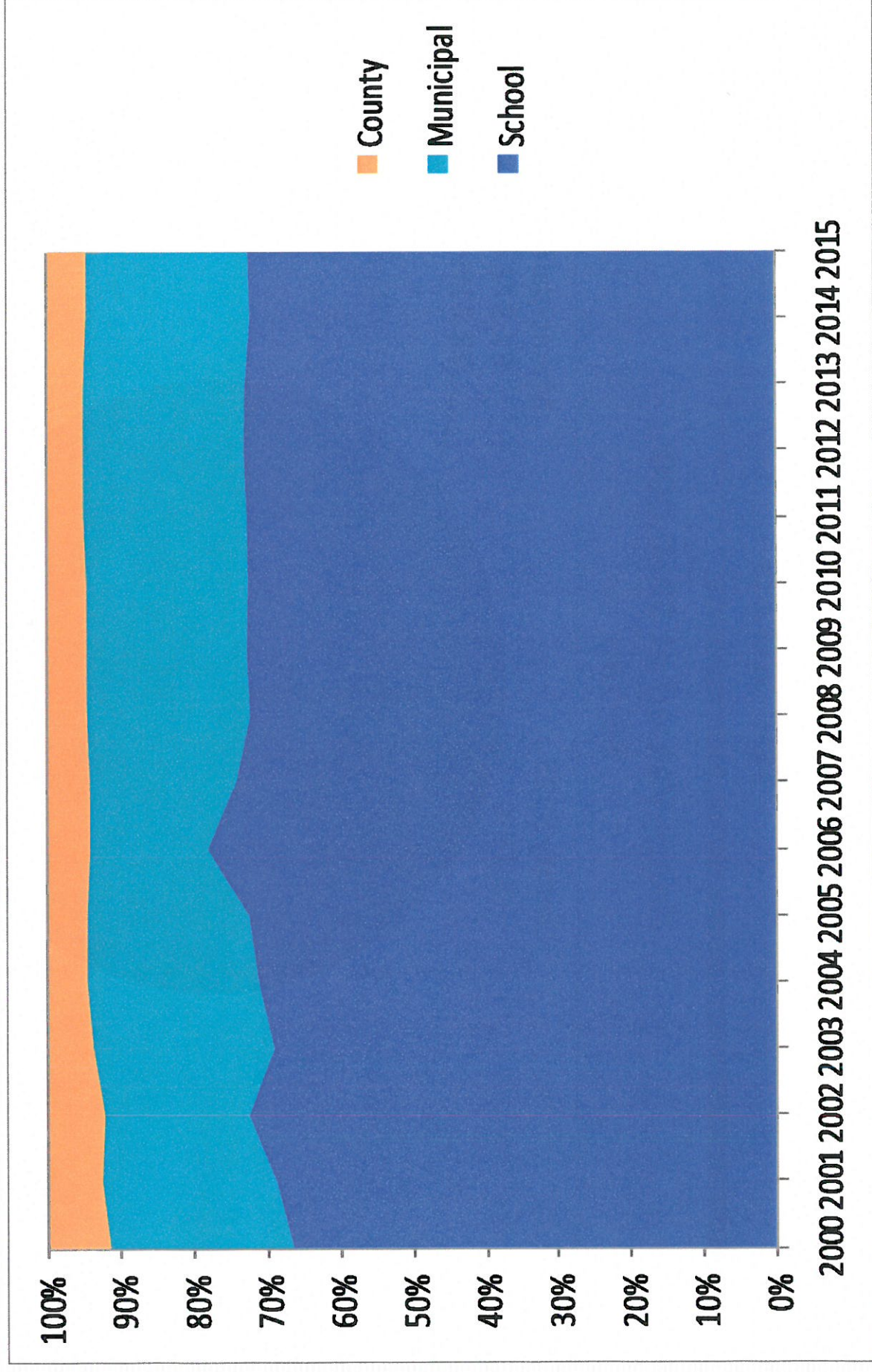
2016 Proposed Tax Rate

	<u>Voted 2015-16</u>	<u>Proposed 2016-17</u>
<u>Appropriations</u>		
General Fund Operating	\$21,453,093	\$22,039,835
Capital Reserve Fund Deposits	\$1,446,000	\$1,612,000
Other Capital / Building Maintenance	\$256,400	\$194,500
Road Resurfacing Expend	\$750,000	\$750,000
Capital Reserve Fund Expend.	\$2,722,334	\$4,058,500
Self Supporting Funds Approp.	\$4,879,321	\$5,711,271
Subtotal Appropriations	\$31,507,148	\$34,366,106
<u>Revenues</u>		
General Fund Non - Tax Revenues	(\$8,228,678)	(\$8,503,583)
General Fund - insurance Rebate	(\$315,000)	(\$15,000)
Motor Vehicle Road Infrastr. Rev.	(\$125,000)	(\$125,000)
Capital Reserve Fund Withdrawals	(\$2,722,334)	(\$4,058,500)
Self Supporting Funds Revenue	\$4,879,321	\$5,711,271
Subtotal Revenue	(\$16,270,333)	(\$18,413,354)
Overlay (for abatements)	\$374,415	\$375,000
Veterans' Credits	691,000	691,000
To Be Raised By Taxes	\$16,302,230	\$17,018,752
Divide by Town Value	2,967,701.632	2,967,701.632
Town Tax Rate	\$5.49	\$5.73

2016-17 Pending Budget Items

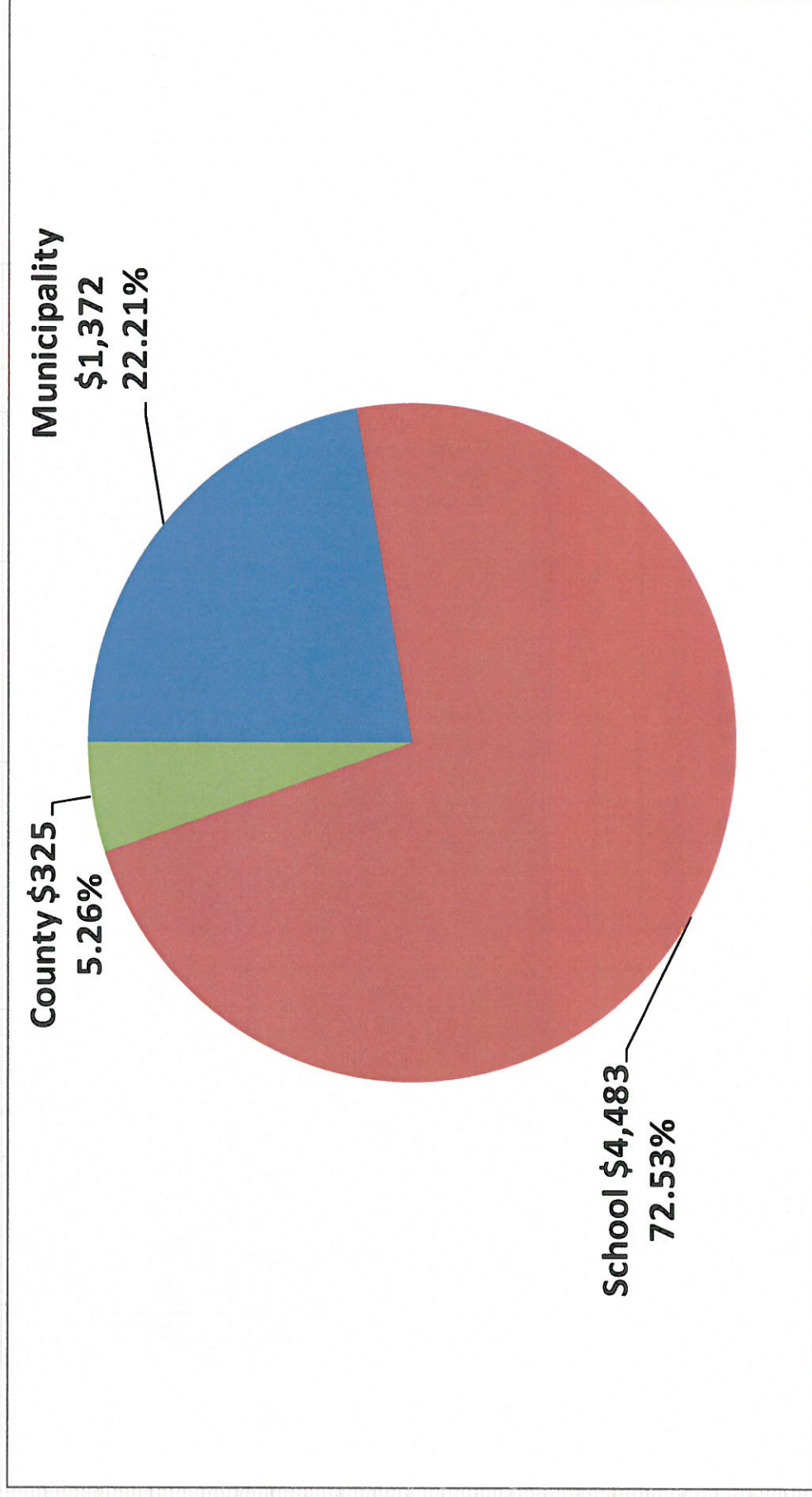
- ☐ Pending
 - State Budget (2nd yr of Biennial budget)
 - State Revenues
 - ☐ Rooms & Meals
 - ☐ Highway Block Grant
 - Union Contracts (6 Union Contracts)
-

How is your 2015 Tax Bill broken out

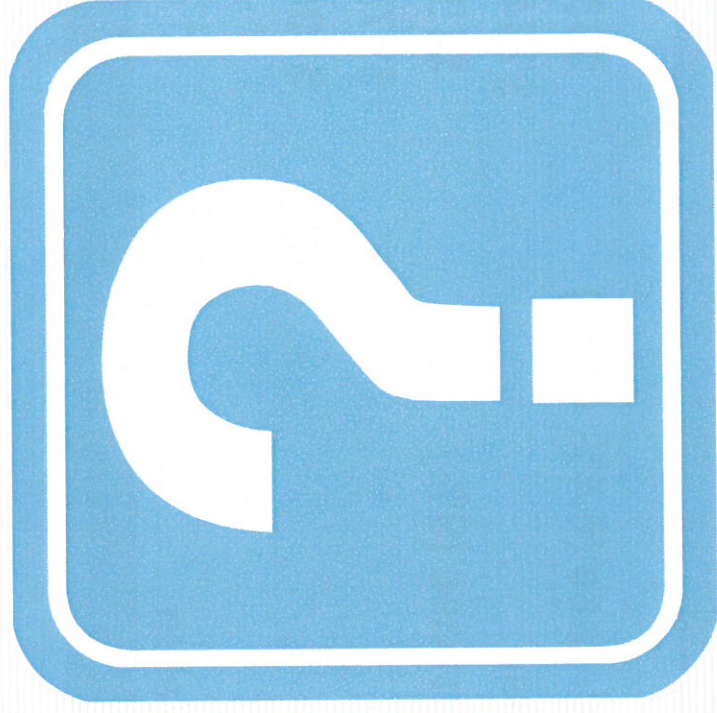


Typical Bill for Assessed Value of \$250,000 Home for 2015

Home Valued at \$250,000
\$6,180



Questions/Comments



What we thought

Town Tax Rate 2015 -16		\$5.49
Health Insurance Increase (6.4% GMR)	\$88,000	\$0.03
CRF Funding Increase	\$184,000	\$0.06
Property Liability Increase (9%)	\$19,617	\$0.01
53rd week Payroll	\$173,197	\$0.06
Revenue Decrease	\$300,000	\$0.10
Union Contract	???	???
New Construction Value	??	??
Effect on Tax Rate		\$0.26

Estimated Town Tax Rate 2015 -16 was an 8 cents increase actual increase was 3 cents