

**TOWN OF NEW LONDON  
BUDGET COMMITTEE  
SEPTEMBER 20, 2005**

**PRESENT:** Connie Appel, Doug Baxter, Pat Blanchard, Jack Diemar, Doug Lyon (Selectman *ex officio*), Jessie Levine (Town Administrator), Bob Meck, Clayton Shedd, Jim Wheeler, John Wilson, Barry Wright (Chairman).

Barry Wright called the meeting to order at 4 p.m. Prior to the meeting, Budget Committee members had received an updated print out of proposed 2006 appropriations, and year-to-date actuals and revenues. During the meeting, the Budget Committee met with five Department heads, approved minutes, addressed membership, and received a Selectmen's update.

**Town Clerk/Tax Collector**

Linda Hardy reported that there are no major differences in her proposed budget for 2006, other than those line items related to elections. There will be three elections in 2006, as opposed to one, Town Meeting, in 2005. She has reduced Mortgage Research from \$750 to \$650 as they haven't been spending that much out of it. Barry Wright asked if the election expenses were higher in 2004 because of the primaries. Linda Hardy said yes, and to Doug Baxter's question about the Ballot Machine expense that year, she explained that some of that as well as the advertising line will cover some covered additional publication of information that has been requested. Some people have requested that *entire* ballots be printed ahead of time, in the *Kearsarge Shopper*, for example. Also, they have bought some signage.

Turning to Finance, Jim Wheeler asked about the reduction in part-time clerk's wages to \$500. Jessie Levine explained that they now have a regular office assistant, but have left a little in that line for occasional substitutions. Also, regarding the Computer Support in Finance which was zeroed out in 2004, she reminded everyone that that was the year they purchased Muni-Smart (out of capital reserves). To date this year, they have spent \$1485 for computer support, and anticipate spending \$2500 for same in 2006. Computer support used to be lumped in with licensing and fees. Also, in 2004, they overspent in the auditor's line item (due to having a second audit when the Town Clerk/Tax Collector changed), and are requesting \$8500 for that line in 2006.

Jack Diemar asked about health and dental insurance. No information is available on insurance increases yet. Doug Lyon said they will be receiving from the Municipal Association a salary and wages booklet, and Jessie Levine added that the position classification study which the Town contracted is not yet complete. She noted that Town Clerk and Tax Collector are actually two separate departments—with one person filling both, so everything is split in half. Responding to question about 2005's under-expenditure in Tax Bills, Linda Hardy explained that they did not have to buy paper this year. They usually order that every other year.

**Budget Committee Membership**

Connie Appel was nominated and unanimously approved to fill Stefan Timbrell's Budget Committee seat through the completion of this budget cycle. After that, the one year remaining in Stefan Timbrell's term will be up for election.

**Police and Dispatch**

The Police Department is requesting a 2006 operating budget of \$737,632, up from 2005's appropriation of \$688,563. Dispatch is requesting a 2006 operating budget of \$267,800 up from 2005's appropriation of \$262,156. David Seastrand reviewed the proposed changes.

He is requesting \$500 for Educational Supplies (request for that line item was zero in 2003 and 2005, \$500 in 2004), in order to have safety information and other related information to give to both children and adults who visit or tour the Police Station. John Wilson asked what the Miscellaneous line is for (2005 actual to date is \$17.15; the request for 2006 is \$500). David Seastrand said that is a catch-all category, to cover if something comes up and they do not know where else it should go.

Doug Lyon opened some discussion of the Officers' vests. There has been recent information indicating that the Kevlar vests are not stopping bullets. David Seastrand said only the vests of one company, "Second Chance," have failed to live up to what they claimed. Other companies have stepped up to the plate. Doug Lyon said the Police Department should be confident it has a decent supplier. Doug Baxter asked what type vest the State Police use. David Seastrand described the technology of the vests, using a woven plastic, and metal shield in front. Some of the weaves will not stop the smaller rounds, and none will stop a knife. Jim Wheeler asked what they do with their old vests. David Seastrand said that in the past they have hung onto them, although more recently they have sent them to Iraq where they have been put to use as additional shielding inside military vehicles. John Wilson asked if there is some technology coming out for vests of ceramic. David Seastrand was not familiar with that.

The two Cruiser line items budgeted at \$3,500 and \$2,000 respectively, are for repair costs.

Doug Baxter opened some discussion on the General Equipment line item, noting that it has been under-spent in previous years. (\$8000 was budgeted for 2005; to date, only \$1248 has been spent.) David Seastrand said that was spent on some things in the Dispatch office-- toaster and a micro-wave, and other office stuff (not computer related). Also, before the end of 2005, they will spend between \$1800-\$3000 for a new camera system for one of the sedans, and hand-held radar for the Expedition. They haven't decided which camera system they will purchase for the sedan, but would like it to be compatible with the computer at Dispatch. Doug Baxter asked where it would go. David Seastrand said the old car didn't have a camera system. Next year's car will have the old camera system transferred into it. Doug Baxter asked if transferring that equipment from an old car to a new one is included in the new car price (\$27,500 under Capital Outlay). David Seastrand said the new car price includes transferring the lights, as well as the striping. He noted that the cruisers are becoming more technologically advanced, but agreed that it may be possible to reduce the requests for Cruiser (equipment installation) which appears in the operating budget. Doug Lyon suggested he could get a break down for those line items.

Connie Appel asked about Investigation Supplies. David Seastrand described those including the new "fuming chamber" they would like to purchase, and how that will work. (\$3000 is requested for 2006.) Barry Wright clarified with him that that has already been ordered, and will be purchased with 2005's budget. What will the money be spent on in 2006? David Seastrand said they would like to purchase a covert camera system in 2006. That will be battery operated and will cost about \$2400. To date, they have been borrowing one. Barry Wright suggested that some explanatory footnotes could be added to the print-out.

In response to question regarding the increase from \$1000 to \$2500 for work on the Expedition, David Seastrand said he would like to add a light bar inside the front window, one which will not be as low as the one in the grille, nor as high as one on the roof, so that it could be seen in a regular car's rear view mirror. Also, they would like to purchase a storage compartment for that vehicle.

He has increased the request for Computer Supplies from \$1500 in 2004 to \$3000 in 2005, and he is requesting \$3000 for 2006 as well. He would like to buy another user's license to allow more people in the department access to the data base at any one time. He added that they also pay a yearly maintenance fee of 10% of the initial cost of the user license. They have learned that the user license for Dispatch is \$2400, rather than \$1700 as it is for others. Jessie Levine asked about putting the computer in the car this year. David Seastrand said they are still trying to find the best way to get the software to communicate back and forth (between the car and dispatch).

He is requesting an increase from \$10,000 to \$16,000 for part-time officers' wages, to allow him to schedule the part-timers two or three shifts a month regularly, in addition to having them fill in as needed (as they do now). Jack Diemar asked if the Police Department is fully staffed. For the moment. John Wilson asked to clarify if it is his intention to give the part-timers more hours. Yes. Jessie Levine explained that the Chief would like to have the part-timers work at the same time as, that is, in addition to, some of the full-time officers. Jack Diemar asked if that would be required. Yes, right now, all they are required to do is meet the minimum mandatory educational requirements for Police Standards and Training. David Seastrand would like to get them into more of a schedule. Jack Diemar asked if there might be some risk of over using part-timers and then they would not be available to fill in full-time shifts. David Seastrand said it's hard to see that far ahead. It may be difficult if they are down an officer.

He noted that the full-time-overtime wage line will go down this way, and added that all of New London's part-time officers are full-time certified. If not for that, they would be limited to 3500 hours per year.

He went on to Conferences and Training. Fees for those keep going up, and it is increasingly difficult to find those offered locally. There are waiting lists, and they are looking at some options including the courses offered by the Local Government Center. He is requesting \$4000 for 2006, up from \$3500. Bob Meck asked if that amount would cover the per diem cost. Jessie Levine said that just covers the conferences, travel and meals. The per diem would come out of wages and salaries. Bob Meck asked if the Police Department anticipates spending the balance of \$2000 in this year's budget for that, within the next three months. David Seastrand said he did not know. They have applied for some, but sometimes are denied seats.

He is increasing the request for Equipment Lease and Rental from \$5750 to \$6950. The State Police have raised the cost of SPOTS. He added that the New London Police Department is required to take care of the equipment for that. The State Police do the software.

Clayton Shedd asked about Accreditation Expense for which \$750 is budgeted. David Seastrand said that would cover the start up course, some software, books and manuals. He would like the new incoming administrator to take over organizing this, and said they would like to put this year's allocation for that into a revolving fund. It is a State accreditation process, based on national models. The advantage to the Town would be some protection from lawsuits.

Jim Wheeler asked about the Insurance line budgeted at \$12,000. Jessie Levine said that line item may be the additional cost of liability insurance for the Police Department, but she will ask Carol Fraley to clarify. Jim Wheeler noted that the Police Department is the only department with an additional insurance cost in its budget. Jessie Levine said that she would find out more information.

John Wilson asked why he is requesting \$3000 for Computer Supplies again this year, when they have spent only \$141.94 out of it in 2005. Jessie Levine reminded everyone that is where they put the purchase of the sergeant's computer, still to be purchased in 2005. That is a one-time expense, and she and David Seastrand agreed that they may be able to reduce that line request for 2006. Pat Blanchard asked for further distinction between that line and Computer Support and Service budgeted at \$14,900. Jessie Levine said the budget was increased in 2005 to pay for support and installation of the new computers. David Seastrand will review the Computer Support and Service budget to see if a reduction is possible in 2006.

There was some discussion on how best to budget for fuel. The Police Department fills its cruisers up at Town Line, at a reduced cost, but Town Line is late in its billing, so it is difficult to anticipate end of year actuals, much less next year's. Barry Wright asked how they can budget in anticipation of the worst (in fuel prices), but still control that allocation. How can they assure that any surplus does not get spent on other things? Doug Lyon said that the Town does not allow people to spend money from the oil and fuel budget on any other thing. It is not going to become a slush fund. Jessie Levine said that she is not sure if the Town has locked in oil and propane rates for 2006 (Carol Fraley would know), and Doug Lyon said the companies are increasingly reluctant to be locked in. Jack Diemar asked about establishing a reserve fund to accommodate a huge increase in fuel costs if necessary. Doug Lyon said the amount of increase within the context of the entire budget might not justify establishing a whole reserve fund. Clayton Shedd said fuel costs are likely to be much greater than the \$15,000 budgeted for Gasoline, and Pat Blanchard asked where that overage would come from. Doug Lyon said there are likely to be surpluses in other areas that could be used to cover it. To avoid overspending the bottom line, the Town overestimates budget items and under estimates revenues, and balance surplus at the end of the year is returned to taxpayers. Clayton Shedd asked if the Town can decline to allow transferring money (from other budgets) to Gasoline. Jessie Levine said they can do that only if that other budget is specially earmarked for that purpose. The Town is held by the total bottom line in the budget, and Town Counsel has recommended that the budget be left as approved at Town Meeting, and where necessary, line items as Gasoline be overspent. That is not illegal as long as the bottom line is not overspent. Doug Lyon pointed out that the advantage of not manipulating the line items during the year is that at the end of the year it allows them to see how well the budget process went. The Town's auditor does an annual variance analysis, purpose of which is to judge materiality of any variances. So far, the town has not had any material variances, which indicates that the budget process works well.

David Seastrand reported that he is requesting no increases in Dispatch. He noted that under New Equipment, they are still replacing things under the service contract. They are continually upgrading. Also, little has been spent on uniforms as it is hard to purchase uniforms when there is high turnover.

Doug Baxter asked about the Computer Supply/License line item, budgeted at \$2000, but out of which nothing has been spent so far in 2005.

John Wilson noted several discrepancies between the budgeted amounts and the actual expenditures. Doug Lyon explained that it is policy for department heads to budget for full staffing. In Dispatch wages and salaries are consistently under spent due to the high turnover. Jessie Levine noted that when there is under spending in full-time wages and benefits, there is generally higher spending in part-time and over-time wages to fill shifts, as is the case in the Dispatch budget.

Doug Baxter asked about Radio Repair, budgeted at \$1000 for 2006, and Equipment Repair and Maintenance, budgeted at \$2000 for 2006. He asked if they anticipate failure of some of that equipment. David Seastrand said if something small goes down during the year, he would like to address that right away.

Under Capital Outlay, he said the \$27,500 would be for replacement of a regular cruiser. Also, he said that he is requesting an outlay of \$25,000 for replacement of the old Explorer, pointing out that after discussion with the CIP, he has moved back the anticipated year for that vehicle's replacement, but reduced the cost. It may turn out to be a smaller vehicle, and/or a used one. That is the detective's vehicle, and it must be able to carry his equipment, as well as to blend in. Also, he would like to spend \$18000 of the capital reserve for Computer Update. Last year, they put laptops in the cruisers.

### **Health Department**

Don Bent is requesting a 2006 allocation of \$12,875 for his department, reminding the Committee that at Town Meeting voters approved creating a non-lapsing fund for Disease Prevention, so the 2004 allocation of \$5000 will go into that, and only be drawn upon as needed. He said that for the moment, it seems as though West Nile Virus has stabilized in the east, but EEE is on the rise. Jessie Levine clarified that it is not necessary to re-request that \$5000 every year (unless he feels he will need more in the account). Doug Baxter suggested there be an explanatory footnote for that. Therefore, \$5000 can be removed from the Health Officer's budget. Barry Wright asked where the non-lapsing fund will show up in the budget. It appears in the Treasurer's Report, where in the 2004 Town Report it was noted to have accrued \$1.63 in interest.

Doug Baxter asked if New London finds that it must spray (for mosquitoes), would the Town outsource that work? Don Bent said that law requires that the Town have a permit to spray, and the person(s) actually doing the work would have to be state licensed. Larger cities as Manchester have employees who are licensed, but all that may be a bit much for a smaller town. He said most likely New London would outsource the work to Dragon, from whom information was received last year, or another company in York, Maine, into which he is looking. Pat Blanchard asked if many of the small towns are spraying. Don Bent said he suspects they will begin to see that. He added that a mosquito control program needn't be overall spraying, but rather application of an innocuous substance (to everyone but the mosquito larvae) to the mosquito breeding grounds.

Doug Baxter clarified with Don Bent that he usually waits to the end of the year to submit his travel and expenses bills. Also, he asked a question about supplies. Don Bent said he is requesting informational materials published by the University of West Virginia, that he may hand out to concerned residents.

There was some discussion regarding Town oversight of private septic systems, test pits, and tying in with the public sewage system.

### **Minutes-August 11, 2005**

Bob Meck amended an error in date on page two. Motion made, seconded and unanimously approved to accept the minutes as amended.

### **Selectmen's Report**

Bob Meck asked if there is a wage and salary scale based on size. Jessie Levine said the Town does a salary study each year, comparing New London's positions to towns of comparable sizes and populations, as well as to towns with which it competes for employees. She noted that New London is a small town with big town expectations.

Bob Meck asked how Homeland Security money is allocated, and noted the importance of compatibility of communication, with the National Guard for example. Jessie Levine said that Homeland Security money is administered by the State, and trickles down to the towns through grants. The paperwork is administered by the State. The town was required to pay a consultant \$6000 to update its Emergency Management Plan (the cost fully covered by a grant), and they have had UVLSRPC draw up a hazard mitigation plan (this cost also entirely covered by a grant).

Doug Lyon and Jessie Levine briefed the Budget Committee on the new joint assessor. One policy the new assessor has instituted is conducting a physical inspection of a house when it is sold. That provides the Town with better information about its control group (since market data, or properties sold, are the Town's "control group"), and also allows the Town opportunity to correct any errors on its tax card. The result: more accurate values. There is an upcoming link in the works that will detail this process. Jim Wheeler asked if that means that taxes will go up when someone buys a home. Doug Lyon said there is the potential for that, if the physical inspection at time of sale corrects an existing error on the tax card. Condition of the property is only one of many factors that go into the valuation of the property. Jessie Levine said State law prohibits the Town from adjusting valuation of a particular property to its sale price. However, law does allow the Town to correct any errors on its tax card, things that may have been previously missed – an updated kitchen, or a new garage, for example, and also to see (and adjust for) trends that are neighborhood-wide or town-wide. Jessie Levine offered to contact the Sunapee Region Board of Realtors about setting up a meeting between the new joint assessor and area realtors.

Doug Lyon went on to brief the Budget Committee on last Saturday's half day planning session for the Elkins Master Plan. Out of several workshops conducted, the overall gist was that people do not want Elkins to change. This is the beginning of the Town's Master Plan update process.

He said that the Street Light Committee recommends adopting some light standards in Town, and are proposing elimination of many existing street lights, and changing to the new energy efficient type which will pay for themselves over a five year period.

The Main Street Committee's objective now is to find a way to tie its recommendations in with the State's work that is projected to begin within the next few years. Question has been raised about burying utilities, and Jessie Levine said there may be some federal funding available for that.

Doug Lyon went on to say that the Selectmen are addressing many zoning compliance issues now, and the zoning ordinance itself remains a work-in-progress. John Wilson asked if there were some agency or firm that could provide some expertise in going through the Town's regulations, and making them cohesive. Jessie Levine said there are many land use organizations in the State, but none want to substitute their own judgment for that of the Town's or the Town's voters. New London's is not a boiler-plate ordinance. She reminded everyone that New London does employ the services of Planner Ken McWilliams, who brings the benefit of familiarity with zoning ordinances from many different communities.

### **Fire Department**

Peter Stanley called the Committee's attention to an error in the print out. The 2006 request for Vehicle Repair and Maintenance should read \$24,850, not \$24.85. He said the major purpose of that is to have the scheduled repairs and maintenance to the ladder truck taken care of, and he went into some detail of what that involves. This work will be done by Greenwood Fire Apparatus in Massachusetts, and suffice it to say, the ladder truck will be rendered safe

and in good working order, with the proper sized wheels and tires to boot. Barring any catastrophic event, this service should be a one-time requirement. He added that the ladder truck is thirteen years old now, and that is considered the half -life of a ladder truck. The ladder truck rolls out to all structure fires. Only the engine goes to highway incidents. Doug Baxter asked if that work could be done locally, by Valley. Peter Stanley said Valley will not work on the ladder truck because there is a great deal more liability associated with that. Jack Diemar asked what will fill in for the ladder truck when it is out for service. Peter Stanley said it will only be gone two or three days, and mutual aid from surrounding towns will kick in.

John Wilson asked about the increase in salaries. Jessie Levine said those are set by the Fire Wards. Peter Stanley said that this year they have received 421 calls to date, and that number would anticipate a total end of year number of about 550 calls. Last year, they had 457 calls for the full year. Jay Lyon provided a break down of types of calls, and both he and Peter Stanley emphasized the importance of the hospital's continuing to provide the ambulance service. If the Fire Department ever becomes responsible for ambulance calls, their total number of calls would rise to 1200 to 1500 annually.

The Fire Department follows a specific routine regarding when to call out the entire Department, and when not to. All calls are handled by the on-call officer (they have nine and they are scheduled in rotation), and the Department does provide 24/7 coverage. Peter Stanley said that now they have a great pool of certified fire fighters to draw on for officer positions, and added that it is his recommendation that at some point, the Fire Chief's position become full time.

They said the new facility is working well for their needs, including training, and Jay Lyon provided some details on training held there.

This year, they are requesting a capital outlay of \$37,000 to replace the pick-up truck. They propose to purchase a Chevy 2500, four by four, with crew cab and six-foot bed, and towing package. Later, they will use this as a plow truck. He added that the cap for the bed and the insert on rollers (for easy storage, removal and return of tools), is \$4600 but will be useful not only for this vehicle, but for the two or more vehicles that follow it. The truck will have a console with lights, and radio. With \$12,000 from the trade in, the total cost will be \$35,504.

Budget Committee members noted a slight increase in the Fire Department's request for TCR for "Fire Vehicles". (The 2006 request is for \$75,000 to be placed in that account, up from \$72,000 last year, and \$69,000 the two previous years.) Doug Baxter asked what the Department's next major vehicle purchase will be. Peter Stanley said that will be the ladder truck which will need to be replaced in 2017. He would not be surprised if by that time, the price will be a million dollars, and said that when they are about five years away from that purchase, they will discuss with the CIP Committee, raising if necessary, the TCR for that fund.

Jack Diemar asked if they bill for false alarms. Peter Stanley said after the third one, they do. Also, they bill for illegal activity (as burning without a permit). Many of the false alarms come from the schools.

### **Zoning Administration**

Peter Stanley reported that the number of building permits is down this year, but zoning violations are up. As the population grows, the need for zoning enforcement will increase. This year, they will not have taken in enough in revenue to offset his wages, as was the case last year. In response to question from the Committee, he and Jessie Levine described the difficulties of imposing fines, and Cease and Desist orders.

### **Executive Office**

Jessie Levine said that she would like to increase the part-time office assistant's hours from 30 to full time, thus the requested allocation for 2006 is \$27,300, up from \$15,210. The person filling the position now, Connie McBride, has indicated that she would take the buy out plan for health insurance.

Jessie Levine discussed in some detail, the increase in the assessing line. They are requesting a \$75,000 allocation for Assessor Services in 2006, noting that that is a little higher than originally anticipated, but they have hired a highly qualified individual, who in turn has requested that they hire a second in command – measurer & lister –who is also highly qualified. She added that in their original projection of the cost for the joint assessor, they had neglected to include items as memberships, training & development, GIS, and mileage.

Pat Blanchard asked how this will be different than before, considering the additional office assistance, cost of mileage etc. Jessie Levine said the Town's overlay and legal fees will go down, and the joint assessor will eliminate costs for an expert witness. Doug Lyon said this will save the Town a substantial amount in the long run. Doug Baxter noted that in past years, the Town had been putting \$15,000 into a reserve for revaluation, and that line now reflects zero. In response to question, Jessie Levine said the assessor costs will be shown on the budget print out as one line item, but will have an appended break down similar to that provided for the library's budget.

Doug Baxter asked how to assure the Town will get its fair share of the joint assessor's time. Jessie Levine described the joint board that has been established which will consist of Selectmen, Town Administrators, and one citizen from each Town on a rotating basis. It will meet to review the year that runs from April 1 to April 1.

Moving on to other issues within Executive:

Doug Baxter asked why animal rescue fees are in Legal. There's really no good answer to that question, though Jessie Levine did point out that the bottom line for Legal has returned to 2003 (pre-revaluation) levels.

She went on to say that they are looking for another vendor for GIS and tax map updating, and are looking at doing this jointly with other towns. This may bring a slight reduction in GIS expenses.

John Wilson asked if the Employee Raises at \$80,000 covers all positions in Town. Jessie Levine said yes, except Fire Department and Dispatch, adding that she puts the latter within its operating budget in order to be able to recover appropriate fees from the Towns that Dispatch serves. John Wilson reiterated that putting Employee Raises in a separate line does not give an idea of what each department's true costs are. Neither Doug Lyon nor Jessie Levine were sure exactly when that policy began, or why, but Doug Lyon speculated that at some point, someone on the Budget Committee asked what the gross impact of Employee Raises is, and it was put there for purposes of initial discussion. Eventually, those do go into the budget.

Under Government Buildings, Jessie Levine briefed the Budget Committee on their on-going discussions with Sodexo regarding the cleaning and maintenance of Town facilities. It is not certain at this time whether or not the Town will renew that contract. For about the same cost, the Town could employ a full-time custodial person, but there is concern as to whether there is enough work for one full-time person. Pat Blanchard also noted that the employee would have to be willing to do a broad range of work, from cleaning to carpentry.

She noted the increase in Highway Garage Maintenance -- \$5500 up from \$1000, to allow the Town to have both the Highway Garage and Highway Department office wired to accommodate the portable emergency generator which now can only be used in the school. They will look into some grant funds for that purpose.

Under Debt Service, she noted that the Town has made its first payment on the Fire and Highway Buildings bond, and that is going down. It has completed paying the Library bond.

Under Capital Reserves, she noted that they are requesting \$5000 for Computer Software, for Microsoft Office licenses.

She noted that \$10,000 is being requested for Master Plan update.

They are requesting \$75,000 for Town Hall Basement. Brian Carey has volunteered to lead a group from the Police Department in demolishing and cleaning out the area, in order to determine what best to do with it. Once the area is cleared we will have a better idea as to renovation costs.

They are requesting \$44,000 to have an engineering study done for the Newport/County Road intersection improvement. She reminded everyone that 80% of the cost of this improvement will be covered by a federal grant, and 20% will come from the capital reserve.

She opened brief discussion on the increase in TCR from \$25,000 to \$50,000 for purchase of Recreation Land. There has been some preliminary discussion of the Town's assisting with the purchase of the 17 acres of back land of the Cleveland/Kidder parcel—that is, the back land to the parcel on which the new Community Center is to be sited. These recent discussions have come about as a result of the Community Center indicating that they will be building some regulation playing fields, the Recreation Department indicating that the Town has for a long time been in need of more playing fields, and the Outing Club indicating that they will be building regulation playing fields. Selectmen are encouraging discussion of the possibility of some collaboration among the three, but are not prepared to endorse a plan at this early stage. (More on this at tomorrow's—September 21, meeting.)

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The meeting adjourned at 9 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S.A. Denz  
Recording Secretary