Present – Rebecca Davis (Chair), Donna Murphy, Robert Fisher, Rosanne Adams, Edward Strong, Bill Jacques, Town Manager Dana Lee and 3 members of the public.

Absent: Phil Lytle (excused-out of town)

Meeting opened at 6:35pm.

DISCUSSION with the TOWN MANAGER:

a. Bill asked about the status of the CDS move to the school. Dana explained that the bids are out and due back by May 5th. The move will hopefully be completed by mid July. The Fire Marshall's office has given approval and when asked about the Building Committee he explained that it has been relegated to an ad-hoc form for an as needed basis and is not presently meeting.

b. Donna asked about the increase in pay and hours of the Planning Assistant whereas the previous CEO had a lower rate of pay than the Planning Assistant is currently making and she is only doing the CEO position work part time. Dana explained that the wage changed when she was also appointed as an interim code enforcement officer and that the town employs specialists from Kittery and Kennebunkport for inspections, review of building plans, etc. (things she is not qualified to do) Dana thought the increase in pay (to the higher rate) is probably because it would hard to separate the duties and track it because Code and Planning tasks often go together so she is being paid the full rate at 40 hours a week.

c. The Chair spoke to further reductions in the ADMIN budget and asked what impact that might have if it was funded at last year's level. Dana said he didn't have any ideas at this point but they could continue to go with a part-time CEO, contract out the specialist portions of the CEO's work and have the inspections done by the permit holders. He said that these things need to be decided before we go to town meeting (so residents could gauge the impact).

d. There was discussion on the LD1 vote and the "reconsideration" issue – whether it could be re-voted on the floor of the town meeting.

e. Rosanne went over some of the ADMIN reductions we had decided upon at previous meetings.

f. Ed said there was a need to update the employee's fact sheet showing their current rates of pay/salaries for the present (2013/14). Dana said he would do this and get a copy to the committee.

g. Discussion of the 3% pay increase built into the budgets – Dana said he has given thought to an amount less than 3% but was hesitant to do anything in the budget with it because of union negotiations. They have one prohibited practice issue that has been decided against the town (ECSD) and it is likely the other (Transfer Station) will be too. Donna noted that it has been said that the town doesn't know where the monies to pay for the back pay for the ECSD Assistant Director will come from but that the department was fully funded this year. She explained that over $81,000 was budgeted at the Town Meeting for the Director and Assistant Director positions (not including fringe benefits). She asked why they are saying the money isn't there. Dana said he didn't have an answer but will check further into it.

h. The Chair asked about what the Selectmen were looking at and what they were thinking of cutting. Dana reiterated the reductions that were made at the joint meeting. He said that the Assessor Office reduction did not occur. The Chair suggested that perhaps a discussion about sharing an Assessor with Kittery could take place prior to the town vote – offer residents a savings solution.

i. Dana said he was not sure a $120,000 cut to ADMIN (the proposal of the Budget Committee) could be effected without triggering an unfair labor practice. He discussed the 3% wage increases and health costs in relation to the union negotiations and that the Selectmen put both in because they don't know which way it will go. There was further discussion by the committee that taking out the 3% would not necessarily trigger an unfair labor practice.

j. Ed asked about hiring of a firm to do the Assessor job. Dana said he met with a New Hampshire company and presented the info to the Selectmen along with a draft contract. The Selectmen opted not to do anything with it. There would still need to be some presence in the office – perhaps 20-25 hours a week - which would mean a modest savings of $11,390.

k. Ed asked if we could do with less in Legal Fees and Dana thought it could be cut by $15,000 total.

l. Ed asked how much could spending go up this year without raising taxes. Dana estimated another $150,000 beyond last year's commitment because of the new evaluation and new revenue sources.

m. Donna asked about the figures given in his LD1 scenario of deeper cuts to Legal (additional $7500) and General Assistance (additional $4000) and he said they would be doable.

n. Donna questioned what amount would be involved in removing 3% from the Departments. Dana said that he thought it would be about $40,000.

o. Asked about where the reductions would be made if the budgets were flat funded - Dana replied that he would have to look at some of the bigger projects. Doesn't know at this point how he would run things with the money available in that case. There was discussion on the impact of cuts including those which the town experiences in state revenue sharing.

p. Discussed what the increase to the mil rate would be with the increased budget. Dana estimated the town valuation at about $930,000,000. Presently the mil rate is around $13.16. He estimated 1 mil @ $930,000; ½ mil @ $491,000 and ¼ mil @ $250,000 (somewhere between 240,000 and 270,000). A $491,000 increase would mean a .50 (50 cent) increase to the present mil rate.

q. Dana said he is looking at the setting up a meeting for the Budget Committee and Selectmen to sit down together to see if they can get closer in their figures before going to the town meeting, if the budget committee is agreeable to this. There was a consensus that this would be a good thing to have happen.

r. There was discussion about what some of the impacts might be with budgets reduced to last year's level. These included decreasing town hall hours, outsourcing sewer billing and passing

cost to the users; reducing website updating, streaming video service. Dana said that he has already outlined the impact of an LD1 scenario that was handed out in the previous joint meeting and that he would be looking at it in a practical way – those essential functions would have first priority and the extraneous would have to go. Bill asked what service MMA could offer to assist with auditing. Dana said that MMA does not offer financial services. Dana said he would go back and work with the staff to consult on how they might live within last year's budget and try to get that to us within a week to 10 days of the joint meeting with the selectmen which he will set up for the last week of May.

s. Bill informed Dana that he saw what may be a double entry in the budgets and will get that info to Dana.

Dana was thanked for his meeting with the Committee.

Meeting closed at 7:10PM

Respectfully Submitted by,

Rosanne Adams, Recording Sec.

Date Approved: 4/29/2014