

**Board of Selectmen Meeting
Minutes**

Date: Wednesday March 2, 2011

Time: 7:10 p.m.

Members present: Peter McMurray and Joe Casey

Representative Bastien and Senator Flanagan Discuss FY2012 Budget:

Sen. Flanagan listed committees she is a member of and says State's numbers are way down. Tax collections are up as of this Month. Rep: Bastien spoke on Governor's Budget being not the final budget. Picture is bleak though 2013. School Committee Member Ken Brown asked both not to cut education funding Rep. Bastien states this is going to be the most difficult budget this far and in the future. Multiple proposals for Health Care and Retirement Reform are being presented to the Legislature both at the State and Local level. Both state that they are not looking to raise taxes or have any fee increases. There is no proposal to do this. Senate is looking at Financial Aid Packages. Rep. Bastien strongly suggested that people make their comments in regards to Unutil's rate increase by Friday March 4th. PM concerned as to timing of vote on State Budget and how it effects the timing of Town Meetings. Town Meetings are held before any determinations are made on State Budget and makes it very hard to try and do funding. Both Rep. B and Senator F both state that March and April are the critical months to obtain the figures for the budget. PM asked if there are other ways of cutting funding for Chapter 70 money. He considers this to be a top priority. Senator F states that Chapter 70 funds and local aid are their top priority. PM questions Regionalization and the lack of support from government on this issue ie: funding and guidance. JC questioned where the Stimulus Funds went. Ashby has not seen any of that money. Money all went to larger cities and towns. Questioned the number of Representatives and Senator representing this area. Suggested changing budget cycle times to coincide with Town Meetings. Resident asked about the new Open Meeting Law and why Senate and House are exempt. Sen. F states all sessions are posted and are available on line for viewing. She tried to explain how discussing things with their counterparts is sometimes necessary to get things done. Citizen's feel this is a double standard. Citizen asked both guests why they don't try to help citizens of cities and towns and not work on how to spend their money. PM thanked both for their time and for all they have done to help the town (Left at 8:30)

PM reminded everyone of deadline for nomination papers.

2) Motion to approve minutes of February 16, 2011 as recorded.

Motion: Joe Casey

Seconded: Peter McMurray

Vote: Unan

3) Warrant #: W35P approve and sign Payroll Warrant in the amount of \$43,094.38 subject to further review.

Motion: Joe Casey

Seconded: Peter McMurray

Vote: Unan

