

**April 24, 2007**  
**Municipal Council Workshop**  
**Town Hall Auditorium**  
**7:00pm**

The tape was very difficult to hear.

Councilor Lavoie opened the workshop.

Members present: Christopher Lawrence, Robert Lavoie, Mr. Pinierio, Ms. McClure, Ms. Lindstrom, Ms. King, and Mr. Benson, Councilor Iacobucci, Allen Neale

He stated he and President Lawrence met with the Mayor last Thursday. They needed some input from the Mayor's office to take care of their own budget. He stated on the Municipal Council budget he's filed a repeat of a salary proposal which they would have to do within the first eighteen months of their session which has to be done by June 30<sup>th</sup>. He stated his initial recommendation of \$6,000 was dead in the water. There was a motion for \$3000 which he said is better than nothing. Finance is taking it up tomorrow.

Ms. McClure stated she would not go along with automatic increases because the town can not sustain automatic three percent raises. She would certainly consider an increase for the Council because one hundred dollars a month doesn't cover the cell phone bill.

Councilor Pinierio said he didn't think the council should get a raise because it was going to be a tough year and if they are going to cut departments budgets that wouldn't be right if they gave themselves a raise.

There was discussion about other communities and the amounts other Councilors receive for compensation including stipends, expenses and health insurance. There was discussion regarding the inclusion of an expense account for the Council instead of raising the stipend. Councilor McClure stated she would have a better time turning in expenses and having them reimbursed like when the Council goes to the MMA meeting, they turn in expenses and they get paid.

Councilor Iacobucci stated rather than have nine expense reports and trying to audit those it might be better to have a flat expense amount, say \$1200.00 or whatever amount the Council decided on. Councilor McClure stated she would feel better about that but that would be as far as she would go right now based on the tight budgets.

Councilor Lavoie asked about the Mayor's salary increase. Councilor King stated she was in favor of increasing the Mayor's salary. It is one of the lowest in the surrounding communities. The salary difference in hiring a professional Town manager and electing a Mayor was discussed. Councilor Lawrence stated electing a mayor was just a popularity contest. Councilor Lindstrom stated that people may just run for the money if it was too high instead of more altruistic reasons.

