TOWN OF ORFORD

Board of Selectmen

Public Hearing 2014 Budget

Meeting Minutes

February 5, 2014

MEMBERS PRESENT: Tom Steketee, Anne Duncan Cooley, John Adams

OTHERS PRESENT: Robert O’Donnell, Sheila Thomson, Tim Cole, Louise Mack (Town Clerk/Tax Collector), Cicely Richardson (Journal Opinion), Bob Palifka, Tom Thomson, Ruth Hook (Budget Advisory Committee), Sheri Clifford (Town Administrator)

The Public Hearing for the 2014 Budget was called to order at 7:05 pm.

Steketee stated that a copy of the 2014 Warrant and Budget Worksheet was available for everyone present. The budget would be reviewed page by page and the floor was open for any questions or comments from the public.

Hook asked if the new patrol officer could be held to a 3-year contract as the town is sending him to the police academy. Cooley said that the issue has not been discussed, but would be in the future with regards to the police and fire personnel.

Palifka asked why the fire department wages were so low. Steketee stated that the Board has not received adequate information to change the wages and hopes for better dialogue and review for the future. Adams added that there were other requests for wage increased and the Board decided to give a 1.5% increase across the board. The Board plans on doing a comprehensive review of each department to determine wages and benefit package. Cooley stated that there are other issues that require research for what is most beneficial to employees.

T. Thomson stated that paving should be done in a timelier manner.

T. Thomson wanted to state once again that the benefits and wages of town employees impact the common tax payers and continues to be an issue. Steketee said that the Board plans on looking at compensation issues and take an organized approach to the situation.

Palifka said that overall, the budget is well thought out and well done.

The Board thanked the Budget Advisory Committee for all of their hard work compiling the 2014 budget for the Town.

The Public Hearing adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,