

UNDERHILL SELECTBOARD MINUTES

Thursday, November 1, 2007

Present: Steve Walkerman, SB Chair; Steve Owen, SB; Joan Lehouiller, Town Treasurer; Sherri Morin, Town Clerk, Chris Murphy, Town Administrator

6:00 PM: Meeting Called to Order

- **Orders Signed**
- **UJFD Budget Review:** Chris reviews the UJFD proposed FY08-09 budget. At meeting on 10/18/07, UJFD presented their budget at a Jericho Selectboard meeting that Chris and Dan Steinbauer attended. The UJFD has hired their full-time person. They are asking for a 6% budget increase overall. The driver for the increase is mainly the stipends and salaries line item. The 3-year average for calls had been 138 "runs." This year they had 178 runs, causing a deficit in their line item for last year. They are increasing their budget to off-set this cost. If you take away the increase to cover the increased costs for salaries/stipends; the UJFD is increased by 3%-4%.
- **FOG Interlocal Agreement:** Steve W. relates the events at the recent meeting, in the wake of Tim Nulty's decision to leave Burlington Telecom and Burlington mayor Bob Kiss's comments in the media that he is not willing to have Burlington Telecom extend service to outlying communities. The Fiber Optic Workgroup had proposed an inter-local agreement that had Burlington Telecom in as a party and that "contemplated" the three towns (Jericho, Westford, and Underhill) contracting with Burlington Telecom for fiber optic services. The Underhill Board did not sign the agreement over concerns that the agreement would bind us to Burlington Telecom and preclude other providers from putting forward a proposal.

Steve states that John Schullenberger, Jericho Selectboard member, met with Mayor Kiss and that they may decide in the future to extend services to other communities. Burlington Telecom would have to amend their Certificate of Public Good, as they are not currently licensed to extend service to other communities. Steve has been told that this would not be a long process. Steve urges the Board to sign the interlocal agreement as it is necessary to have an entity that is going to provide the infrastructure in order to get financing for the project. Steve states that if Burlington Telecom ultimately decides that they will not extend service that the Interlocal Agreement will have to be amended. After discussion, the Board signs the agreement.

- **Budget Review:** Chris reviews format of budget documents. She will have a first draft for the next meeting.

8:20 PM: The Board Adjourns

Respectfully submitted by Chris Murphy

Read and Approved as written/as amended

Steve Walkerman, Chair