

# Surplus

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cent for a town this size.”

The auditor reviewed the government and business funds in an overview of the overall budget before asking if the council had any questions.

Town Council member William Kelly said the council needed to schedule a workshop to discuss the audit. “There are a lot of questions, but I don’t think we have time to answer them in the half-hour allotted,” he said.

Council President Julio DiGiando agreed and said that a workshop would be scheduled to examine the audit in detail. Dansereau said he would be available to accommodate the town’s needs.

Council member Robert Sutton asked if a five-year analysis of the surplus fund growth was possible. He asked if the surplus was due to over-collected taxes, back taxes, or more-than-anticipated funds from the state.

Town Finance Director Tina Collins said that the surplus of the last few years was attributed to a combination of the reasons that Sutton mentioned, as well as monies accrued from investments.

“This year, \$110,000 came from funds the town received from tax sales,” Collins said. “In 2006, we

anticipated the need for funds that included the fire truck that wasn’t purchased until after June of 2008, when the audit had been completed.” Collins also said that in past few years, money was accrued from positive interest on investments. She said she does not anticipate seeing as large a return on investments this year.

Town Administrator Bruce Keiser said that only 1 percent of tax revenues resulted in excess surplus based on budgeted expectations. “So it isn’t a question of significant overtaxing that is the cause of the surplus,” Keiser said.

Dansereau said that the town had \$264,000 more in collected property taxes than was budgeted. He also cited \$105,000 in interest income from debt service that was accrued because of good timing.

The interest is generated from investments made from the reserve funds, Collins said.

Dansereau also said that for the year, the harbor management fund had a surplus of \$4,000, the water fund had a surplus of \$23,000, and the sewer fund had a surplus of \$242,000, all of which contributed to the town’s accumulative net assets.

“These are departments that are supposed to maintain themselves and not rely on property taxes,” he explained.

Dansereau also said that the

funds are used to pay expenditures and as a basis to re-evaluate sewer rates. He added that the town is running its employee pension funds as an asset rather than a liability, which he said was exemplary because in most towns the situation was just the opposite.

Without giving details, the auditor told the town council the school surplus of \$196,000 approved its undesignated reserve to \$835,846, which can be used for unanticipated expenses and contingencies.

Dansereau thanked Collins, Keiser, and the town administrative staff for their contributions to helping finish the budget on time for the state mandate of Dec. 31 of last year.

Kelly concluded the meeting by saying that in these difficult financial times it was important for council members to study the audit so they completely understand the town’s financial situation. “We have to properly plan our budget for next year and that is going to be a challenge,” Kelly said.

In addition to the audit presentation, the council interviewed attorney Dean Wagner for a re-appointment to the Zoning Board of Review as a first alternate, attorney and chairman of the Zoning Board Thomas Ginnerty for re-appointment, and Patrick Driscoll for re-appointment to the Conservation Commission.

# Improvement

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Assembly legislation regarding the Jamestown Volunteer Fire Department members property tax relief.

A letter from Matthew F. Clarke recommending noise ordinance exemption for emergency situations was unanimously accepted by the panel. However, after discussing the matter, the consensus was to not follow the recommendation because the number of complaints concerning the matter did not warrant additional legislation.

The council voted unanimously to re-appoint Harbor Commission members Michael de Angeli, Andrew Kallfelz and Susan Little for three-year terms, and Wendy Waller to fill the vacant riparian property resident seat for a one-

year term.

Richard Boren and Thomas Ginnerty were both unanimously approved for re-appointment to the Zoning Board of Review for five-year terms, and Dean Wagner, Richard Cribb and Richard Alphin were unanimously approved for re-appointment for one-year terms.

The council voted unanimously to form a new Town Charter Review Committee consisting of seven voting members and one Town Council liaison. The council approved Susan Little, David Long, Jerry McIntyre, Sav Rebecchi, Michael Schnack, Robert A. Ulrich, and Daniel H. Wright, with Town Council President Julio Di Giando as the Town Council liaison for the first meeting.

Christine Tanner was approved unanimously to fill the vacant seat on the Affordable Housing Com-

mittee for a two-year term from 2009 to 2011.

Jim Turenne was unanimously approved for a three-year re-appointment to the Water Resource Protection Committee, leaving one seat vacant due to the resignation of Mary Brennan.

After lengthy discussion, the council voted to discharge the following committees because they were no longer active: The Neighborhood Advisory Committee, the Wildlife Committee, and the Water Study Committee.

The future of the Water Resources Protection Committee and the Traffic Commission will be an agenda item at the next council meeting. The town clerk said she would provide statistics and information on both groups concerning the frequency of their meetings and productivity.



## Raingutter regatta

Cub Scouts from Jamestown Pack 1 held their annual Raingutter Regatta at Melrose School on Tuesday night. In the top photo, Andrew Lowell, left, and Jackson Hawkins race the final round for first place. Gavin Wagner, bottom, used a lot of hot air to propel his sailboat down the raingutter.

Photos by Adrienne Downing



## Almanac – Thursday, January 8, 2009

### Local Tides This Week

NEWPORT				
DAY	HIGH	LOW	HIGH	LOW
Thur	4:45 a.m.	10:51 a.m.	5:10 p.m.	10:49 p.m.
Fri	5:40 a.m.	11:50 a.m.	6:05 p.m.	11:50 p.m.
Sat	6:33 p.m.	12:44 p.m.	6:58 p.m.	
Sun	7:25 a.m.	12:46 a.m.	7:49 p.m.	1:35 p.m.
Mon	8:15 a.m.	1:40 a.m.	8:39 p.m.	2:23 p.m.
Tue	9:05 a.m.	2:32 p.m.	9:29 p.m.	3:08 p.m.
Wed	9:54 a.m.	3:23 a.m.	10:20 p.m.	3:52 p.m.

  

CONANICUT POINT				
DAY	HIGH	LOW	HIGH	LOW
Thur	4:52 a.m.	10:45 a.m.	5:17 p.m.	10:43 p.m.
Fri	5:47 a.m.	11:44 a.m.	6:12 p.m.	11:44 p.m.
Sat	6:40 p.m.	12:38 p.m.	7:05 p.m.	
Sun	7:32 a.m.	12:40 a.m.	7:56 p.m.	1:29 p.m.
Mon	8:22 a.m.	1:34 a.m.	8:46 p.m.	2:17 p.m.
Tue	9:12 a.m.	2:26 p.m.	9:36 p.m.	3:02 p.m.
Wed	10:01 a.m.	3:17 a.m.	10:27 p.m.	3:46 p.m.

### Sun / Moon Chart This Week

DAY	Sunrise	Sunset	Moonrise	Moonset
Thur	7:12 a.m.	4:31 p.m.	1:40 p.m.	4:47 a.m.
Fri	7:12 a.m.	4:32 p.m.	2:47 p.m.	5:56 a.m.
Sat	7:12 a.m.	4:33 p.m.	4:04 p.m.	6:54 a.m.
Sun	7:12 a.m.	4:34 p.m.	5:26 p.m.	7:41 a.m.
Mon	7:11 a.m.	4:35 p.m.	6:46 p.m.	8:17 a.m.
Tue	7:11 a.m.	4:36 p.m.	8:03 p.m.	8:47 a.m.
Wed	7:11 a.m.	4:37 p.m.	9:15 p.m.	9:13 a.m.



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