

**WEST OSS�PEE FIRE PRECINCT**  
**Annual Precinct Meeting – March 11, 2006**

Minutes Recorded By: Mellisa Ferland, Secretary/Treasurer  
Meeting Called to Order: Stanley Brothers, Moderator (10:00 a.m.)  
Attendance: 16

**ARTICLE I – Election of Officers**

By majority voice vote, incumbent Joe Goss was elected to a three-year term as precinct commissioner and incumbent Stanley Brothers was elected to a one-year term as moderator. There were no candidates for the secretary/treasurer position. Current secretary/treasurer Mellisa Ferland of Effingham was appointed to the position by commissioners following the meeting.

**ARTICLE II – Operating Budget**

By majority voice vote, the following budget line items were passed:

4130- Executive	\$11,000
4194- Government Buildings	\$7,800
4196- Insurance	\$31,000
4220- Fire	\$231,070
4316- Street Lighting	\$2,500

*(Chief Brad Eldridge said he is working with Public Service of New Hampshire and the Main Street Program to replace the three street lights in the precinct and add lights to the newly constructed bridge on Route 25 West.)*

4902- Capital Outlay	\$12,500
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**Article III – Land Survey – Passed with no amendments**

“To see if the precinct will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) for the purpose of contracting a licensed surveyor to complete a survey of the precinct’s property located at Tax Map 26, Lot 41 and Tax Map 34, Lot 2 also known as the West Ossipee Central Fire Station and Jewell Hill Fire Station respectively. Recommended by the Commissioners and the Budget Committee. Majority vote required.”

*Chief Eldridge explained that this is also an appropriation that will be used to obtain a boundary line adjustment from New England Forestry Foundation at the Jewell Hill Station and Whittier Coalition at the Central Station. He said he spoke to NE Forestry Foundation a couple of years ago and they seem favorable to allowing the adjustment to give room for future station expansion and to change the boundaries so the foundation’s gates are not on the precinct property. Whittier Coalition has allowed, by deed, seven years for the precinct to decide what portion the precinct would like of the former Yield House property. Two years have passed. Chief Eldridge said he would like the precinct to get the agreement completed before the land opportunity is lost.*

**Article IV – Vehicle Purchase – Passed without amendment**

“To vote to see if the precinct will vote to authorize the commissioners to enter into a four-year lease agreement for \$39,700 for the purpose of leasing a 2006 Chevrolet Tahoe and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$11,230 for the first year’s payment for that purpose. This lease agreement contains an escape clause. Recommended by the Commissioners and Budget Committee. Majority vote required.”

*Discussion: Chief Eldridge said the department will keep the current pickup truck for use as a forestry vehicle. The pickup has 96,000 miles. The new vehicle will be used as a command center at emergency scenes.*

**Article V – Vehicle Maintenance Trust – Passed without amendment**

“To see if the precinct will vote to raise and appropriate \$3,000 to be added to the previously established Vehicle Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund. Recommended by the Commissioners and the Budget Committee. Majority vote required.”

*Discussion: Chief Eldridge said there is \$3,000 in the fund now. This money is to be used for unanticipated vehicle repairs.*

**Article VI – Authority to sell – Passed without amendment.**

“To see if the precinct will vote to authorize the commissioners to sell or dispose of any surplus equipment and use these revenues to offset appropriations. This authorization shall remain in effect until rescinded by vote of the precinct meeting. Majority vote required.”

**Article VII – Accepting Gifts – Passed without amendment.**

“To see if the precinct will vote to allow the commissioners to accept any gifts of personal property, other than cash, to the precinct for any public purposes. This authorization, in accordance with NH RSA 31:95-e, shall remain in effect until rescinded by vote of the precinct meeting. Majority vote required.”

**Article VIII – Accepting Grants – Passed without amendment.**

“To see if the precinct will vote to allow the commissioners to accept any state, federal or private grants and use such funds for the purpose described. This authorization shall remain in effect until rescinded by vote of the precinct meeting. Majority vote required.”

**Other Business**

*Joe Goss thanked the fire chief and the members for the hard work they have put in this year and hopes they continue to serve the precinct.*

*Chief Eldridge said that the call volume is up with 301 calls last year. He said the type of calls is changing. He said since January 1, 2006 the precinct has responded to a shooting, two stabbings and drug overdoses.*

*Chief Eldridge said he is the only chief of the three Ossipee precincts that will go on record to say that the town only needs one department, not three. He said the selectmen and commissioners need to come together. He noted the Town of Belmont that has a lower budget than the three combined precincts yet they have full-time coverage. "We are the million dollar babies," he added.*

*Joe Goss said until the town is willing to accept the responsibility of managing the departments effectively, the precinct cannot give them the responsibility. He said in the meantime, it is important for the precinct to maintain its buildings and equipment.*

**Meeting adjourned by majority vote at 10:35 a.m.**