Members Present: Carol Sobetzer, Marc DeBois (Orford); Margaret Gladstone, Doug Tifft, Sandra Smith-Ordway (Fairlee); Bruce Lyndes (at-large); Jennifer Ricker, Trevor Law (Vershire)

Administrators and Staff Present: Gail Keiling (Head of Schools/Superintendent), Richard Paulson, Jr. (Chief Financial Officer)

Others Present: Cathy Eastburn, Cicely Richardson (Journal Opinion)

I. Call Meeting:
Meeting was opened at 6:33pm.

II. Agenda Revision/Time Allocation:
None at this time.

III. General Public Comments
None at this time.

VI. Ongoing Business
A. 2009-2010 Budget Approval/Disapproval
S. Ordway reported that the budget reflected a .83% increase over the 2008-2009 budget.
G. Keiling listed the following cuts from the budget:
- $20,000 from special education IEP tuition
- 1.0 Counselor at Rivendell Academy to .5
- Not adding 2 additional days for technical support
- $7,500 from various operation budget accounts
- Decreased sports transportation by $4,000
- Middle School play assistant eliminated
- Able to lock in at $2.06 for fuel for 2009-2010
- $55,000 decrease in secondary education

D. Paulson explained that there may have been a reoccurring error for the past three years, where part of Orford’s share of money owed was paid by the three Vermont towns. There was discussion on how much is owed, how it will be repaid and why the error was not caught or reported in past years by the Finance Committee, Auditor or Finance Director. It was agreed that a second opinion, from both states, was needed and also to look into this error and what the options are and the legal ramifications. The Board also agreed that more attention needed to be paid to New Hampshire and their laws and requirements. S. Ordway felt that she needed confirmation regarding this error before voting to accept the budget, and expressed her concern to increase one town’s taxes during these hard economic times. D. Tifft said the Board needed to present the budget and the public needed to come prepared to state what they feel should be cut from the budget. C Sobetzer said the Board needed to decide if they were going to accept this budget or not. M. Gladstone felt that a motion to accept should be made. S. Ordway stated that she cannot accept the budget until the issue before them is solved. D. Tifft
stated that the Board needs to prepare for proposed cuts. **Action:** Motion made to accept the 2009-2010 budget of $9,289,054. **Approved.**

**B. School Calendar 2009-2010**
G. Keiling distributed the second draft of the school calendar for next year and asked that it be accepted as is with the February Break listed as (TENTATIVE). **Action:** Motion made to accept the 2009-2010 School Calendar as is including the tentative February Break. **Approved.**

**V. New Business (Receive Information & Possible Action)**
C. Sobetzer asked the Board to review Article 6 and Article 8 of the School Warrant. G. Keiling updated the Board on the continuing problems with the roof leaking at Samuel Morey and has asked Gary Collins to request bids for either fixing or replacing the roof. Keiling has also spoken with Paulson regarding grants and/or loans. D Paulson reported that at this time grants are only awarded on an emergency basis and he has spoken with a representative from Vermont Bank regarding a loan which would require a public vote. It was agreed to switch the order of the Article 6 and Article 8 with the possibility of passing over former Article 6. The Board also agreed that Article 5 and Article 9 should be switched as well and prepare to answer public questions.

**Action:** Motion made to enter into executive session to discuss personnel issues at 8:23 p.m. **Approved.** Board came out of executive session at 9:15 p.m.

**XI. Adjournment (Action) –**
**Action** – Motion made to adjourn meeting. **Approved.** The meeting adjourned at 9:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheri Clifford, Clerk