Residents React to bin Laden’s Killing

by Katy Nally

Nationally, Osama bin Laden’s death was followed by raucous cheering outside the White House and remembrance ceremonies at ground zero. But local opinions on what his death will mean for the War on Terror differ throughout the Riverside towns.

Many residents associated with various veteran organizations acknowledged bin Laden won’t be missed. Still, some said his death should not be celebrated—while, for others, the tune “ding dong, the witch is dead” came to mind.

“Essentially, everyone is very happy that he’s dead,” Ron Winter, a member of the Hebron VFW, said. “We’re especially happy that he went head first into the ocean if it’s a perfect ending for a guy who did what he did to our country.”

bin Laden was the leader of the terrorist organization Al-Qaeda, which the United States labeled as responsible for the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks almost immediately after they occurred. While bin Laden initially denied any involvement, in 2004 he claimed responsibility for the attacks via a video that aired on an Arabic TV station. He has also been linked to the 1998 U.S. Embassy bombings that involved simultaneous truck bombs in several African cities.

Further details surrounding his death are still emerging, but according to published reports, President Barack Obama authorized a raid on bin Laden’s home in Pakistan last Friday, April 29. The following Sunday, U.S. forces approached the highly-protected compound in helicopters and Navy Seals, along with other soldiers, were sent in.

After a firefight, one woman, said to be bin Laden’s wife, was shot in the leg, but Americans sustained no casualties. Bin Laden was shot in the head and his DNA was later verified in Afghanistan, according to reports. After that, his body was flown in an aircraft carrier and was dumped into the North Arabian Sea.

“This was a despicable man, who did a despicable thing; he deserved to die,” Winter, a Vietnam veteran, said.

Carl Carlson, a member of Marlborough American Legion Post 197, had a more empathetic response.

“It’s tragic that anybody has to get killed—even bin Laden,” Carlson said. But, he added, “We’re not going to miss him.”

Carlson, a World War II veteran who served in the U.S. Navy aboard an aircraft carrier, said bin Laden’s death would probably not affect the current wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

“We still have to contend with terrorists,” he said. “It’s a long war we’re in.”

But, Winter said, with bin Laden gone, the morale of U.S. soldiers will probably improve.

See Residents React Page 2

Four Votes Defeat East Hampton Budget

by Joshua Anusiewicz

As moderator Red McKinney read out the results of the East Hampton budget referendum, something between a groan and a gasp rose from those in attendance.

Total votes: 1,166 – 581 were in favor, and 585 against.

And with its defeat, the proposed 2011-12 town budget will send residents back to the polls. In what Director of Finance Jeff Jylkka called “the closest margin in at least 20 years,” the $37.86 million budget failed by four votes, disappointing town officials even more than the low turnout.

“Four votes doesn’t give us much of an indication of where we need to go with [the budget],” said Thom Cordeiro, one of two Town Council Chairwoman Melissa Engel on April 14, was present as well. “It’s clear the residents are getting more than their fair share,” Engel said.

The town has already decided to cut $321,798 from the original budget that was proposed on April 14. Spending would be reduced by $136,000, over the current year, but the mill rate would still increase by 0.76 of a mill, to 25.74. Jylkka said taxpayers will see an overall tax reduction of about $100,000. According to Town Council Chairwoman Melissa Engel on April 14, roughly 60 percent of residents would not see an increase in their taxes because of a recent revaluation.

Engel said that cuts to the Board of Education because the general government has given more than their fair share,” Engel said.

The town has already decided to cut $175,198, which includes $67,137 from the building department. Engel said that cuts to the Board of Education won’t be drastic, stating that four votes “indicates that we aren’t that far off.”

Superintendent of Schools Judith Golden stated in April the proposed $146,600 cuts “seem like a lot,” but Engel said Wednesday, Board of Education members have been open to making “reasonable cuts.”

Golden said it has not been decided where potential cuts might come from. Education was the deciding factor for most of the voters canvassed on Tuesday afternoon, most of whom did not want to be identified.

“I have two grandsons and two more on the way,” said resident Bill Marshall, who voted to approve the budget. “I was a veteran, I was a reservist, and I was a Vietnam vet and I’m very proud of them.”

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Residents React from Front Page

"Anytime a like that dies, the morale goes through the roof," Winter said.

Fred Schluntz, co-chair of East Hampton’s Citizens Helping Active Military Personnel (CHAMP), has had a hand in boosting morale through his organization, which creates care packages to send to soldiers overseas.

"I think justice is certainly done," Schluntz said. "Now I think it’s time to get out of the Middle East." Schluntz, who participated in the 1980 helicopter mission to retrieve American hostages in Iran, said it’s "unfortunate" CHAMP still has packages to send to soldiers overseas.

McLaughlin has organized a yellow ribbon near his house, when I heard the news. The Mets-game that was on TV, the road there, the computer system, the way everything worked. Finally, I heard one of the more veteran anchors talking about...
Emotions Fly High at Marlborough WPCA Meeting

by Katie Nally

The Water Pollution Control Authority begrudgingly passed a draft Operation and Maintenance budget Wednesday, which will be finalized at a public hearing. “I recommend we take it to a town hearing, but I’m not in favor of it,” WPCA member Bill Lardi said. “I’m gonna go down fighting it.”

The total O&M budget, using up $150,000 of the credit from East Hampton, is $255,324. A change for one Equinox Drive WPCA site would mean a decrease of $58 for every property owner.”

In December of last year, seven lawsuits were filed against the WPCA. The majority of residents in attendance, as well as several WPCA members, spoke out against the approximately $80,000 for legal fees. “The ‘professional services’ line item increased from $12,500 for this fiscal year to the proposed $87,500. LaPoint said so far only the lawsuits have been under-funded that line item, it’s essentially saying to the court budget proposals, ‘we are not gonna defend these suits.’”

In December of last year, seven lawsuits were filed against the WPCA, alleging that the WPCA was “undue process violation.” In this case, if residents sue the WPCA, they won’t only be funding their legal costs, but also the WPCA’s. And, in America’s lawsuit-happy society, Peng said, this was a possibility.

Resident Stacey Franconile, who is also one of the seven plaintiffs suing the WPCA, questioned why WPCA members even think they’re “responsible for legal fees.”

“Black” signed agreement, she said. Resident Amy Travis presented a letter from the WPCA’s attorney, Branse, Willis & Knapp, dated Aug. 19, 2009, that showed Black accepted “municipal legal services to the Town of Marlborough” from that firm for $145 per hour.

LaPoint said so far only the lawsuits have been discussed with Branse, Willis & Knapp. While the WPCA didn’t agree on a new figurative, she continued, “The possible services will be discussed with the Town’s legal counsel.”

The attorney’s fees are “more in line.” said that he feels that the town’s next budget needs to be one where the revenues and expenses are “more in line.”

The annual town meeting will be held Monday, May 9, at 7 p.m. at Elmer Thienes-Mary Hall Elementary School. The next regularly scheduled WPCA meeting will be Thursday, June 9, at 7 p.m. at Town Hall.
Priscilla Carroll posed a question, asking who a zero percent tax increase. Taxation approximately $7.74 million. This $8.02 million. On top of that, there is an additional which makes the actual net operating budget before residents voted. Outlining the bottom proposed $10.60 million 2011-12 budget to reflect the condition that it was. “It does feel nice to be appreciated for the work that we’ve done and to know the residents who supported Burbank during the election to let him know they would be giving him their support in the first selectman race. "It’s a tough job" running against an incumbent. Said that she never thought about running “I’m still interested in road repairs, development of the ball fields, supporting the volunteer fire department and I am very interested in whatever we can do for the seniors," Haverl said. “I’m pragmatic and I like to work for compromises. Also do appreciate all the folks that supported me.”

Resident Tom Anderson also said while expressing the polls that he had cast his vote for Burbank. “I think he’s done a great job,” said Anderson, who added with a laugh, “And interestingly enough I sold him his house.”

Anderson said the house was originally his parents, then he lived there before selling it to Burbank and his wife Marie when they were just “a couple of young kids.”

The town has 2,201 registered voters. 707 Democrats, 527 Republicans, 951 unaffiliated and 16 “other.” Of those 2,201 voters, 808 came out to vote in this year’s election, for a turnout rate of 37 percent. This was a significant increase over the last municipal election in 2009, when just 505 votes were cast. Municipal Agent Cathy Palazzi credited this to the fact that the selectmen’s race was challenging this year, as last year Burbank ran unopposed.

“There’s a really great turnout,” Palazzi said Monday at the polls. “With people voting for a title it’s just more interesting.”

In this year’s election, there were just four boards which were contested: Board of Selectmen, Board of Finance, Zoning Board of Appeals, Alternate and RHAM Board of Education.

Resident Gerry Hardisty said he was a bit “disappointed” that there weren’t more choices. When asked if he would ever consider running, Hardisty said he would consider running sometime, but never thinks of it early enough. “I actually didn’t vote for a lot because there were only three names and it said pick three,” said Hardisty.

Re-elected to the Board of Selectmen were Republicans Jay Linddy and Cathy Desrosiers, and Democrat Elaine Burbank. Although Haverl lost the race for first selectman, she did receive enough votes to be offered a position on the Board of Selectmen and accepted it. She replaces Democrat Linda Ann Kowloon, who was the lowest vote-getter of the selectman candidates.

“I look forward to serving on a full board,” Haverl said. “I will represent issues that supporters that voted for me are passionate about.”

Turning the Board of Selectmen over to a GOP sweep, with the three receiving the most votes being members of the Republican Party. Linda Fish saw the most supporters with 592 votes. Also elected were Republican Ted Sakelarakis and Republican David Gostanian. Dennis Foran was the sole Democrat elected to the board.

Those chosen for the position of Zoning Board of Appeals Alternate were Republican Kara Sakelarakis and Democrat James McCann. Those chosen to serve on the RHAM Board of Education were the unaffiliated Ken Lee and Republican Dan Hoelschel.

Landdy proved to be a town favorite, as he also pulled in the largest numbers among the candidates for the local Board of Education, with 496 votes. Landdy was followed by Republican Sharyn Keeney with 354 votes, Democrat Cathy Danielczuk with 343 and Democrat Kimberly Hawes with 301.

Murdock said that, as was the case with Burbank, she also felt strongly about voting for Landdy. ‘I really have contributed a lot to the town of Andover and I’ve always actually supported him since I moved here,” Murdock said, noting that she moved to town seven years ago. Burbank said he plans to continue what he has been doing in office to keep the town financially sound and to improve the life of its residents. “I’m pretty much going to continue what I’ve done to keep taxes down and look for additional ways to get revenue,” said Burbank. “I’m going to work with all the boards and commissions to try to improve the overall community life.”

The election results will take effect with the start of the next fiscal year on July 1. The current members of the boards and commissions will remain until then.

Andover saw a high turnout for this year’s municipal election, as 37 percent of registered voters, like the ones shown here, cast ballots Monday. Receiving just 68 percent of the votes was incumbent First Selectman Bob Burbank.

by Courtney Parent

Residents voted Tuesday -Wednesday to send a proposed $10.60 million 2011-12 budget to referendum later this month.

A brief overview of the budget was given before residents voted. Outlining the bottom line was Board of Finance Chairman Cathy Desrosiers, who explained that the $10.60 million is a 2.03 percent, or $201,739, increase over the current year spending.

Desrosiers explained that there is approximately $2.56 million in anticipated revenue, which makes the actual net operating budget $8.02 million. On top of that, there is an additional $323,288 in budget offsets, which makes the total amount of the budget to be funded by taxation approximately $7.74 million. This would make the anticipated mill rate 27.60, or a zero percent tax increase.

Upon noting the $120,000 put in the budget to be used toward road improvements resident Priscilla Carroll posed a question, asking who decides what roads get to be fixed and when. Carroll said that she lived on Lake Road, which is “in the worst condition of all” and pays the highest taxes.

First Selectman Bob Burbank explained that drainage issues need to be addressed with the roads prior to paving. He said that the specific plans to improve Lake Road had been sent in early last year, but were not returned until the fall. He said now they are just waiting for schools to be out for summer, so there will be less school bus traffic and interruption during paving.

Also included in the budget is a $4.08 million Board of Education budget, which represents a miniscule 0.21 percent, or $8,693, increase over the current budget.

The largest increase found in the proposed budget lies in the insurance line item. There is a 7.36 percent, or $43,225 increase, due primarily to a $21,603 increase to medical insurance and a $22,618 increase to municipal retirement benefits.

The largest proposed decrease is a $29,261 drop in special education consultant fees that have been reduced as a result of two special education students moving out of Andover. The students moving out of the school means two full-time teaching positions can be reduced to part-time.

Some of the major assumptions that the budget was based on include a decrease in overall student enrollment, no unanticipated major expenditures and that any federal or state grants will be utilized to offset expenses for professional development, special education, technology and curriculum improvement.

The proposed 0.21 percent increase is by far the smallest budget increase in over a half decade. During the last six years, the smallest increase (until now) was 1.91 percent, or $76,409, for the 2010-11 budget, with the largest being 8.35 percent, or $273,842, in the 2005-06 budget.

Less than 30 minutes after receiving the basic information from Desrosiers and being given handouts of both the town budget and the Board of Education budget, Municipal Agent Cathy Palazzi made her way around the room to hand out the ballots.

While waiting for the ballots to be collected and tallied up, Board of Selectmen Vice Chairman Jay Linddy invited everyone to attend his play, The Legend of Captain Smith, which will take place this Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m. at Andover Elementary School. He got a few laughs from the crowd, adding that those comings would be in good company as Thomas Jefferson, Betsy Ross and others would “all be there” too.

The $10.60 million budget is now being sent to referendum on Tuesday, May 17, from 6 a.m. - 8 p.m. in the community room of the Town Hall.

### $10.60 Million Budget Heads to Referendum in Andover

by Courtney Parent

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Residents Pass RHAM’s $24.65 Million Budget

by Courtney Parent

The $24.65 million RHAM middle and high school budget for the 2011-12 fiscal year passed by a notable margin of 297 votes on Tuesday. Out of the overall vote count of 1,467, there were 882 votes cast in favor of the budget and 585 cast against it.

The budget represents a $432,845, or 1.79 percent, increase over current year spending. According to the RHAM budget report, Siminski, he, along with other members of the Board of Education, were patently waiting by the phone when the results came in Tuesday afternoon, according to Lt. Ron Milardo, the vehicle was later totaled after it was repeatedly rammed by a stolen vehicle during a chase.

Last year when the RHAM budget was approved, there were 1,195 “yes” votes and 988 “no” votes for a total of 2,183, meaning the voter turnout dropped tremendously this year. Siminski credited this to a line of constant communication between the RHAM Board of Education and the general public. Siminski pointed specifically to the board’s efforts to hold meetings in each of the towns and post everything on the board’s website.

Siminski also said during budget deliberations in the past month, during budget deliberations and voted against the proposed lease. “This is the best budget we can put forward for the new emergency vehicles, dump trucks, etc.,” Siminski said. “I think the community saw us as being sensitive to the economic times.”

Out of the overall vote count for the RHAM budget, the outlook was a bit more positive when individuals were questioned about how they felt about the RHAM budget. (A full story about the budget appears on page 22.)

Andover resident, Gary Lord, said he was voting in favor of the RHAM budget. Bieri said he had “yes” vote was based upon what was spent on high school and middle school education, as well as to fund police officers, fire departments, and other police vehicle, an SUV, suffered $5,000 worth of damage but will be repaired.

According to Lt. Ron Milardo, the vehicle would have ample “availability” and show “transparency” in every it does as a vote of confidence.”

Voting was held in various locations in all three contributing towns: Hebron, Andover, and Marlborough.

The $24.65 million budget takes into account included four counts of as-

Resident Pass The STRONGESTègez

Driver Arrested After Striking Tree in Marlborough

An Andover woman was transported to Hartford Hospital Sunday, May 1, after hitting a tree, State police said.

Ashley Robbins, 23, was traveling northbound on Portland Road just south of North Street. She was stopped on Feb. 11, "Me, it was the investigation, according to police. All of the suspects were charged with illegal possession, mail theft, mail theft, and fraud. The investigation continued, and the illegal manufacturing of bombs, and was transported via Marlborough ambulance.

"I don’t just want the town to be on the hook for an extra $600,000 if the economy turns downward," said Bascom, who added that he will vote against the budget. During budget deliberations, members of the Portland Housing Authority said that they currently don’t have enough money to cover the upgrades, mostly due to residents not paying their rent. Bascom said the grant would allow the needed upgrades and would be at no cost to the town. The Portland Housing Authority has agreed to pay for the grant writer and the architect, Bascom said.

The public hearing will be held on May 25 at 7 p.m. at Portland Library, 20 Freestone Ave.
Colchester

Colchester Police News

4/18: Around noon, $140.42 worth of Red Bull was stolen from the Stop & Shop on Lighthouse Road. State Police said the case is under investigation.

4/19: Justin P. Boyer, 27, of 225 Mack Rd., Lebanon, was charged with sixth-degree larceny and breach of peace. State Police.

4/19: Around 6:24 p.m. a white, heavyset male wearing an orange long-sleeved shirt and black hat was seen leaving the Stop & Shop on Lighthouse Road without paying, said State Police.

4/20: Thomas and Melissa Caster, 37 and 30 respectively, both of 200 Old Hartford Rd., were both charged with risk of injury to a minor, Colchester Police said.

4/19: Kristin Snyder, 30, of 43 Antonchuk Rd., was charged with DUI, driving without insurance, operating an unregistered vehicle, possess possession of less than four ounces of marijuana, prohibited driving and interfering with an officer. State Police.

4/19: Troy Sanbom, 23, of Hildene Ct., Norwich, was charged with failure to renew registration, possession of less than four ounces of marijuana, prohibited driving and interfering with an officer. State Police.

4/19: Gail Fisher, 55, of 25 Bass Lake Rd., Amston, was charged with DUI and failure to govern the proper lane. State Police.

4/19: James Amendola, 32, of 10 Walnut St., Wintonbury, was charged with failure to carry liability insurance and failure to drive in the proper lane.

4/20: Patrick James Burdo, 22, of 139 West St., East Hampton, was charged with violating state park regulations, criminal impersonation and interfering with an officer, Colchester Police said.

4/20: John A. Prout Jr., 66, of 320 Landrum Ave., Portland, was arrested for disorderly conduct and interfering with an officer, Colchester Police said.

4/20: John served in the U.S. Navy later on as a volunteer, said Colchester Police. He loved fishing, the outdoors, and his second home that he considered his favorite, knows him, NY. He em-
joyed the simple things in life: laughing with his
to the Hometown Garage in Portland. “I’ll
didn’t want to be an obstruction of traffic around with his great sense of humor. He was a fan of baseball, football, and any Hummel or Hummel’s, and many nices and a nephew.

4/20: Also leaves behind his beloved dog Zach, A German shepherd.

4/20: John would like to send out a heartfelt “thank you” to the nurses who spoke with him about your fondest dreams at the Dialysis Center in your last days. We thank you to the Middlesex Hospice Home Care nurses and caregivers for your care and compassion.

4/20: No services will be held at this time.

East Hampton News Police

4/19: Christopher Scapec, 26, of 175 Wills Ave., was arrested for DUI and failure to operate a motor vehicle without a license, East Hampton Police.

4/19: John Crawford IV, 51 of 9 County Club Rd., East Hampton, was charged with DUI and failure to drive right, police said.

4/19: Adrian Johnathan Pompe, 22, of 71 Fourth Street, East Hampton, was arrested for DUI, failure to drive right, possession of drug paraphernalia, and two counts of illegal use of less than four ounces of marijuana, police said.

4/19: James Jarzbek Jr., 21, of Portland, was involved in a one-car accident, police said. Jarzbek Jr. was issued a ticket for traveling too fast for conditions.

4/19: John Ruttek, 67, of Branford, was involved in a one-car accident on High Street (Route 66) in the area of Kingsley Point Road, police said. Ruttek was issued a ticket for traveling too fast for conditions.

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