BOARD OF ALDERMEN

ITEM NO. (6)

AGENDA ITEM ABSTRACT

MEETING DATE: January 27, 2009

TITLE: Public Hearing on an Ordinance Limiting Campaign Contributions

DEPARTMENT: Town Attorney	**PUBLIC HEARING: Yes**
ATTACHMENTS: **A: Memo from Town Attorney dated 9/22/08** **B: Ordinance**	**FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: Mike Brough 929-3905**

PURPOSE

The purpose of this item is for the Board to receive public input on and then consider the adoption of an ordinance establishing a $250 limit on campaign contributions to candidates for town elected offices.

INFORMATION

As set forth more fully in the September 22, 2008 memo from the town attorney, in July of this past year the General Assembly enacted an amendment to the town's charter that authorizes the Board to establish limits on the amount of money that any individual or campaign committee may contribute to any candidate for an elected town office. The general law sets this limit at $4,000, but the charter amendment allows the Board to adopt an ordinance dropping this limit to not less than $250.

At its meeting on October 21, 2008, the Board directed the town attorney to draft an ordinance that implements this authority and that sets the contribution limit at $250. The ordinance attached as Attachment B was drafted in response to this request. Note that the draft has a blank that must be filled in to establish the amount of civil penalty that will be imposed for violations of this ordinance.

FISCAL IMPACT

None

RECOMMENDATION

The staff recommends that the Board hold the public hearing and then decide whether to adopt the ordinance.