

**MINUTES OF MEETING**  
**MUNICIPAL BUDGET COMMITTEE/BOARD OF SELECTMEN**  
**February 5, 2005**

A meeting of the Municipal Budget Committee was called to order at 9:00 a.m. in the Conference Room of Conway Police Station with the following present: Janine Bean, Michael DiGregorio, Melissa Stacey, Betty Boucher, Ted Sares, Randy Davison, Phil Dighello, Rick Paquette, Bill Jones, Maureen Seavey, Selectmen's Representative, Karen Umberger, School Board Rep., Debra Deschenes; Selectmen, Gary Webster, Larry Martin and Dave Weathers; Town Manager, Earl Sires, and Welfare Officer, BJ Parker. Doug Swett joined the meeting at 9:20.

Mr. Sares made the comment that the procedure should be to listen to all presenters, ask questions, and leave the arguing of pros and cons for another meeting. The Chair ruled that all discussion/questions would deal directly with the budgets being presented and not the programs offered.

**Tri-County Community Action (CAP) - \$12,000** - Marge Webster, Director of Development, presented the budget request. Ms. Webster explained the various things that CAP provides: fuel assistance, weatherization, housing and homeless prevention, and drug and alcohol counseling. Ms. Webster noted they are asking for a \$2,000 increase this year, having maintained the \$10,000 request for the past 9 years. It was reported CAP spent \$601,109 in the town of Conway last year, \$33,470 on weatherization alone, and helped 4114 Conway people.

Mr. Sares questioned whether they anticipate a surplus this year and was told no, they are running very close. Mr. Jones noted the weatherization program is taking care of a need for tenants, and wished to know whether the property owners are asked to help. Ms. Webster stated when they need to put fuel into a house and the windows are only plastic, they still have to put it in. She said it is a frustration for CAP as well when the owners do not participate.

Mr. Jones questioned expenses of \$1,000 for fundraising, but no income. Ms. Webster said they do not generally do fundraising, but need to keep a line item because sometimes people who have been helped pay them back for some of it and they need a place to put it.

Mr. Martin said he is confused where the \$601,000 shows up in the budget. Ms. Webster stated the monies coming from the 17 towns who are asked for funding goes to administration because when they get money for weatherization, there is zero coming from the feds - it is a different piece - that \$601,000 comes from many budget items. Mr. Martin noted they spent \$601,000, but it does not show where that was actually used. Ms. Bean explained that CAP gets a lot of money from different towns and federal programs; they have a way of spending those monies, but that does not show up because they come in from a different area - we will not see the money they get from the grants and the towns in this budget.

Mr. Davison stated this is a good use of funds for the amount of money Conway is getting back. Mr. Jones suggested that next year it would be advisable to differentiate between the \$601,129 and how much of the requested submitted budget is actually spent on Conway people. Ms. Webster said 25% of services provided is provided to Conway people, 22% of the total dollars spent.

Ms. Bean suggested the Budget Committee may want to look at the form and possibly come up with a different form for next year.

Mr. Weathers questioned if it is approved whether it is earmarked for one program? Ms. Webster said it is spread out through all the programs, goes into a pool, and goes out through the administration. Ms. Umberger noted the \$601,000 spent on Conway represents 22% of the total dollars spent - they are receiving about \$2 million in grants.

**Eastern Slope Regional Airport Authority – \$12,000** - Carl Thibodeau presented the budget and gave an overview of the airport in the last year. The Airport Authority has constructed a new maintenance facility for summer and winter storage through a combination of State, federal and local monies. There is a new hangar building which houses 13 aircraft, and an FBO has been secured. He introduced Jim Horowitz, President of Oxford Aviation and now Eastern Slopes Aviation, and turned the presentation over to him.

Mr. Horowitz provided information about his background in the aviation field, stated he has been a resident here for 19 years, creating his own company in 1987 with one employee, and now has 60. He stated they have logged 1492 aircraft into the community since Sept., of those 1492 aircraft the majority were business related – corporate or tourism, some medical. He estimated that for every dollar spent by an aviator \$1.50 is generated within the surrounding communities; for every business generated by General Aviation, there are six full time jobs created in the community.

Mr. Sares said in the letter from the Secretary/Treasurer reference was made to a master plan update and wished to know what master plan that is. Mr. Horowitz stated every airport has a 20-year plan – it gets updated when there are any significant changes at an airport. Mr. Sares felt it critical to tie that plan in with the master plan of the surrounding community as it is the biggest indicator of growth.

Mr. Dighello noted 65% of services go to residents of Conway and wished to know what type of residents are getting that service? Mr. Horowitz gave examples: one individual who has been here 11 weekends, flying in with his family; companies that are based here using the airport to do business; tourism.

Mr. Martin, noting the reference to 65% of residents and how that affects the overall residents, said it is not necessarily the actual residents of Conway. Mr. Horowitz stated it is probably somewhat higher than that, it is how it affects the community. Mr. Jones questioned whether figures in the 1492 plane landings could mean the same plane 10 times? Mr. Horowitz said yes, adding that they also have flight training activities and a charter service.

Mr. Sares said last year they asked for \$10,000, it was reduced to \$5,000, and the town voted nothing. Mr. Thibodeau stated they asked for \$5,000 last year and that was defeated, they have asked for a total of \$15,000 over the last two years. Mr. Sares noted that this year's request is less than the last two years combined.

Ms. Boucher noted miscellaneous shows \$114 for the year 2003, they have asked for \$1400, they are now up to \$25,100. Mr. Sires explained that is for a snow removal equipment

storage building. Ms. Boucher questioned how they managed with no income from 9 towns last year. Mr. Thibodeau stated “we struggled by.”

Mr. Davison pointed out the town of Conway turned down \$10,000 in 2003, last year they turned down \$5,000, this year they are asking for \$12,000. Mr. Sires said in the last two years there was much talk about what needed to happen at that airport; this last year there has been a turn around at the airport and they are hoping to communicate that this year.

Mr. Sares left the meeting.

Ms. Stacey questioned whether they could continue to operate without Conway’s 25%? Mr. Sires said over the last couple of years they have been using reserves, so could continue for the time being, but not indefinitely. Ms. Stacey said if you do not do it this year, in June or July you will be in serious trouble. Mr. Sires stated no, they are hoping to have support from the town so will have resources to fund this growth in the development we hope is going to happen there.

Mr. Horowitz stated the ESAA is fiscally a very conservative, independently run, and carefully managed group within the community. Oxford Aviation employs about 60 people doing aircraft refinishing and interior work on aircraft. They are proposing to create an 86,000 square foot facility with job creation approaching 200 jobs. Mr. Sires pointed out the importance of jobs that could be generated there, noting they will be recruiting auto body people, cabinet makers, and metal workers, etc. from our community. It was noted there were some challenges thrown out to the ESAA about business planes there, they are working on a master plan project, 12 new hangars were constructed, one is left – things are happening there.

**Mt. Washington Valley Chapter of American Red Cross – \$7,298** - Terri Goldblatt explained a change in the personnel line this year – they had a Health & Safety Coordinator working 35 hours a week who has been replaced with a 20-hour employee.

Armed Forces – they provide emergency communication between families here and overseas. Disaster Services – Ms. Goldblatt stated they had four families affected within the Conway area, activities were higher because of the boarding house fire in North Conway and another on Birch Hill – they provided a lot of services last year and the disaster relief fund took a huge hit. Blood services – Ms. Goldblatt stated in regard to the region they are doing phenomenal, had the second largest blood drive last month by one pint – this community is very supportive of the blood drive.

Training – they trained over 900 individuals in CPR and first aid, community members as well as businesses; 100 in babysitter classes, ages 11-16.

National services – It was reported that because of the tsunami disaster they have been doing a lot more, acting as a source to make financial donations (over 20,000 from the valley contributed to that fund); however, they are concerned because it could be a potential problem with fundraising on a local level.

Mr. Jones noted we will be looking at some troops coming home from our current conflict, and wished to know whether the Red Cross has any plans to deal with someone who

will be coming home with serious problems? Ms. Goldblatt stated we do not have many guard stations here, so it will be more on a State level that we will see that, providing mental health services, babysitting services, etc.

Mr. Martin noted the Red Cross is in a rent free building owned by the town, thus this is a contribution above and beyond their request. He questioned the swim program, training lifeguards, etc. Ms. Goldblatt said they have made sure that the swim program is available, they train lifeguards and instructors, but do not get involved with organizing classes or promoting them. Instructors become Red Cross certified through a Red Cross course taught by an authorized provider. She noted they did run the swim program just one year for Conway when it looked like it was not going to be available through the town. Mr. Jones stated it is important that the kids have swimming lessons and commended the Red Cross for having stepped up to run it that year.

Ms. Umberger noted fundraising expenses is \$10,400, donations were only \$22,000 – not a good return. Ms. Goldblatt said fundraising is always a challenge.

**North Conway Day Care Center – \$5,000** - Jackie Howe presented the budget request. She explained their function is to provide quality child care for working families in the Town of Conway, which they have been doing since 1972. She stressed that assistance from the town is important for those people who fall between the cracks. They have 9 single parent families now with 14 children among them, who get assistance from the State of NH, others are charged a co-pay. The assistance from the town makes it possible for families who are just over the limit to still be able to work, i.e. they would be spending approximately \$400 a month for child care; if not for this program it would be \$800. By discounting \$5 per day per child, that \$5,000 would assist those families. She acknowledged that those circumstances may change, but there will be other people waiting. Ms. Howe stated they have not had a rate of reimbursement increase in nearly five years. She said their pledge is to make child care cost effective – if they do not have the kids, they do not use the staff.

Mr. Sires questioned in-kind services of \$32,000. Ms. Umberger said that is services that the church provides by providing the building; if they were actually having to pay rent for that they would not be in business - it is equal to the market rate if they had to pay it.

Mr. Jones noted they are requesting \$500 more this year and questioned how long they had been getting \$4500. Ms. Howe said last year it was \$4500, prior to that it was \$5,000 for a number of years.

Mr. Martin questioned fundraising. Ms. Howe stated they get money from Mud Bowl, raffles, product sales.

Mr. Davison questioned what makes up the usage fee. Ms. Howe said that is NCDCC's share toward the utilities, etc. for the building. Ms. Boucher noted there are grants coming in, but none going out. Ms. Howe reported the State of NH is trying to get new and young children covered, and NCDCC will be taking 13 month olds beginning the end of February. She noted one child care center in Conway closed this year, as well as three family homes. They are trying to meet that need. She noted the school population is down somewhat with the after school program and Project Succeed; however, during vacations they need to be able to take care of

those children. Ms. Stacey questioned whether they have anyone from Albany or Madison. Ms. Howe stated 90% are from the town of Conway.

**Gibson Center for Senior Services, Inc. – \$32,000** - George Cleveland presented the budget request, noting they are going into their 26<sup>th</sup> year of providing meals, transportation and social and educational programs to seniors, mostly Conway residents, also income eligible people with disabilities. 50,000 meals are served out of the North Conway facility yearly, with 74% of the meals and 98% of transportation services going to Conway residents. 82% of services overall are for the benefit of Conway residents. They receive \$14,631 per year in tax abatement, plus Conway's contribution of \$32,000, for a total of \$46,631. This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> year they have requested level funding.

Mr. Jones asked about the storm pack provided by the Center. Mr. Cleveland explained at the beginning of the winter they send home large boxes of food collected by the Boy Scouts for people to have in reserve in case the weather is bad and the Center cannot deliver.

**Vaughan Community Service, Inc. – \$3,000** - Sara Bechtold presented the budget request, noting VCS has been in the valley for 34 years and picks up the slack between the State agencies and local government, assisting people who have problems they cannot figure out. Ms. Bechtold said a lot of the assistance is with paperwork, determining eligibility, etc., meeting daily with people who need food, clothing, and other needs, especially given the number of layoffs and cut back on hours recently in the valley. They help homeless with no income. They try to encourage people to become more self sufficient. They also have a clothing depot, open on Weds., or by appointment when necessary. Ms. Bechtold reported that NCDCC is under the umbrella of VCS, but has a separate budget. She felt without VCS, NCDCC could not exist.

Mr. Jones noted employee benefits decreased. Ms. Bechtold reported she will be turning 60 this year and will be able to pick up her State medical benefits. Mr. Jones asked how people know about the depot. Ms. Bechtold stated it is word of mouth and through the church, and has been there for many years.

Ms. Boucher questioned whether they get donations like food through the town welfare department. Ms. Bechtold said because the town office decided to close its food pantry two years ago they refer people to VCS. Ms. Umberger stated VCS does get USDA food, donations from businesses in town, vegetables from farmers during the summer and fall, bread donated from a local baker – a wide variety of things from a wide variety of sources. Mr. Sires wished to clarify that the town did not decide to close the food pantry, but entered into an agreement with VCS. Ms. Bechtold stated she works closely with the town's Welfare Officer daily in an attempt to help. 97% of their clients are from Conway.

Mr. Martin noted that \$250 was budgeted for fundraising expenses, they spent \$2505. Ms. Bechtold said this was an attempt to balance the budget. Mr. Martin questioned depreciation expenses. Ms. Bechtold said that is to do with equipment donated to them – a stove, freezer; they rent the building from the church. Mr. Martin questioned whether there are still some grants coming in as they proposed \$15,000, actual was \$5625. Ms. Bechtold noted their budget year ends Sept. 30, they are never sure exactly when they will be asking for the grants.

**Center of Hope, Inc./Family Support Program – \$3,765** - Mary Ellen Cade and Marge Matthews presented the budget request. Ms. Matthews explained part of what they offer is supports and services from birth to 3 years of age; however, a big part of the program is adult services. They provide residential, case management services, respite services, environmental modifications, financial services. They are asking for assistance with the Family Support Program for developmentally disabled from birth to death. It was noted that under income the actual budget for 2004 was \$3,765, they are asking for that same amount again this year.

Ms. Cade, Family Support Coordinator, stated they provide advocacy and communication with other agencies, and financial assistance - the money gathered from the towns goes directly to the families for emergency assistance to non covered medical or dental, home modification, vehicle modification, respite. For instance, they helped a family put in a concrete pad for van accessibility, purchase equipment for kids when going on to secondary education; this year they are purchasing a service dog for a child who has autism. The money is used to directly support the family in whatever fashion they need when it cannot be obtained elsewhere.

Ms. Bean questioned early Supports and Services. Ms. Cade said that was previously called Early Intervention and is a separately funded program. When a child has a 33% delay, measured by evaluation, they are able to put in support for the kids to help them gain to where they should be so they can be equal to their peers.

Mr. Jones questioned camperships and personal futures planning. Ms. Cade explained camperships are like scholarships, but sometimes need a 1-on-1 aide (for instance, for therapeutic horse back riding), so that money goes to the facility so they can attend camp. Respitiability is a program for the caregivers of the person with the disability, primarily parents, where the adult gets one overnight stay at any hotel that is participating. Personal futures planning is sitting with the family, helping plan what the family would want to be thinking about as a family at a certain period, helping plan transition once the disabled person graduates from high school.

Ms. Boucher questioned how many other towns funds are being requested from, and was told there are 12. Ms. Cade said some of the towns fall under other towns - if they do not have anybody living in the town they are providing services to, they do not ask for funding. Ms. Stacey asked how many come back and help by serving on the Boards, "returning the favor" so to speak. Ms. Cade said they have a general support council with 8 or 9 members, the members have to be someone who has a family member with a developmental disability.

Ms. Matthews reported the only other help they receive from the town is through a payment in lieu of taxes program for five adult residential properties in Conway. Mr. Davison noted the Assessing Office shows Center of Hope has property valued in excess of \$800,000 that has not been taxed in the past. Mr. Sires said there is a pilot program whereby towns can work out an arrangement through the Board of Selectmen with qualified entities, applying the number for the school portion of the total rate. Ms. Matthews pointed out that has nothing to do with the Family Support Program. Mr. Jones questioned why it is the non school portion, where the school portion is by far the largest. Mr. Webster said the RSA cites non school. Ms. Bean explained the non school portion is on these homes because those residents do not go to our schools.

Mr. Jones questioned how many years they have been asking for the same amount (\$3,765)? Ms. Cade estimated 5 years.

Mr. Dighello questioned GM Expenses, noting nothing was budgeted in 2004, they spent \$22,393, and there is nothing budgeted in 2005. Ms. Matthews said the State makes them have a separate cost center for that – it is an accounting maneuver at the end of the year to take everything out of General Management and apply it.

Ms. Stacey questioned crises intervention. Ms. Cade said she carries a pager in order to be available 24/7 for situations where sometimes a child has to be hospitalized, sometimes families need a break, sometimes it has to happen quickly, putting people in place when people need to be there. She stated they want to be able to help families get to a place where they no longer need the Family Support Program. Out of the approximately 63 families helped this year, 56 are under age 21.

**White Mt. Community Health Center – \$35,565** - Patricia McMurry presented the budget request. Mr. Jones requested that in the future WMCHC use the forms provided by the town for its requests and would especially like to see the Town of Conway's donation shown.

Ms. McMurry said WMCHC's mission is a safety net for Conway residents in medical care, noting over 14.5% of Conway residents do not have health insurance or are underinsured, some do not have enough salary to support their medical needs. She noted that the auditors tell them to put the town appropriation in by calendar year – it still equates to \$67,967 in appropriations from all the towns. They are asking for level funding again this year.

Ms. McMurry stated another part time nurse midwife has been added this year, they have had a 20% increase in deliveries; they have doubled the number of male clients, have increased overall in almost all programs. It was noted with the State support increased slightly in terms of clinical staff, their supplies have increased as well. She said the medical equipment line increased because of two grants received in 2003 and items purchased in 2004.

Upon question of fundraising, Ms. McMurry explained that support staff has to be there to help the clinical staff provide services, so does not have the time to spend on fundraising during regular hours. They do get contributions from M&D Productions and Aubuchon's. Contributed services is stable – Memorial Hospital provides in-kind services, and provides a one-day-a-week physician. The building is rent free because it is owned by the Hospital; they also provide some equipment and accounting services.

Grants – Ms. McMurry stated the auditor says they have to put grants in the budget they receive the money in, when they use it, it needs to be reflected in that year. They received three grants that rolled over into 2005 for dental - no cost to the town. She stated they hope to sustain services provided in the Conway schools - a dental hygiene program, and going into preschools, etc., to provide sealants to cut down on cavities. They have received a grant for equipment, and one for a consultant to help in the application process for a \$650,000 federal health care grant – it is a 200 page application.

Ms. McMurry stated the Conway site is the largest and deals with transportation, mental health, substance abuse, case management and the teen program. They receive some support

from Maine and have asked those towns for appropriations, also some from southern Carroll County. Mr. Davison questioned percentages provided to residents of Conway, noting the consumers are from Conway, and wished to know how they arrived at only 14% of Conway residents that do not have medical care. Ms. McMurry agreed to get that information to him, but also referred him to the narrative.

Ms. Umberger questioned contributed services under Support - \$124,512. Ms. McMurry noted that \$39,000 of the physician cost is reflected in that line, also a nurse midwife – it is just one of the costs in there. Also under Professional Services and Fees, the hospital contributes \$9,000 for accounting. Ms. Umberger said she cannot see how they arrived at contributed costs since they have lumped both contributed and true expenses into one line – it does not show how much the hospital is contributing to their operation, and she questions that the hospital is only contributing \$124,000 out of a \$1 million budget. Ms. McMurry stated they also contribute to other agencies; it is her understanding that there is not a specific percentage they have to contribute. Ms. Bean requested a breakdown of expenses and the exact contributed cost services. Ms. McMurry will email this.

Ms. Boucher questioned number of towns they get money from. Ms. McMurry said there are 12 including Denmark and Lovell. They go south as far as Ossipee and Freedom, also to Eaton and Albany. Ms. Boucher questioned if they do not get funding from the town of Conway what they will cut? Ms. McMurry stated if they cut services they would probably have to cut staff, but she does not know exactly what that cut would be. Mr. Weathers noted the physician is in there, but the fee is \$39,000. Ms. McMurry stated that also includes two certified midwives, part time.

Mr. Martin noted under town appropriation, based on the \$67,967, the requested \$35,565 from Conway amounts to over 50%, but only 43% of the services are used by Conway, and he questions what justifies Conway carrying the other towns. Ms. McMurry said we count patients and visits, but not other services such as flu shots (they provided 104 this year) – the majority comes from Conway; under educational services, the bulk of teen services are for Conway teens (Kennett is the only high school they serve). They go into the school as an outreach worker and also have teen visits. She said those services are not included in that 43% because they are varied and hard to quantify.

Mr. Dighello noted salaries increased over \$100,000 along with corresponding increase in the benefit package. Ms. McMurry said the Maternal and Child Health Dept. gave more money to provide more services – they enlarged primary care, there was an increase in number of adults who have annuals, and increase in medical assistance, and they added two days a week a practitioner and nurse midwife. She explained that because the State gave more money, they required them to provide more services.

Mr. Paquette noted there is outreach and caring for the youth, and questioned what percentage of older people they are serving? Ms. McMurry said only about 1% of the population is Medicare. They feel the reason is people have known them as a children's center; also people who have Medicare benefits typically have a Medicare provider and do not come to a safety net provider. Mr. Paquette pointed out the closest medical provider for veterans is in Concord, so a person has to drive to Vermont or Concord, there is none provided in the valley for veterans. It was noted that now Saco River Medical is an outreach facility for veterans. Mr. Davison, noting

rent is free, questioned whether heat and electricity are included. Ms. McMurry told him it includes everything except housekeeping.

**Starting Point - \$2600** – Suzette Chaine, Executive Director, explained this service is for victims of domestic and sexual violence, and offers 24 hour crisis/support line, hospital and court advocacy, emergency shelter and transportation, financial assistance. They provide support groups and educational programming in schools throughout the county. They are asking for level funding based on population percentage throughout the county, and are seeking funding from 15 towns in Carroll County. The money provides direct services to victims in the shelter. (They have an 11 bed emergency shelter which they own.) They receive abatement on property taxes of \$3200 from the town. Ms. Umberger questioned why they are paying rent and was told it is for an office in Conway and one in Ossipee.

Ms. Boucher questioned interest listed under income, and why the figures are not carried over. Ms. Chaine explained she took over after the budget was developed so does not have that answer, but will get it to her. Ms. Boucher questioned volunteer expenses. Ms. Chaine stated that is reimbursement for mileage and for telephone calls for those who answer the crisis line from their homes, travel to training, and a year-end volunteer appreciation evening.

Mr. Jones questioned Americorps - \$4500. Ms. Chaine explained their Americorps member does a year of service beginning in Sept. and works 37.5 hours in the office, providing direct services to victims in the court system, providing advocacy in court, and does the education program. Mr. Jones noted she is paid by the government, and wished to know why Starting Point is paying \$4500? Ms. Chaine said Starting Point is responsible for that portion so that she can be located at their service, and the agreement is that they will pay for her mileage.

Mr. Martin pointed out there is a surplus of about \$80,000 and the budget projected for 2005 is down about \$42,000 below the budget of 2004, resulting in about \$100,000, when comparing to last year, that they did not need. He commented this is a tough tax year, and questioned whether this is an habitual request, whether it is a case of keeping it in the pipeline or they will lose it? Ms. Chaine said they did receive \$52,000 last year that is meant to be used during this current fiscal budget cycle; the other \$32,000 she said she could not find, but would get that answer. She pointed out that they just received the audit, did have extra money from the State to put in a reserve fund, and the reason they need the town's funding is because if they do not have it they cannot get matching grants.

Mr. Dighello noted salaries went up about 9% over what was spent in 2004. Ms. Chaine said they had budgeted for one of the positions, but it was not filled for the first four months of the year.

Questions which Ms. Chaine agreed to provides answers for: why a surplus; why the budget came in less than 2004; why they still need the \$2600; a breakdown of the \$80,000 surplus. Mr. Davison suggested they look into the possibility that the \$2600 requested be absorbed into the budget and they utilize the abatement in place of it.

**Loon Preservation Committee (LPC) - \$500** – Harry Vogle presented the request for LPC which is under the umbrella of the Audubon Society. He stated LPC was created in 1975 because of a perceived decline of loons in NH which they are trying to reverse and encourage

greater respect for loons and the environment in NH. They have placed loon nesting rafts – about one out of every four loon chicks is hatched on one of those rafts, one out of every two chicks born in the State has benefited from the Loon Preservation Center efforts.

Budget – Their fiscal year runs April thru March. They are requesting \$500 from each of 17 towns. Ms. Boucher suggested under income they should show the \$500 being requested for 2005. Mr. Vogle stated this request is for the fiscal year 2006 budget. He reported that last year they received \$20,000 from Fish & Game. Mr. Paquette questioned salaries – Mr. Vogle stated the Executive Director is the highest paid employee and makes less than \$40,000 a year.

Mr. Weathers questioned the program on Conway Lake. Mr. Vogle said it is through our agency, we coordinate volunteers. Mr. Weathers questioned population increase or decrease in this area. Mr. Vogle stated State-wide the population has doubled, over the past five years they have actually seen a decline – now reporting a 7% decline in population overall. Ms. Stacey asked if there are other lakes in this area they provide service for. Mr. Vogle told her Pea Porridge Pond and Silver Lake, and they are trying to expand also to those lakes that do not now have a loon population.

Ms. Boucher noted under lodging, actual expenses shows \$9,178, budgeted \$23,588, increasing to \$24,525 this year. Mr. Vogle explained in the last fiscal year they got a grant funding mileage, and field staff previously paid for that – that shifted to the budget. Ms. Boucher questioned insurance. Mr. Vogle said they are covered under the Audubon.

**Carroll County Mental Health Service – \$7,500** – Laurie Brodeur and Terry Bollinger presented the budget request. It was explained CCMHS provides mental health services, including counseling, psychiatric treatment and medications, vocational services, case management 24-hour emergency services, specialized children's services, psycho-educational groups, residential services, and school, home and community-based treatment. 341 citizens from the town of Conway were served this year, or 30% of all clients served. Average number of hours per client in Conway is 91, 19% of all consumers are self-pay. They offer services based on a sliding fee scale; for alternative funding sources they have applied for grants. It was noted that the Governor's Commission grant for substance abuse services funded a full time position in the Conway area, they are currently looking at offering more support in the school, specifically Kennett High. They are requesting funding from 17 towns.

Mr. Webster noted expenses for 2004 were \$764,000, and they are budgeting \$1,047,887 for 2005. Ms. Bollinger explained that salaries, benefits and taxes represent 82% of their budget. Mr. Davison noted the numbers provided in the 2004 budget for personnel were actually a flat amount that had been carried forward from previous years, he does not believe the 2004 figures were accurate. He noted they had received about \$200,000 more from the federal government than actually budgeted for in revenue, and are anticipating only about \$40,000 from this. Ms. Brodeur said the State is Medicaid/Medicare – the column is outdated, actual increase is an estimated 3.5% over last year.

Mr. Davison noted telephone was budgeted at \$12,000, it was actually \$6,000. Ms. Bollinger said the 2004 actual numbers are not accurate and they have based their 2005 budget on the actual audit from 2004. Ms. Boucher questioned the travel and lodging budget. Ms. Bollinger said the 2004 budget column is not accurate - it is the mileage expense reimbursement

for employees when they are transporting clients. Mr. Sires questioned the 1.25 employee positions under psychiatrist. Ms. Bollinger stated it is actually two individuals, the same as with the clinical administrator position.

Ms. Stacey asked if they did not receive funding from Conway whether they could continue services? Ms. Brodeur stated they would continue, but it is important for every town to contribute; 90% of their funding is Medicaid/Medicare and they do not know what they will get from State funding - quality of service would suffer. Ms. Bollinger said there may be some who have no insurance who would not receive services at all if not for the town contribution.

**North Conway Community Center, Inc. – \$70,000** - Carol Chalmers and Deryl Fleming presented the budget request and introduced several supporters of the Center. Ms. Chalmers stated NCCC is a private non profit owned and operated by a volunteer Board of Directors and costs \$90,000 to operate yearly over and above Conway's contribution – Conway is receiving \$160,000 in services for \$70,000. They also provide a facility for Boy Scouts and the Outing Club, and the building serves also as public restrooms for the village. Eastern Slope Ski Club and Mountain Garden Club use the building, and NCCC supports the Key Club and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Washington trip.

There was question of duplication of programs – Ms. Chalmers said both recreation centers offer different programs and serve different children, but children may attend either program. She suggested that to ask one center to do the job of two they feel would compromise the programs available to our children.

Mr. Jones questioned playground grants. Ms. Chalmers said they are not projecting any this year – they are writing grants now to get money to paint the building. Ms. Boucher questioned what programs they have been working with the town on. Ms. Chalmers said they do the Easter Egg Hunt, play each other in basketball and softball, and they invite CRC to their day camp, as well as other events. Mr. DiGregorio questioned whether they have a basketball program for travel. Ms. Chalmers said they have a 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade team which plays Tamworth and Bartlett, and 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade travel team; for football their program requires helmets and children who play with helmets cannot play against children who don't. They have left it up to the parents to choose whether they want their children to wear helmets or not.

Mr. Davison stated you applaud the fact that you are non profit, you do not get a lot of grants, if so you need to show them. He noted the total budget to recreate our kids in the town of Conway is \$421,000 – it is a division. He questioned whether they serve anyone from Conway or Center Conway and was told they have one in the day care program and one in basketball.

Ms. Stacey asked how they advertise their programs. Ms. Chalmers stated they send application forms to John Fuller School – that is the only place as they are maxed out in programs. Ms. Fleming noted they have sent things to other schools and there seems to be a certain feeling about them “horning in on programs.” Ms. Stacey questioned summer program activities. Ms. Chalmers said they run from 9-3, Mon.-Thur., special events are held on Friday such as trips to Story Land and the water parks, etc. They charge \$5.00 a week for that program, but would waive the fee if a child cannot afford it. For transportation to these events they use the school bus for which there is about a \$1,000 fee – it is a safety issue.

Ms. Boucher questioned office and program supplies (overspent). Ms. Chalmers said they updated some uniforms. Mr. Davison questioned salaries for Director and Assistant and was told that is set by the Board of Directors. Ms. Stacey questioned where the \$5.00 paid by participants for the events shows up in the budget, and was told it is under programs and funding.

Mr. DiGregorio questioned the Sprague Foundation. Ms. Chalmers explained it is an endowment from Charles Sprague, they have about \$100,000 in that account as back up in case something goes wrong with the building. Mr. DiGregorio noted if they are only allowed to use it for programs, is that a conflict? Ms. Chalmers stated that is why they ask the town for money, noting that people do not give money to fix steps or paint the building.

Ms. Boucher questioned in the 2002 budget what the \$3,916.48 was used for and was told it was to cover a program shortfall. Mr. Davison questioned rent. Ms. Chalmers said as a sponsor for RSVP, NCCC pays their rent at the facility - \$4,000. Ms. Bean, noting they are a private non profit organization, questioned whether that means they have to get grant money? Ms. Chalmers stated they could not have done the playground without it, local foundations have been very helpful.

Mr. DiGregorio wished to establish an appropriate time to discuss how both recreation centers calculate total visits. Ms. Umberger advised him to go to the Selectmen with that request.

**Conway Village Area Chamber of Commerce – \$2,400** - Joseph Quirk presented the budget request noting that CVACC is Conway's "Welcome Wagon," they promote and keep jobs in the valley, also promote the Conway Village Festival, Chili Cook Off, and Christmas Festival. He noted they have been asking for \$3,000 most years, but are sensitive to the needs of the town this year and have dropped that request to \$2400. He stated they have saved the town money over the years by running that booth and are well below what other communities donate to their booths. They provide 30,000 volunteer hours.

Mr. Jones questioned the reduction in personnel, previously \$20,800 with zero benefits. Mr. Quirk said they went with another Director who is doing the job for less money and does not require employee benefits. Also they are a "working Board" during the not so busy season. Ms. Stacey questioned plans for village beautification. Mr. Quirk said they put up real Christmas wreaths in the village and provide flowers for the flower pots. Mr. DiGregorio asked whether they provide space for businesses from other towns to display brochures and whether they charge for that. Mr. Quirk said they do have a rack membership fee to display there.

Ms. Boucher noted under income, other fees, for 2004 they budgeted \$10,000, actual income was \$2359, they are projecting \$2700. Mr. Quirk said he was not sure, that there might be some income they took in from advertising from other areas that may not come through at this point.

**Children Unlimited – \$7,500** - Jackie Sparks presented the budget noting that the most outstanding change this year is a significant reduction in the proposed budget versus actual 2004 budget, due solely to a major reduction in State funding, and reflects about a 23% reduction in this program. She stated that over the last two years they have had a 47% reduction. They have had to dramatically cut most lines. Benefits have risen because of health insurance increases,

some of their paid care professionals have dropped insurance because of cost. Ms. Sparks stated they have had to drop people, have reduced hours, and number of attendees in the program has been higher in general over the last year. 35 of the 75 children they serve are residents of Conway. It was noted this program is specifically for 0-3 years of age, nothing to do with the day care program – it is just the State's contract to provide Early Intervention Services for birth to 3 years.

Ms. Bean said she cannot comprehend the benefits being 50% of the total personnel budget. Ms. Sparks said they have three managerial positions that have been there for 19 years and get full benefits, and others that they pay something toward - they had a 33% increase in insurance costs this year. The Board of Directors sets those benefits and they have been in lieu of raises over the past 3 years, prior to that they were receiving only five to ten cent raises.

Mr. Jones questioned equipment maintenance, actual \$5,000, nothing proposed for next year. Ms. Sparks explained this budget is handed to them by the State and they have to make that work – they either would have to fire everyone or eliminate things. She said they are already eating a loss in that program because it is not realistic. Mr. Jones questioned if in reducing personnel and the budget, they have also reduced services? Ms. Sparks told him no, that they have to look once a year at the number of personnel providing services, and according to the State have to have one personnel for every ten families – right now they are serving between 38 and 40 children each month with 2.4 full time equivalent people.

Ms. Boucher questioned how many other towns they get funding from. Ms. Sparks said the 9 towns of northern Carroll County, noting State, Part C, has been pulled out of this area. The money they are asking for this year is all going to programs which are available for all children whether or not they have the ability to pay (this is covering basically those who do not have the ability to pay).

Ms. Stacey questioned Medicaid, whether they will be able to survive with the proposed cutbacks? Ms. Sparks said this program is primarily funded on the backs of our Medicaid children, rates have not increased for a long time, income for that vacillates on number of children who have Medicaid and those who don't. She said that will definitely impact them if they do not figure out a way to solve the problem. Ms. Sparks explained under income, DDS-State Take Back, when they set the budget in April they give CU a number to work with. In June they decided to take more money away (\$37,794), CU went into their budget year thinking they would have \$37,000 more, and never saw it.

Mr. Martin noted they have a 20% increase in employee benefits, and 50% reduction in employee compensation, and ended up with 2.4 people on staff. He said he can understand the 20% increase, but wished to know what they had for staff last year. Ms. Sparks said there were 3.5 or 4 employees, those were the only ones who got benefits; that person who left did not require insurance.

Ms. Umberger noted Family Support stated they work with the same age group of children. Ms. Sparks explained Center of Hope is the area agency that is responsible for all developmentally disabled citizens birth to death, and in that is a family component. All of CU's money comes through the Center of Hope, Family Support has a liaison that does CU's intakes, CU is a vendor of Family Support – there has to be a central intake through FSP, they fill out a

form, it comes to CU and they do all the work. FSP does not serve the birth to 3 population in any other way.

Mr. Davison asked whether Children Unlimited has a mortgage on the building? Ms. Sparks stated they own the building and receive a tax abatement from the town. They saved \$1,000 a month by buying that building.

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Ms. Bean announced that Ted Sares has informed her of his decision to resign from the Budget Committee effective 2/10/05. She stated the Committee can vote to accept that or take it under advisement.

**Motion was made by Ms. Stacey, seconded by Mr. Jones, to take Mr. Sares' notice of decision to resign under advisement and not accept it yet. The motion carried with 11 votes in the affirmative and an abstention by Ms. Deschenes.**

**At 12:55 p.m. Motion was made by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. DiGregorio and carried, that the meeting be adjourned.**

Respectfully submitted,

Gail T. Currier  
Recording Secretary