

**MINUTES OF PUBLIC HEARING  
MUNICIPAL BUDGET COMMITTEE  
PRECINT BUDGETS  
February 9, 2005**

A meeting of the Municipal Budget Committee was called to order at 6:04 p.m. in the Gymnasium of Conway Elementary School with the following present: Janine Bean, Ted Sares, Melissa Stacey, Betty Boucher, Phil Dighello, Michael DiGregorio, Doug Swett, Maureen Seavey, Selectmen's Rep., Karen Umberger; School Board Rep., Deb Deschenes. [Note: Randy Davison joined the hearing at 6:20 p.m., Rick Paquette at 6:30 p.m.]

**East Conway Fire Department:** Michael Valladares presented the budget for 2005 with a bottom line of \$36,850 to be raised by taxes. There were no questions from the public.

**Motion was made by Mr. Sares, seconded by Ms. Stacey, that the Budget Committee vote to recommend \$36,850 for the East Conway Fire Department budget. Carried 10-0-0.**

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**Center Conway Fire Precinct:** Nancy Leavitt verified the proposed appropriation of \$160,688, including \$40,000 in special warrant articles, with \$154,562 to be raised by taxes. There were no questions from the public.

**Motion was made by Mr. Sares, seconded by Ms. Stacey, that the Budget Committee recommend \$154,562 for the Center Conway Fire Precinct budget. Carried 10-0-0.**

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**Birch Hill Water District:** Dave Jensen presented the budget request for 2005 of \$48,726 to be raised by taxes. Discussion: Mr. Sares questioned whether the deal to purchase the water system has been consummated with Pennichuck? Mr. Jensen said they have signed papers. Mr. Sares said if the budget is rescinded and given back to Birch Hill they then have to refund the residents. Since there is some question as to how that is done, Mr. Sares expressed concern that the Budget Committee should not get involved in the legal machinations with Pennichuck.

Mr. Jensen said it is his understanding that Pennichuck and Consolidated Water have signed an agreement for the sale of several water systems, of which Birch Hill is one. The PUC will have to hold a public hearing. He stated there should not be a problem, they only have to ascertain that the purchaser is fully qualified to run a water system. Mr. Jensen said it is probable that the consummation of that sale will not occur until after their annual meeting - they either have to pass the budget as proposed or, at the annual meeting, zero out all the items they do not want in, based on their hope that the deal will go through. He stated if Pennichuck buys Consolidated Water and has control of the water system, none of the items in the budget are relevant any more; depending on the situation, they may not be requesting any funds.

**Motion was made by Mr. Sares, seconded by Ms. Seavey, that the Budget Committee recommend approval of the Birch Hill Water District budget in the amount of \$48,726. The motion carried with 9 votes in the affirmative, Ms. Boucher voting in the negative, and Mr. Davison abstaining.**

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**Redstone Fire District:** Rod Henry and David Pandora presented the budget for Redstone Fire District in the amount of \$42,000. There were no questions from the public.

**Motion was made by Mr. Sares, seconded by Ms. Seavey, that the Budget Committee recommend approval of the budget for Redstone Fire District in the amount of \$42,000. The motion carried 11-0-0.**

There being no further comment the Chair declared the public hearing closed at 6:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail T. Currier  
Recording Secretary