

**MINUTES OF MEETING
MUNICIPAL BUDGET COMMITTEE
March 14, 2005**

A meeting of the Municipal Budget Committee was called to order at 6:32 p.m. in the meeting room of Conway Town Hall with the following present: Janine Bean (Chair), Melissa Stacey, Betty Boucher, Randy Davison, Phil Dighello, Michael DiGregorio, Ted Sares, Maureen Seavey, Russ Seybold, Doug Swett, Karen Umberger (Selectmen's Representative), and Acting Recording Secretary, Karen Hallowell.

Ms. Bean advised that Committee member, Rick Paquette, would be joining the meeting late.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Sares moved, seconded by Ms. Umberger, to approve the minutes of March 7, 2005 as written. The motion carried 9-0-2 with Betty Boucher and Russ Seybold abstaining.

RECORDING SECRETARY POSITION

There was discussion regarding the replacement of the Recording Secretary for the Budget Committee due to the resignation of Gail Currier after twenty-five years of service. Mr. Sares suggested Martha Tobin for the position. Mr. Sares advised that Ms. Tobin prepares minutes for the school board and does a good job. A discussion ensued as to whether or not this position should be advertised. **Mr. Seybold moved, seconded by Mr. Davison, that in this particular case, that we do advertise for a Recording Secretary for the Budget Committee.** There was a brief discussion as to the job description for the Recording Secretary for the Budget Committee. It was pointed out that this person would record minutes of the meetings and that Karen Hallowell provides other administrative support for the Budget Committee. There was next brief discussion as to who the names would be submitted to for the position and Ms. Bean indicated that the ad in the newspaper would state that anyone interested should submit their name to Town Hall. After further brief discussion Mr. Sares called the question and all agreed. **A vote was taken and the motion carried 6-5-0.** Mr. Sares then protested that this discussion was held before Rick Paquette arrived at the meeting. Mr. Davison pointed out that the meeting was scheduled to begin at 6:30 p.m. Ms. Bean advised that the position of Recording Secretary would be advertised in the local newspaper with a two week notice for receiving responses.

**RECONSIDERATION OF AMENDED WARRANT ARTICLES OF
DELIBERATIVE PORTION OF TOWN MEETING OF MARCH 7, 2005**

Article 36/Loon Preservation Committee – **Ms. Stacey moved, seconded by Betty Boucher, to recommend Article 36 as amended.** Ms. Umberger

advised that the Board of Selectmen voted 4-0 to recommend this article as amended. Ms. Bean explained this would mean recommending the article for zero dollars. **The motion carried 10-1-0, with Mr. Sares voting in the negative.**

Budget Committee member, Rick Paquette, joined the meeting at 6:57 p.m.

Article 28/Eastern Slope Airport Authority – Mr. Sares moved, seconded by Ms. Umberger, to recommend Article 28 as amended. There was lengthy discussion by the Committee both in support and in opposition to the warrant article for the Eastern Slope Airport Authority. Arguments in support of the Airport included that it is being run very well, they have a business plan and are now readying to work on a master plan in accordance with FAA regulations, that the Airport has heard what this Committee has asked for in the past and they have been responsive, that from a planning perspective growth in valley is considerable--both commercial and residential and the need for a good regional airport is important both now and in the future, and, further, the importance of the airport for emergency needs. Arguments against the airport included that some Committee members did not agree with the fact that the Airport came to Town Meeting and changed their request; that the Airport does not service as many people in this community as some of the other non profits, that not many common citizens use the airport, and, that the airport is in Fryeburg, Maine. Further, some Committee members felt that the taxpayers already had enough on their plate without supporting this article as well. Ms. Umberger explained that this is a regional airport and that it is not just Fryeburg's airport and that the site was chosen as this was an area that could be expanded if necessary. Ms. Umberger also reported to the Committee that the Board of Selectmen had voted 4-0-0 to support this warrant article as amended. After further discussion Ms. Bean reviewed the motion with the Board and called the question. **A vote was taken and the motion carried 7-5-0, with Ms. Bean, Seavey, and Umberger, and Mssrs. Seybold, DiGregorio, Swett and Sares voting in the affirmative, and Ms. Stacey and Boucher and Mssrs. Dighello, Davison and Paquette voting in the negative.**

**RECONSIDERATION OF AMENDED WARRANT ARTICLES OF
DELIBERATIVE PORTION OF SCHOOL MEETING OF MARCH 9, 2005**

Article 2/Operating Budget – Ms. Bean asked for a motion to recommend Article 2 as amended at the Deliberative Portion. **Mr. Seybold moved, seconded by Mr. Sares, to recommend Article 2 as amended in the amount of \$27,468,250.** There was discussion by the Committee as to which way to vote on this article. It was felt by some that if you vote no on this warrant article it would be hurting the taxpayers while others felt that in the end the taxpayers would be well enough informed to understand why the committee did not recommend this article if the vote went that way. Other members of the committee felt the only way to go was to abstain from voting on this recommendation. Mr. Sares called the question and there were no objections.

Ms. Bean reiterated the motion for the Committee. **A vote was taken and the motion carried 3-0-9 with Ms. Seavey and MSSRs. Seybold and Sares voting in the affirmative and Ms. Bean, Umberger, Stacey, and Boucher and MSSRs. DiGregorio, Swett, Dighello, Davison and Paquette abstaining.**

OTHER BUSINESS

Janine Bean appealed to the public to get out to the polls on April 12, 2005 and vote.

Melissa Stacy thanked Janine Bean for chairing the Budget Committee for the 2004-2005 budget season. There was applause from the Committee. Ms. Bean commented that overall the Committee worked well together and put in a lot of time and effort.

Maureen Seavey thanked Doug Swett for his many years of service on the Budget Committee. Ted Sares pointed out that Betty Boucher has served on this Committee for many years as well.

Mr. Sares stated that after the April 12, 2005 election, the Committee will need to have a meeting to elect a new chair. Ms. Bean pointed out that new members will also need to be sworn in after the election and that school budgets will need to be reviewed at the organizational meeting. Mr. Sares suggested that Ms. Stacey arrange the organizational meeting as she is the Vice Chair and all agreed.

ADJOURN

Ms. Stacey moved, seconded by Ms. Boucher, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen J. Hallowell
Acting Recording Secretary