

**MINUTES OF MEETING  
MUNICIPAL BUDGET COMMITTEE  
June 8, 2005**

A meeting of the Municipal Budget Committee was called to order at 6:32 p.m. in the meeting room of the Conway Town Hall with the following members present: Rick Paquette, Randy Davison, Bob Drinkhall, Phil Dighello, Bill Jones, Betty Boucher, Debra Deschenes, Maureen Seavey, Chairperson Melissa Stacey, Carl Rosenthal, Russ Seybold (Karen Umberger arrived at 6:34, Bill Aughton arrived at 6:37). Also present was Carl Nelson, Superintendent SAU #9.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**Bob Drinkhall moved, seconded by Debra Deschenes, to approve the minutes of April 27, 2005 as amended (added).** Chairperson Stacey asked if there were any corrections and Maureen Seavey noted that on page one, those members present includes Kirk Smith who is identified as being the representative from the North Conway Water Precinct, which is incorrect. It was clarified that Mr. Smith is the Birch Hill Water Precinct Representative. There were no further corrections (the motion was changed to include the amending of the minutes). **The motion carried 10-0-1 (Paquette, Davison, Drinkhall, Dighello, Boucher, Deschenes, Seavey, Stacey, Rosenthal and Seybold positive; Jones abstaining).**

CONSIDERATION OF RESIGNATION OF BUDGET COMMITTEE MEMBER

Chairperson Stacey noted that Ted had sent the following message on April 28, 2005:

Dear fellow Committee members,

Please be advised that, effective immediately, I am resigning from the Budget Committee for pressing personal reasons. I have thoroughly enjoyed my 4 plus years on the Committee and commend each and every one of you for being diligent and conscientious colleagues. I wish you well in the future.

Sincerely,

Ted Sares  
North Conway

PS: Concurrently, I have also resigned from the Planning Board.

**Bill Jones moved, seconded by Phil Dighello, to accept the resignation.** Chairperson Stacey opened the motion for discussion and Betty Boucher noted that she is going to vote against this, stating there is more to the story than what we've heard. Bill Jones noted that he was away in Florida, as pre-arranged, when this happened. Bill noted that at the last meeting he attended regarding the non-profits, Ted resigned at that time and Bill had supported keeping him on the Committee. Again, Ted has resigned and Bill respects the reason given and will vote to accept it. Chairperson Stacey would like to know if the Board wants to send a letter to him (Karen Umberger arrives). Maureen Seavey stated she is going to vote for this, as it is what Ted wants to do. **The motion passed 9-3-0 (Davison, Drinkhall, Dighello, Deschenes, Seavey, Jones, Umberger, Rosenthal and Seybold positive; Paquette, Boucher and Stacey opposed).** (Bill Aughton arrives).

**Bill Jones moved, seconded by Maureen Seavey, to send a letter to Ted Sares thanking him for his dedicated and educated service. The motion passed unanimously.**

Phil Dighello noted he has been away for the last meeting and he'd like the new members to introduce themselves, which they did.

#### APPOINTMENT TO FILL VACANCY

Chairperson Stacey asked how the Committee wanted to go about filling the vacancy, should it be an appointment or should we advertise in the newspaper. Karen Umberger noted that filling vacancies by appointment has been the typical method and she sees no reason not to do the same with this one. Russ Seybold believes it is best to advertise so no one can come back and say they were unaware that a seat was available. Maureen Seavey asked if we have anyone who is interested and Chairperson Stacey noted that she has someone but she is not going to bring the name forward until the Committee decides if it will advertise or simply appoint. Rick Paquette agrees with advertising the position. We don't want to be perceived as organizing the Committee by filling vacancies with people we know. Betty Boucher thought we had already agreed earlier this year to appoint for open seats. Bill Jones believes we should advertise that way we'll know who is interested, Carl Rosenthal agrees as it might bring out folks we would otherwise not know were interested. Betty asked if we have the money in the budget to pay for advertising and Chairperson Stacey noted we have enough right now to advertise but it wouldn't surprise her to see we have to go back to the Selectmen to ask for more money. At our last meeting we had roughly \$850 with a bill of \$105 for the last set of minutes. Maureen says that we have new members on the Committee since the original discussion Betty referred to. Chairperson Stacey agrees, noting that is why we are having this discussion. Bill Jones would like to know how much a meeting runs and Chairperson Stacey noted about \$100. The Recording Secretary noted that was for the last meeting, which was her first. Previous billings ran around \$200. It was clarified that the funds we have left still have to keep us operational through June and that if the Committee does run short of funds the Selectmen have to fund it.

**Karen Umberger moved, seconded by Russ Seybold, to advertise the vacancy on the Committee.** Chairperson Stacey opened the motion for discussion and was asked how many vacancies there are on the Committee, which there is one. Bob Drinkhall would like to know what an ad is going to cost; have we done ads before and do they work? Chairperson Stacey noted that we have run ads in the Conway Daily Sun and we only received one response. Rick Paquette still believes we should advertise. Randy Davison wonders if it would be a waste of money but would like to know how much we are talking about. The last ad was \$96 but we don't know when the ad ran. (Lucy Philbrick joined the meeting in the audience). Bill Jones called a Point of Order and asked if the motion was seconded, which it had been. Maureen Seavey stated that she hadn't been aware that we were going to discuss this tonight. Chairperson Stacey noted it is on the agenda. Russ Seybold suggested a compromise, rather than running the ad a week, we run it Thursday through Saturday. He believes we have a moral, if not legal, obligation to advertise the vacancy, but it doesn't have to go on the biggest billboard in town. Bill Aughton feels that offering the vacancy through an ad gives the Committee credibility. Carl Rosenthal believes we should run an ad annually just to get names of folks who

would be interested in serving on the Committee. Chairperson Stacey noted we don't typically have this many vacancies and noted that by all rights, any member of the public offers their interest if they choose to run in the April elections. She also stated that even an appointee has to run in the election following their appointment if they want to keep a position on the Committee. Maureen noted perhaps we could use the television to ask folks who are interested to apply. Bill Jones calls the question. Chairperson Stacey reminded all that the vote is to advertise the vacancy. **The motion passed 9-4-0 (Seybold, Paquette, Davison, Jones, Deschenes, Seavey, Rosenthal, Aughton and Umberger positive; Drinkhall, Boucher, Dighello and Stacey negative).**

**Bill Jones moved, seconded by Carl Rosenthal, to run the ad Thursday through Saturday. The motion passed 11-2-0 (Seybold, Paquette, Davison, Jones, Drinkhall, Dighello, Deschenes, Seavey, Rosenthal, Aughton and Umberger positive; Boucher and Stacey negative).**

Bill Jones asked if we should put a date on this and Chairperson Stacey noted she would run the ad as soon as possible. Randy Davison asked if we would be setting a date to fill the vacancy and Chairperson Stacey noted we would do that at our meeting in September, which is our next scheduled review. She reminded folks that we save money by not holding a special meeting just to approve a new member. Maureen Seavey queried if that means we are running the ad now but not voting until September and Chairperson Stacey affirmed this is the case. The Committee agreed to set a deadline of thirty days for interested candidates to get their letters in to the Committee.

#### SWEAR IN NEW COMMITTEE MEMBER(S)

All members have been sworn in prior to this meeting.

#### TOWN BUDGET REVIEW

Chairperson Stacey noted that Earl Sires was unable to attend due to personal issues but he gave us Lucy Philbrick and we have Karen Umberger as the Selectmen's representative as well, both of whom can answer questions for the Committee.

Chairperson Stacey noted we made a mistake last year and asked Lucy to explain this. Lucy noted that we had voted in a bottom line budget. (See letter from DRA dated May 26, 2005). What we have to do is put a dollar amount in for each department. Karen Umberger noted that by voting a bottom line budget, it was assumed that Lucy would just move the numbers over, keeping everything the same. Chairperson Stacey asked how we approve this and Lucy noted that the next time we discuss the budget, the Committee will vote on each department amount. Russ Seybold noted we had discussion on all the line items and there was no question in our minds as to what we were approving. All the Committee needs to do is enter the amount per department or give Lucy the right to enter those figures for us. Karen noted that when the Committee had approved different numbers for the School budget, Janine Bean (former Chair) had substituted those figures for the Committee. Bill Jones would like to know if that would lock any line item in at a fixed amount and Karen noted that it is a matter of authority, all we've done is agree to the bottom line. Lucy noted that the DRA is asking for the figures by department – Police, Executive, Finance – not for a line-by-line accounting. Russ Seybold asked if we thought that the legal line was \$10,000 too much and we reduced it from \$50,000 to

\$40,000 then the bottom line would reflect \$10,000 less and Karen noted that is not necessarily the case unless you kept all other departments the same. Randy asked if the numbers we are looking at are supposed to match because they don't, they are off by \$17. Lucy explained the difference. Chairperson Stacey asked if there were any questions on the town budget. Karen noted we are at 71% spent for the year. We haven't yet paid our insurance bill for this year also the Parks and Recreation Department just started any upgrades or work after the April review. She reminded folks that when we look at the budget in September the Highway Department is going to be skewed, as they will be doing paving over the summer. Karen noted we are in really good shape with no significant concerns. Betty Boucher would like to know if we are getting back any percentage cut in insurance, like the school received and Karen noted that our insurance numbers are set in September.

Revenues are running a bit ahead. Chairperson Stacey asked if this is where we would see income from police working highway detail and Lucy affirmed this, saying it shows under police income. Betty would like to know if she could see a list of when grants started and when they run out. Lucy noted we don't have any grants this year. Karen noted that we did receive grants for specific purposes – money for the motorcycle police, Thor the police dog and bulletproof vests. Lucy noted there are no large grants that are funded 80/20. Carl Rosenthal stated that the information from January to April of '04 must be somewhere and he thinks it would be helpful to be able to compare that with this year's figures. Lucy noted she could add that information to the report she will run for the Committee for its September meeting. The Committee agreed it would like that.

Bill Jones noted that under taxes from 91 – 98 it shows no money in. He understands that we aren't collecting taxes but is there not some interest collected here. Lucy noted most liens are on the Kearsarge Metallurgical site and we aren't going to collect anything on that. Bill would like to see that go away then if we aren't going to go anywhere with it. Karen noted that, just so everyone understands, there is a timeframe involved when people don't pay their taxes and the town makes an arrangement for them to pay a certain sum or the town takes the property. From that time on we are charging interest at usury rates, somewhere around 12% now. She stated that is what you see in the later years, the interest people are paying on their back taxes. Bill Jones noted that given this market, there must be some property the town has that it can sell. Karen noted we have a tax sale every year if we have property. She doesn't know what we have on the books right now. Bill Jones noted that if it's going to stay zeroed, either let's get the money in or get rid of the line.

Phil Dighello would like to know about the payments made to our recently resigned Police Chief, wondering where the funds came from. Lucy noted that it came out of the Regular Officers line. Phil noted that apparently the Commissioners negotiated this figure and he'd like to know how they come up with it. Lucy stated it was their negotiation so she doesn't know how they came up with the figure. Karen noted that she believes the negotiations fall under RSA 91-A, and are not available to the public. The numbers are available but not the way they reached them. It was noted that they are spending taxpayer money and Chairperson Stacey stated she would invite the Commissioners to meet with the Committee. Karen believes we only need to send a letter requesting an explanation as to how the figure was negotiated. Phil agrees that

would work, they'll say either, "here it is" or "no you can't have that information". Betty Boucher would like to see the Police Commissioners come in so we can get correct figures from them. Chairperson Stacey will contact them and ask them to appear in September or to send a letter of explanation. Carl Rosenthal noted he doesn't know what RSA 91-A is and it was explained this is the Right to Know law. Randy Davison noted that to come up with this amount of money we must be short-staffed. It was noted that the money came out to the Police Officers line. Rick Paquette noted that it was a very nice package with a lot of things tied into it. Karen noted that when you get a lump sum like that you lose about 25% to taxes.

Bob Drinkhall would like to know how the ambulance is paid. Lucy noted it is paid twice a year. Bob would also like to know about another figure, which Lucy explained included the electricity and heat for the Recreation Department, the Town Offices and the Town Garage. It was noted that we've been through our most expensive part of the year. It was explained that we go in as a group (town and school) so as to get a better rate. There were no further questions regarding the town budget. Lucy Philbrick leaves the meeting.

#### SCHOOL BUDGET REVIEW

Carl Nelson would like to address the questions that the Committee had presented to him, however he'd like to start by addressing some comments he's read in the minutes, heard while watching meetings on television and heard from the School Board's Representative to the Committee regarding the School Board's "spending frenzy" last year with surplus funds. Last year we had an \$800,000 surplus, \$650,000 of that was from Special Education funds; \$150,000 was saved through their hiring practices. The Board considered then spent the \$150,000 on items that constituted health or safety upgrades or fixes. He listed all the items the \$150,000 went to, among them: John Fuller's energy upgrade; Conway Elementary School's playground; Kennett's technology; a floor scrubber for Pine Tree; Conway Elementary School's air upgrade and a fence request of a neighbor of Kennett's. All of these items would be on this year's budget if we hadn't purchased those items with the surplus funds from Regular Education funds. Carl wants to be clear on how the surplus funds were spent.

This year we anticipate a deficit of \$191,000, noting we have fewer students in from the sending towns. Carl noted that when we build the budget in September, we make estimates based on what we have currently in place. Most IEPs are rewritten in April and sometimes aides are no longer needed when the kids come to us. We got \$52,000 more in catastrophic aid than we had anticipated. Medicaid also reimbursed us \$65,000 more than we anticipated. Building School aid was set at 93% and Representative Chandler sponsored a bill to raise that to 100%. This went through. All totaled, we are at (\$191,000).

Carl noted that Ted Sares had wanted, in writing, that all surplus funds would be returned to the town to offset taxes. That is a School Board decision and they are meeting on June 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 at Conway Elementary School. Chairperson Stacey noted that Ted also wanted to know how the money is turned back to the town. Carl noted this is not done by writing a check to the town. Currently the surplus for '04-'05 is projected to be \$535,700 in Special Education. Now we also have a loss of \$268,000 (from revenues not generated) so we will net \$267,000.

Regarding the bond payment schedule and expenditures, Carl has wonderful news - Senate Bill 38 passed and will bring another \$540,000 in Building aid to Conway. This is supposed to start in '06 and that money would be used to lessen the amount of money each district has to pay. Karen Umberger noted this shows the bond payment with a net interest of 4% and Carl explained that the rates are different as you go through the year but the net result is 4%. Phil Dighello asked if the \$267,000 is just Special Education, what about the rest. Carl noted that the total surplus is \$982,000 less the Special Education amount results in a Regular Education surplus of around \$700,000. Randy Davison noted that is way too much and Carl countered this represents only a 3% overage. Phil noted that last year the Committee wanted to reduce the budget due to the surplus, and he'd like to go on record as stating that the surplus should all go back to the taxpayers. Carl will bring that message to the Board and asked that the Committee members attend Monday's meeting. Randy noted that if we keep letting the surplus grow it will soon be over a million dollars and we need to be frugal and return that money to the town. The way he sees it, items of safety and health should be in the budget, especially if we have a \$700,000 surplus. Carl countered that it is down from last year's \$800,000. Bill Jones noted that only one of the items that surplus was spent on had to do with academics and that was the computers. Chairperson Stacey would like to know how the general public benefits from the \$5,000 spent on a fence for Kennett's neighbor. Debra Deschenes noted that despite the request for more money, the Board stuck with the original request of \$5,000. Bill Jones noted that as a senior citizen who lives on the other side of town, he sleeps much better knowing that we put in that fence.

Carl then distributed the Surplus Request List. Some items are in priority order others are simply on the list. There will be deliberations on these on June 13<sup>th</sup> and Carl will bring Phil Dighello's concern to the Board. Betty Boucher asked for a refresher regarding the fence, asking why it was put up. Carl explained that the neighbor had problems with students crossing her property and littering and loitering on her property. Betty would like to know why the officer couldn't handle this and Carl noted if the officer is over there all school day long as well as before and after school, he is not able to perform his other duties for the school. Betty questions why we are liable for what happens on her property before and after school. Carl noted this didn't have to do with liability.

Karen Umberger noted that one hot issue during the budget discussions was the cut to the Music program. The fact that she doesn't see this on the surplus list is very upsetting to her. She noted that this was a program that was well supported by the community. She didn't want to see it in the top three but she expected to see it on here and is really surprised it isn't on here. Carl noted that the Middle School Principal has one full time music teacher and that is what is recommended for a school this size. In his budget he had 1.7 positions and he no longer needed that 0.7 position so he eliminated it. The High School Principal has less than a full time music teacher and he will decide if he needs more based on enrollment. Jack may yet make that decision. He does have monies available but we have to balance classes, as the students request them.

Bill Jones wants to know to whom this list is presented and Carl noted it has been presented to the School Board and will be discussed on June 13<sup>th</sup>. Bill noted that with a surplus of \$750,000, our list only shows \$330,000 and Carl noted that additionally, only the first \$100,000 is represented in the priority list. The Committee wants to know why

these items on the Surplus Spending list weren't in the budget to begin with and Carl noted that it is because we were asked to come in with a level-funded budget. The Principals might have put it in but with the order to come at level funding, it might have ended up cut. Betty Boucher noted that in looking at the list she remembers that we addressed computers before and now they are on here again with the same justification, that they are outdated. She wants to know why we are buying them every year and how they are outdated. Carl explained that computer technology changes every day. We do rebuild them if we can but every school district has the same issue. You have a lot of kids in the building using the equipment so they have a tendency to break down. Chairperson Stacey asked what is done with the old equipment and Carl noted we scavenge what we can and the rest becomes surplus and are sold or recycled.

Randy Davison noted that he has been following this for the last two years. He noted that the School Board is given the priority list and he also brought last year's list. Randy believes if it was taken out of the regular budget then we should use the surplus funds to put it back. These items that were cut need to be reinstated. He reminded all that he lives with the music program's better half. It is ridiculous to have 1.83 teachers for a district this size. There are seventy kids in band for thirty-five minutes and they need to reinstitute the 0.7 position that was cut. To expect that students can get out their instruments, tune them, practice and then clean them in a thirty-five minute class at the end of the school day is not realistic and Randy wonders what type of program we're going to have with this set up.

Carl Rosenthal would like to know what the function numbers represent and Carl Nelson quipped he's been trying to hand the sheet out that gives that information. He told the Committee to please call him so he can go over it if it doesn't make sense.

Carl Nelson noted that there was a comment made by Ted Sares, via e-mail regarding "don't let Nelson get away with this" and Ted believes all surplus funds should go to offset taxes. Ted mentioned that the school sends this money to the town via bank wire and Carl would like to clarify that is not how the surplus goes to offset taxes. He explained if we have a budget of one million dollars and we have a surplus of \$500,000. We then only ask the town for the balance of \$1 million less the \$500,000 surplus for a total request of only \$500,000. That is how the surplus works. Karen Umberger noted that when Meg (from the DRA) comes in to set the tax rate, the number she starts off with is reduced by the surplus, that is how it is used to offset the tax rate. Maureen Seavey asked if the money from the state goes directly to the school, which Carl Nelson affirmed, noting it is shown as revenue.

Carl noted that was what the Committee had presented for questions and he would like to address any others the Committee might have. Chairperson Stacey commented that by law we couldn't use public money for private use unless everybody gets a benefit from it and she'd like to know how we got around that in paying for the fence. Technically, the property owner needs to pay us back for the fence. Carl noted that the benefit is gained by restricting the movement of students. The fence is on school property. Bill Jones noted he doesn't have kids in the school district and wants to know what benefit he gets from having these funds spent. Rick Paquette would like to know if anyone could verify for him that the fence is on school property. Debra Deschenes noted that this couldn't be verified and asked Russ Seybold to explain the role of the Conway Scenic Railroad in

this case. Russ noted that Olympia Lane impinges on the Railroad's property. When the fence was erected, the Railroad requested a twenty-foot right of way to assist with preventing students going over the tracks. Russ noted that he is not required to build a fence unless cattle are involved.

Debra Deschenes noted that the Committee also wanted to know when the budget would be ready. Carl noted that the earlier we generate it the less accurate it becomes. He anticipates being on the same time frame as last year but he'd rather move it to the spring - April rather than December. The Budget Committee had discussed this and asks that the books be ready before the Christmas break. Chairperson Stacey noted as an FYI the town went first last year so this year the school goes first. Karen Umberger is concerned that we have agreed to skip two Mondays each month because we agreed not to meet on the same night as the School Board. Last year we didn't have sufficient time to spend with the information. We have two meetings each in December, January and February that allow us to discuss the budget. Chairperson Stacey noted she'd rather have it on December first, knowing that there will need to be changes to it. She noted that even if we get it later, it would still require changes, so why not get it earlier rather than later. Our changes are not wholesale and that is the only reason we are asking for it earlier. Carl Nelson noted that in his experience, once you put out a number, people don't understand that there are changes made; only the first number counts as that is the one that makes the headlines. Karen asked Carl to just understand where we are coming from. Chairperson Stacey noted that we might also need to meet on dates other than when we usually meet.

Russ Seybold asked to see a calendar and asked when the School Board would meet. December 12<sup>th</sup> is the planned date so Russ believes we should ask for the budget to be brought to the Budget Committee on December 19<sup>th</sup>. Carl noted he would plan to have it done by the 12<sup>th</sup> and Chairperson Stacey noted the Committee could meet on Wednesday December 14<sup>th</sup>. Karen noted that wouldn't allow enough time to review it. Betty Boucher thought we had already set the meeting date at the last meeting but there was no motion to that effect. Chairperson Stacey noted that we do get to set the date and if we make a motion, whatever the date is, the school has to be ready for it. We do try to make it a mutually acceptable date. **Russ Seybold moved, seconded by Bob Drinkhall, to set December 19<sup>th</sup> for the Committee's review of the School's proposed budget.** Randy Davison would like to know about the amount of money saved due to health insurance and it was clarified that there is a motion on the table to address first. Deb Deschenes noted that Carl made himself very available last year to review the budget. There were no further questions. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Randy Davison moved on to the insurance asking what dollar amount has been saved. Carl Nelson noted that SAU wide over \$450,000 will be saved but it hasn't been broken down into individual towns. He'd estimate Conway's portion is \$250,000. Randy noted that on the Priority list, some items are for health and safety and since you know you'll have the money in that line, couldn't the money be used starting on July first, rather than through the surplus funds. Carl noted he had illustrated earlier that one Special Education student can cost the district \$100,000 so he doesn't feel we should begin spending next year's budget. We need to hold on to those funds in case there is a change. Randy noted that we have consistently had a surplus and one is foreseen for next year.

People have voiced their opinion that all the money should go back to the taxpayers. Randy encouraged the Committee members to attend the meeting of the School Board on the 13<sup>th</sup>. Chairperson Stacey asked to clarify that none of the funds listed as surplus have been expended yet. Carl affirmed that the Board has seen this list but there has been no discussion. Debra Deschenes noted that we don't even know if the new Board is going to consider any of these. They did hear you loud and clear. Chairperson Stacey asked if the Board would be voting on these on the 13<sup>th</sup> and Carl affirmed this, explaining that we have to expend the funds before July 1<sup>st</sup>. Phil Dighello asked what time the meeting is and was informed it is at 6:30. Bill Jones asked if the money has to be spent by June 30<sup>th</sup> and Carl noted it doesn't have to be spent but it has to be invoiced, as we close the books on June 30<sup>th</sup>. The bills can come in later but the funds have to be encumbered before June 30<sup>th</sup>.

Betty Boucher would like to know why we are just now addressing making Pine Tree appropriate for hearing impaired students with surplus funds. She believes this is a hazard and should have been addressed before now. It was noted that the school is inspected regularly and it hasn't been requested. Chairperson Stacey asked how old Pine Tree is and the best guess is fifteen years. Betty noted that to her you are making one group of children safer than others. Carl noted he can't speak to that and she warned Carl to be prepared to respond on Monday. Russ Seybold explained that the Fire Chief goes around to all these buildings and changes are made over the years due to upgrades. He works in a building that is one hundred thirty years old. He won't try to second-guess the Fire Chief. Carl noted that many upgrades had been added to the other schools during renovations. Betty asked how many hearing impaired students there are at Pine Tree and Carl noted there are two; each of whom has his/her own aide. Betty noted that if we are supposed to have the system in John Fuller and Conway Elementary, then we should have it in Pine Tree. These kids can't hear and it's important. Chairperson Stacey clarified that both children have some hearing loss. Bill Jones noted that there are code updates that we are obliged to meet and this is something we should fix. Randy believes if these are matters of health and safety then they should be a high priority. He is very concerned that this is one of the newest schools we have and this comes through on a supplemental budget list. Chairperson Stacey asked if these items are in priority order and Carl noted that items one through eight only are prioritized. The other items were entered on the wish list as they were received. Randy tells the Committee that these health and safety issues should be put into the budget. We should utilize the money we have saved on the insurance to cover these items. He hopes that the School Board looks at what effects children and programs.

Maureen Seavey asked if it would be up to Kevin Richard to put the Music teacher on the list. Carl Nelson noted that Kevin feels the Middle School Music program is where it should be. Maureen said that means Kevin didn't listen to the people. Carl noted Kevin did indeed listen to the people it is just that this is a decision that wasn't what some people wanted. These things don't always go the way you want to have it go. In Kevin's opinion the Music program is okay.

Maureen asked about the five surveillance cameras, wondering who is going to be watching them. Carl noted that these are going to be taping so we have a record of what is happening but there are also monitors to watch.

Debra Deschenes noted, again, that we are questioning items on a list when we don't know yet if any of them are going to move forward until the School Board meets on the 13<sup>th</sup>. Randy Davison noted that as a taxpayer he is going to question this. Last year the Board tabled the whole thing when there are items in here that can be put to work for the kids' programs. Chairperson Stacey noted that folks are getting excited and want to have discussion on this but cautioned that they need to go through the Chair before speaking. Carl noted that the School Board had directed the administrators to come in with a level-funded budget and something has to go to get to that. It is a fact of budgeting. Randy wants all Committee members to be at the meeting on Monday. He doesn't agree that we are at level funding with a surplus like this. We spend a dollar per pupil over the state average. Carl noted that the High School spends below average while the Middle School and the Elementary Schools are above average in spending per student. Randy wonders if the Committee wants to meet again to discuss this list. Deb Deschenes reminded folks that there may be nothing to discuss, based on the outcome of the School Board's meeting on Monday. Chairperson Stacey asked if there is going to be surplus spending does the Committee want to hold a meeting or do we leave that discussion to occur at the School Board's meeting? Karen Umberger believes that folks go to the School Board meeting to voice their opinions. It is out of the purview of the Budget Committee to dictate how the School Board runs the schools. Russ Seybold gives a "ditto" and Bob Drinkhall also agrees our best opportunity is during the School Board meeting. Carl Rosenthal wondered if we should be thinking about how the town is paying for students and are we doing our duty to these students. There were no further questions for Carl Nelson and he leaves the meeting.

#### OTHER BUSINESS

Bill Jones asked to have an updated packet regarding the contact list. Chairperson Stacey noted it was distributed in the Committee's packet. Bill doesn't have it and Chairperson Stacey noted she would get it to him.

Bob Drinkhall noted he is looking for a book on town law. Chairperson Stacey noted that Karen has this in her office and Bob can ask her for a copy. Russ Seybold noted that the information is available online. Some committee members don't use the Internet and the Committee agreed that Karen should make copies and send it out to the Committee members in their packets.

Chairperson Stacey noted that we needed to pass on to the School Board that when they send the budget over, they needed to send enough copies for everyone. Currently they send only one and then the town pays for copying off another twenty-five sets and the cost of this should be borne by the school. She asked that the school send over twenty copies instead of just one. Betty Boucher would like to know if the budget books come out of the school's budget and Chairperson Stacey affirmed this is the case. She reminded members that they reuse the binders so when we're done we should return them. Randy Davison noted he doesn't intend to return his. We do this as a service to the town and keeping the information organized is a small price for the school to pay. Russ Seybold noted that Randy could keep the information but still return the binder for reuse. Deb noted that members of the School Board even return their manila mailing envelopes for reuse and she asked that Committee members please return the binders.

Chairperson Stacey noted we needed to set a meeting date. After reviewing the calendar the Committee decided to meet again on September 19<sup>th</sup>. Chairperson Stacey asked if folks had suggestions for a meeting location (Rick Paquette suggested Fenway Park) or would they be okay with whatever space she was able to procure for that date. The Committee opted to let the Chair set the location. (Added June 13: The next meeting will be held on Wednesday September 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:30 p.m. in the meeting room of Town Hall)

ADJOURN

**Bill Jones moved, seconded by Debra Deschenes, to adjourn the meeting at 8:32 p.m. The motion to adjourn carried unanimously.**

Sincerely submitted by:

Martha D. Tobin  
Recording Secretary