

**MINUTES OF MEETING  
MUNICIPAL BUDGET COMMITTEE  
January 30, 2006**

A meeting of the Municipal Budget Committee was called to order at 6:17 PM in the Meeting Room at the Conway Town Hall with the following members present: Chairperson Melissa Stacey, Phil Dighello, Bill Jones, Randy Davison, Russ Seybold, Robert Drinkhall, Betty Boucher, Maureen Seavey, Carl Rosenthal, Karen Umberger, Deb Deschenes and Kirk Smith. Also present were members of the public.

Chairman Stacey gave the representatives from the precincts the Notices that needed to be posted and advised that same needed to be posted tomorrow.

EAST CONWAY FIRE PRECINCT BUDGET REVIEW

Michael Valladares presented the Budget for the East Conway Fire Department. Mr. Valladares advised that it is a very simple budget; most of the cost increase is due to the cost of oil and the cost of insurance. Bill Jones asked for an explanation of the Community Hall Repairs. Mr. Valladares stated the repairs have been for the Grange Hall in East Conway that started about 5 years ago. The bathrooms are ADA compliant; heating system has been replaced, ongoing repairs from the floor to the ceiling. The repairs should be coming to an end within the next two years. The heating system completed this year - a two-year project.

Russ Seybold stated that he sees budget figures, but no cost figures, no expenses for last year and that he found same to be unacceptable. The Committee can't see what was spent; what was actually spent on telephone. The expenses of last year should at least be listed. There are no actual numbers as to what was spent. Mr. Valladares responded by stating that they have no secretaries or volunteers and the same has been followed year after year. Before you meet on the 15<sup>th</sup> you will have the figures.

Randy Davison asked if they were under any obligation...are you audited. Mr. Valladares stated they were. Randy went on to explain the reasoning for having exact figures so that the Committee can see what was spent. Mr. Valladares agreed that was the purpose of the Committee.

Karen Umberger stated that there is \$1,000.00 listed for the Capital Reserve Fund - Equipment and asked for an explanation for its use. Mr. Valladares stated that the account was started to buy new equipment, but that the account can be used on any category. Karen further asked whether they had trouble getting volunteers and asked whether the volunteers were paid when they show up for a fire. Mr. Valladares

stated that volunteers had worked on the Grange Hall by donating products, their time, lumber. Karen further asked when responding to a fire, do the volunteers receive compensation. Mr. Valladares stated a "thank you".

Bill Jones asked about the Warrant Article for \$1,000. Karen Umberger asked whether this is a new Capital Reserve Fund and Mr. Valladares responded yes.

Chairman Stacey stated that last year we had a Warrant Article for a forestry fire and inquired whether or not that passed. Karen Umberger stated that she did not remember that money was put out for forestry firework and believed that was dealing with the Black Cap fire. Chairman Stacey asked whether or not, if they had to, could they have tapped into that fund. Karen responded yes. It would be whoever is in charge of the fire and East Conway is not in charge of any fires. It is either Conway or North Conway that is in charge.

Betty Boucher stated that she felt they did a fine job. Russ Seybold stated that he was not questioning what they do and not questioning the valuable services provided, but on the Budget Committee, I find it very difficult. In this particular case, somebody might be able to grab the 12 telephone bills, can get the information on the heating bill by calling the servicer, same with electric. There are a number of these things you could get figures for with a phone call. Mr. Valladares stated that it is in a ledger. The ledger can be brought to the Town Office and be available.

Carl Rosenthal stated that all of the information would be put in the audit. Mr. Valladares stated that a lot of the books are in a hand written ledger, but it is nothing you bring in. Russ Seybold stated that it doesn't need to be on a computer. Mr. Valladares responded that a computer would make life better, but he doesn't have the time or the volunteers to do it.

Maureen Seavey inquired about having the budget expenditures for 2004/05. Bob Drinkhall stated that he would have not problem with hand written sheets. Russ Seybold stated that someone has a checkbook. Mr. Valladares stated that he could have brought that in. Bill Jones stated that he thought we needed the other columns to see where the budget has been, where it is going. Bill further asked whether or not Mr. Valladares could get this information to the Committee. Mr. Valladares stated he could get them this week.

Randy Davison asked if there was a certain category or line item if you over expend. I assume you are spending to the penny. We address and look at those figures. Mr. Valladares stated that he didn't care what budget you have, it will fluctuate.

Deb Deschenes questioned the Warrant Articles. When you read Warrant Article #1, it says a "Building Maintenance Fund". Karen Umberger stated that Deb was talking about a Town Article. Deb continued by

asking what it was specifically for. Earl Sires stated that we did get reimbursement from the State. The problem is that in order to get reimbursed, you have to be able to use it first. We worked it out by getting the State to pay us and the Selectmen decided to put it in a fund so in the future we can reimburse for materials for the fire and would give us a way to manage the cash flow. Chairman Stacey asked if the East Conway Fire Department responded to a fire and over used, could they be reimbursed. Earl responded with a theoretical yes, if there were expenses for a wild land fire.

#### REDSTONE FIRE PRECINCT BUDGET REVIEW

David Pandora, as commissioner, presented the Budget for the Redstone Fire Precinct. Mr. Pandora began by stating that this is a level budget again this year with an insurance and fuel increase. Bill Jones asked what was "Personnel Protective"? Mr. Pandora replied that involved breathing apparatus. They bought 3 used breathing apparatuses. Bill further asked whether they were purchased because they were needed or whether they were purchased because they had the money. Mr. Pandora responded with "both". They could still use one or two more.

Bob Drinkhall wanted to know the reason the entire budget was not spent as appropriated on the training. Mr. Pandora stated that most of the training is free training. Some training could cost \$450.00; only one person sent. Bob further asked if they are expecting to send a couple of people this year.

Maureen stated that Heat, Gas and Oil didn't look right. Mr. Pandora responded by stating that they are hoping fuel will go down from last year; they did the pre-buy. Mr. Pandora stated the ratio is going up for calls. Maureen stated that she felt more than \$800.00 needed to be appropriated for gas and oil. Mr. Pandora stated that they have new trucks in service and they are still going to tweak to get the numbers to the Committee.

Karen Umberger asked about the \$10,000.00 for the Capital Reserve. Mr. Pandora responded with vehicle replacement. Karen further asked if the volunteers were paid. Mr. Pandora advised volunteers are paid \$100.00 per year per man. Karen asked whether a certain number of calls were needed to get the \$100.00. Mr. Pandora advised that the Chief designates who is going to get the money.

Bill Jones asked how many volunteers? Mr. Pandora responded they had a full roster of around 20, 21, although not all active.

Randy Davison asked whether they transfer out of line item to cover other line items. Mr. Pandora responded with this being a bottom line budget. Chairman Stacey thanked Mr. Pandora for coming.

CENTER CONWAY FIRE PRECINCT BUDGET REVIEW

Nancy Leavitt, presented the Budget for the Center Conway Fire Precinct. Mrs. Leavitt stated that there was a typo on "Capital Reserve"; 2005 should read \$25,000.00, not \$20,000.00. Increases for maintenance of the building for roof damages from a storm; heat is up \$400.00; truck maintenance is up because of older equipment; fire truck payment up because of new truck; insurance is up; office is up as rescues have to be filed on-line. Bottom line is that the budget is up slightly. They have "Special Articles" for a rescue boat and a new fire truck.

Bill Jones stated that there was quite a jump for "Insurance & Dues" and inquired as to whether they shop around for insurance. Mrs. Leavitt responded that they have a new truck coming in and are anticipating the increase. Bill asked if they are replacing another vehicle. Mrs. Leavitt responded that they were not. Bill again asked if they shop around for insurance. Mrs. Leavitt stated that they just use the same company every year as there are very few companies that will cover fire departments.

Randy Davison stated that the Town of Eaton is going up. Mrs. Leavitt responded that is income and that they are guaranteed \$6,000.00 to cover that area. Randy asked if that depended on service to that area. Mrs. Leavitt responded that was correct.

Russ Seybold asked if there was an upward trend where you can safely increase based on the number of calls. Mrs. Leavitt responded that there are no guarantees.

Karen Umberger asked if they paid the firemen. Mrs. Leavitt responded that they did - \$10.00 per hour. Karen further asked if the Chief gets \$2,000.00 plus wages. Mrs. Leavitt stated yes and same for the Assistant Chief.

Phil Dighello stated that the total Labor Account for the 2005 Budget was \$19,975.00, but actually only spent \$17,876.00. Now budgeting the same amount for 2006. Mrs. Leavitt stated that they have no idea how many calls from one year to the next.

Bill Jones asked about the building maintenance. Mrs. Leavitt responded that there was damage from a storm. Bill asked about being insured for the damage. David Pandora responded stating that they had screws in the roof lift. The insurance company paid \$16,000.00 for the interior damages, but will not repair the roof. Bill then asked if there was an insurance settlement for the damage. Mr. Pandora responded in the affirmative.

Maureen Seavey asked whether they separate the fire and rescue for medical expenses. No audible response given. Chairman Stacey thanked Mrs. Leavitt for coming.

BIRCH HILL WATER DISTRICT BUDGET REVIEW

Kirk Smith presented the Budget for the Birch Hill Water District. Mr. Smith stated that they have been waiting for the purchase of the water system to go through. To date, that had not taken place. Final meeting with the PUC is Thursday. It is anticipated that the sale of the water system will be approved by the PUC. Not sure this is a done deal yet. The same budget is being proposed. Actual expenses are significantly less than anticipated.

Karen Umberger asked if the PUC approves the purchase, does that mean the Water District goes way. Mr. Smith stated that would require a formal action by the Town. Karen further asked if it would be pursued to go away or will they continue monitoring? Mr. Smith believed they would continue to monitor and provide a vocal point for the residents.

Chairman Stacey asked how the water system is now. Mr. Smith responded that there are different answers, depending on who you ask. Chairman Stacey thanked Mr. Smith for his presentation.

VALLEY VISION BUDGET REVIEW

Jack Flint presented the Budget for Valley Vision. Mr. Flint started by stating that it might be beneficial with an explanation for funding. No tax dollars are used; franchise fees from cable television - 3% of your Adelphia bill. Money was set aside years ago for public access. Conway's contribution is funds raised through Adelphia. Budget is \$10,000.00 less than what we proposed. Lost \$10,000.00 from the Town of Madison as they are doing things on their own. Asking for \$77,000 or 61% of the budget.

Karen Umberger asked what was a Special Limited Corporation. Mr. Flint responded that was sponsorships to generate more money. Offering unlimited number of sponsorships to promote business and get commercials. As an example: Crest and OVP have each bought them. Would like to have 10 on the air. It is an effort to reach out to the community; we get to provide quality to the community; can provide something back to the company that is contributing.

Betty Boucher stated that under "Intern Wages" there is nothing spent. Mr. Flint advised that they have no interns now, but they might in the future. Betty further asked about the difference in "Bookkeeping". Mr. Flint advised that they have hired a bookkeeper. They restructured and eliminated an office person and he assumed their duties as he was not a bookkeeper. Betty further asked about "Depreciation Expenses" and

what it is being used for. Mr. Flint stated that the Depreciation Expenses are not actual figures when dealing with equipment; for tax purposes one must have a figure and that is the one. Mr. Flint stated that they have no vehicles. Betty further asked what would he do if he didn't get the full amount asked for. Mr. Flint stated if we do not get money from the Town, I don't have a contingency for that but if it comes down to it we will find a way to stay on the air.

Russ Seybold asked about the sponsorships, flat fee or whether pro-rated. Mr. Flint stated that there is 6 months or 1-year flat rates. One year costs \$1,200.00 and 6 months costs \$675.00 which includes production of a 15 or 20 second message.

Karen Umberger stated that when the Warrant Articles are put together it encompasses the entire amount of the franchise fees, and then the Selectmen disburse it.

Bob Drinkhall stated that Conway contributes 61% and what percentage of programming does that come out to. Mr. Flint advised that it was difficult to say and he does not have the percentage because no one has ever actually asked.

Karen Umberger stated that we have a contract, Memorandum of Agreement, with Valley Vision. Earl stated that a few things have changed. Bartlett and Jackson do not have a contract with Adelphia and will not air on Channel 3 any more. Anybody in the Town of Conway or students at the High School can use the equipment and produce their own material.

Betty Boucher asked if we have a representative on this Board. Earl Sires responded yes, Bob Barriault, but he would like to move on. Mr. Flint stated they have monthly meetings on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month at 4 or 5 in the afternoon.

Randy Davison stated that with 61%, what does that entail. Do organizations ask you to tape programs? Every time I turn on Channel 3, there is a Fryeburg basketball or Jazz Ensemble on. Do people contact you to tape? Mr. Flint stated yes, they do call requesting us to cover or I will see something in the paper, get something in the mail maybe of interest and attempt to shoot it. Watching Fryeburg basketball games seems to be a lot of Fryeburg concerts, but I didn't see Conway. Mr. Flint responded that the Holiday Concerts were in Conway, Chorale Society Vocal Collective. One of the problems we can only produce a limited number of events each week good for sponsoring.

Maureen Seavey noted that they have a net income without the depreciation. Mr. Flint responded that if you don't include the depreciation, yes there was net income. Maureen further noted that the depreciation is the same every year. Mr. Flint advised that he had a meeting with the accountant on Thursday and that is one of the questions he will ask. We are buying new equipment each year.

Betty Boucher stated that under "Sponsorship - Other" \$1,650.00 was listed, what was it? Mr. Flint stated that \$1,650.00 was raised and did not fall into a specific category. Could be donations. Betty further stated that last year there was a problem with a machine; has that been replaced? Mr. Flint responded that we do still occasionally have problems with a blank screen and it usually happens over the weekend when no one is at the station. It is not just one machine, but also a combination of mistakes and sometimes human.

Chairman Stacey asked for an explanation of "Printing & Reproduction". Mr. Flint stated that was promotional items for the annual meeting.

Pat Swett asked if her understanding was correct in that Madison does not pay Valley Vision. Mr. Flint responded in the affirmative. Mrs. Swett further asked why does Madison have the screen all day Monday. Earl Sires responded by stating that there are various contracts with Adelpia, some have access, some don't. Madison does it themselves. All the Towns have agreed that Madison can have Monday. Mrs. Swett stated that if they were not contributing, why do they get all day. Earl responded that Madison has the right to use it. They decided to produce their own material and use Monday.

Karen Umberger stated that Madison does not present any of their programs to Valley Vision. They send tapes directly to Adelpia. Valley Vision has nothing to do with Madison; air waives are available to Madison. Mr. Flint added that in the beginning all agreed that Valley Vision would produce, but Madison decided they could do it better and cheaper and produce it themselves.

Chairman Stacey asked if the Town of Albany has a parade and because it might interest all in Mount Washington Valley, then it would be Mount Washington Valley viewing? Mr. Flint responded that you might say yes. A parade in Conway would be in the same category, just like the concerts. Mr. Flint stated this is public access television; call us if you have something. This is your station, use it. Earl Sires stated that anybody in Conway can take a class to use the equipment, film a sporting event, edit it and take it to Valley Vision. Chairman Stacey thanked Mr. Flint for coming.

Russ Seybold asked Maureen whether she noticed that there is an equipment purchase line and that he agreed that the same number shouldn't be used every year.

#### CONWAY CONSERVATION COMMISSION BUDGET REVIEW

Paul Pinkham presented the Budget for the Conway Conservation Commission. Mr. Pinkham started by advising that their principal objection is to manage the forest. Licensed foresters develop these. They take care of Whitaker Woods, Shedd Woods and Pudding Pond. Stabilize trails, signs and manage the forest and the wetlands. People have a lot of interest in our properties; regeneration of trees. There

are a lot of things that determine what we have to select from for programs and work to do. We are responsible for water protection for the Town of Conway, environmental services of all applications to review and comment, not an enforcement agency, State does look to them for concerns. David Weathers is principal investigator. Revenue from timber sales went into account and used to pay expenses. Very consistent with other budgets submitted. We didn't spend our entire budget; significant for under spending. We have a contract not fulfilled so funds were not paid; reduced by about \$1,000.00 by the Nature Conservancy.

Bill Jones stated that he did not think Mr. Pinkham needed to go through the budget. Carl Rosenthal questioned the TNC trail work and mapping. Mr. Pinkham responded that they do trail maintenance at Black Cap and Pudding Pond. Carl further asked why the forest and wetlands has gone from \$10,000.00 to \$15,050. A review is done every 5 years and annually. They review a list of what needs to be done. Some of that is catch up work.

Betty Boucher asked how many Memberships. Mr. Pinkham stated there are no memberships in the Conservation Commission. It is a State Conservation Commission regulation to help with research, they are very helpful.

Randy Davison stated he always has concerns when the numbers don't jive. When the book was first received, the numbers don't match up. What I am seeing here, \$21,850.00. Mr. Pinkham stated that the figure was \$19,990.00; reduce Forest and Wetlands by \$1,000.00. Randy further stated that the numbers still do not match with what is in the book. Randy again stated that as a Budget Committee member, the numbers still don't match. Mr. Pinkham did not understand what Randy was referring to. Karen Umberger stated that the number in the book is what the Conservation Commission came to the Selectmen with. Those are not year-end figures. Chairman Stacey stated the date 11/28/05. Karen proceeded to state that she is looking at the actual figure and that Paul has updated what he is bringing tonight. It is different, updated from where it was. Lucy Philbrick stated that she had not run the numbers at this point. Mr. Pinkham asked that we get rid of those sheets in the book and replace with what you got tonight minus the \$1,000.00. Randy further stated that it is easier when you come so if you are here, I can ask questions. You are telling me the number. Earl Sires stated that Mr. Pinkham is submitting his revision for \$22,850.00 minus the \$1,000.00. Mr. Pinkham asked that we reduce the budget. Randy questioned what Mr. Pinkham was asking. Randy further stated that last year he proposed a decrease. Mr. Pinkham stated that he found it hard when there are programs at risk. Chairman Stacey stated that based on the fact, if you went back historically, not spending the amount in the budget. If you are not spending, why that high? Randy stated that he was glad Mr. Pinkham was here to answer questions.

Bill Jones stated that he appreciated the presentation; we don't criticize, trying to protect you and the taxpayers. We are responsible to try and save some money if it can be saved. It is great that you were here. Mr. Pinkham thanked the Committee for the opportunity to speak. Randy Davison stated historically funds are not being spent. Commend you for what you do for the Town. Chairman Stacey thanked Mr. Pinkham for coming.

#### TOWN BUDGET REVIEW

Earl Sires began the review with the Warrant Articles. Earl advised that almost everything was included; however, they were still working on the Operating Budget and at this point, the Selectmen have voted on the number listed. Earl did not have a figure for the Collective Bargaining. Earl stated that \$20,000.00 of the PEG Expendable Trust Fund would remain. Primary reason is that Federal regulation may eliminate franchise fees; may need an alternative if no funding for Valley Vision with the Town having to film their own meetings. Randy Davison stated that he thought what was left over would go into the general fund. Earl advised that it could only be used for public broadcast.

Earl further stated that there were three Articles to discontinue funds: Traffic and Roads Improvements Capital Reserve Fund, Long Term Solid Waste Disposal Capital Reserve Fund and Survey of Streets and Tax Maps Capital Reserve Fund. Lucy Philbrick stated that the Traffic and Roads Reserve Fund presently contained \$45,865.00, the Long Term Solid Waste Disposal Reserve Fund contained \$675.00 and the Survey of Streets and Tax Maps Reserve Fund contained \$6,985.00. Lucy further stated that the number at the end of the year would be in the Trustee's Report.

Earl stated that the Selectmen decided to award the Emergency Ambulance Service to the Conway Village Fire District beginning January 1, 2007. Pat Swett asked Earl if it was the same amount as what Tink's offered, more or less. Earl responded that the Selectmen decided for the ALS type of service. The Selectmen decided that the Conway Village Fire District covers advanced life support - services and equipment availability. Chairman Stacey asked if the difference was that Conway had paramedics and not EMTs. Karen Umberger stated that paramedics are not ALS. Maureen Seavey stated she was very upset to have this thrown at the Committee and asked with the ambulance in Conway, what is going to happen to the people in North Conway. I don't think anything has been thought out. Bill Jones asked whether the Conway Fire District would expand personnel, equipment. Earl stated that he did not want to get too much into it at this time. It was his understanding they propose to meet the need. An ambulance will be in North Conway during the day. Maureen further stated that we need to know an ambulance is two miles away compared to six miles. Not against having which ambulance, but saving lives. Chairman Stacey stated that once this comes before us, I am sure either Earl or somebody will be

there to answer the questions. Earl stated that probably someone from the Conway Village Fire District would be there. The Selectmen will have an opportunity to look at the Contract, have specific questions prepared and transmitted.

Phil Dighello stated that he would like to see a before and after comparison; got to have some pluses and minuses and would like to see both sides. Bob Drinkhall asked if the Article is voted down, what happens. Earl responded that he didn't have an answer. Betty Boucher asked who voted against it? Earl responded that he believed it was Dave Weathers and Karen Umberger. Chairman Stacey stated that maybe Karen would like to share with the Committee why she voted against it. Karen stated she had several reasons; major thing was more discussion was needed before a vote was taken. It really needed to go back to the ambulance committee for more details. Russ Seybold stated that he agreed with Maureen, response time is critical. What does concern me place firehouse around to save structures and may not be able to save a life.

Betty Boucher asked Earl that during the "peak times" are we going to be paying for the person. Earl stated yes. Karen Umberger stated that the bottom line is that the Conway Village Fire Department gave a figure for the contract and in that figure they covered all of the things that needed to be covered. Are we covered, maybe yes and maybe no. They have proposed, and the Selectmen accepted, that they would have a mobile ambulance in North Conway. How is it going to work is not in the proposal. How they carry it out, I don't know.

Doug Swett asked about "peak time" and Earl responded that "peak time" basically was during the day hours. Mr. Swett further stated that he didn't think it should have been voted on that way.

Bill Jones agreed with Phil's suggestion that more information was needed to make sure service is going to be adequate. Chairman Stacey stated that basically more information is needed and asked whether the Committee could have copies of the proposals. Karen Umberger stated that the proposals are quite big and suggested that if anyone wanted to look at the proposals, there were copies at either her house or at the Town Hall. Chairman Stacey asked what kind of information is needed. Bob Drinkhall suggested the possibility of summaries. Earl suggested that maybe one person from the Committee could review the summaries. Earl felt that it was not up to him to interpret and he was hesitant to do that. He can give the Committee the facts. Maureen Seavey stated that they must have gone on cost savings. She would like to see a figure. Earl responded \$186,000 at this point. Earl responded that both met the requirements.

Phil suggested that if Karen has the proposal, could she give a synopsis. Karen replied that the bottom line is everything is the same; everything in current contract, all is the same. But the difference is not the cost; the Selectmen voted for services by Conway Village Fire District. Difference in the type of service right now

basic life support, Conway Village Fire District agreed to provide ALS. So that is the only thing that is different. They said they could meet the response time. It doesn't really take a lot of time to read and review the proposal. Bob Drinkhall asked whether the Committee could get a summary. He further stated that he believes there is a considerable difference for what Conway Village Fire is going to charge. Chairman Stacey stated that her suggestion would be a cost comparison. Karen Umberger further stated that the Selectmen have voted to give the contract to the Conway Village Fire District, if you are unhappy, you need to discuss it with the Selectmen; you cannot charge Earl to do something. I can tell you what was proposed; you can come to my house and get that information. The Selectmen have vote and this is the way it is. Betty Boucher stated that she wanted to check out the facts and figures. Anything we need to ask for, we get. We have the right to ask Earl for figures; people have jobs; can't go to Town Hall or your house. Doug Swett confirmed that the Selectmen's meeting was tomorrow afternoon at 4 PM.

Chairman Stacey advised that she could vote to recommend without seeing the figures. Maureen Seavey asked where the ambulance is going to be stationed. What about a heart attack at night. Chairman Stacey suggested we do cost comparison.

Earl touched on the non-profits and the default budget. Earl further noted that the revised budget is more than the default budget. Deb Deschenes stated that she was amazed at how easy this process was. Doug Swett stated that the ambulance needs to be looked into and they used to be able to use Fryeburg Rescue. Mr. Swett reiterated to Earl that he wished Earl would look into this further. Earl agreed to do it.

Chairman Stacey asked Earl for information for the meeting on the 8<sup>th</sup>. Karen Umberger suggested that they have union people come to the meeting on the 8<sup>th</sup>. Randy Davison asked when do you want recommendations. Earl replied that he would like to have it tonight. Russ Seybold stated that Tom Holmes provided the pie charts and asked Earl for it. Earl will get those.

Randy Davison presented a "Review Items" that he had prepared and the amount when added up could reduce \$10,000.00.

**Motion made by Randy Davison, seconded by Betty Boucher, to decrease the line items presented in "Review Items" prepared by Randy for an over all amount of \$10,000.00. In favor: 3 - Phil Dighello, Randy Davison and Betty Boucher; opposed: 7 - Russ Seybold, Carl Rosenthal, Deb Deschenes, Chairman Stacey, Maureen Seavey, Bob Drinkhall, Bill Jones and Kirk Smith; abstain: 1 - Karen Umberger.** Randy stated that historically he went back 3 to 5 years. This was not spent and recommended these deductions. Karen Umberger asked Lucy Philbrick whether she had where we came in last year. Lucy stated under budget by \$73,000.00. Earl Sires stated less than 1%; come September we are looking at 1% over. We got lucky looking at 1% under operating budget.

Randy stated he thought Earl does a great job with the Town. If you don't spend, I don't think the need is there. Bob Drinkhall asked if Earl could review the specific items. Earl stated that training, assessing, planning, zoning have to do with training. Legal fees reduce by \$5,000.00 and survive. We get drawn into court cases from any direction. A leaseholder at the mall doesn't keep us out of their squabble. Government Buildings - these reductions won't make it impossible. Deb Deschenes stated that planning and zoning - lower the amount of \$500.00, actual amount \$2,500.00. Randy stated he gave an average on the Government Buildings budgeted \$2,000.00 spent \$206.00; went back to 2003 budgeted \$2,000.00 spent \$472.00; 2004 spent \$206.00; this year \$395.00 spent. Russ Seybold stated that Earl and the Town have done an excellent job. Maureen Seavey stated she agreed with Russ and that she didn't have a problem. Bob Drinkhall stated that he appreciated what Randy had done, but Earl and the Selectmen have done a good job.

**Betty Boucher: point on question.** Vote on point on question: 11 in favor; 1 against - Karen Umberger; no abstentions.

Phil Dighello stated he would like the Selectmen to look over the line items again. Betty stated that in the maintenance there is no explanation for salary increases, counselors. Chairman Stacey asked that the Selectmen review the Welfare Budget; not BJ's salary, but because we are not expending it. Requested \$26,000.00 for the last two years; last year actually \$25,525.00 and 2005 actually \$20,553.00. Earl replied that they could take another look at it. Chairman Stacey stated we are not saying cut it, we are not expending that budget.

Randy Davidson stated knowing his motion was defeated, he will still pursue the line items. Chairman Stacey stated she thought Earl did a wonderful job. Earl thanked the Committee for their comments and that he would convey to the Selectmen the Committee's concerns. Chairman Stacey thanked Earl for coming.

#### OTHER BUSINESS

Chairman Stacey stated that Dr. Nelson called stating he needs to have a bond hearing and it can't be on the scheduled public hearing since notices have been posted. Dr. Nelson is moving the School Board Meeting on the 13<sup>th</sup> to 5 PM and we will meet at 7 PM for a public hearing at Conway Elementary. If we change times, we have to re-post.

Karen Umberger stated that there is a bond on Wiley Court if the Selectmen decide to place it on the Warrant. This is scheduled for the 21<sup>st</sup> at the Selectmen's meeting. If in fact that should be on the Warrant, it will be disclosed on the 15<sup>th</sup>, but the bond hearing will not take place until the 21<sup>st</sup>. Any issues should be at the bond hearing.

Chairman Stacey advised that on Wednesday's meeting Jim Hill, Maureen Soraghan and Mark Hounsell would be present and that she would double check that Jim shows up with a copy of the fuel contract.

Karen Umberger asked if we are going to be discussing same on Wednesday night. We still have a lot of things to go through. Chairman Stacy proceeded with reviewing the schedule of meetings.

**Motion made by Bill Jones, seconded by Deb Deschenes, to adjourn the meeting at 9:25 PM. Motion carried unanimously.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Iris A. Bowden, Recording Secretary