

**MINUTES OF MEETING  
MUNICIPAL BUDGET COMMITTEE  
January 10, 2007**

A meeting of the Municipal Budget Committee was called to order at 6:30 PM in the Meeting Room at the Conway Town Hall with the following members present: Chairperson Melissa Stacey, Robert Drinkhall, Betty Boucher, Maureen Seavey, Pat Libby, Phil Dighello, Doug Swett, Crow Dickinson, Bill Jones, James LeFebvre, Karen Umberger, Etienne Vallee, and Bill Aughton. Also present were Pat Swett, Dr. Carl Nelson, Mark Zangari, Laura Jacowitz, Martha Cray, Sheryl Kovalik, Randy Davison, Brian Hastings, George Fredette, Mike DiGregorio, Karen McDonald and Becky Jefferson.

Chairman Stacey stated she received a phone call from Mark Hounsell stating his concerns, felt maybe the Committee didn't understand the Selectmen's position regarding the Rec Center; had a long discussion. Rather than send a letter, possibility to have the Selectmen here for a joint meeting. Karen Umberger stated the Selectmen decided last evening to have John back in next week and they will re-discuss the issue. Bill Jones asked what part did Mark not understand, what did this Committee not understand. Chairman Stacey stated the questions on the Administrative Assistant and the issue of fees. Bill asked all the Selectmen and Chairman Stacey stated first week in February, it will be the full Selectmen Board and can go over all our recommendations. Karen stated I feel very strongly that it is better to write a letter so that the positions are down in writing so that the Selectmen and the voters understand where the Budget Committee coming from and I would assume Mark must be going to plan to make a motion next week that we (Selectmen) do that. Chairman Stacey questioned where the Selectmen already voted on the Administrative Assistant, they wouldn't be able to re-open. Karen stated Selectmen can re-open anything and I am sure that it will be discussed on Tuesday. Bill stated he thought a letter should be written; as a Board it is our right, privilege and our duty.

Chairman Stacey proceeded to pass out paperwork. Karen Umberger stated that the first sheet going around is the changes that were made with the Town workers in the Union Contract for the Town workers. Basically a very minor change that folks should be aware of.

Chairman Stacey advised Police will be in to discuss the Contract. One note on the schedule: the School is the 29<sup>th</sup>, what the agenda will be for that night we can arrange. March 5<sup>th</sup> is the School, Town on the 7<sup>th</sup> for Deliberative portion. Karen Umberger stated she was not sure how it can decided tonight about the meeting on the 29<sup>th</sup>. Chairman Stacey stated if you are going to take all night on the High School do we want to move Neal and Kevin. Dr. Nelson stated to give him an idea if whole night on High School. Chairman Stacey stated High School will probably take a whole night. Her suggestion was to move Kevin and Neal. Dr. Nelson stated he would either bring in High School on the 17<sup>th</sup> and the other two on the 29<sup>th</sup> or vice versa. He needed to talk with the guys.

## SCHOOL BUDGET REVIEW

Dr. Nelson stated Karen Umberger had asked some questions and he was providing the standards which is Section 306 as well as Guideline for Conway School Board. Other large packet is questions asked by Karen and Phil and those questions are in this second large group; the one's in bold or highlighted are answered in this packet here, the one's not in bold will be provided on the 17th or whatever date Jack will be presenting. Karen Umberger stated what you are saying is Question A will be answered on the 17th and Dr. Nelson stated yes, written answer plus Principal explanation.

### JOHN FULLER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BUDGET PRESENTATION

Mark Zangari, Principal, presented the budget for the John Fuller Elementary School. Mark stated John Fuller is down a position and one-half that is not reflected. Reduction currently funded through Class Size Reduction money. Budget is 15 positions rather than 16.5. Over all increase is \$81,000.00. Karen Umberger stated reduction of 1.5 is not reflected, where was it carried before. Mark replied in Federal Grant monies; can't make a guess since allotment is unknown. Dr. Nelson stated Grant was \$138,000.00 received for class size reduction for the whole District. Last year Mark used the money to fund 1.5 teachers. Karen stated is that money in the current request. Dr. Nelson stated they don't have the allocation yet. When we find out the allocation, will look at class size and how we will use that fund. Don't get allocation until the end of the year with gradual reductions over the next several years. Betty Boucher asked if this Grant had run out. Dr. Nelson stated federal government provides based on a number of factors; have been getting something every year; something less next year. Deb Deschenes wanted to clarify that the \$138,000.00 is a projected amount. Mark stated money is to augment programs, not cut money out of budget; suppose to take already established program and make better. Karen asked what is the reduction account for and Mark stated reduction in service in budget. Karen stated assuming allotment doesn't come in for some reason, have you in fact reduced staff and Mark replied "yes" and right now that was okay. Karen stated she was trying to come to grips with this; where is it reflected in the budget and Mark stated fewer teachers. Chairman Stacey stated Mark has stated that right now he is okay with class size reduction. Crow Dickinson stated if you do get federal money in July, what are you going to do with it. Mark replied we will meet and look at priorities, it is year-to-year. Crow asked if they could use for whatever they wanted and Mark replied for certified instruction. Dr. Nelson stated when money comes in, he brings principals together to figure where the greatest need is, where are priorities.

Dr. Nelson stated that the page for John Fuller's enrollment and class size was in the packet he handed out. Mark stated in the 06/07 column those are the 16.5 teachers; in 07/08 column 15 teachers, 1.5 teachers have gone away.

Mark proceeded with total budget reductions by \$124,000.00; Maintenance Fund moves to Pine Tree, construction not happening, 1-1 Aide moving to

Middle School, salary. Increases are \$125,000.00; 1 to 1 Aide is single biggest impact which position is reimbursable because the student is out of District. Another thing is full-time Aide rather than half-time, increase in health insurance, Retirement went up, upgrade for phone system which is probably 20+ years old, getting service is difficult.

James LeFebvre stated there was talk about security and the phone system. Chairman Stacey stated just phone and Dr. Nelson stated security is a Warrant Article. Bill Jones asked the cost of maintaining the system. Mark replied the current system, he didn't know. Dr. Nelson stated system just disconnects and Mark stated problem with the Fire Department line. If something goes drastically wrong, we are in a bind. Bill asked if Mark had any idea on expenditures for last couple of years. Karen Umberger stated personally she had no problem replacing the phone, but didn't think it should be in the budget, should be a Warrant Article because it is not a continuing expense. Obviously it will be discussed at a later date, but other organizations have had to replace their Merlin System because they are no longer supportable. My objection is that the phone system should not be in the budget. Mark stated if it were a Warrant Article and voted down, the phone system goes down, he can't replace because it was voted down. Bill stated he agreed, a one-time expense. Dr. Nelson stated last year contained both. Bill stated it was combined; give the voter a chance to know what you are doing and that it can't wait until next year. There are only so many taxpayers in the Town trying to do the best we can. Last year combined was obviously an error; separate it out. Dr. Nelson stated this was a one-time expense.

Mark stated on the question of the Librarian, reduced 3 Aides and brought in two professionals; big benefits: book groups, more cooperativeness, can sit down and do planning with the teachers; independent research projects backed by Librarians; enhancements. Mark stated if there were any questions, can ask Karen McDonald. Karen Umberger stated Principals as a whole would basically say the Librarian has improved the capabilities of the teaching staff and has improved the skills of the children using the Library. Mark stated well put. Phil Dighello asked Mark to explain why he feels Kindergarten should have a full time Aide. Mark stated with a half-time Aide for Kindergarten, he starts running morning and afternoon sessions, afternoon not as desirable. He has nothing to give the afternoon, just a morning. Tried to spread with one day have morning, one day have afternoon; try to give highest amount of supervision. Bill Jones asked if \$16,201.00 included benefits and Mark replied most all benefits.

Karen wanted to address the Student Support Center and Mark stated that would be Laura (Jacowitz). Chairman Stacey thanked Mark Zangari for the presentation.

#### CONWAY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BUDGET PRESENTATION

Brian Hastings, Principal, presented the budget for the Conway Elementary School. Chairman Stacey asked Dr. Nelson if the enrollment for Pine Tree was in the packet and Dr. Nelson replied yes, should be in front of John Fuller.

Brian stated overview of proposed Conway Elementary School Budget was up 2.8% or \$60,322.00. The first part of the Budget Summary adds a full time Reading Specialist which is now a State requirement, taking out one full time teacher, taking out an Aide and adding approximately \$2,000.00 for supplies; adding \$1,100.00 for testing. Bill Jones questioned the full time Reading Specialist and State requirements, were there funds from the State. Brian stated none to his knowledge. Bill further asked what a Reading Specialist does. Brian stated a Reading Specialist for Kindergarten through 6 makes programs more effective, illiteracy specialists, it would be double instruction to students in groups and help teachers. Crow Dickinson stated these are not State required Guidelines; pursuant to Article 28A would have to be funded. Brian stated he couldn't answer that; if not accredited, we won't have certain things. Every school in the District files for accreditation, if certain things not in place, will defer you on that. Dr. Nelson stated the State Department of Education approved standards for an approved school; you can have a non-approved school doesn't mean if mandated they pay for it. Crow stated if it is not a requirement, then can not hold against you if you do not meet these Guidelines. If you choose not to have a Reading Specialist you can and there will be no action the State can take against you because the Constitution says no requirement on local level without state funding. Martha Cray stated they can in terms of program requirements. Part of it is an opportunity for the State Departments to assist with interventions. Bill Jones stated requirement should be a recommendation. Martha Cray stated approval and standard are not recommendation.

Karen Umberger stated what you are saying is have added in the past, funded in their program, for some reason you haven't yet. Chairman Stacey stated Mark did not qualify for Chapter I funds, a group of parents got together, voted it off the floor at Town meeting, funded locally. Bill Jones stated full-time position and Mark stated yes. James LeFebvre stated a Reading Specialist is designed to enhance reading; one does and one doesn't, what is differential. Brian stated can't see the figures; we are all basically the same.

Karen Umberger stated before we leave the Reading Specialist and full-time teacher just salary and Brian stated no that is everything. Karen stated so you are planning to bring in a Reading Specialist straight out of college and Brian replied that \$41,000.00 is assuming this person will have a Bachelors Degree, 3 years experience and 2 year medical. Karen stated salary is for a BA plus and Brian stated \$30,000.00. Becky Jefferson stated Step 3 is \$28,300.00 or \$28,700.00 or something like that. Karen stated benefits and Dr. Nelson replied 2-person medical, dental. Karen stated the way explained a person to fulfill Reading Specialist job would require more than what you are paying now.

Brian proceeded with maintenance, etc. up \$7,700.00, \$40,000.00 is a reduction; presently have a portable for Music which is in disrepair, lobbied for one at the High School/Middle School. In New Equipment looking at a buffer to increase life span of tiles. Chairman Stacey asked why not ask for buffer in a Warrant Article and Brian replied this sort

of thing goes into regular budget. Two classrooms, regular and Special Education, are carpeted; under the carpet is asbestos; really hard to keep clean. Bill Jones asked if it would be contracted to a certified asbestos removal person. Brian stated he would defer to Jim and Andy on that. Dr. Nelson stated the asbestos is in a contained state. Bill asked how long been there and Brian stated 5 to 7 years. Bill asked why not get rid of it and Brian stated you can't do all at once; very expensive. Bill Aughton asked if this was the end of it; how much more. Mike DiGregorio stated there are 5 more classrooms. Brian stated with the carpet and tile the asbestos will not move.

Karen Umberger asked why Music was held in a portable and Brian stated it was the best they could do. Karen stated no room in the school and Brian stated maybe change down the road - hasn't been any space, Music is a part-time program, priority to full time classrooms, things like Music have taken a back seat.

Chairman Stacey asked if Brian was subtracting full time teacher and Aide and Brian stated "no", Aide in classroom. Special Education Aide in Kindergarten and one that moves about the building. Only other for children with pretty severe handicaps. Chairman Stacey stated or I.E.P. required and Brian agreed. We recognize enrollment has dropped; he liked to keep class ratio in place where good instruction happens, he likes to keep at 14, 15, 16 and 18. Sometime get move-ins and then you start one year with 8 move-ins in Grade 5. Disadvantage to have to wait for Title I; advantage to that is when you really have your figures. Chairman Stacey stated she would be surprised if a teacher waits and Brian stated that is the hard part - losing good teachers.

Bill Jones questioned the \$40,000.00 upgrade and Brian stated Warrant Article from last year. Betty Boucher asked when the carpet was put in and Brian stated he thought 6 years ago.

Bob Drinkhall stated Abatement originally put in to cap the asbestos tile and Brian replied just as a floor. Bob thanked Brian for taking it out. Mike DiGregorio stated it was his understanding when first started \$2.00 per square foot, now \$10.00 per square foot. If the carpet has to come up, the asbestos goes with it. Chairman Stacey asked Dr. Nelson to have Jim verify. Karen Umberger asked where the money is to put something down on the floor and Brian stated \$15,000.00 covers the whole thing. Betty Boucher asked covers both rooms and Brian stated yes, will be done in July.

Dr. Nelson stated on the Reading Specialist, budgeted on a Master 3 and the one in Brian's budget based on person that he has in place but works in Unit 2, and the other is based on actual personnel. Bill Jones stated already have and Dr. Nelson stated person already has certification. Dr. Nelson stated trying to explain actual number on the Reading Specialist. Bill stated person must be receiving compensation and benefits and Dr. Nelson stated yes. We have Title I people; Title I teacher working so looking that probably she will get position. Her salary and benefits are above board with people knowing we are creating a new position. Bill stated \$41,400.00, salary and benefits, replace that void by her upgrade

with a teacher coming in at the same rate and Brian stated yes. No one can sit here and tell you how much it is going to cost to hire a new person; can look at averages. A good quality person is \$40,000.00, no guarantee.

James LeFebvre stated increase in health insurance, increase in NH Retirement costs, I believe total should be a combination of those two figures. Brian stated you are right.

Karen Umberger stated going back to the replacement person out of Unit 2 elementary wide, so when someone comes out of elementary wide budget you will not see a change, but Brian's budget has to change because he is in fact adding a person. Bill Jones stated he understood that. Chairman Stacey asked how many total teachers in your building and Brian stated 15 total. Chairman Stacey asked including in total how many teachers. Brian stated just mine or District wide. Dr. Nelson stated you have a staffing sheet, Section M, lists staffing in this budget for all units. Karen stated 33.63 total. Chairman asked Mark and Karen replied 37.79 and 33.63 for Laura. Dr. Nelson stated that breaks it down.

Etienne Vallee stated he got a total of \$59,600.00 for Total Maintenance and Brian stated he can correct total. Dr. Nelson stated he would make sure total at bottom is accurate. Karen Umberger stated in your class size it appears you run from 12 to, divide 3 into 47, and Brian stated he could give the average class size from Kindergarten through 6 Grade: Kindergarten - 19, Grade 1 - 15, Grade 2 - 15, Grade 3 - 18, Grade 4 - 20, Grade 5 - 16, and Grade 6 - 18. Phil Dighello stated on your chart you show 19 and Brian stated two sessions. Karen stated is this an increase in class size or maintain same you had last year and Brian stated average. Kindergarten through 6 average class size increases when you reduce one teacher.

Brian proceeded with the Student Support Center. The Student Support Center, had first one 5 or 6 years ago, we do have it staffed by the Family Support Liaison. Karen Umberger stated what you are saying is that your liaison person also does the Support Center work and Brian stated correct; if she needs to do a family home visit others in the building cover. Brian stated Dr. Nelson provided a reasonably short summary on what the Student Support Center does. Karen asked how do the students make up class time and Brian stated any student must make up time. If in the Student Support Center for 5 minutes they owe 5 minutes, could be done at recess, before school, or after school.

James LeFebvre stated the 53% Free and Reduced Lunch, what does that tell us. Brian stated that tells us if you look at Free and Reduced Lunch across the State, gives you an idea that 53% is a high number; should say to us 53% means family income low and they need that support. James further stated indicator of needed assistance and Karen Umberger stated Free and Reduced Lunch is an economic indicator, only based on economic situation. There is more than was the need for additional time because parents might not have been able to pay to go to pre-school. Those can cause problems in the early grades as we go through the grades, Reading Specialists are supposed to correct that so by the time reach Middle

School, although still on Free and Reduced Lunch, should be academically caught up.

Chairman Stacey asked if they do looping and Brian stated loop Grades 1 and 2, 4 and 5. Chairman explained that looping is basically the same teacher teaching the same class for two grades. Dr. Nelson stated correct total is \$59,600.00 will provide corrected sheet. Chairman Stacey thanked Brian Hastings for the presentation.

#### PINE TREE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BUDGET PRESENTATION

Laura Jacowitz, Principal, presented the budget for the Pine Tree Elementary School. Laura stated basically will give overview impact on next year's budget; most of it you have already heard and as you see a 6.8% increase. First big difference is a full time Reading Specialist, Committee has heard rationale, specialist can also work with students that need to be challenged. This is Master Step 3 with benefits. The \$60,000.00 we have inherited and if you took it away from \$142.142.00, there is actually a 3.9% increase. Chairman Stacey stated we have a rotating Maintenance Fund that jumps from school to school. Karen Umberger asked for an explanation on what this money will be used for. Laura stated the \$60,000.00 will finish the upgrade and intercom for halls and playground, bathroom counters and plumbing, tile the side entrance, seal and coat the driveway, replace siding and roof in Courtyard which is made out of wood and is damaged; finish irrigation, three years ago put in well to water the field. Betty Boucher asked to have the detail in black and white, requested a sheet on the use. James LeFebvre stated your school budget versus the Conway Elementary School, do you have the same asbestos issues and Laura state no.

Crow Dickinson stated on the rotating Maintenance Fund, how much is in now and Chairman Stacey stated \$60,000.00 each year. Crow stated \$60,000.00 in the fund and other schools don't have it. Chairman stated last year John Fuller did their maintenance upgrade; this year Pine Tree, next year Conway Elementary School, covers any maintenance issues. Crow asked how long been going on, a long time. Betty Boucher stated 15 years at least. James LeFebvre asked if this was like a contingent fund and Chairman Stacey stated no that would fall under a one time expense. Mark Zangari stated the \$60,000.00 was a commitment to never let school buildings fall into disrepair. James asked if a heating system was not operational, where does the money come from to replace and Dr. Nelson stated have to expend out of budget or Warrant Article. Bill Jones stated repair maintenance fund is misleading, actually facility upgrade would be better. Crow stated if this is for these special projects that happen every 3 years, where is regular maintenance and Laura replied in the budget. Karen Umberger stated with the signing of the tuition agreement and the change in the way that the sending towns pay, does the moving around of this \$60,000.00 thing have an impact on what the sending towns pay and, the reason I am asking is that I am not opposed to the \$60,000.00 at all, but where I am concerned is whether or not it impacts anything to do with the tuition agreement. Dr. Nelson stated only being an expenditure on any given year. Karen stated so it doesn't make a difference. Pat Libby questioned why the asbestos was not handled under

the \$60,000.00 rotation and Chairman Stacey stated because Conway Elementary School didn't have it this past year.

Laura proceeded with increase of \$20,500.00 in fuel and electric, increase in health insurance and retirement costs and then reduction of one full time teacher. Chairman Stacey asked one teacher and Laura stated yes that would be her recommendation and she has faith in her fellow principals. Chairman asked about looping and Laura stated Grades 1 and 2, Grades 5 and 6; don't do Grades 3 and 4; one reason is building configuration. Chairman Stacey stated that leaves you with 14 teachers and Laura stated actually 12 now, have 13, Kindergarten teacher is counted as one.

Chairman Stacey asked about Aides and Laura stated 7 Aides, 4 are Special Education per I.E.P and 1 instructional in Kindergarten. Karen Umberger stated your number doesn't match number in the book; Pine Tree 15.3, is this wrong or are we counting somebody that you are not. Laura stated Physical Education, Art, and Music are considered regular education. Chairman Stacey stated class size reduction put teacher back in and continue looping, if you cut teacher, lose out on looping. Laura stated would have to. Chairman Stacey stated benefits from looping and Laura stated philosophy is many students have problem with transition, cuts time down in the fall, for some students it works well. Chairman Stacey stated not to break confidentiality, but can this be affected by an I.E.P. and Laura stated can happen any time for any one; can't speak of specifics. Chairman Stacey stated Junior's father says my child has an I.E.P. want class size at a certain number. Laura stated it is a team decision on what is best for that student. Chairman Stacey thanked Laura Jacowitz for the presentation.

Karen Umberger asked about the health insurance and Dr. Nelson stated 21%. Karen further stated I realize retirement costs have gone up significantly for entire District, do we have figure and Dr. Nelson stated total in packet; we can get it to you next week.

Karen Umberger stated she noticed in the paper that the School Board agreed to accept the Mineral Springs property; did the voters approve you to be the agent for accepting property. Dr. Nelson stated he would bring the opinion of the School attorney on that next week; pretty black and white on that. Betty Boucher asked the name of the School's attorney and Dr. Nelson stated John Teague.

Bob Drinkhall stated present loss in tax revenue cost to insurance and Dr. Nelson stated no change in liability insurance not going to have impact. Karen stated I will have some additional questions but would like to read that opinion first. Dr. Nelson stated anyone could e-mail anything to him at any time.

Chairman Stacey asked what the Committee would like to do about the Selectmen coming here or write a letter. Doug Swett stated he would like Recreation back. Chairman Stacey stated John can not come, John's response will have to be the position of the Selectmen. Doug stated the Selectmen haven't discussed and Karen stated correct, brought up

something for them to think about with regard to fees; talked about Administrative Assistant concerns; and that she will be more than happy to discuss on Tuesday whether the Selectmen want to have a meeting with the Budget Committee. Chairman Stacey stated we will see them on the 3<sup>rd</sup>. Bill Jones stated that John Eastman surely has an opinion that he could express. Bill stated he would like to see a letter to the Selectmen. Karen stated to Bill she expected the Selectmen's meeting on Tuesday to discuss fees and the Administrative Assistant, will be on the Agenda for discussion so they will be discussed and then whatever decision is reached still have time to bring recognized departments back.

Pat Swett stated if she was understanding correctly John Eastman has no say, Selectmen make the decision, very unfair. She didn't think it was fair for 5 people to say what you have to do. Chairman Stacey stated not micro-managing, a proposal was presented to this Committee without fees and went from 19 to 24 hours for the Administrative Assistant. Pat Swett further stated no time to come before this Committee to present his professional opinion; very unfair.

Karen Umberger stated if one of the Principals came here and said I don't like what the School Board wants, this is what I want to do; basically the same thing. When she comes here as Selectman she represents the Selectmen whether she agrees or disagrees, but it is her responsibility. Selectmen did not put a muzzle on John. We will just have to see what happens.

Deb Deschenes stated she had the same feeling at the Library when asking John questions, Earl Sires stated those questions should be asked of the Selectmen. If anybody has a problem with that, go to the Selectmen. If there's an issue with a principal and the voters were concerned about it, those people should come to the School Board. People need to show up at the Selectmen's meeting with concerns on Tuesday at 4:00 PM.

James LeFebvre stated on the Reading Specialist, it was asked what had been accomplished so far and there doesn't seem to be any improvement according to the presentations. Karen Umberger stated if you look at the School Report Card, it shows what that is if in fact there was an improvement in the reading scores. James stated when asked, told no improvement. Mike DeGregorio stated to follow up, in our case if you as a Budget Committee need the Principals to answer more questions, such as about John, he would send the Principals back. Chairman Stacey stated the questions being asked are based on fees and the Administrative Assistant; John can not answer at this time. Mike stated if members want someone here they should have them here. Doug Swett stated we can request anything we want. if we don't agree then we don't recommend the Article.

Bill Jones stated he thought John testified he could use full time, 19 hours or 24. Selectmen decided to extend the person's time to 52 weeks, 19. Karen stated the only thing she wanted people to understand is if you have questions on John's budget, John will answer any questions. You have questions about information dealing with fees that was in presentation John gave to us. Please allow us to re-visit it or not re-visit.

Maureen Seavey stated going to 24 hours suggested first but didn't think benefits with it; he moved back to 19, so no benefits. On John's behalf, he didn't move to 24. Bill Jones stated he didn't mean he was at fault. Chairman Stacey stated still going to come back to (a) Selectmen need to respond; (b) put in letter or (c) do you want them here.

Deb Deschenes stated at this point send a letter, different opinions or concerns can be related in a single letter. Selectmen can appoint Karen to bring information back to avoid different opinions, more professional way to handle. James LeFebvre agreed.

**Crow Dickinson moved, seconded by Melissa Stacey, to send letter to the Selectmen outlining the Committee's point and inviting them to appear before the Committee and explain whatever it is they would like. No vote - motion and amendment withdrawn.** Bill Jones stated he would like motion amended "and/or respond through representative or courtesy of an appearance".

Deb Deschenes asked what the original vote was and Chairman Stacey advised 3 to 2. Karen Umberger stated already send letter, don't need a second letter; going to send a letter already to the Town on issue of fees and the Administrative Assistant. The Selectmen will discuss on Tuesday. Crow stated we are wasting our time; moot point. Bill Jones withdrew his amendment to the motion. Crow Dickinson withdrew his motion.

Chairman Stacey asked do you want the letter to go with a recommendation about the budget or send more than one letter. Crow Dickinson stated he thought the main concern was for this business about fees for the Rec Center and other issues; send a brief note about Rec Center will be helpful. Chairman Stacey stated letter such as "Dear Selectmen please be aware that the Budget Committee is recommending, etc." Bill Aughton stated he thought Committee should wait to see what the Selectmen say.

Crow Dickinson stated on Article 15 got a letter back from Carl; somehow in communication the concern about "raise" that was bothering him, DRA didn't address. Crow will ask the Commissioner. Crow stated standard administrative rules keep getting referred to as requirements. In ED-306 when talking about Reading Specialist, it was said that these were requirements. If they are requirements, have a constitutional problem. Karen Umberger stated one of the real problems that we have in this area is that they have identified Reading Specialist as a requirement, but classroom size can be some number set locally. Standards say 90 students, 2 teachers; 6 teachers for those 90 students we have made decision locally to fund those teachers. Point is that when budget comes in we use certain things in there as certain requirements and use others for something else. Crow stated so you are saying "Crow don't worry about it". Karen stated she does worry about it. Crow stated he just wanted to say this may come around to bite us, and he objects to saying it is required.

Deb Deschenes stated on Article 15 your concern on language, night of deliberative each member of the School Board will present a Warrant Article; it is up to them to clarify "raise and appropriate", it is their

job to explain. Deb will question the mandates versus approval difference. She will definitely take concerns back. Crow stated we already raised it, don't need to raise again; rest is okay.

Etienne Valle stated it was Regulation 306.37(4) - An environment which promotes the importance of reading. Does not require Reading Specialist; no where does it say you need to have a Reading Specialist.

Bill Aughton stated if school not approved, what are the consequences. He feels we have a good school, a lot of variables, when going after approval what does that term mean. Is there a penalty for Elementary Schools not being approved. Karen Umberger stated it may come in "No Child Left Behind".

Randy Davison stated as a taxpayer he had concerns with this. You, as taxpayers, have to cap dollars. This is why Conway has 3 separate enrollments, they are flat numbers. A Committee back 20 years ago wanted a neighborhood school with neighborhood costs. Every District doesn't hire a Reading Specialist; don't hire a Librarian. Mike DiGregorio stated some of the penalties would be a loss of state funding, loss of tuition contract. Crow stated he talked with Department of Education to discuss if you aren't an approved school what effect does it have with accreditation. After fifth time around the barn, he really thinks legislation needed; set up a study. Chairman Stacey stated how does it effect Special Education, not being approved.

Bill Jones asked when the Committee will have the paperwork for the non-profits. Chairman Stacey stated on Tuesday morning she and Karen will sit down, get letters out and get paperwork to hand out to this Committee.

James LeFebvre stated he talked with Jim (Hill) and he would be going into Conway Elementary, taking a look at condition, tomorrow at 11:30 AM at the Career/Technical Center.

**Etienne Vallee moved, seconded by Bob Drinkhall, to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 PM. Motion carried unanimously.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Iris A. Bowden, Recording Secretary