

**MINUTES OF MEETING  
MUNICIPAL BUDGET COMMITTEE  
February 12, 2007**

A meeting of the Municipal Budget Committee was called to order at 6:35 PM in the Meeting Room at the Conway Town Hall with the following members present: Chairman Melissa Stacey, Robert Drinkhall, Maureen Seavey, Pat Libby, Phil Dighello, Doug Swett, Crow Dickinson, Rick Paquette, Bill Jones, Betty Boucher, Deb Deschenes, Bill Aughton, James LeFebvre, Karen Umberger, Kirk Smith and Etienne Vallee. Also present were Earl Sires and Lucy Philbrick.

Chairman Stacey reminded the members that there were 5 open seats for the Budget Committee this year; sign up starts February 22<sup>nd</sup> and ends March 1<sup>st</sup>. Rick Paquette asked whose term was up and Chairman Stacey stated James LeFebvre, Bill Jones, Etienne Vallee, Pat Libby and herself.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**Karen Umberger moved, seconded by Bill Jones, to approve the Minutes of January 24, 2007. In favor: 14; Opposed: 0; Abstain: 1 - Kirk Smith.**

**Karen Umberger moved, seconded by Bill Jones, to approve the Minutes of January 29, 2007. In favor: 14; Opposed: 0; Abstain: 1 - Kirk Smith.** Bob Drinkhall stated on Page 5, second paragraph, second line, add after teacher "plus custodians" and after 25 add "total".

TOWN BUDGET REVIEW

Earl Sires stated Karen (Umberger) gave a summary of the Selectmen's comments and Karen advised she did that last Wednesday. Lucy Philbrick reported on department changes: Election and Registrations - Supplies increased by \$1,500.00 at request of Supervisor to accommodate check list to meet State Standards. Karen Umberger stated whole process of check list has changed; trying to get that together.

Lucy Philbrick stated the Police Department decreased by \$1,500.00 because of sick pay buy-back. The Non-Precinct Fire line changed to \$222,061.00 to be in line with the contract. Parks and Recreation - Recreation portion reduced by \$40,000.00 in personnel, lines 1821 and 1823. Earl Sires pointed out that last year the taxpayers supported Revolving Funds for the Police and the Landfill. Monies received by special fees will go into the Revolving Fund. This year will set up another Revolving Fund to avoid double appropriations. All fees go into the Revolving Fund to pay for officials, pay staff associated with swim lessons. Lucy stated 2006 Recreation income was \$14,250.00; \$17,468.00 from Albany. Earl Sires stated Selectmen thinking about adjusting swim lesson fees; fees don't cover cost of program.

Lucy Philbrick stated Conway Public Library reduced request for benefits/insurance for new calculation for 12 months; line 1855 reduced by just over \$2,000.00.

Lucy Philbrick stated the Conservation Commission reduced their request by \$17,804.00. Karen Umberger stated they came to the Selectmen, not the Budget Committee. Betty Boucher asked the reason the Conservation Commission reduced and Earl Sires stated they decided not to do one or two planned projects. Lucy Philbrick stated dropped Consulting and Management \$1,500.00; reduced Forest and Wetlands Management by \$1,050.00.

Phil Dighello asked for raises for Police Department this year. Earl Sires stated they could certainly ask for it. Phil stated he would like the bottom line of what the raises are this year.

Earl Sires moved on to the Warrant Articles. Article 6 - Operating Budget: current number is \$8,710,265.00. Article on Collective Bargaining Agreement with Department of Public Works - no cost items in contract this year. Article on Collective Bargaining Agreement with Police Department - you have already heard about them. Karen Umberger stated because Union agreement we have to vote on it even though no money. Phil Dighello stated there is a misprint, should be 2007/08.

Earl Sires proceeded with the Article on Emergency Ambulance Service - proposed by agreement \$154,000.00 for the year; this Article is for \$103,370.00 from May to the end of the year; in addition to \$66,780.00 already in. Article on Maintenance of Town Buildings and Facilities Capital Reserve Fund - asking \$125,000.00, same as last two years. Article on PEG Expendable Trust Fund for \$104,437.00, amount to be received from Time Warner; no check received yet, but have been assured it is in the mail. Betty Boucher asked what was left in that account and Earl stated \$170,000.00, contributed \$20,000.00 from this year, not including any request by Valley Vision for equipment.

#### VALLEY VISION

Doug Poor, Manager and Program Director, presented the budget to the Committee. Mr. Poor stated they had consolidated some items; paying contract labor, should not have to pay expenses with payroll including workers/compensation; consolidated contracted labor into \$75,000.00, last year \$57,000.00; 2 full-time, 1 part-time; added 1 part-time; propose \$83,560.00 in order to be able to have a part-time person in order to do a little bit more in production; relatively level funded.

Karen Umberger stated your total budget, have where and for what and Mr. Poor stated total income \$134,679.00 based on projections and fundraising; spending \$134,473.00, so ahead a little more than projected. Phil Dighello stated how much contributed and Mr. Poor stated \$77,000.00 last year.

Crow Dickinson stated when you write up next year include the revenues and expenses for previous year. This year you have the budget for 2007; next year have 2007 actual, 2008 budget, then we can compare and ask intelligent questions about revenue and expenditures.

Bill Jones asked about the request for money for equipment and Mr. Poor stated monies will come out of the PEG Fund. Earl Sires stated money in the fund subject to Selectmen approval to expend from it. Valley Vision has asked for \$35,000.00 and Selectmen have already okayed. Bill stated no amount listed and Earl stated already done. This Warrant Article places money in the fund for use.

#### TOWN BUDGET REVIEW

Earl Sires proceeded with the Article on the Capital Reserve Fund for Police Vehicles. Bill Jones stated missed the Article on Maintenance of Town Buildings and Earl stated same amount as last year.

Earl Sires proceeded with the Article on the Recreation Revolving Fund - this is the language the State requires. Article on the Swift River Covered Bridge Capital Reserve Fund was created for a specific use; asking to extinguish. Rick Paquette stated is this majority or 3/5 and Earl stated majority.

Earl Sires proceeded with the Article on the Non-Precinct Fire Agreement - changed only in its structure; Selectmen carry one year fund cycle and basically have one year extension with everything staying the same. What is being presented: asking to approve 5-year agreement with minor changes to it. No appropriating money, approving contract.

Earl Sires proceeded with the Article on the transfer of land to North Conway Water Precinct. Rick Paquette asked how is "use" defined. Earl stated basically storage now; so long as there is a fire hose and/or nozzle stored.

Earl Sires proceeded with the Article on Conway Public Library - \$7,600.00 having been donated; \$5,500.00 for purchase of literary, audio and video material for the Young Adult and Children's Sections. Karen Umberger asked for the reason why this is an Article and Earl stated money received last year and Lucy Philbrick stated it is in Unanticipated. Chairman stated could encumber it and Earl stated didn't encumber it. Lucy stated had funds encumbered, didn't re-encumber. Earl stated in Unanticipated.

Earl Sires stated the rest of the articles are roads, more roads and non-profits. Chairman Stacey asked about voting on the Library Article and Earl stated anything with money has to be voted on.

Karen Umberger stated a suggested Default Budget from the Town was handed out earlier. This is Town's input of \$8,672,916.00.

#### OTHER BUSINESS

Chairman Stacey stated as many of you know, we have been working under misinformation for setting the School Default Budget. Article last year did not pass by 70 votes. She called the Municipal Association and didn't go through (716/594) last year, not recommended by School Board, no way can they allow us to set the Default Budget this year. Phil Dighello

stated we had default with additions and stuff that shouldn't be in there; items for equipment for \$40,000.00 should not be in the budget; should not be in the Default Budget; taking a hard line to request an explanation on some of the items. Chairman stated as far as she knew there was nothing we can do right now.

Chairman Stacey stated Warrant Article by petition to read "Shall we adopt provision of RSA 40:14-b to delegate the determination of the default budget to the Municipal Budget Committee which has been adopted under RSA 32:14." School Board has right to recommend or not recommend it. Earl Sires stated petition did right for us.

Phil Dighello stated should not give impression setting default budget; vote taken a year ago; a couple of days before public hearing; lousy politics. Chairman stated apparently George Fredette found the mistake and called their attorney, called the Municipal Association. Crow Dickinson stated one-time expenses in the School Budget now; if it were to pass next year included in the Default Budget; that is the bad thing.

Phil Dighello stated he thought the whole system was bad, whatever Carl Nelson and School Board says, nobody to say "no it is not"; lousy system. Doug Swett stated this is how it is. Chairman stated they don't trust Budget Committee and Doug Swett stated vice versa.

Bill Jones stated our mistrust can be documented. Multiple reasons; when challenged and proven wrong, still don't make corrections on the Budget; it is a tragedy; people getting the wrong impression of this Budget Committee and it should be corrected.

Betty Boucher read a portion of RSA 32:5 and stated our public hearing hasn't come forth; can we take out of default budget and Earl Sires stated he was not going there, can't answer what they did.

**Betty Boucher moved, seconded by Bob Drinkhall, that Lucy Philbrick has the authority to complete the MS-37's. Motion passed unanimously.** Chairman Stacey reminded that deliberative sessions are March 5<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> at Kennett High School. Lucy Philbrick asked once the vote is taken on 19<sup>th</sup>, will the Committee allow her to put in department.

**Bill Jones moved, seconded by James LeFebvre, to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 PM. Motion carried unanimously.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Iris A. Bowden, Recording Secretary