

**MINUTES OF MEETING
MUNICIPAL BUDGET COMMITTEE
May 2, 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: Chairperson Melissa Stacey, Robert Drinkhall, Pat Libby, Phil Dighello, Doug Swett, Crow Dickinson, Rick Paquette, Bill Jones, Betty Boucher, Bill Aughton, Karen Umberger and James LeFebvre.

Crow Dickinson, as a Selectman, gave the oath to Pat Libby, Karen Umberger, James LeFebvre and Bill Jones to become members of the Budget Committee.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Karen Umberger moved, seconded by Phil Dighello, to approve the Minutes of February 3, 2007, as amended; approve the Minutes February 7, 2007; approve the Minutes February 12, 2007; approve the Minutes of February 15, 2007; approve the Minutes of February 19, 2007, as amended; and approve the Minutes of February 21, 2007. In favor: 11; Opposed: 0; Abstain: 1 - Pat Libby.

In the Minutes of February 3, 2007, Bob Drinkhall stated on the first page, third paragraph, "installation" should be changed to "insulation" and on Page 4, first paragraph, fifth line should read "care of".

In the Minutes of February 19, 2007, James LeFebvre stated on Page 15, sixth paragraph, first line should read "James LeFebvre stated a 5% cut would save \$1.55 Million." Bob Drinkhall stated on Page 10 the vote on Starting Point should read "In favor: 11; Opposed: 2 - Bob Drinkhall and Chairman Stacey; Abstain: 2 - Betty Boucher and Etienne Vallee."

Karen Umberger moved, seconded by Phil Dighello, to approve the Minutes of February 7, 2007. In favor: 10; Opposed: 0; Abstain: 2 - Pat Libby and Bob Drinkhall.

OTHER BUSINESS

Chairman Stacey advised that Crow Dickinson would be the Selectmen's representative this year; George Fredette would be the School Board representative; and Pat Libby would be the representative for Birch Hill. At this time, there are no representatives from the other precincts. Crow Dickinson stated that he had spoken to some people in the Center Conway Fire Precinct and made a suggestion for a possible representative; they will contact that person. Crow further understood that there was an effort being made by the Redstone Fire Precinct to have a representative on this Committee.

Chairman Stacey read a letter to the Committee that Larry Martin as Chair of the Board of Selectmen wrote to The Honorable Representative Robert L. Theberge, Chairman of the House Municipal and County Government

Committee, in support of the proposed amendments to HB 479. Karen Umberger stated that several committee members testified at the hearing on HB 479 and that the vote was 3 to 11 not to support. One of the things that seemed to be major problem was that Conway was the only Town to testify. Karen suggested that the Municipal Association be contacted for SB-2 Towns to see if any are willing to testify. Crow Dickinson stated that the Municipal Association was opposed to it; they are the ones to focus on. It was unfortunate they opposed it; why they did, he was not sure. Karen suggested that the Budget Committee send a letter to the Municipal Association, with copies to the Selectmen. Phil Dighello stated that one of the legislators for the bill advised that there are other Towns having problems; his town's default was higher than the budget; kind of blackmail - either vote for our budget or get a higher one.

Bill Jones stated there was a recommendation of the School Board and no recommendation from Budget Committee on the Article. Chairman Stacey stated the School Board originally had a 2-3-0 vote, then changed it to 1-6-0. Crow Dickinson stated the vote was amended after the deliberative session and after the moderator stated the Article shall be written as passed. Chairman stated the Article was not a money item and did not need a recommendation. Mark (Hounsell) was going to be here to discuss this. Crow stated he hoped this Committee would make every effort to try to work with the School Board and do what they can to dispel acrimony. It does exist and it is unfortunate. Bill Jones stated he would work with them, but felt it was ridiculous to not accept facts presented.

Rick Paquette asked if George Fredette stated why he would not be here tonight. Chairman Stacey stated she thought he was out of town; he did know about it. Packets were sent to Deb Deschene, Carl Nelson, Randy Davison and Dick Klement since no one knew who the representative was going to be.

Bill Jones moved, seconded by James LeFebvre, to nominate Melissa Stacey for Chairman. In favor: 11; Opposed: 0; Abstain: 1 - Melissa Stacey.

Pat Libby moved, seconded by Bob Drinkhall, to nominate Betty Boucher for Vice Chairman. In favor: 11; Opposed: 0; Abstain: 1 - Betty Boucher.

Chairman Stacey reviewed the Rules and Regulations. Chairman further requested that members keep personal negative comments out of discussions so no one feels alienated.

Karen Umberger asked when the Committee was going to review the first quarter from the Town and the third quarter from the School. Karen further stated it might be a good idea to do the review in June. Crow Dickinson stated the School Board promised to get their budget to this Committee by November 1st and thought that they may need to be reminded of that goal. Chairman stated she would remind them. Crow stated he had a lot of faith in the good intentions of the School Board. Chairman stated there would be a review in October. Crow suggested to make it October 29th and then remind the School Board that this Committee should see their budget in 3 days. Rick Paquette stated the School Board could actually give it to this Committee then.

Rick Paquette stated that he would be unavailable from June 14th to July 8th. Chairman suggested June 6, 2007 at 6:30 PM at Town Hall for the next meeting.

Pat Libby stated the next meeting of the Health Insurance Committee was on May 15th and suggested that Karen Umberger be a representative from this Committee. Chairman Stacey advised that she had no problem with that if Karen was comfortable with it.

Chairman Stacey stated that on May 14th at 5 PM the SAU and Department of Education were having a meeting to discuss how to improve education in the Valley. Location of the meeting had not yet been determined.

Chairman Stacey requested ideas for the vacancies. Doug Swett stated he called Bob Barriault, but Bob said he couldn't. Chairman suggested advertising from the 21st to 31st. Karen Umberger suggested May 17th and 18th only because folks are out of town on Saturday.

Crow Dickinson stated would like to have a BBQ for the Committee members sometime; just an idea.

Bill Jones moved, seconded by Phil Dighello, to adjourn the meeting at 7:20 PM. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Iris A. Bowden, Recording Secretary