

**MINUTES OF MEETING  
MUNICIPAL BUDGET COMMITTEE  
January 7, 2008**

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, Pat Libby, Jim LeFebvre, Rick Paquette, Bill Jones, Phil Dighello, Crow Dickinson, Karen Umberger, Doug Swett, John Edgerton, George Fredette and Betty Boucher. Also present were Earl Sires, Lucy Philbrick, Chief Ed Wagner, Lt. Chris Perley, Margaret Marshner, Gene Drolet and John Eastman.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**Karen Umberger moved, seconded by Jim LeFebvre, to approve the Minutes of December 17, 2007. In favor: 9; Opposed: 0; Abstain: 3.**

Chairman Stacey stated that as of today only 3 non-profit petitions had been received: Tri-County Community Action, Gibson Center and Children Unlimited; deadline for the non-profit petitions is the 11<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 PM; forms for same have been on-line since November; no letters were sent this year. When Karen Hallowell and the Chairman have seen any non-profit representatives, they have reminded them of the deadline. Bill Jones stated that he would like it on the record that after 5:00 PM on the 11<sup>th</sup> applications will not be accepted. Karen Umberger stated that she knows of two petitions that are coming.

Chairman Stacey reminded everyone to vote on January 8<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 AM to 7:00 PM.

Chairman Stacey stated that the numbers presented by Dr. Nelson for the School included the Warrant Articles and that is why the numbers are off. Bill Jones stated the budget states it doesn't include Warrant Articles.

Chairman Stacey stated that Dr. Nelson cannot attend the Public Hearing scheduled for 2/13 and has asked if it could be moved and asked that the Chairman bring this before the Committee. The last day is 2/19 which doesn't give the Selectmen time to vote and cuts our extra voting day; she explained that she felt the extra voting day was needed and didn't think it would be possible to change the date. Karen Umberger asked what the last day was and the Chairman stated the 19<sup>th</sup> when the Selectmen vote. Karen asked if there was a reason why this Committee could not vote on Tuesday and Chairman stated because the Selectmen are voting. Karen asked if Dr. Nelson was just going to be gone that one day and Chairman stated she did not know at this time. Karen asked George Fredette if he would be willing to present and George stated he had not been in the loop on this. Chairman stated Dr. Nelson has to go out of town; has something to do with representing the School at the State level and he can't be here. Earl Sires stated there were a couple of conflicts on the 2/14, one being a Planning Board meeting. Chairman stated she and Karen (Hallowell) counted and this is best they could do. Jim LeFebvre asked about the 11<sup>th</sup>

and the Chairman stated we can't do because the Petitions are not in. George stated there was also a School Board meeting. Rick Paquette recommended to have the School Board decide what to do. George stated should have covered a lot of ground by then; should keep out there and see where we are at. Betty Boucher asked if the Public Hearing had already been posted and Earl stated yes. Betty asked if this Committee could legally change it and Earl stated certainly. Chairman agreed that it could be legally changed. Betty stated everybody will be here except for Carl. Phil Dighello stated he thought there were enough support people to handle the Public Hearing rather than change the date. George stated a lot of ground can be covered between now and then.

Chairman Stacey stated that on the schedule of meetings, the meeting on 2/18 doesn't start at 8:00 PM, starts at 6:30 PM. As far as the meeting on 1/23, have yet to find a place to hold the meeting.

Rick Paquette stated there were a couple of things he wanted to say before starting the Town Review. Again, Conway Sun not reporting this meeting; the Town TV is here again and thank you for appearing. Rick stated that there is a lot of information that goes through these meetings that effect the taxpayers and many will wonder how something got on the ballot. The taxpayers are going to have to walk into vote without complete information. The Sun is not here and find from the School Board Chair that the meeting recently reported was, in fact, a meeting held in December, but newspaper didn't say it happened in December. Chairman Stacey stated that she had e-mailed the Sun about tonight's meeting and Karen Hallowell called and talked to the Editor. We have made every effort; they were e-mailed and faxed. Rick's other question was if the Budget Committee had received the information requested from the lawyer.

Earl Sires began with the response from the Town Attorney. Rick Paquette asked if this was the first distribution of the letter and that no one else had looked at it and Earl stated he received it at 4:50 PM this afternoon; he had read it. Earl stated this letter is a response from the Town Counsel with reference to the School Board setting the Default Budget. Voters authorized the Budget Committee to set the Town's Default Budget, but not the School; this Committee had concerns and asked the Town Counsel to review. Earl Sires read the last two paragraphs as follows:

"Based upon this correspondence and the attachments thereto, I cannot conclude that the School Board's default budget violates the statute. Even if the School Board has manipulated the default budget, it would be difficult to prove that such action is illegal.

I would suggest that the Budget Committee continue to ask more specific questions of the School Board with regard to questionable increases and omitted decreases so as to require the School Board to provide further explanation. Also, the Budget Committee may again attempt to invoke RSA 40:14-b, that is, request the legislative body to delegate

the authority to establish the default budget to the Budget Committee as opposed to the School Board."

#### TOWN REVIEW

Earl Sires stated the Default Budget calculation done by Lucy is \$8,999,023.00 compared to the proposed Operating Budget of \$9,131,361.00 for a difference of \$130,000.00 between the Operating Budget and the Default Budget; used same calculation as in the past.

Earl Sires also stated that the Committee members were given a sheet that states which roads were worked on this year with funds received from FEMA; they are for the most part gravel roads. Total cost of over \$150,000.00; a great benefit.

Earl Sires proceeded to state that Lucy was in the process of closing out the books and projecting between \$50,000.00 and \$100,000.00 under budget or under 1%; will give the final numbers when they are ready.

Lucy Philbrick stated the Conservation account has a balance of \$17,418.06. Karen Umberger asked about the Revolving Funds and Lucy stated a detail sheet had been handed out. Karen stated she would have some questions later, but not right now.

Chairman Stacey asked all presenters to state their name and reminded those present to keep all side conversations to a minimum.

#### POLICE

Chief Ed Wagner began his presentation with the Labor Account of Regular Officers of \$1,044,320.00 which included a new Police Officer for half the year. Rick Paquette asked why half the year. Chief Wagner stated the vote isn't until April and, if approved, will not hire someone until June or July.

Karen Umberger requested an explanation on the rationale for an additional police officer and what level he/she would be brought in at. Chief Wagner stated the starting salary would be 92% of the average for a Patrolman which would be about \$39,800.00. Chief Wagner asked Lt. Perley to proceed with the statistics on the need.

Lt. Perley stated the purpose of adding an officer is the same reason to add anybody: reduce division of labor to a more manageable level; to reduce the division of labor per officer.

Karen Umberger asked what is the manageable level and what is the change. Lt. Perley stated that crime and paperwork has increased significantly. Arrests have increased 10%; total call volume in 2007 was 1,104 calls more than in 2006; about 75% don't require a response. Conway Police Department has 3 shifts; 8 hour days, 5 days a week; 2,080 hours a year. Total calls for service of 68,912; a Primary Responder has 6,264.72 calls per officer. Division of labor reduces by 1,300 per officer.

Karen Umberger asked if there were 11 Patrol and 3 Sergeants and Lt. Perley said yes. Jim LeFebvre stated the volume had gone up approximately 3 additional calls per day and Lt. Perley stated yes.

Lt. Perley stated that the most time consuming is an incident involving a formal report. In 2006 the total number of incidents: 1,485. To give a perspective on the criminal justice business, other agencies are involved, the Public Defenders Office where the attorneys are paid by the State to represent criminals carry an average of 100 cases. Officers investigate 135.

Jim LeFebvre questioned the comparison to what an attorney does; better to compare with other departments. Karen Umberger stated all cases don't go to Public Defenders. Lt. Perley stated that 8 law enforcement agencies use the District Court: Conway Police Department, Carroll County Sheriff's Department, NH State Police, Bartlett, Jackson, Madison, NH Fish and Game and Marine Patrol. The criminal docket had 2,051 criminal docketed complaints; of those 2,051 cases, the Conway Police Department makes up 1/8; maybe generated 50% of the work.

Bill Jones stated if two people respond to a call, you get two reports and Lt. Perley stated you get one incident report and a number. Bill stated counts as two and Lt. Perley stated that it only counts as one. Once an incident is given a number, it doesn't represent how many narratives there may be.

Rick Paquette stated as far as you can determine please tell this Committee that the per capita service is lower or higher than Lincoln, NH; per capital is important; there is talk about a 30 town survey, how does this Committee balance it. Lt. Perley stated Lincoln, NH probably has similar dynamics, but is a smaller town.

Jim LeFebvre stated if Conway is in the top 4, what are the other 3 towns and Lt. Perley stated from memory Bedford, Goffstown and Londonderry, the biggest town in New Hampshire. Conway has the same activity as some of these towns.

Bob Drinkhall stated that at one point, wasn't there a cut back. Lt. Perley stated yes; used to have 4 sergeants. Bob asked the reason for that and Chief Wagner stated that it was before his time, but he thought it was back in the late 1980's or mid 1990's a position was cut.

Karen Umberger stated one thing that has decreased the number of patrol people is because of the officer at the High School and to her, that was a choice the Police Department made for 9 months of the year. They made the choice to utilize personnel at the High School; not a requirement, it is a choice. What you are now asking is that you have made a choice and are now asking us to agree to an additional officer, whether or not we agree with your choice. Not a problem as long as everything remained the same. Karen stated she understood the reason for having an officer in the High School and we, the town, will pay for that police officer to be there with no reimbursement by the school; this started with a Grant, but it has gone away. From her point of view, this was not thought through

all the way; need something from the Police Department stating what the advantage is to have the police officer in school so that she could accept this additional person. That is the kind of thing she needs to see, the benefits of what you are doing versus the additional.

Chief Wagner stated there has been an officer in the school since 1995. It was originally paid for with a Grant; no longer the case. They pay for him full time; he is in there 9 months of the year and when he is not there that gives them extra. Along with that, have asked the school on some level to pay for the Resource Officer for the 180 days he is in the school; that would cover part of that \$50,000.00 to be billed to the school for 180 days. That money would be divided out to other towns; 40 to 45% billed out to other districts, would be getting money back.

Jim LeFebvre asked what incidents the Resource Officer deals with. Lt. Perley stated he takes reports, makes arrests, investigates. His work load had 92 incidents, made 30 arrests. Jim stated then he is doing 92 for 9 months which is above average. Lt Perley stated the Resource Officer by his performance and actions identifies and prevents crime, makes arrests, drafts complaints, coordinates activities, is liaison with staff. Bill Jones asked how many hours and Lt. Perley stated 7:00 AM until 3:00 PM.

Bob Drinkhall asked if any study had been done with like schools that do and don't have Resource Officers. Chief Wagner stated he would try to find out if one had been done.

George Fredette stated the Resource Officer also goes to the elementary schools. Secondly, got to believe that having him there is a preventive measure; third, this has absolutely nothing to do with the school position.

Rick Paquette stated it was his understanding that officer went to the school only because there was a Grant; the Grant has gone; just trying to clarify; police want to continue with the Resource Officer and are asking for another officer. Chief Wagner stated he was not sure, but he thought the Grant ran out in 1998. The officer at the school is invaluable.

Pat Libby asked Chief Wagner if he anticipated overtime going down and he stated no.

Earl Sires stated the money ran out in 2003. The Budget Committee included any programs started must be submitted for approval; voters needed to approve.

Phil Dighello stated he agreed with having an officer in the school, but thought the other towns should share in the cost. Chief Wagner stated they have had discussions with the school. Earl Sires stated the Selectmen are interested in having a discussion with eventually the cost being partitioned out to other towns. Earl did speak with the Superintendent and was asked not this year please.

Karen Umberger stated with the camera system in the school, not talking pros and cons, has the number of incidents increased or decreased. Lt. Perley stated it has increased their ability; whether reduced, don't know. If you look at 2006 and look at now there has been a reduction of offenses to school property. Karen stated what she was trying to get to is that we would anticipate that perhaps the number of incidents the school Resource Officer is involved in has probably gone down. Lt. Perley stated for property yes. All calls are not created equal; for instance the case at the High School involving the threat on the wall. We were able to mark suspects; it was definitely a help, but does cause a different work load; reduce, yes to some degree. Karen asked about the number at the Middle School. Lt. Perley stated since September and compared to the High School yes. Karen asked if the same Resource Officer was at the Middle School and Lt. Perley stated one Resource Officer and two DARE officers.

George Fredette stated again Chief Wagner and his people are looking for staff out of school, why spend 20 minutes on the Resource Officer. Lt. Perley stated it brings back to the point of division of labor; to reduce work load and increase proactive crime prevention time. Bill Jones stated he agreed with George, enough time on this; let's move on.

Rick Paquette asked about part-time officers and Chief Wagner stated currently have 4; 2 of those hired under different administration to do detail work, 2 work the road; limited by law. Bill Jones asked how many worked only details and Chief Wagner stated just two but don't get paid unless used.

Rick Paquette asked any numbers on serious incidents and Lt. Perley stated national trend based on studies 1999 to 2004 violent crime declined 1.8 per million people; on the home side stable for violent crimes on males and females. Property crime, national declined 154 per million in the nation; drug slightly increased. Locally, serious crime against woman and man has gone down in our community; age 12 and up for substance abuse in top 10 of alcohol and drug; top 3 for marijuana for age 12 and older use; bottom 5 for access to treatment. Binge drinking by more students is higher than national average and it will continue to increase when age of majority increases from 17 to 18; 17 was previously treated as adults; going to have a bigger problem. Locally there are a number of offenses, burglary and criminal mischief together increased. In 2006, 1.14 crimes per incident; in 2007, 1.25 now and have to dedicate the same amount of time. Time is getting used up and doubles when crime is serious: rape, robbery, drug trafficking. On felony charges 2.19 charges per defendant; filed 125 charges against 57 defendants. Five crimes committed every day; reported one felony every 3 days in Conway.

Jim LeFebvre asked what year the figures were based on and Lt. Perley stated 2007. Jim asked about going back 5 years and Lt. Perley stated increase 2006, 1.1 officer to 1.25; felonies for 2006, 1.49 and for 2007, 2.2. Last year applied for over 214 Warrants and 42 Search Warrants. DWI arrest from beginning to end of process is 5 hours and that is not the most complex case. That officer is not going to respond to anything else. That can increase when more officers are working. Again, many hands make

light work. Took a sergeant, a detective and a patrolman with the sole responsibility of prevention patrol. In that 8 hours had 15 motor vehicle stops, one DWI arrest, assisted a motorist with a flat tire, 3 calls as secondary responders, and one of the cars stopped resulted in a probation arrest.

Chairman Stacey asked what would happen if we said no and Chief Wagner stated suck it up and drive on; can only work so much. People have compassion fatigue, so the more exposed, the more compassion.

Karen Umberger stated 11 patrol officers and how many sergeants. Lt. Perley stated 3. Karen stated would this additional person be targeting for a specific time of day or is he going to be put on a rotating shift like everybody else. Lt. Perley stated the assignment would be driven by demand. Dangerous time is between 10:00 PM and 2:00 AM; can't prevent pockets of proactive crime; have to field three officers on the road; more is to have flexibility with man power.

Jim LeFebvre asked about part-time officers not being allowed to work full time and what the maximum hours were for part-time. Chief Wagner stated 1,300 hours; and yes, we would be targeting a swing shift and if someone called in on the midnight shift.

Bill Jones stated there was no money for the crossing guard and Chief Wagner stated the school has taken over paying that.

Lt. Perley stated that an additional officer would increase the division of labor so that they could have a reduced work load with more time built in their day for proactive crime prevention. One officer was on a routine patrol, sees a specific person and did what an officer should do; called it in and talked to the person; person identified by driver's license. Officer filled out interview report and a Sergeant reviewed the report and found that the individual had a lengthy criminal record, was a registered sex offender that was not registered. Good news is that he lives in Madison. That is an example of proactive prevention. If another officer sees him, they will know who he is and what he has done.

Betty Boucher asked how many cadets and Chief Wagner stated they would have two when the time comes; he doesn't have them waiting in line. Betty questioned the Dispatchers over time being mandatory and Chief Wagner stated they get 4 hours mandatory training every month; training for dispatchers, training for the officers. Betty questioned the money for cell phones and how many. Chief Wagner stated two cell phones.

Chief Wagner stated he would now just hit the highlights: incentive pay line reduced from current number of \$38,471.00 to \$31,450.00; haven't told Lucy but that is the biggest change in the labor lines. Workers compensation was over \$30,000.00, now at \$16,000.00; 30% multi-year discount.

Karen Umberger questioned why the retirement was up so much and Lucy Philbrick stated last year was 6 months and this year is a whole year.

Chief Wagner proceeded with medical insurance having a 10.2% increase; increase of \$2,600.00 in Operations; Vehicles decreased. Hope to put a Warrant Article for a motorcycle; presently leasing one for \$2,500.00 per year; have quote for \$14,000.00 from Harley Davidson with a 7 year warranty, looking at \$15,600.00; hope to have for 10 years and save \$9,000.00 or \$10,000.00 and will also have something at the end of the life of the motorcycle for a trade in and would save in the long run.

George Fredette stated no increase in gas, is that realistic and Chief Wagner stated \$3,000.00 left over this year. If continues, might not be realistic. Chief Wagner proceeded with overall summary of \$2,413,233.00.

Bill Jones asked if they were still paying for the secretary's uniform and Chief Wagner stated it was a contract thing. Chairman Stacey requested a copy of the Policy and Procedures of the Police Department.

Karen Umberger asked if there was anything else planned other than the motorcycle warrant article. Chief Wagner stated they were in need of a new server for the Department's computer. Warrant Article will be for \$10,899.00. Karen stated why considering a Warrant Article and Earl Sires stated it can be done either way. Bill Jones asked if the price of \$15,600.00 included insurance and Chief Wagner stated no, only the extended warranty. Bill asked where it will be garaged and Chief Wagner stated Town garage. Jim LeFebvre asked if the \$2,500.00 lease included insurance and Chief Wagner stated no.

Chairman Stacey thanked Chief Wagner and Lt. Perley for coming in.

#### LIBRARY

Chairman Stacey congratulated Margaret for being Librarian of the Year.

Margaret Marshner began the presentation by stating the format for showing the budget had changed. She didn't have all the statistics, but have signed up 631 new Library members this year. They are on a campaign to sign up as many members as they can with the possibility of receiving a Grant for \$25,000.00. During December 61 people signed up. They just installed a 10' x 7' mural on the stairwell which is gorgeous.

Margaret Marshner continued by pointing out as in year's past, they do contribute income funds towards the total budget. There is a total increase of \$18,848.20 or about 5%. Wages increased due to last year's increase of hiring a part-time position for 2/3 of the year; that person is now included for 25 hours per week for the entire year. Increased full-time position to 40 hours and plan to increase the position for the History Room from 20 to 30 hours. There has been a lot of demand and only one person knows that area well. Also have a number of projects to be taken care of. Thousands of papers relevant to Hart's Location and papers from the Town vault that had not been opened for 130 years which require a lot of conservation; using white gloves; currently sorting into smaller categories.

Karen Umberger asked if there was a breakdown of the amount of increase attributed and Margaret stated History Room has an increase of \$8,512.00; new person for the entire year is \$5,950.00 which is in the \$23,205.00 increase; \$4,379.00 was from merit increases; \$4,364.00 attributed to extra hours for full-time persons. Karen asked if by moving to 30 hours were benefits included and Margaret stated yes, comes out to \$9,616.00 additional.

Bob Drinkhall asked about the exact figure for heating oil for the upcoming year and Margaret advised the Committee to look on the explanation page; that is to be adjusted before Town Meeting since their oil is the same contract as the Town; waiting for Earl Sires to let her know. Earl Sires stated the number is up a little and if we have to, will ask for an adjustment at Town Meeting.

Rick Paquette questioned the drop in anticipated non-resident income and Margaret stated that was what they anticipate receiving.

Jim LeFebvre asked what income consists of and Margaret stated Towns of Eaton and Albany buy cards for their residents; also non-residents. Rick Paquette asked if non-residents were like weekenders and Margaret stated if they own property and pay taxes we can't charge.

Margaret proceeded with Benefits increase of \$5,981.00; merit pay and benefits increase of \$31,514.00; \$18,400.00 was from Trust income; collection of fees which include books, CD's, audio, books. There is a small fee paid to the State Library.

Betty Boucher asked what the Library would do if they don't get the Grant and Margaret stated it will still be included; may come from some other funds.

Margaret proceeded with Operating Expenses and pointed out that they have spent a little less in postage by sending e-mail.

Bill Jones questioned what a Safe Deposit Box was for and Margaret stated there are trust documents kept in the Safe Deposit Box. Bill asked if the safe was not safe enough to keep the documents in and Margaret stated it is a good idea to have some things off site. Bill asked if there was a list of things in the box and Margaret stated yes, but she did not have the list with her; the list is in the Town Report.

Margaret proceeded with Electric going up 4% for inside and 2% for outside; trying to turn out lights in rooms not being used; trying to conserve. Rick Paquette asked if there was a back up generator and Margaret stated no, they only have emergency lighting.

Margaret proceeded with Water/Sewer and that she had a terrible shock with the first metered bill; had a leak which has been repaired; haven't received December's bill, it is possible that it could be lower. Telephone is \$2,375.00. Insurance is through the Town; Lucy gives that figure. Building/Grounds is cleaning, snow removal, etc. and one of the

locks on a door is going to need to be replaced. The Library is paying for paper and toner for the copier this year.

Jim LeFebvre asked who provided the services for building and grounds and Margaret stated the Town plows the road and parking lot, they hire someone to shovel the walkway. Jim asked if they were reimbursed by the Town and Margaret stated no, outside contractor; Town cuts the grass. Karen Umberger asked if the cleaning contract was included and Margaret stated yes.

Margaret proceeded with Technology which includes hardware for the computers, internet connection, software; also pay for service of someone to take care of problems with the computer. A majority of the Library Programs were paid by the Friends of Library and fundraising. Professional Development was training and travel reimbursement.

Karen Umberger asked if anybody had video conference capabilities and Chairman Stacey stated yes, at the Kennett House.

Margaret reminded everyone to sign up for a library card. Chairman Stacey thanked Margaret for coming.

#### RECREATION

John Eastman stated he would start with Parks Maintenance at \$16,450.00; a slight increase of \$150.00 for insecticides. Grub worms were found and had to spray; have to contract \$1,000.00 out of Revolving Fund. When Whitaker Woods was built, put in a collapsible fence; some parts need to be replaced and instead of waiting until it is completely broken are doing a bit at a time. During the winter the fence comes down and they are starting to replace posts. Landscaping at \$2,500.00; anticipate using all of it. At the Redstone Park there is a new flag pole through a donation by Dorothy Clough; they cut down trees and are going to put in new bushes.

Karen Umberger asked if she heard John say that \$1,000.00 was coming out of Revolving Fund for repairs or for work at Whitaker Woods and John stated yes. Karen questioned passing money through the Revolving Fund.

John proceeded with Recreation Facilities at \$8,448.00. Chairman Stacey asked why so high and John stated because of the Revolving Fund did those different. As an example, an event at Schouler Park: if the Town hires an electrical contractor to set up for the event, we would bill the organization and it would not come off my budget. This year all money went into the Revolving Fund. It comes into the Revolving Fund, paid out of the facilities portion and then reimbursed.

John proceeded with Personnel and the request for \$218,394.00; asking for \$54,000.00 out of the Revolving Fund. Karen Umberger asked what are the hires for the summer and John stated hiring the same as last year; not just a summer program, Adult program uses referees; have budgeted for scorekeepers. You are right with regard to having more staff because of numbers; numbers were roughly the same; averaged 96 kids each day. Karen

asked if the summer program fees would remain the same and Earl Sires stated the Selectmen have not made any change. John Eastman stated they haven't talked about it; but one change needed is to figure in the t-shirts; Town shouldn't eat that.

John proceeded with Office Expenses of \$5,450.00 which fluctuates; has been the same for the past 3 or 4 years. Chairman Stacey asked who maintained the web page and John stated Mike.

John proceeded with \$16,199.00 request for Programs. The Selectmen lowered the Operating Budget; took \$10,000.00 and \$40,000.00. Earl Sires stated reduced by \$50,000.00 in anticipation of summer revenue. Karen Umberger stated that \$16,000.00 is not covered by fees. John stated everything that we do, sports equipment, arts and anything from ribbons to trophies. The Police Department has helped fund the Turkey Trot and candy and Chief Wagner has informed them that they are liquidating the party fund. Have uniform replacements, registration fees; we do get it back. Karen asked what was in the Recreation Fund and Earl Sires stated because we don't generate an amount equal to 100% through fees; have applied the Revolving Fund into the Operating Budget. Karen questioned the \$16,199.00 and John stated \$3,000.00 to groom trails; t-shirts used to run through Friends of Conway Rec included in Revolving Fund; that is \$3,700.00 budgeted that we don't have to eat, going to make back.

Rick Paquette asked how much money collected and in the Revolving Fund. Lucy Philbrick stated the information was on one of the reports passed out. Earl Sires stated about \$69,000.00. Rick stated budget has actually gone up \$71,000.00. Earl Sires stated \$332,000.00 is the total; there is an increase, but some of it is due to expenses.

Jim LeFebvre stated he would like a copy of the detail showing where the \$16,199.00 is going. Karen Umberger stated this shows that this past year took in \$74,000.00 in the Revolving Fund; anticipate next year to only take in \$63,000.00. Lucy Philbrick stated they are looking at using \$73,000.00. Earl Sires stated there is a fund balance of \$29,000.00. We bill Eaton and Albany about \$16,000.00 each year. Last year, Eaton actually funded and probably there should be a balance in case of a glitch. Jim stated expecting \$73,000.00, spend \$63,000.00, that would leave \$10,000.00.

Crow Dickinson stated he shared in some of the concerns but thought it could be presented in a clearer way.

Rick Paquette asked if using Schouler Park as a sports field and John Eastman stated nothing has changed except for a new tackle football program; have always had sports there.

Betty Boucher ask John about the communication with North Conway Recreation and John stated that he and Ryan spend a little time once a month. The only thing they are doing that we are not is running tackle football; had the mechanics to do that. We had kids, probably 12, who played tackle football but we picked up some of their kids. We have roughly 55 kids; they are at 47 or 48; same with basketball. In the

Spring, they run T-Ball but last year they were not able to play due to the renovation; that will change since the renovations are done. Schouler Park is done, as Bill will attest and is one thousand times better and much safer.

Betty Boucher asked if John had seen a decline in area businesses helping the Town Rec and John stated he thought they had a huge decline from businesses for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration; did see fall in that. John did not want to speculate but was told not happy with the road improvement.

Karen Umberger asked if the figure included what had been expensed out, over budget by \$20,000.00. Lucy Philbrick stated that at the end of the year \$41,000.00 would be taken out of the Revolving Fund; lines showing over budget were reimbursed. Earl Sires stated they were over because the Operating Budget was reduced; the bottom line budget will be \$271,000.00; budget will be \$271,000.00 at end of the year. Karen stated then current expenses have not been reimbursed.

John Eastman stated after a lot of discussion on charging fees, it didn't hurt the program. A number of private people wanted to give money to sponsor kids. He thought it was pretty successful. There are always bugs. There is a lot more work for us accounting wise. He didn't receive any complaints; accommodated everyone; turned no one away.

Chairman thanked John Eastman from coming in.

#### OTHER BUSINESS

Crow Dickinson stated he mentioned the letter from the Bartlett and Jackson School Boards to Gene Chandler and Gene asked that it be sent to him since the High School affects Bartlett. Crow drafted a letter he would like to have sent to all Selectmen in all of the Towns that send students to the High School. He has talked about it with some of the Selectmen and thinks perhaps it should come from the Budget Committee; it doesn't matter to him.

George Fredette stated there were towns missing and Crow asked what towns were missing. George stated pick any one 50 miles south of us - Madison, Freedom, Hart's Location, Chatham.

**Rick Paquette moved, seconded by Jim LeFebvre, that the document Crow Dickson prepared, as amended, be sent out to all sending towns. In favor: 9; Opposed: 3 - George Fredette, Pat Libby and Melissa Stacey.** George Fredette asked Crow Dickinson what he was trying to accomplish. Crow stated he was not sure. George questioned that shouldn't there be a clear goal. Crow stated because of the implication of the increase in the High School budget, per pupil average in the State has a budgetary effect on all towns. George stated it was sent for us to take into consideration; did not drive the budget process; did not budget to a state average. Crow stated he thought somebody should yell at the Bartlett and Jackson School Boards for doing this; either send out as a Board or he will send out. Chairman Stacey stated she needed a motion approved and she would send it

out. Doug Swett stated he hoped nobody on this Committee thinks of spending \$1,000.00; he was a taxpayer, not a fool. George Fredette assured that was not their intention. Bill Jones stated he needed to comment because he was subjected to the letter being in his book and he was sure there was other mail. In his opinion, the letter is not in his book; he was finished with it. Chairman wanted to make sure that she understood that she was to re-write the letter and send to all Selectmen or sending towns.

Pat Libby asked if the letter was going to Selectmen, wouldn't it be more effective from Selectmen to Selectmen. Crow Dickinson stated he hadn't cleared same with the Board of Selectmen; maybe this type of response will make it clear we are not interested to bring up to State average. Doug Swett stated if we send out this letter, he hoped we didn't get a response from each town.

Crow Dickinson questioned why no one shows up during the High School budget if it effects you. Chairman Stacey stated sending towns sit on the School Board. Crow stated there seems to be apathy about participating. Chairman stated we pay a majority of the bill and Crow stated we pay almost everything.

**Bill Jones moved, seconded by Doug Swett, to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 PM. Motion carried unanimously.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Iris A. Bowden, Recording Secretary