

**MINUTES OF MEETING  
MUNICIPAL BUDGET COMMITTEE  
January 9, 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, Phil Dighello, Karen Umberger, Doug Swett, John Edgerton, George Fredette, Betty Boucher and Mark Hounsell. Also present were Jim Hill, Mike DiGregorio, Dick Clement, Sheryl Kovalik and Andy Grigel.

Chairman Stacey began the meeting by advising that the role of Crow Dickinson would be played tonight by Mark Hounsell, he is standing in for him tonight. Chairman further stated that Dr. Nelson had sent a letter requesting that the Public Hearing be moved and he asked Karen (Hallowell) to go through the schedule; honestly it is that tight; not comfortable moving it. The 19<sup>th</sup> is the last possible date for the Selectmen to vote; we would not have the second night for voting, we have done that before and it is not a pretty sight. If the Committee wanted, the Chairman will write back to Dr. Nelson and apologize. George Fredette stated that there was no need for a letter, he would convey the message to Carl. Pat Libby asked the Chairman to read the letter from Dr. Nelson, which she did. Chairman Stacey further gave a friendly reminder to keep conversations civil, wait to be recognized by the Chair, remember to keep all side conversations to a minimum and keep the rustling of paper to a minimum.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**Bob Drinkhall moved, seconded by George Fredette, to approve the Minutes of January 2, 2008, as amended. In favor: 8; Opposed: 0; Abstain: 2 - Betty Boucher and Mark Hounsell.**

Phil Dighello stated that he had e-mailed his corrections to the Recording Secretary which were basically just clarifications, as follows: On Page 3, third paragraph, fifth line, should read: The Teachers Union has given millions of dollars each year to the Democratic Party for support. Why isn't the NEA fighting to get the government to fund mandated programs like Special Ed and No Child Left Behind? Phil further stated that it seemed to him that if you have the biggest and most powerful Union in the world they should be fighting to get some of these mandated programs funded rather than put the burden on the local taxpayers.

On Page 5, first paragraph, should read: How can we say to this person that his taxes will increase by \$600.00 for the School only and that's in addition to the Town, County and Precinct taxes.

On Page 7, second sentence, should read: He lived in Maine in 1965 and there was the same discussion about the income tax. There was a shortfall in the money received from the State for education and the income tax

would be earmarked for education only. Unfortunately, the tax was used for everything and now is one of the highest in the country.

On Page 12, eighth paragraph, should read: Phil Dighello commented on the letter from Bartlett and Jackson concerning increasing the per student cost at the High School. He said they can afford to be very generous. The average taxpayer in Conway with a \$200,000.00 home pays \$2,100.00 for School taxes, while the same taxpayer in Bartlett pays \$1,100.00 and in Jackson \$900.00.

Karen Umberger stated on Page 4, fourth paragraph, line 8, should read "teachers costs" and on Page 4, fifth paragraph, didn't think the word "short" should be there. On Page 6, fifth paragraph, should read "Bob Drinkhall asked". On Page 7, fourth paragraph, third sentence, should read: "Karen stated have not been paid before and Dr. Nelson stated has come out of the Perkins Grant." On Page 10, fourth paragraph, second sentence should read: "Most of the districts do have a cost enforcement (Revolving Fund) that comes out at the end of the year."

George Fredette stated on Page 4, last paragraph, third line from the bottom, should read: "High School and Middle School building was in a state of collapse;". On Page 6, seventh paragraph, fifth line, "Conway Elementary teacher is back in the budget" should be deleted and replaced with "We put the third teacher in the budget and took it back out."

John Edgerton stated on Page 10, third paragraph, second line, after first sentence, add: "Trust funds amount to reverse bonding."

George Fredette stated that he wanted to see all of the corrections and Chairman Stacey advised that they would be in the Minutes from tonight's meeting.

#### SCHOOL REVIEW

Karen Umberger stated she was looking at the budget and did not take into account the personnel cost additions that were in the Warrant Articles; \$31,285,000.00 was in fact the correct figure. Karen apologized to Dr. Nelson for her error and stated that she would guess that the bottom line Default Budget would start with \$31,285,000.00.

Chairman Stacey turned the meeting over to Jim Hill. Jim stated that he was employed at SAU 9 and that Andy Grigel, Maintenance Director for the District was also in attendance along with Mike DiGregorio and Dick Clement, who are members of the Facilities Committee. Jim further stated that he would begin by going through the binders passed out and try to answer any questions; those that he may not be able to answer tonight, he would research and get to the Committee. For background, they have a general process started by Mr. Hounsell; they started by going to every school with the Facilities Committee and Andy Grigel, meeting with every principal and putting together a list. The 5 year plan is probably a 15 year plan; tried to prioritize; tried to balance in the 5 year plan. Jim proceeded by stating that he would start with the binder which will go through the Warrant Articles that relate basically to maintenance.

**TAB 1:** A Warrant Article to raise \$18,000.00 to replace the phone system at Conway Elementary; also in the binder is a copy of a letter concerning the phone systems. This phone system is 20 or 25 years old; part of this system actually blew up earlier this year and we have to go on e-bay to try to find parts. The proposed phone system will be exactly as that at John Fuller and Pine Tree.

Karen Umberger asked if this was the third and last system and Jim stated it was the last Elementary School to have a phone system replaced.

George Fredette stated they did check into getting a larger phone system at the Middle School and tapping Conway Elementary into it; less expensive to buy two smaller systems; less expensive for Middle School to have their own.

Karen Umberger asked about the projected life of the phone system and Mike DiGregorio stated the one in now is currently 30 years old. Karen stated she wanted to make sure not buying something that would be obsolete in 3 years. Jim Hill stated technology is changing fast.

**TAB 2:** A Warrant Article for \$195,000.00 to replace a portion of the roofs at two of the Elementary Schools (Conway Elementary and John Fuller). Jim stated they are finished with the Pine Tree roof and now on to the other roofs needing to be replaced. New roofs will have a 15 year warranty. A couple more years of roof replacements and will have replaced every single roof in SAU. This is just the next phase.

Karen Umberger asked when the roofs had been replaced last and Jim stated 1988-1990. Phil Dighello asked about the warranty on the new roofs and Jim stated base is 15 years, go over 15 and it is a prorated benefit. Mark Hounsell asked if they would be replicating the same as on Pine Tree, that was a successful approach and result. It is encouraging to know you are staying with that plan.

**TAB 3:** A Warrant Article for \$219,230.00 for security systems at two Elementary Schools (John Fuller and Pine Tree) and cameras at the three Elementary Schools. Jim stated they have had success with some of the security cameras. Basically this is locks and cameras on the interior of the buildings.

Mark Hounsell asked why is Conway Elementary not part of the plan for a security system and Jim stated that they have this; basically this is to bring the two other Schools to that level. Pat Libby asked if there were cameras in the Elementary School already and Jim stated no. George Fredette stated \$55,000.00 is for Conway Elementary. Mark stated then there are two different things; it appeared to him that if we have the security at Conway Elementary it only seems right to have the same for all of our schools. Introduction of cameras, that is a different argument; looks like there is room to talk as far as the security systems. George stated a previous comment made questioned if it should be one or two and Mike felt it should be one. Quite honestly, will take direction and your opinion. Mike DiGregorio stated we tried the security

doors twice and have failed. Last year comments were made that they wanted to see a complete package; decided to put it together this year; totally agree that security should be equal; don't know which kids to protect. Final effort of putting it all together; probably won't see if it fails. Dick Clement stated he echoed what Mike stated; comments were made that you wanted to see a complete system, don't give pieces, doing as you asked.

Bob Drinkhall stated with the success at the High School, mostly vandalism. Jim stated yes and no. Jim has been asked to price out for putting cameras in a couple more locations because they are working so well. Bob asked if the problem is as severe in the Elementary Schools as it is in the High School and Jim stated it is at a different level. Cameras on the playground areas, ball field areas will show if somebody comes in that should not be there; more of a detriment. It is a different level at the Elementary School. Mike DiGregorio stated designed for getting security of the entire property.

Mark Hounsell stated arguments are clear replication at Conway Elementary; more in line of security of children, but with cameras more security of property. Very good to have total picture, but he thought the voter would tend to look at this as preference from the others. Personally, he thought it best to deal with the replication of Conway Elementary at all Elementary Schools. Jim Hill asked if there was a consensus on this; may have heard something different. Mark stated his final point was that eventually security systems will be in our schools. Eventually there will be security, not sure if it will be cameras, but know that eventually it will cost more when you wait. Sheryl Kovalik stated this package was a result of the response from last year; questioned if one would be endorsed more than the other. Part of the reason failed in the past, your opinion gave a great deal of weight.

Karen Umberger stated she would recommend that they be separated; reason is because of the amount of money in the Warrant Articles this year; not suggesting indifferent, no decision. It is a tremendous amount of money along with the dollar increase in the budget. If there is a way she would prefer, it would be separate. Mark Hounsell stated that he was not sure if he would be here, but could say he would personally be for the \$54,230.00 to bring the other systems up to the same level; but \$165,000.00 relating to the cameras needs more discussion; by dividing the question, focus on one.

Phil Dighello stated that he agreed with Karen 100%; presently operating with a tax increase of 20%; look at \$219,000.00 Article on that, probably not going to go. Phil would like to see it separated. Chairman Stacey asked about the feeling from the principals and Jim Hill stated generally supportive. Chairman asked if linked to the Police Department and Jim stated no. Mike DiGregorio stated that there is stuff the system could do and if we went into non-public could discuss it further; would tell the Committee everything the system could do.

Karen Umberger stated she had a question on the cameras; heard what you said, they are at the main door and one in the back and Jim Hill stated

basically yes. Karen asked what the outside building surveillance percentage would be and Jim stated it is probably 50/50; playground is so wide that it would actually take two; same with the ball field; but other piece is distances in halls, intersection is so long can't have one camera in the intersection, there actually has to be one at the intersection and half way out.

Mark Hounsell asked if the School Board would entertain the idea that \$165,000.00 is security of property and have a discussion that the \$165,000.00 is to protect the investment of property; could be achieved through an insurance policy. George Fredette stated that is not the number one priority of cameras; intruder alert, people in the right places; in the High School have experience with vandalism; kind of comparing apples and oranges on what is going on at the High School and what is going on at the Elementary School. Mark stated security of persons at Conway Elementary is pretty good. George stated they now have the SAU Offices down there and the Town is looking for space; things are evolving. Mark stated he didn't want policy discussion; \$165,000.00 for cameras, security seems to be particularly pricey if significance is for security of property.

Pat Libby asked if someone would monitor the cameras or would it be a go back and look. Jim Hill stated both; the system at the High School is in the Main Office; more of a go and look back; not going to hire someone. Pat stated essentially is going to be used as after the fact and Jim stated somebody may have a restraining order and want to get their kid, if they know and see security cameras they may think twice. Pat stated if people come in to the ball field, all it does is help the Police solve the case. Dick Clement stated there are approximately 750 kids or \$200 per kid. Mike DiGregorio stated that again it was a different type of security. Don't forget new doors will be locked; before entering, the cameras check to determine; would be used for both. Pat asked about the warranty and Jim stated he would check. George Fredette stated they have a long standing relation with Seeman's, goes on maintenance contract from that point forward.

Sheryl Kovalik stated they were looking for preliminary support if available. Mark Hounsell stated he would say probably a more appropriate or better way is for the School Board to see if they are willing to look at breaking apart. He personally had no problem with the security portion of it. Chairman Stacey stated she would be willing to endorse the doors with the understanding that she didn't like the idea of it. As a parent, she liked having the ability to walk into her child's school whenever she wanted to. Pat Libby stated the likelihood of getting your locks is if you split the two articles. Phil Dighello asked how the next Article would come into play and Jim Hill stated those are internal locks. Chairman asked who was the one who voted against the Article and George suggested that she take a guess; even if you don't endorse, would still like an opinion on if it should be one or two. Mark suggested a straw poll. Chairman took a straw poll with 8 members in favor and 2 members abstaining.

**TAB 4:** A Warrant Article for \$20,000.00 to change to lever door handles to meet ADA requirements for the interior doors at John Fuller School and Conway Elementary School. Jim Hill stated right now they don't meet ADA requirements; doors in the older section have non-ADA compliant door knobs and keys. We are talking 50 to 60 year old locks; would like to go to ADA compliance. It is not just ADA students, could be staff, parents, grandparents. There is a variety of reasons for doing this. Chairman Stacey stated she thought there was a grant out there for that. Karen Umberger asked how many doors were they talking about; she can get door handles for \$10.00 or \$20.00; she wanted to know the cost per door. Jim stated he would check. Andy Grigel stated that these are commercial locks, not only paying for ADA compliance, but also paying for the keying of the lever locks; so depending on what you are buying the cost is \$200.00 to \$600.00, depending on what is in the door. Andy stated that he would have to count the doors; he had someone walk through and that is the real number. Karen stated she was just astounded that it would cost that much. Mark Hounsell stated if it is \$1,000.00 then that is 20 doors. Jim stated this is \$10,000.00 per school. Mark asked why this couldn't be part of the revolving project. Jim stated that it could, but if you spend \$10,000.00 out of the rotating fund that means \$10,000.00 is not being used for something else. Mark stated he thought the ADA compliance should be made; piece-mealing projects in maintenance and upgrading is why we have the revolving system. Phil Dighello asked how they came up with \$20,000.00 total and Jim stated they had a vendor go through the buildings.

**TAB 5:** A Warrant Article for \$53,658.00 to purchase and install a Pine Tree Energy Management System. Jim Hill stated all of the other schools have gone to electric control. Andy Grigel can see from his office. Mark Hounsell stated Mike, I, Andy and Jim walked through three years ago and the need then was a new roof first; you have to do this. That system is old; this would pay for itself. Jim stated this was the Boiler Room and Cafeteria and is approximately 1/3 of the total cost and he thought that the number was conservative. Andy Grigel stated that the figure was relatively accurate. Karen Umberger stated if she had a choice of spending money, she would rather spend it on this than on cameras. That was just her feeling and, what she was saying at least in her mind, would make more sense to do the entire project in one year and drop something like the cameras; that was just her feeling. Bob Drinkhall stated it would be tremendous help to know the pay back. Mark stated it was what he would say as well; drop the cameras. Chairman stated saying drop cameras, would endorse. George Fredette stated that is Mark; he didn't expect Crow to pick up where Mark left off. Chairman asked about the vote and George stated Sheryl abstained and our friend Randy voted against it.

Karen Umberger stated she thought this was something we might want to mark down in our letter to the School Board. Dick Clement asked if Karen had stated that this Committee would send a letter recommending that. Karen stated she didn't know what we are going to do, but this might be an idea that we can bring up to decide, whole school is more important than the cameras. Chairman Stacey explained that the Budget Committee will send the School Board a letter with recommendations and suggestions to the budget. School Board will read it and then they will ship back a

letter or come back with comments. This Committee will take under advisement and then vote. Mike DiGregorio stated Mark is filling in for Crow and he thought that Rick Paquette was very adamant about security. George Fredette stated of course they are willing to listen to something like that; but it comes back to Karen and Mark saying support now, but haven't; kind of curious. Phil Dighello stated it was premature to make any decision; before he recommends either, needs to see the whole thing; get everything for the whole board to go over and take a vote. Chairman stated she was wondering if it would make life 10 times better if there was just a joint meeting. Pat Libby stated she was not prepared to make a decision now. George stated he would get the additional information; he understood the need to play fair and listen to what is being asked and then get a vote of 3 to 11; what's the point. Jim stated he was willing to play, but didn't want to find out there was no support for upgrading; everybody is above board. Jim further stated that this Committee was honest with the phone system; took out and this Committee did support us. Phil Dighello stated that before we send the letter of recommendations, you are going to know; you are going to have it before. Generally, you get it before the Warrant Articles are done.

Mark Hounsell stated everything starts with the School Board because policy deciders and then the Budget Committee is the preview. Hard to say let's make a deal; opens up good will. Basically, getting a sense but you never know until the vote is taken. Point of Order: I am sitting here, or any other member at that time, that member is sitting with full voting right. Chairman Stacey stated it is the same for George; any member of the School Board can sit in his seat until George comes back.

**TAB 6:** A Warrant Article asking for \$40,000.00 to purchase equipment: a boom lift. Jim Hill stated that they have spent over the last two years \$8,000.00. We use a rental lift; for examples: front façade at the High School regularly needs painting; Andy and his staff tore off, replaced and stained the old vocational building; changing light bulbs in higher light pieces; trimming trees. This cost is for a used unit.

Chairman Stacey asked if there was one available without a rental fee. Karen Umberger asked if any other municipal people have a boom lift and Jim stated he didn't think so. Sheryl Kovalik stated if the Town doesn't have one, it is an opportunity to share. Mike DiGregorio stated he had read the Minutes that Bill Jones stated why need, could get old utility truck. First, you can't move a cherry picker while in the truck, this one you can.

Betty Boucher asked about the life of one of these units and Andy Grigel stated the rental unit they had was 30 years old. Phil Dighello asked who would be doing the maintenance and Jim Hill stated the Town Garage and possibility our staff; may have to be the dealer; depends on what needs to be done. Phil asked about the warranty and Jim stated he would have to check on that.

Mark Hounsell stated a very simple or pretty simple machine. One, would the Town pay to use it and, if so, would there be a charge; two, any scheduled school buses to be purchased and Jim Hill stated no. Mark

proceeded with thirdly, if you do the roof project and contractor asks to use, will it be available. Jim Hill stated it is Board policy; it would not go out to just anybody.

Betty Boucher asked about the gas gelling up and if gas was included in the budget. Andy Grigel stated it is diesel and because it is housed indoors, don't have to worry about gelling of diesel; not a condition that presents itself anyway. Doug Swett asked if this would effect the insurance and Jim stated it would have to be insured. Doug asked if there would only be a few people who would run it and Jim stated strictly Andy's staff. Andy stated the present insurance policy insures units that are rented; when they do rent, they must provide a Certificate of Insurance. Jim stated there are areas that can only be accessed with a ladder; hard to reach. Andy stated his staff was already trained.

Karen Umberger stated laws aside, the real question is a) buy it or b) continue renting; to her it is the bottom line. Jim stated basically it is like the unit we have been renting. Chairman Stacey asked about hitting up some people who have one and ask if for sale. Mark Hounsell asked if the \$8,000.00 spent for one year and Andy Grigel stated 6 months or rental on two machines. Basically have paid for one of the machines with projects. Mark stated the pay back on this equipment is 5 years. Jim stated 5 to 8 years. Mike stated will probably be used for things that we were not able to do before.

Doug Swett asked if they have had the training of 3 to 4 weeks; certified licensed person. Andy Grigel stated inspected once a year. Jim stated there is a wait market, so you and I can't use it; would appreciate your vote. Sheryl Kovalik stated with the potential of sharing with the Town, interested in knowing if there is use of a boom lift by the Town. Chairman Stacey stated she would talk with Earl Sires and ask. Mark stated any use by the Town would be sporadic at minimal; don't think have a lot of use. Andy stated they pay \$465.00 per day plus pick up and delivery fees.

**TAB 7:** A Warrant Article for an Expendable General Trust Fund (School Building Maintenance Fund). Jim Hill stated basically if you go to next page the Facilities Committee has put together long term expenses that are a given. We made this up to show people and to justify that kind of money. This is the items that will need to be addressed in the next 20 years. This is today's costs at \$6.5 Million. If you don't plan now, it is going to be up to future generations. Personally, have spent the last 15 years getting roofs done; don't want to leave for the next person. That is what this money is for.

Pat Libby asked if the grant takes into account tuition and Jim Hill stated no, \$9,000.00 to just do the gym and Cafeteria. Pat asked if the High School generated more money and that she would like to have an idea. George Fredette stated High School: \$54,443.00; Middle School \$17,086.00; Elementary \$9,900.00. Jim stated looking at High School roof, basically that Maintenance Trust Fund will cover the roof, won't cover resurfacing, replacing, etc. Pat questioned the grant total from \$6.5 Million to \$5.5

Million. George stated current dollars; it is going to cost more; inflation dollars.

Mark Hounsell stated he thought Pat's logic appears valid as does the figure of the Articles. Mark stated there is no argument things are going to be replaced, repaired and maintained, but could dispute the cost. The Article speaks of a need and the need to address it; one seems to start off at \$6 Million. If we did nothing and bonded it, going to bond \$6.5 Million, going to be paid for by the Town in 20 years; need more in line like the Town of Conway, Town has a 10-year plan. You've got to do something or be short sighted; but you don't have to do it all in the first year. George Fredette stated they were open for suggestions; in agreement with theory. Bob Drinkhall stated he thought it would be foolish not to do this; could end up in the same situation that we are trying to get out of; best recommendation he had seen so far.

Karen Umberger stated if there is an emergency, the DRA will give authority to over spend and then have a special meeting to raise money; not outside the realm of possibility. Mike DiGregorio stated he thought the concept had been around a long time; trying to stabilize the tax rate; thought what should number be and his thought their assets are \$80 Million and using the same percentage as the Town ask for \$800,000.00. It is difficult to come up with a number; his number would have been higher.

Mark stated he totally agreed with the issue and not using the surplus is the best way to go; putting \$100,000.00 aside to replace that roof probably would cost more than that and he hoped that we get more than 20 years use out of the ones at the High School. It is a lot of money, but could be a lot more if you don't do it. George Fredette stated either use the surplus or ask and appropriate. Chairman Stacey stated the top is appropriate from surplus and the bottom is to raise and appropriate. Jim Hill stated no surplus, no money. Mike DiGregorio stated they pushed hard to come before this Committee to get an opinion 1) to support and 2) which way do you want to go; what do you want us to do. Sheryl Kovalik stated the concept of discussion is having a repetitive Article every year. What number or formulas should we settle on so that every year it is not a surprise to the tax payer. Chairman stated the Town changed theirs this year, instead of \$125,000.00 asking for \$150,000.00 for the Town Garage. Mark stated pay money now or pay money later. Could do straight line \$200,000.00, but not draw down until year 10, we have put away money that didn't need to be put away. Instead of \$200,000.00, \$100,000.00 for the first year and work up in stages. Jim Hill stated when you get to years 15 through 20 look at all phases that are going to be happening. Betty Boucher stated the top is if there is a surplus; if no surplus, the bottom one. Bob Drinkhall stated the bottom one is the only way to go.

Jim Hill stated they would have a discussion on an annual basis in terms of a 5 to 7 year plan; wouldn't just go out and do because the money is sitting there; he would come in and say this is my anticipation this year, would like to withdraw. John Edgerton asked if everything was going to get done at the same time and Jim stated they were let go for so long. John stated mismanagement of maintenance and that is not justification

for reverse bonding for making people pay now for the future. \$6.5 Million reverse bonding for the taxpayer today was not acceptable to him.

Phil Dighello stated in good conscience can't ask the taxpayer to come up with an annual commitment. Phil supported going with the surplus; last year Carl said they were doubtful of any surplus and in July there was a huge surplus. He supports the first section and see how it runs for a couple of years to see what the surplus is. George Fredette stated this is current dollars, in 20 years it will be more like \$13 Million and still only scratching the surface.

Chairman Stacey asked Karen Umberger if they could take money from the surplus at the end of the year if there is a short fall without coming to the voters and Karen replied if appropriated automatically goes into taxes. Chairman stated if the roof at John Fuller doesn't have the correct money and if there is a surplus, can apply to trust fund. Sheryl Kovalik stated once dollars raised and appropriated can only spend in the year raised and appropriated unless a trust is created and authorized. Using the example, our only choice would be to run out and contract for a roof. The idea being this would be above board; again no surplus, hoping to avoid surplus; trying to get everything above board.

Mike DiGregorio stated first, that is exactly why we have two separate. He has read the paper stating we continue to inflate the budget; bad maintenance, absolutely right; they inherited that problem and have been trying to solve it. As far as trying to stabilize the tax base, saying where the Town does it this way, why don't you and argument from someone today about paying for 20 years from now. Jim Hill stated that he and Andy had inherited from Bob Kidder; didn't have money in the bank and always had the philosophy of this isn't the year for it. Year after year, ticket after ticket.

Bob Drinkhall stated didn't say too much about the security or cameras or doors, but we have to look at the whole picture; there is a huge budget increase that has to be addressed. Bob didn't think this was an area to cut, going to cost more in the long run. He thought without question the way to go was to have the money appropriated. George Fredette stated it is not a good year; fully understand your concern and logic, but next year have change from 16 to 18 years old, so next year is going to be a bad year; guarantee the third year will be a bad year, and we will be in the same boat 10 years from now.

Phil Dighello stated he was not disagreeing with the Article, he was disagreeing with how to fund it. We are not in a position to spend \$250,000.00 year after year; don't agree on how to fund; just his opinion. Pat Libby stated appropriated \$195,000.00 for the roof; now asking \$234,000.00 in a savings account; maybe apply different amount for different years; maybe when you don't have a 20% increase or \$195,000.00 but she understood perfectly well John's point on paying twice, paying for a roof this year and a 20-year maintenance plan; she probably won't be here.

Betty Boucher stated she had been on this Board for 15.5 years and have asked the Town and the School Board not to touch maintenance. The problems with the old KHS being totally run down because when the School Board makes cut, they cut maintenance. She has been pushing for years to leave maintenance alone.

Karen Umberger stated she agreed with the arguments everyone had made and agreed with Mark's comments about not trying to have the same amount for 20 years. It appears the first area of maintenance is going to be in the 7 to 10 year point. It is difficult to convince anyone that we should be worried about 20 years from now; it becomes difficult to get people to agree to that amount of time. Karen would like to see more of a graduated amount, as Mark suggested, with this year at \$100,000.00 and next year \$125,000.00 and the following year something else and close the 10 year time frame. None of us have experience with 20 year plans; have experience with 5 and 10 year plans. Just look at it; not in any way suggesting no support, just not sure I want to jump in with 1/20 of money at this point. Mark Hounsell stated he thought a graduating implementation was the wisest goal; better to have a surplus than a deficit. He personally felt it should not be spent, should go in a trust fund. As a voter, he supported not using second option, set something up to appear every year. More important than the amount is the implementation; he can see the rationale and support \$234,000.00; but in order to get there your number should be \$100,000.00 and use a graduating approach. When the Town sits down with Paul D., he has a list of all projects and costs. He thought the School Board needs to take time to show how much and when you need it, knowing you can expend when needed without a vote.

Mike DiGregorio stated he couldn't disagree more with that approach; trying to stabilize the tax base; looking for consistency to do it every year. The Town put away \$125,000.00 every year. Karen Umberger stated no, there was a 5 year plan at \$125,000.00. Mike stated in that 5 year plan replaced a building and Karen stated no, there was no replacement building; there was a list of projects accomplished every year within that 5 year plan; first year \$40,000.00 for the Police Station, next year this building and third year did outside of building. Next year windows and sills and then the following year was to build the building for the garage. These are relatively short term things we can see; same with the roads, look at the road plan and it says these are the roads to be done this year and what we are going to do to them and have an amount of money for maintenance but it is new construction or reconstruction. Kearsarge and Intervale Roads have to be rebuilt, but the point is, the Town has been saving money over time to have enough to do those roads. Looking at a 20 year schedule is just too far out. Not suggesting you shouldn't be putting away maintenance money, but we just need to think about it. We don't have to make a decision tonight but do need to start with a decision about how to proceed from here. Mike stated in that \$125,000.00, you have been spending some of it, but also putting money away for the Garage. Now in the last year the Town is asking for \$50,000.00 to start the Garage. Mark Hounsell stated didn't need to take before. Chairman stated it was in the plan to ask for additional funds.

George Fredette stated Point of Order and asked where are we going with this. Mike DiGregorio stated it was his comment on trying to stabilize the tax base and trying to understand the asking for some thing year after year. We are not asking for 1%, looking for 1/3 of 1%. Secondly, suggestion to start with \$100,000.00 for the first 5 years; then hear about hitting the tax payer with \$400.00 and \$450.00.

Chairman Stacey stated we are not going to solve this thing tonight. She suggested that the Committee let Jim Hill finish his presentation and as a thought maybe consider putting the rotating fund into this fund. George Fredette stated he would abide and not comment. Mark Hounsell stated he agreed; thought something needs to be done; comparing apples to Kiwis; need a schedule but not based on 10 to 20 years from now. George Fredette stated there is not going to be any surplus. We have no question which one can be used; shouldn't even be in there.

**TAB 8:** Jim Hill stated this is a description of how the Rotating Fund will be used this year. One of the smartest things created: to make sure the Elementary Schools did not get to be like the High School. This shows how Conway Elementary wants to spend it.

Betty Boucher asked on the carpet, why is Brian choosing and Jim stated he didn't want to say this room or that, Brian must have selection. Mark Hounsell questioned the sidewalks and stated he thought they were in good shape. Jim stated they are okay, but will have this done now and then in 5 or 7 years. Betty asked if the windows in the Gym were outside and Jim stated the ones way up top.

**TAB 9:** Jim Hill stated this is the Bus Replacement Schedule and, as indicated there are none that need to be replaced this year. Mark Hounsell asked if the new bus routing had made a change in miles and Jim stated it was going to take at least another year for impact.

**TAB 10:** Jim Hill stated for fuel they paid \$1.88 last year; budgeting \$3.00 per gallon this year; going to see an increase; we did a good job buying when we did. Jim stated he has actually bumped it up \$.50 per gallon.

Karen Umberger stated Carl provided information about the SAU Office using 4% of the building and if she saw correctly, they are only paying \$1,345.00 for fuel, rent, electricity, etc. Karen questioned whether she was reading it correctly. Jim stated that the SAU is paying \$17,000.00 and \$20,000.00 for their 4% of water/sewer, heat, lights, contractual services and repairs. Karen stated under Unit 10 it stated \$1,325.00. Jim stated he would have to look at it; would like to research it. Karen stated she assumed they had a budget line and Jim stated between \$15,000.00 and \$20,000.00. George Fredette stated it was treated as an independent transaction, all above board. Karen stated she wasn't suggesting anything. Jim stated he thought it was on Karen's list of questions and Karen stated she didn't see a dollar figure on Revenue. Karen also stated that with the moving, are we expanding and Jim stated there is going to be some cold storage, paper supplies. Andy Grigel stated when the renovation is complete and can get access, the idea is to

get rid of the shanties; look to clean up and possibly use for parking; they are going to keep the main building. Karen stated right now where are all the things being monitored and Andy stated in his office. Karen stated all things have to be moved and Andy stated provisions have already been made; thought about 5 years ago; when his office moves, provisions were made then to be able to relocate with no cost.

Mark Hounsell stated he had an opportunity to tour the new SAU facility; it is absolutely great; really going to be a functional agency; you all should look at it. Mark asked of the dollars the District gets, how much from Conway and George Fredette stated 63%. Jim Hill stated he would get back to Mark on that. Jim further stated that from his stand point, this is the first time you are going to have one stop shopping: business office, transportation and maintenance all in one spot. Mark stated he was impressed with the quality, like the doors and George stated and under budget.

Bob Drinkhall asked that either Jim or Andy address the increases in personnel. George Fredette stated Jack lost one and Kevin lost .5. Jim stated have asked for additional; the size of the Maintenance Department is the same, just added 200 square feet. Karen Umberger stated we did one custodian at the High School. George stated have asked for one and Kevin got one and the High School got none. Karen asked if the SAU does its own cleaning and Jim stated they will be contracting with them.

Chairman Stacey asked that it be relayed to Carl to have Maureen Soraghan come in because there are a lot of Special Education questions. George Fredette stated he would be happy to and requested that questions be provided ahead of time if possible.

Phil Dighello stated he would like to see the surplus figures for the last 3 years; where they came from.

Mike DiGregorio stated that since the custodian person came up, he thought a lot of people were shocked that he voted against the budget. Being Chair of the Facilities Committee, the custodians are stressed, trying to keep up; trying very hard to get an additional custodian; well under the number that the Standards say they should have. Yes, you can see a very clean building, but at some point they are not going to be able to keep up; eventually the newness will wear off. The problem now is that they can't do the extra stuff; students and staff are going to start seeing that things are not getting done; do put this person back in. Karen Umberger stated she sees this as the failure of the principal and the School Board to worry about maintenance, more important to add 5 teachers instead of 4 teachers and 1 maintenance person. Everyone makes choices and looking at a total package \$33 Million. Some place within there, there should be some of that trade off that says maintenance is one of my top priorities if can't have everything; can make a decision about how many English teachers you need and whatever else in there; part of the discussion you know we can add because didn't have the space before. To me, it is our decision and arguments made that it is not necessary to add new positions.

Mark stated he thought Mike looks at these things with open eyes; people take extreme pride in what they are doing; know if the community is behind them, will maintain the building. It is essential to progress; not going to discuss what department should have an increase in staff. It is extremely important that we not disregard the need for additional custodian staff. Mark stated he would support the School Board rethinking this one. George Fredette stated that this conversation was not taken lightly and he supposed to some extent this is not the year that he chastised Phil for; he understands and agrees, but it is a god awful year.

Chairman Stacey stated the next meeting date for the School is here (Town Hall) on Wednesday, January 16, 2008; will meet on the 23<sup>rd</sup> but she was still searching for a place; and on the 28<sup>th</sup> here (Town Hall) with the Town and Precincts. Every meeting is at 6:30 PM.

**Phil Dighello moved, seconded by Betty Boucher, to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 PM. Motion carried unanimously.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Iris A. Bowden, Recording Secretary