

**MINUTES OF MEETING
MUNICIPAL BUDGET COMMITTEE
February 18, 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, Bill Jones, Jim LeFebvre, Crow Dickinson, Bill Aughton, George Fredette, John Edgerton and Rick Paquette. Also present were Earl Sires, Mark Hounsell, Randy Davison and Sheryl Kovalik.

Chairman Stacey stated she had received a letter from the Selectmen stating that in the absence of a formal vote by the board, Selectmen Dickinson as its Budget Committee representative, was at liberty to vote his conscience as he determines appropriate on any and all questions before the Committee. Chairman also read a letter from Betty Boucher stating that she was unable to attend the meeting due to a family emergency and that she would vote no on everything but the default budgets, maintenance and the Article to give the Budget Committee the Default Budget.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Jim LeFebvre moved, seconded by Karen Umberger, to approve the Minutes of January 23, 2008, as amended. In favor: 13; Opposed: 0; Abstain: 0.

Phil Dighello stated that on Page 3, last paragraph, first sentence should read "... definition of one-time expenses: they shall be appropriations not likely to recur in succeeding budget;...".

Jim LeFebvre moved, seconded by Bill Jones, to approve the Minutes of January 28, 2008, as amended. In favor: 12; Opposed: 0; Abstain: 1 - George Fredette.

Iris Bowden stated that it was brought to her attention by Pat Libby that in the section for Valley Vision's presentation "Dick Brunelle" should be "Doug Brunelle". Ms. Bowden apologized for the name error.

Bill Jones moved, seconded by Jim LeFebvre, to approve the Minutes of January 30, 2008, as amended. In favor: 13; Opposed: 0; Abstain: 0.

Bill Jones stated on Page 1, first paragraph under Birch Hill Water Precinct's presentation, sixth line should read: "complete; waiting for delivery of the meters so they can be connected."

Bob Drinkhall stated on Page 5, sixth paragraph under School Recommendations, should reference to the cameras and the security system, felt shouldn't be adding more items requiring maintenance and consider reducing maintenance of infrastructure.

Bob Drinkhall stated on Page 10, third paragraph, first sentence, should read: "... tax rate is up 26.37%;...".

Pat Libby stated on Page 5, first motion under School Recommendations, motion was to remove the entire article.

TOWN

Earl Sires stated the Selectmen did meet this morning to review the Warrant Articles and he would like to review some things that may be questioned; did increase the Budget by \$100,000.00 for the Public Works and snow removal, it is important to make the adjustment now; might be upped at Town Meeting. Karen Umberger asked what line items were being adjusted and Earl stated fuel and labor primarily. Karen asked for confirmation that the figures are not known at this time and Earl stated they haven't approached the line items yet.

Earl Sires proceeded with Article 10 and a slight amendment which makes it a little clearer. On Article 12, the vote was 5-0. Karen Umberger stated that this Article was not disclosed at the Public Hearing; required to have a public hearing. This Article was not there. Earl stated he didn't doubt it. Karen stated if the Selectmen want to come back and request another Public Hearing, not inclined to do that, but it is a possibility.

Earl Sires stated on Article 15, Elderly Exemption - what it is doing is adjusting the qualification limits. He called the Assessor at home to ask what the benefits were and the benefit is it is a progressive amount: \$35,000.00 at 68; \$50,000.00 at 75; and \$75,000.00 at 80; likewise for the disability Article which is Article 28, modeled on the same set of benefits, if qualify, would receive the same progressive set of benefits; can not qualify for both.

Bill Jones asked what the recommendation was, there was no vote, was there a vote on Articles 12, 13 and 14. Earl stated all were 5-0. Mark Hounsell stated Articles 12, 13 and 14 were 5-0. Chairman Stacey stated Article 12 was not on the Warrant and Earl stated Article 12 was 5-0; Article 13 was 5-0; Article 14 was 5-0. Article 27 was not voted on and Article 28 was tabled. Articles 30 and 31 were tabled because they are not direct raising and appropriating money. The Selectmen will probably vote this year, but they want to hear the presentation from the Town Engineer.

Rick Paquette stated he was not sure if he should bring this up now, has to do with the School and the Town tax structure. In talking to taxpayers today, he was asked why Hart's Location doesn't pay School taxes. His question was if they are not, what about retirees with no children in the schools. Why are select people perceived to be affluent, not paying the same amount as others. Mark Hounsell stated Hart's Location pays by tuition; included in a bill administered by the county. George Fredette stated they are paying the highest rate, paying \$19,000.00 per student. Rick stated he was not sure if his question was answered; why are they different. Earl Sires stated he thought the rates were different probably because of the total assessed value in Hart's Location; the assessed value is different for every town. Rick asked if they pay the same percentage and Chairman Stacey stated no. Earl stated no, because bill is

divided by the assessed value. George stated they are not part of Conway. Rick asked if they were the same as Birch Hill and Earl stated Birch Hill is a district; Hart's Location is an unincorporated area not part of any town; administered by Carroll County; the County is sort of a care taker. Rick asked how do they get away with not paying and Earl stated they have many of the same services, yet not the same tax rate. Rick asked what sort of closet deal is this and by whom and Earl stated it is a function of the layout of the Town. Crow Dickinson asked why do we have to pay school tax. Rick asked why do those over 60 have to pay if they don't have children in the School system. Crow stated it is state law. Rick stated if you have the right lawyer, you can get away with anything.

Bill Jones stated they are an unincorporated community and also a burden on the Town of Conway for services; some services billed for and some services are not. He believed the affluent are living much better lives than he could afford to live.

Mark Hounsell stated it is a function of children. Hart's Location has, for a long time, paid nothing. What happened was that a couple of families moved in and that changed everything. Just like everyone has to pay based on our assessed values and portion to educate the children. It is a function of assessed values.

Rick Paquette stated if you are going to allow communities to avoid their fair share, it is wrong and legislation should change that; not fair to retirees who do pay.

Bill Jones asked if the assessment assessed was on 4 students and distributed. George Fredette stated they are treated as any other town, 50/50. It just happens for Hart's Location it is \$19,000.00 either way. Bill asked if the students were bused and George stated he didn't know, but thought they were responsible. Mark Hounsell stated don't transport. Bill Jones stated they go by limo. Karen Umberger stated she thought this was off the subject; there were hours of work to do and would like to get back on task.

Karen Umberger moved, seconded by Rick Paquette, that we reconsider votes taken at last the meeting and since she was on the prevailing side she could recommend a re-vote of Articles 16 through Article 26. In favor: 11; Opposed: 1 - Rick Paquette; Abstain: 1 - Crow Dickinson.

Rick Paquette asked why re-vote and Chairman Stacey stated because Mr. Dickinson now has the Selectmen's vote and also a couple of members would love to have their vote count.

Karen Umberger moved, seconded by James LeFebvre, to support an Operating Budget of \$9,203,865.00 and the Default Budget of \$8,999,023.00. In favor: 5; Opposed: 8 - Melissa Stacey, Phil Dighello, Pat Libby, Bill Jones, Rick Paquette, John Edgerton, Karen Umberger and Bill Aughton; Abstain: 0.

Pat Libby stated for the same reason as before, wondered if it would be applicable to add in after the Public Hearing. Chairman Stacey stated discussed at Public Hearing.

Rick Paquette stated he had a problem adding to the Police force. They have the excess manpower, were out on New Years randomly stopping taxpayers; can't imagine they need another person. Selectmen are not involved with the Police force; that number is wrong. Thinking about head count; took a hard line with the School and should do the same with the Town also.

Karen Umberger stated we did ask the Selectmen to reconsider and they said the Board agrees with the Police Commission and the Department's need for another police officer. Karen further stated that she totally agreed with what Rick was saying; the Police made the decision to take a person out of the mix and make a Lieutenant; now supervision levels have increased with two Lieutenants and a Captain; went from 20:1 to 10:1, excluding the Chief. Karen was going to vote against the Article for that reason, could not support under any circumstance.

Karen Umberger moved, seconded by Jim LeFebvre, to remove \$30,000.00 from the Budget. In favor: 10; Opposed: 3 - Bob Drinkhall, Rick Paquette and Crow Dickinson; Abstain: 0.

Jim LeFebvre moved, seconded by Karen Umberger, to change the Operating Budget to \$9,173,865.00. In favor: 10; Opposed: 3 - Bob Drinkhall, Rick Paquette and Crow Dickinson; Abstain: 0.

Earl Sires stated he needed a number. Chairman Stacey stated if the Police Budget is the reason, it is up \$203,216.00. Karen Umberger stated they said that the new Police Officer was hired at \$39,000.00 for a full year, gets one-half of that and medical insurance; don't know what their policy is for insurance; didn't provide that. Rick Paquette asked just shy of \$40,000.00 and Karen stated \$39,000.00 hired at for the year; roughly \$20,000.00 for half a year. I don't have any idea how much the medical insurance is. Rick stated he couldn't imagine health insurance has gone down. Phil Dighello stated add one-third for benefits should cover it.

Bill Jones stated Point of Information: the reporter from the Conway Sun left the meeting at 7:10 PM.

Karen Umberger stated could figure \$20,000.00 and Jim LeFebvre stated \$28,000.00 total. Rick Paquette stated he was not sure if we want to pay \$42,322.17 or if that is what should be removed. Rick further asked how many Sergeants and how fat are they getting at the top. If this is what is going on, then we have to believe there is fat in other places. He was a Sergeant, now a Lieutenant; Commissioners had to approve.

Rick Paquette moved to recommend that the default number be up to the voter. Chairman Stacey stated it is not right; hasn't been figured out yet. Earl Sires stated there may be some adjustment. Bill Jones stated he was not sure if we can make that motion.

Karen Umberger stated Point of Order: have basically approved \$9,173,865.00.

Karen Umberger stated she did think we needed to send a letter to the Selectmen specifically to remove the Police Officer from one-half year. Selectmen have options to apply where they want to if this gets passed. That is where we cut the budget. Chairman Stacey stated she would write the letter.

Jim LeFebvre moved, seconded by Bob Drinkhall, to accept the Default Budget as listed in the Article. In favor: 12; Opposed: 1; Abstain: 0.

Mark Hounsell stated this doesn't set the Default Budget and Chairman Stacey stated we don't have the correct number. Earl Sires stated there was a timing problem; this could potentially effect it; be calculated with formula already presented. Karen Umberger stated or could leave as it is.

Karen Umberger moved, seconded by John Edgerton, to support Article 5 - Two-Year (2008-2009) Collective Bargaining Agreement Between the Town of Conway and AFSCME #93, Local 859, Department of Public Works. In favor: 13; Opposed: 0; Abstain: 0.

Bill Jones moved, seconded by Karen Umberger, to support Article 6 - Maintenance of Town Buildings and Facilities Capital Reserve Fund in amount \$175,000.00. In favor: 12; Opposed: 1 - John Edgerton; Abstain: 0.

Jim LeFebvre moved, seconded by Bob Drinkhall, to support Article 7 - Capital Reserve Fund For Police Vehicles in amount \$38,000.00. In favor: 12; Opposed: 1 - John Edgerton; Abstain: 0.

Bill Jones moved, seconded by George Fredette, to support Article 8 - PEG Expendable Trust Fund in amount \$109,581.00. In favor: 13; Opposed: 0; Abstain: 0.

George Fredette moved, seconded by Pat Libby, to support Article 9 - Computer System Server For the Police Department in amount \$10,900.00. In favor: 11; Opposed: 2 - Karen Umberger and Melissa Stacey; Abstain: 0.

Melissa Stacey moved, seconded by George Fredette, to support Article 10 - Motorcycle With Seven Year Extended Warranty Plan for the Police Department in amount \$15,650.00. In favor: 8; Opposed: 5 - Phil Dighello, Jim LeFebvre, Rick Paquette, John Edgerton and Karen Umberger; Abstain: 0.

Rick Paquette stated he thought they should lease this thing; talking about a tight budget and saying yes to everything; could get at one-fifth the price. Bob Drinkhall stated a Lease could cost more in the long run; he didn't think we should penalize the Town for what the School is doing.

Bob Drinkhall moved, seconded by Bill Jones, to support Article 11 - Maintenance and Improvements to Town Wide Fire Ponds in amount \$4,000.00. In favor: 13; Opposed: 0; Abstain: 0.

Article 12 - Revisions to the Signage and Sign Lighting Regulations - no vote taken.

Bill Jones asked why no vote and Karen Umberger stated because it was not presented at the Public Hearing.

Bob Drinkhall moved, seconded by Jim LeFebvre, to support Article 13 - Compensation For the Five Members of the Board of Selectmen in amount \$2,500.00. In favor: 4 - Rick Paquette, Crow Dickinson, John Edgerton and Bill Aughton; Opposed: 7; Abstain: 2 - George Fredette and Bob Drinkhall.

George Fredette stated he thought the Selectmen were doing the right thing by letting the voter decide and he thought it was between the voter and the Selectmen. They work for the people of the Town, the people should have their say. He would like to encourage the others to let the Town's people think on their own.

Rick Paquette stated he appreciated George's point, but didn't agree with it. He was elected by the people and makes recommendations to the people. He has a different reason, long time since they've had a raise for \$500.00; probably spend that much in gas.

Bob Drinkhall stated his feeling is that it should be left up to the voter. Voters do follow what we recommend; it has been since 1983. Bill Jones stated he was a voter and he saw it as being the wrong year.

Crow Dickinson stated it has been 25 years since increase; the Selectmen unanimously supported; it is never a good year; it will not have a significant impact. George Fredette stated he thought Crow's point is perfectly valid; he was going to vote for it; he didn't have to recuse himself, so he hoped it would be supported because it will go to people.

Pat Libby called the question.

Karen Umberger moved, seconded by Jim LeFebvre, to support Article 14 - Compensation for the Three Members of the Supervisors of the Checklist in amount \$1,200.00. In favor: 13; Opposed: 0; Abstain: 0.

Bill Jones moved, seconded by Bob Drinkhall, to support Article 15 - Elderly Exemption From Property Tax. In favor: 12; Opposed: 0; Abstain: 1 - Jim LeFebvre.

Bob Drinkhall moved, seconded by Karen Umberger, to support Article 16 - Tri-County Community Action in amount \$13,000.00. In favor: 11; Opposed: 2 - Bob Drinkhall and John Edgerton; Abstain: 0.

Crow Dickinson asked that the Chairman say what each Article is about.

Bill Jones moved, seconded by Karen Umberger, to support Article 17 - The Gibson Center For Senior Services, Inc. in amount \$32,000.00. In favor: 12; Opposed: 1 - Jim LeFebvre; Abstain: 0.

Bill Jones moved, seconded by John Edgerton, to support Article 18 - Vaughan Community Service, Inc. in amount \$3,000.00. In favor: 12; Opposed: 0; Abstain: 1 - Karen Umberger.

Bill Jones moved, seconded by George Fredette, to support Article 19 - North Conway Day Care in amount \$5,000.00. In favor: 9; Opposed: 3 - Doug Swett, Jim LeFebvre and Bob Drinkhall; Abstain: 1 - Karen Umberger.

Jim LeFebvre moved, seconded by Phil Dighello, to support Article 20 - Starting Point in amount \$8,750.00. In favor: 8; Opposed: 4 - John Edgerton, Jim LeFebvre, Bob Drinkhall and Melissa Stacey; Abstain: 1 - Bill Jones.

Bill Jones moved, seconded by Bob Drinkhall, to support Article 21 - Mount Washington Valley Chapter of the American Red Cross in amount \$7,298.00. In favor: 1 - Bob Drinkhall; Opposed: 11; Abstain: 1 - Bill Aughton.

Karen Umberger moved, seconded by Jim LeFebvre, to support Article 22 - White Mountain Community Health Center in amount \$35,565.00. In favor: 9; Opposed: 4 - Bob Drinkhall, Jim LeFebvre, Bill Jones and Doug Swett; Abstain: 0.

Jim LeFebvre stated he had concerns with the duplication with the School system.

Bob Drinkhall moved, seconded by Phil Dighello, to support Article 23 - Eastern Slope Airport Authority in amount \$10,000.00. In favor: 10; Opposed: 2 - Rick Paquette and Melissa Stacey; Abstain: 1 - George Fredette.

Bill Jones moved, seconded by Jim LeFebvre, to support Article 24 - Children Unlimited, Inc. in amount \$12,000.00. In favor: 10; Opposed: 3 - Bob Drinkhall, Jim LeFebvre and Doug Swett; Abstain: 0.

Bob Drinkhall moved, seconded by Bill Jones, to support Article 25 - North Conway Community Center in amount \$75,000.00. In favor: 13; Opposed: 0; Abstain: 0.

Bill Jones moved, seconded by Jim LeFebvre, to support Article 26 - Project Prom in amount \$500.00. In favor: 0; Opposed: 12; Abstain: 1 - George Fredette.

SCHOOL BUDGET

Karen Umberger moved, seconded by Jim LeFebvre, to support Article 2 - Operating Budget of \$33,446,421.00 with a Default Budget of \$32,507,009.00. In favor: 3 - George Fredette, Bill Aughton and Melissa Stacey; Opposed: 10; Abstain: 0.

Phil Dighello passed out a sheet concerning the Operating Budget. Phil stated the reason he did this comparison was to be able to see where the Budget started and where it ended. We have been at this process for two months; the original request received was for \$33,506,907.00 and there was a reduction with some of our recommendations and last week presented a \$60,486.00 difference which means the School's new budget request is 99.55% of the original request. Took all the Articles that we were presented with two months ago for a total of \$870,000.00. The School

Board did take off the Boom Lift and the Cameras; did knock down from \$276,000.00, but Special Education was included and the Career/Tech Advisors came from up above. Look at the totals originally and now; look at total appropriations back in December of \$870,379.00, now \$926,791.00. The tax impact in December showed a 26.37% increase and now still at 26.34%; still wrestling with this. Phil wanted to let everybody know where this stands.

Rick Paquette stated that at about this time of the year he felt confused; there doesn't seem to be any big holes. They proposed a number of \$33,446,421.00. There are about, according to attendance records, 1,999 students. When he does calculation, he gets \$16,731.58 per student. If he includes the Articles using the same number of students with \$35,247,207.00 and uses the calculation, he gets \$17,632.42 per student. He did this on the floor last year and people objected. George Fredette stated Rick needed to take \$875,000.00 off that; take \$33,446,421.00 plus the Articles less \$875,000.00. Jim LeFebvre stated on the budget sheet the number is \$850,000.00.

Chairman Stacey asked George Fredette if the School Board voted on the Articles and George stated they voted to reduce the budget. Sheryl Kovalik stated they did not vote on the revised number; did not take a new vote, but will do so on Thursday. The didn't take a vote on the number; voted to revise the number.

Jim LeFebvre stated we are looking at a 26% increase for the taxpayer. One thing to take a look at as a challenge, doing business the same way year after year; there are three grade schools. Need to look outside the box; need to challenge ourselves, the School Board and this Committee to choose more efficiency with less cost. It is probably too late for this year, but can not continue year after year to absorb a 25% increase; will break the back of the taxpayer; we are income poor and property rich.

Rick Paquette stated he agreed with Jim and would like to add that this is deja vu all over again; last year got the same thing. They haven't changed a thing in the Middle School and are not going to change anything.

George Fredette stated last year taxes went down; don't have 26% every year. Tonight it is about the Middle School; looked at recommendations and that is mentioned nowhere. If you want us to look, you need to ask. We acted in good faith on every single one; cut \$300,000.00 by your recommendation, \$126,000.00 out of maintenance; we were willing to listen. No mention of this until now.

Rick Paquette stated point taken. We have had a better working relationship with the School Board. Last year it was made pretty clear he thought about the Middle School, but keep seeing the same thing every year. By the time we get to the budget, can't implement. Last year we were told some of the Middle School teachers could be moved to the High School. Again, look at this year, seeing the same thing: School Board says we will look at; will be here 10 years from now still looking.

Bill Aughton stated it was a tough budget; however, there was one thing different: a new school. The new school costs a lot more; got a good school; asked the School Board to do a lot of work and do appreciate the work. Bill stated that he would not be running for School Board next year.

George Fredette stated they look at the Middle School every year. Talked with Kevin; look at two sides: educational and costs. The cost benefit for the last couple of years was not enough to take the risk. We know you are frustrated, we are too. Special Education and other mandates; understand your frustration.

Jim LeFebvre stated he appreciated what the School Board did this year; however, this was his long term issue: look outside the box, take a look at closing an Elementary School for \$2.5 Million per year. Significant enough to look at; talk to the community as a whole, but like it or not, there may be no other options. Look at the 4 teams, how much difference would it make, justify it. Rich times are over, entering into a recession. State unemployment at 4.4%; people are not able to support, have to start thinking about the taxpayers, not just us, but everybody.

Phil Dighello stated there were two reasons he was trying to be conservative, 1) next year will have the 16 to 18 age group by law to educate and that will increase the budget and 2) legislation is working on a new funding method. Right now Conway gets over \$6 Million from the State. They are looking at different ways to change this. Don't believe we will get any more money, but you know there is going to be a change, they are talking about a constitutional amendment. When legislature handles everything that is scary. Nothing will be put into place until the 2009/10 tax year, but if they chop \$1 Million, where do we go. We need to hold the line and vote yes only if absolutely necessary.

Bob Drinkhall stated we are talking about a 26.37% increase. As stated, times are tough and are only going to get tougher. A \$100,000.00 home will have an increase of \$274.00, a \$200,000.00 home will have an increase of \$548.00 and a \$300,000.00 home will have an \$872.00 increase, just on the School. Bob further stated he would like to see this Committee come up with a figure that is affordable and work from there.

Rick Paquette stated he didn't know how to get his hands around this. Last year talking about the administrative layers in the School; likewise with the Police. Going through the budget, Stipends for this and that and no one delivering the product: the education. He thought the teachers are doing good work and as he said before he didn't want to be in the business of throwing out numbers that he couldn't explain. He didn't have a better answer; he didn't like that number. Last year Karen last year came up with a list and that made sense.

Crow Dickinson stated always talking about health insurance. There is an area that has nothing to do with students, all teachers. Governor Baldacci in Maine made over 85 supervisory units cut; have no idea why we don't hear more about this; could really help reduce the cost of education without having an effect. George Fredette stated he disagreed greatly; definitely need a Superintendent.

John Edgerton stated something can be done; the Budget Committee has the authority to set the line; can't be increased over 10%; that is an alternative. Phil Dighello stated somebody mentioned that last year; have tried to do, shot down in Court. Phil further stated that he would like to mention that the Default Budget from last year is up almost 6%. Look at contracts, health insurance. In his opinion, everything in the Default Budget is enough to run a School for another year. The Default Budget along with increase, still increases tax rate by 13%; the Operating Budget is about a 20% tax increase. Need something more affordable; he thought the Default Budget would do well this year.

John Edgerton stated that all three Elementary Schools have about 300 students with an Operating Budget of \$2.5 Million; the Middle School operates at \$4 Million with the same number of students; that doesn't make sense.

Bob Drinkhall stated the School Board did work in good faith, but just did not reduce it by enough; just not what can be afforded; only alternative is a figure the taxpayer can afford.

Karen Umberger moved the question.

Crow Dickinson asked if the Committee was voting on the Default Budget and the Operating Budget together and John Edgerton stated voting on Article as written. Chairman Stacey stated the School Board sets the Default Budget.

Karen Umberger moved, seconded by Phil Dighello, to lower the Operating Budget to \$32,507,009.00. In favor: 9; Opposed: 4 - Melissa Stacey, Bill Aughton, George Fredette and Rick Paquette; Abstain: 0.

George Fredette stated he expected this Board not to approve the initial offer, but to bring down to the Default Budget; why come here, why take recommendations at heart if all you do is take the Default Budget. He has to go back to his Board; there are no reasons addressed; didn't understand.

John Edgerton stated the School Board did an outstanding job looking at educational needs. Our job: how much of a tax burden; removed \$900,000.00 from the budget; still a big tax increase. George Fredette stated don't forget to add in \$300,000.00 based on your recommendations and the \$300,000.00 we took out. Programming will suffer.

Phil Dighello stated took off \$60,000.00 which is less than one-half of one percent; other amounts were suggestions. This Board also voted to take the money out of surplus, but you added it in as a taxpayer expense up front. We gave reasons. George Fredette stated it is ridiculous to use surplus. Rick Paquette stated he didn't use the word ridiculous; the reason he voted no was because he was reluctant to throw a number out there; reluctant to use just any number; made point clear, looking at how to change the wagon train. Need to change things over at the School. We have got to change things; that is why he wouldn't support just any number; something has to change.

Bill Jones stated this year handled the budget process better than in previous years; cooperation and frustrating. He is representing the taxpayers; people have come up with an increase we can not afford and if we can't afford, shouldn't have. Something has to be done and it is up to the taxpayers; our legislature is not doing their job; the federal government is not doing their job.

Karen Umberger moved, seconded by John Edgerton, to support Article 3 in amount \$54,443.00 (to be offset in part by payments from the sending towns) to be added to the Expendable Trust Fund (New Kennett High School Facilities Maintenance Fund) established for that purpose in 2007. In favor: 13; Opposed: 0; Abstain: 0.

Jim LeFebvre asked if there was some way the Article could be written with some idea of what the sending towns are contributing and George Fredette stated to look on Page 4 on the pink sheet; of the \$54,443.00, \$35,947.00 is from the sending towns.

Bill Jones moved, seconded by Jim LeFebvre, to support Article 4 in amount \$17,086.00 (to be offset in part by payments from the sending towns) to be added to the Expendable Trust Fund (A. Crosby Kennett Middle School Facilities Maintenance Fund) established for that purpose in 2007. In favor: 13; Opposed: 0; Abstain: 0.

Bill Jones moved, seconded by Jim LeFebvre, to support Article 5 in amount \$9,900.00 (to be offset in part by payments from the sending towns) to be added to the Expendable Trust Fund (Elementary Schools Facilities Maintenance Fund) established for that purpose in 2007. In favor: 13; Opposed: 0; Abstain: 0.

Bob Drinkhall moved, seconded by Jim LeFebvre, to support Article 6 in amount \$114,315.00 to fund all cost items relating to employee salaries and benefits for the Conway Education Support Personnel for the 2008-09 School year. In favor: 13; Opposed: 0; Abstain: 0.

Melissa Stacey moved, seconded by Bill Jones, to support Article 7 in amount \$103,673.00 to supplement the funding of the John H. Fuller School, Conway Elementary School and Pine Tree School Project SUCCEED Programs. In favor: 7; Opposed 6 - Doug Swett, Jim LeFebvre, Phil Dighello, Bob Drinkhall and Pat Libby; Abstain: 0.

Rick Paquette asked for the vote by the School Board and George Fredette stated Randy Davison and Dick Clement were against. Randy Davison stated on this one, when the information was presented, didn't have a lot to compare; a lot is Grant funded. Thought could get more funding and not in support of it.

Bill Jones moved, seconded by Jim LeFebvre, to support Article 8 in amount \$18,000.00 to replace the phone system at Conway Elementary School. In favor: 13; Opposed: 0; Abstain: 0.

Bob Drinkhall moved, seconded by Bill Jones, to support Article 9 in amount \$195,000.00 to replace a portion of the roofs at two of the

Elementary Schools (Conway Elementary School storage/kitchen/ cafeteria roof, \$110,000.00; and John Fuller 1988 wing, \$85,000.00). In favor: 13; Opposed: 0; Abstain: 0.

Doug Swett stated he didn't mean he was not in favor; roofs will continue to be replaced whether students are in there or not. Looking to the future, even if we go from three to two Elementary Schools, still have roof repair even if it is empty.

Jim LeFebvre moved, seconded by Bob Drinkhall, to support Article 10 in amount \$54,230.00 to provide security systems at two elementary schools (John Fuller and Pine Tree, \$27,115 each). In favor: 11; Opposed: 2 - Karen Umberger and Bob Drinkhall; Abstain: 0.

George Fredette stated this is the door locks; this is the one where we did take \$155,000.00 out at your request; do need the door locks. Jim LeFebvre stated \$55,000.00 x 3 is \$165,000.00 out; just clarification.

Jim LeFebvre stated that he would like to reiterate that at 7:10 PM the reporter for the Conway Daily Sun left the meeting. To the Conway Daily Sun: appreciate your spirit.

Karen Umberger moved, seconded by Bob Drinkhall, to support Article 11 in amount \$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. In favor: 7; Opposed: 5 - Bob Drinkhall, Bill Aughton, Bill Jones, Phil Dighello and Jim LeFebvre; Abstain: 1 - Melissa Stacey.

Bob Drinkhall moved, seconded by Jim LeFebvre, to support Article 12 in amount \$53,658.00 to purchase and install a Pine Tree Energy Management system. (This is approximately 1/3 of the total cost of the Energy Management System to be placed in the Pine Tree School.) In favor: 7; Opposed: 5 - Bill Aughton, Karen Umberger, Bill Jones, Phil Dighello and Bob Drinkhall; Abstain: 1 - Rick Paquette.

Rick Paquette stated again, for the voter, need clarification. George Fredette stated he thought it was a pretty reasonable description. Chairman Stacey asked on the vote by the School Board and George Fredette stated Randy Davison against everything; can't recall who abstained. Randy Davison stated he voted against because of the dollar amount; this is not a good year to get into a three-year plan.

Bob Drinkhall asked about the pay back and George Fredette stated he didn't recall. Sheryl Kovalik stated she recalled the Memo indicated the pay back was 10% projected savings in fuel per year depending on the cost of fuel. Rick Paquette stated when White Mountain Oil wants to sell me a new furnace, it is more expensive. Sheryl stated if the building saves 10%, often reaches 20% to 25%. It is in the Memo from Siemens dated 1-11-08. George stated it is the only building Andy can't monitor room temperatures. Rick stated when energy savings is 10% or 14%, he would have to live to be 312 years old to get that money back as a consumer.

Phil Dighello stated if this is only one-third of the cost, when is system going in; what will that do and George Fredette stated he would

love for Phil to ask Jim those questions. Chairman Stacey stated the brains of the furnace will be in with this \$53,000.00; following year duct work.

Bill Jones stated raising sum of approximately one-third of the cost; looking at over \$160,000.00 investment or commitment for the taxpayers; will enable the heating system templates to be controlled and monitored remotely. John Edgerton stated Pine Tree has \$19,000.00 for fuel. George Fredette stated \$47,000.00 for fuel for Pine Tree; \$19,000.00 was for increase.

Bob Drinkhall stated that would mean that we roughly have a 15 year pay back and asked what the life of this unit is. Rick Paquette stated there was a 5 year warranty. George Fredette stated we don't have control over it; he didn't know what the number is; the old system does not conform with the system they have; will bring system up to the standards of the other systems. Chairman Stacey stated to find out how long, go to the 20-year plan.

Rick Paquette stated maybe Sheryl has it. Sheryl stated the Memo does state there are additional benefits such as resolving complaints remotely, reduction in troubleshooting time, reduced repair costs replacing 20+ year old pneumatic controls with electronic controls and overall heating/cooling performance improvements. Jim LeFebvre stated the other part is if there is a failure, will know more quickly and be repaired more efficiently. George stated exactly.

Bill Jones stated he thought it refers to the controls of the existing heating system, just changing the monitoring system; can't calculate savings. George Fredette stated this will be done in 3 pieces, but this is needed first; not committing to 3 years. Bill stated then what you are saying is not changing the heating system itself, changing the control or upgrading the controls. Rick Paquette stated more particularly will tell what exactly went wrong.

Jim LeFebvre moved the question.

Karen Umberger moved, seconded by Bob Drinkhall, to support Article 13 in amount \$11,412.00 for the purpose of funding 10 Career/Technical student organization advisors previously funded by the Perkins Federal Grant. In favor: 9; Opposed: 4 - Bill Jones, Bob Drinkhall, Phil Dighello and Jim LeFebvre; Abstain: 0.

George Fredette stated the School Board failed to vote on this Article itself; done this on this Committee's recommendation; don't know how the School Board is going to vote. Partnership we have with the Community is phenomenal. Rick Paquette asked for more information. George stated have Future Farmers, Future Business Leaders, DECA; work after school and go to statewide competitions; our school does extremely well. Some of his proudest times as a School Board member is when the kids come in and show their ribbons and work. Chairman Stacey asked about apprenticeships and Sheryl Kovalik stated they do have.

Jim LeFebvre stated the discussion he remembered with the Perkins Grant was this had to be taken out at this point or encouraged to take out. Sheryl Kovalik stated encouraged to do in 5 years, they like every 3 years. Jim asked if not mandated, why do so. Phil Dighello stated the grant expired. Sheryl stated they apply every year. George Fredette stated they are at risk of reduction if they don't abide by the rules.

Bill Jones moved, seconded by Bob Drinkhall, to support Article 14 allowing the district to withdraw \$850,000.00 from the Expendable Trust Fund (Tuition Trust Fund) to be used to offset tuition contracts for the 2008-09 school budget. In favor: 13; Opposed: 0; Abstain: 0.

Bob Drinkhall moved, seconded by Jim LeFebvre, to support Article 15 to discontinue the Junior/Senior High School Buildings Maintenance Fund created in 2001. Said funds, with accumulated interest to date of withdrawal, are to be transferred to the school district's general fund. In favor: 13; Opposed: 0; Abstain: 0.

Bob Drinkhall moved, seconded by Bill Jones, to support Article 16 in amount \$150,000.00 to be placed in the Expendable General Trust Fund (School Buildings Maintenance Fund) established for that purpose in 1995. In favor: 7; Opposed: 5 - Karen Umberger, John Edgerton, Phil Dighello, Pat Libby and Rick Paquette; Abstain: 1 - Bill Jones.

Chairman Stacey asked on the School Board vote who was against and George Fredette stated Randy.

Phil Dighello stated he wanted to remind everybody, did not recommend when discussed; now going to ask for long term fund on top of a huge budget; don't think this is the time. Karen Umberger stated she definitely wanted to thank the School Board for reducing same and was in agreement that a 20-year fund is not good management. Bob Drinkhall stated if he opposes, it will be because it is not enough.

John Edgerton stated two approaches: how can you put away for a rainy day and for how long. He was against all trust funds, but need funds for a roof that leaks.

Rick Paquette stated funding this from surplus. Phil Dighello stated the Board took a vote and requested funding from surplus and the School Board chose not to do that; reason: surplus gave choice.

George Fredette stated there is always that phrase "not this year". If you don't do something every year, going to get hit with a huge bill. If don't put a little away at a time, the Warrant Articles down the road are going to be God awful. I think this is the prudent thing to do and they did cut it significantly.

John Edgerton stated he disagreed; this is redundant with Article 9. George Fredette stated if you look at Article 9, only doing one-third of one roof; can't believe that is the most efficient. We own 3/10ths of a mile of the road; no one can build off the road. Chairman Stacey asked what happens if the road is damaged and George stated the road will be paid for by 8 towns and Kennett Corporation.

Karen Umberger stated her major problem is in the money; Conway taxpayers put money up front and when expensed then the other towns kick in; that is where her problem is. When the tuition contract was negotiated, should have been in there for a higher figure.

Chairman Stacey stated she hated to be argumentative, but this Committee told the School Board to come back with maintenance plans and funds like the Town and now we are saying we will not support. Bill Jones stated when they brought up the part of a 20-year plan, that is hard to perceive or manage; come up with a 5-year plan with a cap on it. Doug Swett asked if the funds would be invested and George Fredette stated yes.

Sheryl Kovalik stated several members have referred to the 20-year plan; they (School Board) were trying to figure out how to manage the expense and attempt to save. The new roof at the High School has a 15-year warranty; it will take a lot longer with smaller amounts. Bob Drinkhall stated he felt it was absolutely not enough.

Jim LeFebvre moved, seconded by Bob Drinkhall, to support Article 17 to create an expendable trust fund under the provisions of RSA 198:20-c, to be known as the Special Education Trust Fund, for the purpose of offsetting future unanticipated special education costs. Furthermore, to raise and appropriate up to \$100,000.00 to be placed in the Special Education Trust Fund. In favor: 9; Opposed: 4 - Karen Umberger, Crow Dickinson, Phil Dighello and Pat Libby; Abstain: 0.

George Fredette stated the point of this Article is not written properly. Not taking out of surplus, added unanticipated.

Bill Jones moved, seconded by Bob Drinkhall, to support Article 18 in amount \$49,074.00 for the purpose of funding a remedial teacher position previously funded by a Title 1 grant (Title 1 teacher) funds which are no longer available. In favor: 5 - Bill Aughton, George Fredette, Doug Swett, Crow Dickinson and Melissa Stacey; Opposed: 8; Abstain: 0.

Bob Drinkhall asked who on the School Board voted against and why. Randy Davison stated he voted against it because once it is in the budget, it is difficult to get out. Just put on a reading specialist and librarians; it is unnecessary to add.

Bill Jones stated the other night Karen brought up the fact this is the amount of a new hire. Definitely voting against new positions. Doug Swett asked if this was a special Article or separate. Chairman Stacey stated it was a separate Article. George Fredette stated qualifications for Free and Reduced went below 25% and the government pulled the Grant. Do have a reading specialist, but not limited to just reading. This is not a new position, has been Grant funded.

Phil Dighello stated it says separate Article; if approved, in the budget from now on. Rick Paquette stated if approved, it will be in there forever. Chairman Stacey stated the position is there and is also preventing the hiring of additional aides. This grade is almost up to 21 kids which is almost the number where the School Board will split the

class. Rick Paquette stated more expense and George Fredette stated it depends on the needs. Bill Aughton stated he didn't see it as a new position. This person is there and if not approved, actually cut a teacher. Wrong thing in his opinion.

OTHER BUSINESS

Karen Umberger stated she made a comment on Thursday night that was in error and wanted to correct it. It was dealing with Article 19 and that is the correct wording of that Article. She checked to make sure and there is nothing wrong with the Article as written. She just wanted to clarify. Sheryl Kovalik stated could word to include majority requirement, don't normally put in. Rick Paquette asked if that should be put in there and Sheryl stated could make it clear at the Deliberative Session.

Chairman Stacey stated if there are any questions, comments or concerns over any of the votes, call her and no one else. Next meeting is the Deliberative Session on March 3rd at Kennett High School in the Auditorium. Rick Paquette wanted to make sure the cameras would be there. Chairman further stated that there would be a meeting of the moderators on the 26th at 8:00 AM with Earl and someone from the Selectmen at the new High School. She could not attend because her child's bus doesn't arrive until 8:10 AM. If anyone else could attend, they should; will go over what is going to happen at the Deliberative Session, Rules and Regulations. Karen Umberger asked if the School or Town was first and Chairman stated the School was first. Deliberative Session starts at 7:00 PM. Sheryl Kovalik stated they have two hard of hearing devices available for use if needed.

Bill Jones moved, seconded by Jim LeFebvre, to adjourn the meeting at 9:35 PM. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Iris A. Bowden, Recording Secretary