

**MINUTES OF MEETING  
MUNICIPAL BUDGET COMMITTEE  
January 6, 2010**

A meeting of the Municipal Budget Committee was called to order at 6:31 PM in the Meeting Room at the Conway Town Hall with the following members present: Chairperson Jim LeFebvre, Bob Drinkhall, Karen Umberger (arriving at 7:20 PM), Bill Masters, Doug Swett, Pat Libby, Raymond Shakir, Sheryl Kovalik, Daniel Bacon, David Sordi and John Edgerton. Members excused from meeting: Ben Kane. Members absent from meeting: Betty Boucher, David Jensen, Shirley Renahan and Bill Aughton. Also present: Dr. Carl Nelson and Mark Zangari, Principal of John Fuller Elementary School.

Chairman LeFebvre asked Pat Libby to lead the members in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Sheryl Kovalik moved, seconded by John Edgerton, to have Dan Bacon become the Chairman starting January 15, 2010. In favor: 10; Opposed: 0; Abstain: 0.**

Chairman LeFebvre stated that due to a situation that has developed in Texas with his mother-in-law and father-in-law, he will be leaving town on the 15<sup>th</sup> and will not be back for approximately one month. This necessitates the election of a new Chairman and, after talking to a number of Committee members, he recommended Dan Bacon to take over as Chairman.

SCHOOL REVIEW

Dr. Nelson stated he had a couple pieces of information that had been requested: a copy of the Tuition Agreement and a Memo dated January 6<sup>th</sup>; the thicker of the two packets had the Tuition Agreements and virtually the Middle School and Elementary Schools are the same; a copy of the Memorandum of Agreement with the Teachers Association; a copy of the old Contract, "old" meaning the one they are working under now; Karen Umberger had wanted a comparison on tax rates and those are the actual; also information talking about the employee salary and benefit information and that has been provided in the form their attorney has indicated they should provide. Also, the group requested a copy of the Conway Professional Evaluation System and there is one copy which the Chairman has in his possession and will pass around. The second item, the thinner packet, are questions Jim (LeFebvre) had e-mailed earlier this week: first one was requesting the CESP Memorandum of Agreement, they have not reached an agreement with them yet, they do meet tomorrow night to negotiate and he was hopeful that they would come to some conclusion; they have reached a tentative agreement with AFSCME and that will be going before their membership the end of this month, possibly the 20<sup>th</sup> and before the Conway School Board after they've acted on it; the Conway School Board would act on it on the January 25<sup>th</sup> and they will have a full report on that as long as both parties agree to it. Also in the packet was the requested detailed information about the insurance plan along with rates, deductibles and things of that nature. There was a

question about the 1.5 Elementary teachers that are in the budget now and whether they should be represented in a special Warrant Article; they are different positions based on oversized classes or need for reduction, they are also viewed by the State Department as different positions each year and therefore we include it in the budget. It is certainly a question that can be brought before the Conway Board at the 1-11 meeting.

Dr. Nelson introduced Mark Zangari, the John Fuller Elementary School Principal. Dr. Nelson stated that Mr. Zangari was one of their finest Elementary School Principals, at least in his view, and he does a great job with all of the Elementary Programs and should be able to answer any questions about the academic end of it. Obviously, Special Ed will come at a later date with Pam (Stimpson); the facilities Jim (Hill) will be handling at a later date; Technology has Dale coming in to talk. The Elementary Principals stick together with regards to the various programs, they work hard together and Mark volunteered to be here tonight and answer questions. Dr. Nelson further stated that if there were further questions, please send e-mails that they are happy to answer.

Sheryl Kovalik asked if everybody was here when the initial overview of the budget took place and Chairman LeFebvre stated that he believed they all were. John Edgerton stated there appears to be a reduction of \$1.2 Million and yet the budget balance looks like it has been absorbed. The other question is under 2100, Support Services, you have \$38,000.00 that wasn't there at all; \$900.00 goes to \$38,000.00 and it needs an explanation. Functional Summary is a 4,184% increase. Sheryl stated that is the whole District; 2100, Support Services, is actually District wide. Those are not services that Mark is directly responsible for so those would be questions asked at a different meeting. John stated he wanted it noted we are absorbing \$1.2 Million somewhere. Sheryl stated on the Debt Reduction, you didn't see that in the Budget Summary because we've had a lot of conversation about that at the Board level; it's been a bone of contention for Dick in terms of making sure that doesn't just disappear. Sheryl asked John if he wanted to have a discussion on Debt Reduction at the District level. Sheryl further stated they also have a reduction in Revenue and that may explain it, but it's not her expertise and she will get a better answer to that.

John Edgerton stated it appears in the Middle School there is still tuition unbalanced between the High School, the Elementary Schools and the Middle School. Chairman LeFebvre advised that tonight is the Elementary Schools; the Middle School will be presented in two weeks.

Raymond Shakir asked if this was programs only, not facilities. Chairman LeFebvre stated you can ask any question and if we can't answer it, we will defer it to the School Rep to get the answers later. Sheryl Kovalik stated there are maintenance responsibilities for the facilities that are handled by the Principals, but there are District facilities responsibilities as well and if Mark can answer it, he will; if it turns out that it is a District responsibility and we need someone else, we'll have to defer to that group. Ray stated he was part of a walk through yesterday of the Schools which opened his eyes to what he considers waste and inefficiencies and one of the many things that he noticed was the inappropriate use of the Pine Tree School; he really didn't see why we

even have a Pine Tree School with all the problems that were exposed on the building and considering that the entire contingent is a little over 200 students, he didn't see the logic of that school being open at all. Ray further stated when you consider that Conway Elementary had an incredibly unbelievable waste in unused space it's just mind boggling to him on why that facility can't be moved over to Conway Elementary. He understands that there were several reasons, for example, a lot of the kids would have to be bussed another 10 or 15 minutes which doesn't make any sense and minor concerns about staffing and stuff; seems that most of the staff could be moved over to Conway Elementary also. He did not see any tangible reason why the taxpayers have to foot the bill for a facility that is, by their own admission, a nightmare and a headache.

Chairman LeFebvre suggested if there is a concern about specific things that were brought forward such as the septic system and things of that nature, please identify them because it is easier for the School Board Representative to address specific points. Ray Shakir stated one thing that was a laugh is the septic system and the other one was the fact that it's got a well and both facilities are critical facilities that are not tied in to the city and when there is a power outage there, it becomes a health and safety issue to the students. There was also another concern that the School was almost fully carpeted and there was heavy concern about the fact that there was a mold problem. The gentleman said, and Ray forgot his name, the cost to remove the carpet was several hundred thousand dollars which he had a problem with. Off the top of his head, those were the 3 major items that he had a problem with; they had a problem with the engine on the pump that had to be run periodically; there was an outdated pneumatic alarm system, they had to transfer these alarm systems over to a new electronic enunciated panel that would cost another \$100,000.00 or \$150,000.00; big numbers for a school that was servicing 200+ kids. Ray further stated that he didn't understand it, but before he just outright condemns it, maybe somebody could explain it. Sheryl Kovalik stated she thought that it was horrible that we have these things that have to be repaired, fixed or changed and she wasn't around when Pine Tree was heavily lobbied for by the townspeople because they wanted to have neighborhood schools; that's history and she was not part of it, but that's how it came into being. The location choice was by a previous Board putting it outside town services; we didn't have Town water and sewer at the time when it was built. Whether it is on the list of places that will have that eventually, she did not know, but that goes back in history. As far as their ability to accommodate the population that's presently in that school in our two other Elementary Schools, she was not on the K through 8 Committee, but maybe Mark had a better handle on the data that was reviewed there. Sheryl stated she knew what Ray was saying about what he saw, but she would have to defer the results of that analysis on whether we could fit all of those students into the Elementary Schools.

Mark Zangari stated he thought they could but it would put them at capacity and the Committee looked at a number of alternatives; anything from closing one of the schools and creating a 5 to 8 Middle School or a 6 to 8 Middle School, complete recommendations that went to the Board. Clearly the recommendation was to not close an Elementary School at this time because of the strain it would put on programming for the other

buildings. He did not have the Report in hand, but it was looked at. In terms of what you may think you are going to save, it was far less than that and there were many logistical problems. Chairman LeFebvre stated the numbers presented by Administration were between \$500,000.00 and \$750,000.00 per annum in perpetuity if a school was closed; but that would involve moving the 6<sup>th</sup> Graders from the three schools to the Middle School, renovation of the Middle School to accommodate that and, as was seen yesterday, that would have to be done. There are going to be subsequent studies; Sheryl is going to be appointing two other committees in the near future on that and, depending on when they start, he would like to sit on the Curriculum Committee.

Sheryl Kovalik stated the recommendation from the K through 8 people back to the Conway School Board was twofold: 1) there was a challenge to some of the numbers that were reviewed and the facilities requirements and they were asked to put together two groups. The recommendation was to move the 6<sup>th</sup> Grade to the Middle School, that was the final end result and consolidate the population by either making Kindergarten full-time at the Elementary Schools or consolidating the population of Elementary students into fewer buildings. That Committee felt that they wanted to separate the two evaluations; one was the programmatic educational piece of it, they wanted to understand what that would entail logistically and the other group wanted to look at the financial piece separate from that, primarily because Dick wanted to take a closer look at those cost estimates for the renovation at the Middle School since he thought they were a little bit high and he wanted to take a look at the savings piece of the elimination of an Elementary School, he wanted to challenge some of those numbers. That work was a result of the K-8 investigation which was the first look at feasibility and whether or not it could happen. Sheryl further stated she didn't know if she had misrepresented anything. Mark Zangari stated in fairness to Ray's concerns, he did not think those costs were calculated into the recommendations; they were purely looking at costs of personnel, how many teachers moved with the kids, bussing costs. Ray stated so there was a lot in the equation that was not explored. Sheryl stated which can be part of the next phase of this evaluation; we can make sure those costs are considered because they are real and ongoing.

Chairman LeFebvre stated replacing the pneumatic system that is at Pine Tree based on what Jim Hill told us the other day is going to run \$150,000.00 or up and on top of that the generator issue is something else that we discussed in some detail yesterday; having a generator that would be able to run a school that lost power and preferably having it mobile so that you could hook it up to any school. For example, if Pine Tree lost power, you could drag it to Pine Tree and hook them in, but that involves different phases because Pine Tree is all Phase I and all the other schools are 3 phased, so there would have to be a different hook up arrangement.

Sheryl Kovalik stated what they need to look at is to broaden the scope of finances that are considered in the evaluation; they need to look at the maintenance costs as well as maybe the ongoing energy costs. Sheryl knew that Conway Elementary because of where it sits in the District and

its age is actually a larger burden from an energy standpoint because of the wind that comes across the field, it's more exposed.

Ray Shakir stated this all assumes that the actual physical building is in fact necessary. One of his critiques is the fact that there's only 200+ kids in the school to begin with and when he considers looking at that facility and the overwhelmingly vacant space in the other facilities, he just can't see the logic of why the building is needed to begin with. Ray further stated that it was his understanding that in fact the future projections of Elementary School kids is not going to grow appreciably.

Chairman LeFebvre asked what is the full capacity of Conway Elementary, Pine Tree and John Fuller. Mark Zangari stated when they added it on, they wanted to be able to accommodate up to 325 or so students. Chairman further asked for the current numbers in each Elementary School. John Edgerton stated about 713. Chairman stated three-quarters full approximately. Mark stated some things have changed; there have been programs added that have taken some space so 325 he thought would be very tight, depends on how they are distributed; 300 would be realistic. Sheryl Kovalik stated it was her understanding that Pine Tree was smaller than the other two schools. Mark stated he thought one or two less classrooms. Sheryl stated there is nobody objecting to the review of this; we just assigned a committee to look at the logistics of doing that and they came back and told us that for us to retain the programming the we have, we really needed to consider moving the 6<sup>th</sup> Grade to the Middle School to accommodate all of the Elementary students in two buildings, so we have more work to do.

John Edgerton stated he totally agreed; he read the K through 8 Report a few times to make sure that he didn't miss anything and the only two things that he saw was the 6<sup>th</sup> Grade to Middle School needs further study; shutting down or consolidating or changing the remaining Elementary School students needed a lot more study. Mark Zangari stated he didn't think it was a closed door. Sheryl stated they were not done looking at it and this, she hoped, would be the last phase of the analysis. John stated he probably instigated the 6<sup>th</sup> Grade to Middle School because of the unbalance of money two years ago and at least he was glad to see there was a study going on, it's going forward. John further stated that he didn't expect anybody to do anything within a couple of weeks; if it takes 3 years, it takes 3 years; at least they're looking at it; they've done what he asked, they're looking at it; no, it's not going to get done because there are too many problems. He believes maintenance of the three buildings should be a major cause of which one gets closed. The major maintenance in some of these buildings is pretty big; Pine Tree is the newest one but because it was not upgraded, it's the only one on a septic system and that's a big minus. Conway Elementary has been around so long he wasn't sure it wasn't going to fall down. If the maintenance costs are huge, you've got to decide yea, that's the one that's gotta go.

Chairman LeFebvre stated everyone needs to remember and it was alluded to at the beginning when Sheryl was talking about the fact that it was a political decision to have sub-community grade schools; if you want to

change that, there is going to have to be a major effort to sell that to the parents and the students at those schools. Whichever one you pick, when you go out there and say School X will be closed, you'll have a lot of support; however, when you say School X is now Conway Elementary or Pine Tree or John Fuller, you're going to have a pretty strong and organized opposition almost immediately, so you are going to have to sell this to the people and why it's not only a good move from an economic perspective, but a good move from the educational perspective.

Sheryl Kovalik stated there are some academic reasons, some problematic reasons to move the 6<sup>th</sup> Grade to the Middle School. There are some advantages to that: an opportunity for World Language at an earlier grade level, there is the opportunity for competitive sports at the Middle School level, there's the opportunity for more diversified math programming so that certain students with a higher aptitude could take more advanced math classes; there are a lot of good reasons academically that we can support if we do all the homework that has to be done.

David Sordi asked are there any fixes that need to be done to any of the three Elementary Schools that are so critical that it's going to be a driver in finishing the analysis more quickly. Chairman LeFebvre stated he thought there was a question regarding the carpeting, not John Fuller but the other schools still have carpeting. Sheryl Kovalik stated she didn't know how to answer that question directly; the carpeting issue is ongoing and nobody's wanted to tackle it all at once because of the cost impact. She would have to get back to him on what they said some of the expenses were.

Bill Masters stated to have a clear understanding of what the responsibilities are of the District in terms of the facilities and what the responsibilities are of the Principals in regard to the facilities as far as the structural buildings are concerned, what is the District's actual responsibility. Mark Zangari stated the Maintenance Department is under the District; you don't have individual Maintenance Departments within each school so that's coordinated through the District; Andy heads that up and it takes a coordinated effort on our part of working day-to-day in the building to come to some agreement for what our priorities are, what's needed and Andy often sees things that we don't see because he's looking at the building with a mechanical mind. Chairman LeFebvre stated the people who are in your school to do maintenance, to keep it clean, fall under your direct control. Mr. Zangari stated the custodial department is individual to the buildings. Bill stated that would fall under the Principals and Mr. Zangari agreed. Bill further stated in the two or three Elementary we have 2 custodians per school and in the Middle School has 6. Mr. Zangari stated he couldn't speak for the Middle School. Chairman LeFebvre stated he believed it was 6.5 and the Middle School eliminated one-half a custodian.

John Edgerton stated looking at the maintenance schedule for the three schools and because there's no prices, even if you have tentative prices you'd have some idea because some of this is not very expensive and some of it is very expensive. The list of things to be done is already there. Sheryl Kovalik stated if you look at the page for Pine Tree, the top 3 items are looking at 2010 and 2011 so you've got the first stab at some

costs there that were targeted for the coming year. John stated we aren't going to make a change in the next 6 months. Sheryl stated no and those are coming out of the \$60,000.00 Rotating Maintenance Fund that has been going building to building; every year it switches Elementary School. This year it's Pine Tree's turn to have the \$60,000.00 Fund which is put into their budget to help them with some of the routine maintenance that needs to be done. It has been going on for several years; it precedes her arrival. It's been working pretty well; it's been keeping the Elementary Schools up to speed; it's not addressing some of the issues that have surfaced recently and some of the ones that Ray brought up that has to do with putting the building in that location for Pine Tree.

Chairman LeFebvre asked about the energy management issue that was on the Warrant last year and failed on Pine Tree; #4 on the list. Sheryl Kovalik stated that is not on this year's Warrant; there are nothing but absolute requirement Warrant Articles on this year's planned Warrant; it's as spare as we can keep it at this point.

Doug Swett stated the old store in the old High School is being revamped for a Meeting Room only because there was some government money available which was dictated couldn't use for this or that or the other so it's being spent there. We could use it for maintenance or something, but like Klement said, the rules that go with this money, can't use it for what you want to use it for. Chairman LeFebvre stated you are talking about the old School Store in what's now the Middle School and to clarify Dick's comment a little, he stated something along the lines that can not be used for maintenance issues, that was for a very specific purpose and they were using it to put together a Training Room/Meeting Room at that facility. Sheryl Kovalik stated the monies obtained for that were done by the School District SAU 9 Office, the petition for those monies was Grants, those were Grant requests as a result of funds that they were allowed to apply for. The State Board of Education came and told them what kinds of categories that they could consider applying for. They followed the letter of the law and made several requests. She did not know how many of them actually came through.

Bill Masters asked if the mold had been tested to see if it is toxic mold. Mark Zangari stated no testing had been done that he was aware of. Bill stated we don't know if that would be a good argument for removing it; the impression he got from the walk through yesterday was that it only seems to be a problem during certain times of the year which would indicate to him that it may be nothing more than a cleaning problem. If that's an issue, does the head of the custodians have the authority to reassign some of those necessary folks to respond to situations such as that. For example, in Conway Elementary, from his perspective, certainly needed additional help in maintaining that facility. Pine Tree was certainly in a far different condition than they observed but he was given the impression that they didn't have that latitude and that was controlled by the Principals of the individual schools. Mr. Zangari stated in his judgment it has not been a cleaning issue; the mold started in the summer; it's been a cleaning issue in that it is hard to get those carpets to dry from the amount of cleaning that is done over the summer. They've tried a number of remedies from mold/mildew acids to almost using straight bleach through the carpet cleaners which they can do. There are

people who have developed symptoms; but the better argument for removing the carpet is that it is 20 years old in a high wear area that has food and a number of children that are on that carpet all the time; it owes us nothing; 20 years of carpeting went a long way, it's way past its replacement time. So the mold is like the final straw.

Dan Bacon asked for the amount of the Grant previous talked about and Sheryl Kovalik stated she didn't know but would find out.

David Sordi asked if they considered asbestos as part of the cost; was there asbestos under the carpeting given that it is 20 years old. Sheryl Kovalik stated in some cases yes and in some case no. In some cases we had asbestos tiles that they chose to cover with carpeting to protect and now at the 20 year mark when they go to lift up the carpeting, they have to deal with the asbestos tiling that is below. She did not know who was there when they decided to cover it with carpeting, but they took the short answer. David stated actually that is the normal way they do it. Chairman LeFebvre stated the issue was brought up at Pine Tree specifically and the Principal at Pine Tree stated that there was no asbestos under the carpeting so it does not have that issue. Mark Zangari stated they only have 4 rooms left that will need abatement.

John Edgerton stated he would like to make a general comment about tuition and per student; it looks like the 3 Elementary Schools get by with a tuition base around \$11,000.00 per student; the High School does even better at around \$10,000.00; and the Middle School is almost \$20,000.00 per student. It's a little out of whack. Chairman LeFebvre stated that is possibly due to various issues, one of which is the way they teach in the Middle School, they're using a more teacher intensive process. Sheryl Kovalik stated even if that were true and we could do what Randy (Davison) recommends which is to cut an entire team out of the Middle School, that would be 4 teachers and they would not necessarily be the 4 at the Middle School; 4 low end teachers at the bottom rate of the pile because last one in, first one out because that's the way the Contract works. They would take 4 teachers currently being paid about \$45,000.00, so you are not going to impact the number that John is talking about by that team. The numbers that throw the Middle School out of whack are the facility's size itself and, going out on a limb, part of the costs are Special Ed related; unlike the Elementary Schools, Special Ed is contained within the Middle School budget, it is not separated out. The Elementary Schools Special Ed costs are spelled out in a different Unit for the District. While the High School has advantage of the scale of dividing cost over a larger number, the Middle School doesn't have that and it also carries it's Special Ed costs. We are moving the Special Ed for all of the District into its own category so they no longer compare apples and oranges, they will be able to look at non-Special Ed costs separate from Special Ed costs. That isn't necessarily going to save us any money, but they won't be pointing fingers anymore and having to explain it away. They will be able to look at the costs separate from each other; Special Education will be identified and Regular Education will be identified.

David Sordi stated you mentioned the facility costs and if they are at a low capacity it is probably impacting it; have you ever looked at what

the cost per student is taking all of the facility costs out of it, just looking purely at what the educational costs are per student. Sheryl Kovalik stated you probably could from the materials provided in the book; anything that relates to the facility costs, just take all of the Regular Ed costs, you would be looking at non-facility costs. John Edgerton stated facility costs are \$100,000.00 a year roughly; that's not really big compared to what we're dealing with here. We are dealing with \$2 Million more at the Middle School than any of the other schools. David asked how many students were at the Middle School and Chairman LeFebvre stated 312. Sheryl stated the Special Ed costs which she analyzed last year were close to \$1.5 Million at the Middle School and it's high; she wasn't saying they were too high, just saying that it is high.

Chairman LeFebvre asked Sheryl Kovalik to take a few moments for the edification of the folks that have not been on the Committee before to talk about mandated Special Education costs and how they work in general terms. Sheryl deferred to Mark Zangari for a response. Mr. Zangari stated if you've had no background in Special Education, it is civil rights legislation more so than it is educational legislation. When they broadened the definition of handicapped Americans to include educational handicaps, they then were entitled to all the rights that any handicapped American would be entitled to. If they're seen as educationally handicapped, then we hold an obligation, otherwise we're in a discriminating situation against a handicapped person. We are obligated to create programs, free and appropriate education is how it is termed. Mr. Zangari thought it was the right thing to do; there are some places doing it better than others and he was sure it was ridiculous in some places but overall it is a good idea when you legitimately identify those handicapped kids because those are the kids that typically dropped out of school, were thrown out of school, expelled from school or otherwise had some unilateral decision made by the school not to continue their education and that's what this prevents. It's costly in many cases and he can assure that it is very legitimate in many cases; the rise of autism in this country is alarming; that requires a unique program, you can't just do a program for a student, each one is going to be a unique presentation and have unique needs and very high supervision needs. It gets very costly in personnel and in training to deliver those kinds of programs.

Bill Masters stated going back to facilities, when we were reviewing the system software that monitored the critical elements at the various schools, one of the things that kind of popped out was that within the Pine Tree facility it was not really on-line in comparison with the rest of the facilities that we have; it was a single phased system. A question asked was what happens if there is a power failure; what systems would be lost during this time of the year should there be a freeze up. One of the things that apparently came out was that there was no back-up in terms of providing power to the critical elements to prevent a greater loss to the facilities. For example, if we had a 10 day power loss as they experienced in the southern part of New Hampshire, what would our school systems look like in terms of that; if all of our sprinkling systems ruptured, if all of our water lines ruptured and the response was that it would be catastrophic. What hit him was with priorities really being looked at from a cost factor in terms of the only school identified for

having this is the High School. Have we really looked at the cost of catastrophic failure like that. Mark Zangari stated Andy Grigel may have looked at those costs; he had not been a part of any of those discussions, but clearly the schools would be closed with any extended loss of power. There is no back-up system once the temperature is down; once they can't meet the life safety codes to keep the building open, they would be closed.

Sheryl Kovalik stated since she had been on the Board, they've been struggling with budget and planning for a very long time and the first big hurdle that she has been able to help to try and overcome was the High School. Since that time, they've been struggling with every dollar they get to spend on educational programming. If you think it is important for them to take on the challenge of making the Elementary Schools catastrophic outage safe, then they should probably look at it. The number of instances that they've survived, even the ice storm, they did not lose that many days of school; they have not been out of service; the biggest issue they had was snow on the roof of Pine Tree School and no generator or back-up system is going to have helped. They have not had a risk situation which would warrant, in her opinion, having put those systems in place at the costs they would generate.

Dan Bacon stated there are a lot of things on the list that need to be assessed, when will those areas be assessed. That's going to tend to have reasoning when you are talking about the schools and the cost of closing schools. All these areas should be assessed so you have an actual value. Now that he's been through the schools and talked about the carpets and talked about the pneumatics versus the electronic. The other thing he got out of the conversations was the generator could be a critical thing should the pipes freeze or the water. He went on-line and looked at Generators from reputable companies and 100 KBAs and 175 KBAs could handle 2 phase or 3 phase and there's companies out there that will guarantee a Unit built in 1995 for about \$19,000.00; they were saying it was going to cost about \$50,000.00. Dan would like realistic numbers. He went to Chicks to discuss the tiles that the schools use when replacing the carpets; a ballpark figure to install tile is \$2.00 a square foot or \$1.50 a square foot, looking at \$65,000.00 for tile and insulation. Then you have to take into consideration all the hardwood baseboards that probably will have to come up.

Mark Zangari stated there will be a maintenance evening when Jim and Andy can answer those questions; he was reluctant to speak for them but his guess would be that they are reluctant to put those numbers in because they are far enough out they may not be accurate and they don't want to be held to a number. He thought if you wanted ballpark figures, he was sure they have that. He did remember their priority was getting the list established and he thought they may be pricing a couple of years out.

David Sordi stated one of the things that he thought he heard from three or four people is the issue regarding emergency power and generators and someone mentioned getting one portable between schools. The cheapest way to do it is to put in the infrastructure to plug in and lease one from Colemans for a couple of days; you don't have to go out and spend the money to buy the generator.

Mark Zangari stated these are good questions for the night when they are here because it may even go beyond that. There is a real Comprehensive Emergency Plan that involves the entire town and county where they are going to go to hospitals they may be providing generators to facilities.

John Edgerton stated that he substitutes at the High School, wasn't gutsy enough to try the other schools but under Special Ed he sees a great deal of satisfaction in what's going on; nationwide the statistic is about 19% of all the students are Special Education and yet in the High School, they're trained in the Elementary School and the Middle School so that it is somewhere around 14%. We've already trained those people out of Special Ed, so the School Department's doing a super job there. Sheryl Kovalik thanked John for his comment and advised that she would pass that on.

Sheryl Kovalik stated she was glad for all of these things that have come out and she has done the best she can for taking notes but we need to apportion some of these conversations back to the appropriate groups when they come in and we need to warn some of them of these questions because they may need to do some homework before they come in for those meetings and be better prepared. Those answers may not here or you wouldn't be asking them. Sheryl further stated that she would like to redirect the Chair to see if there are any more questions specific to the Elementary School because that is what is being covered tonight and it puts Mark in an awkward position to try and answer for the other portions.

Dan Bacon asked how many teachers in each and Mark Zangari stated it depends on how you want to define teachers. He has 14.5 classrooms but he has a number of other people that qualify as teachers such as 2 Special Educators. Dan asked how many total for each school and Mr. Zangari stated close to 25 certified positions, that would include Guidance, Librarian, Reading Specialist, Special Educators.

Bob Drinkhall asked how many Aides are in the Elementary School that are not involved in Special Ed, if any. Mark Zangari stated he only had 2 positions left at John Fuller. Again, it is how you are going to define Aide; he has a clerical office person who technically comes under the Aide Contract; they have a Student Support Center Aide which is not under Special Ed, but they are not necessarily classroom Aides. He has 2 working in classrooms and 2 out of classrooms that are not specific to Special Education. Bob asked if they were in a specific classroom or did they float. Mark stated they go by priorities where they try to keep their resources geared toward where the need is and that changes year to year, sometime within a year. Typically they won't just float, they will have specific assignments.

Chairman LeFebvre thanked Mark Zangari for coming in.

Chairman LeFebvre stated it seemed to him that there was an awful lot of concern about maintenance issues and asked Sheryl Kovalik to make sure Andy and Jim Hill get copies of her notes and a copy of the Minutes if they wish.

Bill Masters asked if Special Education was going to be addressed in the future and Chairman LeFebvre stated yes, Unit 2 is on a separate night.

Doug Swett stated speaking on generators, the Pine Tree School is 20 years old; education costs in this Town doubled in 10 years and we've got a situation where we should have a generator on standby and if we haven't bought it, it's going to cost \$20,000.00 to \$30,000.00; it makes no sense to him whatsoever, it should have been bought 15 years ago. Chairman LeFebvre stated he believed David Sordi had provided an alternative to that situation. Doug stated it should have been done years ago. If we really have a down thing that freezes pipes and messes up thousands and thousands of dollars in equipment, it is ludicrous as far as he is concerned. Chairman stated he thought Sheryl had the message to give back to the Board regarding the studying of the usage of a mobile unit if need be.

John Edgerton stated not to sound facetious, but if we had a freeze up, that would solve the problem as to which school we are going to close. John further stated all 3 schools are downtown and the downtown power in this state has always been hours not days, even in the ice storm. Chairman stated when dealing with risk management issues you look at worse case scenarios, the use of a generator of some sort on a temporary basis as Dave was mentioning might be beneficial but to expend \$20,000.00 to \$30,000.00 to buy one may not be a wise use of limited resources.

Sheryl Kovalik stated they haven't had an experience over the time she has live in this District that suggests we should be having a generator at every building. She likes Dave's idea of having a provision in place that makes having a generator an option on a lease basis if it becomes critical. She thought it was worth checking the cost of setting up for the school that has the highest risk which would be Pine Tree because it is the furthest out of town.

Bill Masters stated they asked the Principal at Pine Tree: have you lost the power and she said yes; asked her if they keep records of that and she thought so. The issue is losing power and how often do we lose power, understanding that we've had some nasty winter weather recently, it makes sense to be prepared or at least be able to do that; when we have a 10 day power outage, we can have all the apparatus in place to lease one but didn't think we would be able to lease one between here and West Virginia because everyone else will be looking for leased ones.

Sheryl Kovalik stated let's find out what the costs are, bring it forward to talk about and talk about the risk. In 16 years, she hasn't had to pick up her child because the situation at school has gone so bad that their life is at risk. They've had bomb scares but even then they don't call parents to pick up their kid; they just move them off site and then back. They may have lost power but, as Mark said, the critical issue is how long is power out for and the life safety issue.

Bob Drinkhall stated he didn't know how relevant this may be, but we have been looking into the garage and they wanted an \$85,000.00 Generator but the fact of the matter has been and this is relatively close to Pine

Tree, but there has not been a problem in the past, not that it couldn't happen, but what is the likelihood.

Dan Bacon stated what he got out of the meetings when we walked through the other day talking about the critical things, he didn't think the critical issue was the generator. What he thinks was happening was they were getting a foundation laid for the environmental system for monitoring the school itself, discussing the critical needs, and he thought they were leaning toward the direction of that needing to be updated and the pneumatic valves and everything else needed to be taken out. He believes that is where they were more worried. The discussion on the generator did come up because the questions were asked and personally he thought we were beating that to death and he thought the thing that needed to be concentrated on was the cost evaluation of changing the schools to include the things we just discussed: the environmental system of \$150,000.00, the carpets of \$120,000.00. They were laying a foundation for selling the idea of getting that system and getting the carpets done.

Chairman LeFebvre stated the emphasis as he saw it was in that area; the emphasis was to replace the pneumatic system at Pine Tree because that was the next biggest problem for them as they saw it. The system is starting to develop air leaks and that sort of thing which is customary for a system that is 20 years old and using rubber hoses to monitor the system. That was their primary thrust and the secondary thrust was the replacement of the carpeting.

Chairman LeFebvre stated that he wanted to take this moment to thank both Jim Hill and Andy for taking us around and spending approximately 4+ hours of their time to walk us through 2 of the Elementary Schools, the High School and the Middle School. They did an excellent job. Sheryl Kovalik stated she wanted to extend her thanks for those members taking the time to walk through the schools. Chairman LeFebvre stated it was important; you have to see it on the ground to know what is going on.

Karen Umberger apologized for being late and asked if the plan for all day Kindergarten was discussed tonight. Sheryl Kovalik stated we had talked about what the next step is.

#### OTHER BUSINESS

Bob Drinkhall stated you were given at the last meeting the worksheets on the Town Budget that included Column 6 and you will see the difference between what the Departments asked for, what was approved and then what the Selectmen approved. Bob stated Column 5 is what the Department heads wanted; Column 6 is what they got within Town Staff; and Column 7 were the changes made as a Select Board. Chairman LeFebvre stated the reason that all this came up is at the last session we discovered that Column 6 was missing and that caused a significant differential between Column 5 and Column 7 for obvious reasons.

Bob Drinkhall handed out a letter from Bill Marvel that was brought up at the Selectmen's meeting yesterday, a couple of the Selectmen wanted to make sure this Committee received a copy of the letter. Bob stated

interestingly enough, one Selectman called him this morning about an article concerning the Goffstown's Library and the reducing of hours and budget cuts that just happened to appear on January 5<sup>th</sup> in *The Union Leader*.

Bill Masters asked when we get estimates like this, would it be to our advantage to ask for some supporting information in terms of 3 estimates so that we can verify the fact that the figures they are giving us are relatively accurate; at least give us the idea of where those estimates were from and what they were for and how much they were for in each one of the projects that they might be proposing; is that reasonable. Dan Bacon stated he thought it was reasonable; it doesn't cost anything to ask people to give a quote, there's nothing set in stone but it gives a basis. Sal at Chicks said if he had the floor plans, if the maintenance guy could give him the floor plans, he could give an estimate off the cuff and when they decide to put it out to bid, then they would take the opportunity to bid on it. Sal will give a good ballpark figure almost set in stone, not quite, but we would have a more realistic value to what it is going to cost.

John Edgerton stated the key here is the estimate costs this year to give us a cost basis relative between the 3 schools; that's not going to be what it costs when we need some reference between the 3 schools as to how much out of whack maybe one school is from another; they may all be the same. Chairman LeFebvre stated especially if looking at the long term implications of repair work to determine which school may have to be closed. Dan Bacon stated he asked Jim Hill where he was coming up with his estimates on these critical issues and he said it was all just off the top of his head.

Sheryl Kovalik asked if the budget for the Library given on Monday night reflected the commentary in the Bill Marvel letter, other than the reduced hours; these are things that he effectively put in place for the budget that the Library revised that netted a 4.2% decrease. Bob Drinkhall stated they were his suggestions originally; they had a meeting that day and they came up with the reduced budget. Chairman LeFebvre stated reduced from \$452,000.00 to \$446,000.00. Bob stated it's level fund to last year; however, considerably more will come out of town taxes because revenue is way down; the tax portion for the Library will be greater.

John Edgerton stated he knew there was an endowment for the Library and he thought it was alluded to that the endowment income is down but there is a huge endowment to support the Library. Bob Drinkhall stated that was a considerable portion of the loss of revenue, not the only but part. Karen Umberger asked if the loss of revenue being talked about was just the Library or across the board. Bob stated just the Library right now. Karen further asked if there was a significant decrease in their revenue and Bob Drinkhall stated yes.

Sheryl Kovalik stated before we have our next discussion about the Library budget, could Bob find a way to highlight which numbers they actually adopted. Bob Drinkhall stated he had that and will bring it to the next meeting on the Town.

Sheryl Kovalik moved, seconded by Dave Sordi, to adjourn the meeting at 7:47 PM. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Iris A. Bowden, Recording Secretary