

**MINUTES OF MEETING
MUNICIPAL BUDGET COMMITTEE
October 27, 2010**

A meeting of the Municipal Budget Committee was called to order at 6:00 PM in the Meeting Room at the Conway Town Hall with the following members present: Chairman David Sordi, Bob Drinkhall, Doug Swett, Bill Masters, Karen Umberger, Janine McLauchlan, John Edgerton, Ray Shakir and Linda Teagan. Members excused from meeting: Bill Aughton. Members absent from meeting: Joe Mosca.

Chairman Sordi asked Ray Shakir to lead those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Sordi advised the members that the Recording Secretary would not be present, the Minutes would be transcribed from the DVD and asked that members try to avoid having more than one member speaking at one time. Second thing, he wanted to try to keep this meeting short and be out by 7:00 PM. John Edgerton stated he had another meeting at 7:00 PM. Chairman further stated that he had a number of documents in front of him: the Basic Law of Budgeting; the document that Bill Masters has been putting together on Budget Committee Guidelines; a draft of a calendar for November, December, January and February which has the meetings that Carl (Nelson) had talked about on it for the School Board and it has tentative dates for the meetings in January and February.

Bob Drinkhall stated he heard that the November 8th budget that was going to be presented isn't going to be presented. Janine McLauchlan stated that was right; the meeting is still the same but they are not going to be addressing the budget the same way.

Chairman Sordi stated that he received some information from Earl (Sires) on the last 10 years of the School tax rate and the Town tax rate and a nice little graph. If anyone doesn't have a copy of the draft letter, let him know as he has copies.

Chairman Sordi stated that the Minutes would be voted on at the next meeting since the Recording Secretary was not present to take any changes in the September Minutes and if anyone didn't have a copy, let him know. She will get the October Minutes out, she is on vacation this week and will get them out when she gets back.

Chairman Sordi stated at the last meeting there was a lot of, for those of you that weren't here, almost everyone at the meeting spoke against the budget cuts, no one spoke in favor of the budget cuts. We made our position, he thought pretty clear, that we believe the budgets must remain flat or be reduced; even with a flat or reduced budget we may still have a tax increase because of what's going on at the State level. We don't support any specific program or area to be cut; in fact, the Committee does not have nor wants the authority to micro-manage the Town and School budgets. Rather, our sole goal is to communicate the need for

fiscal responsibility. Chairman asked if that was a pretty good summary of what was heard and what was said.

Bob Drinkhall stated we first mentioned, for those that were not there, at the 30 minute mark that we did not institute the study on the \$1 Million or \$1.5 Million nor the specific cuts; but at minute 133 people were still accusing us of having made those proposals. So, we never got through to the folks that it was not our specific plan that they were looking at and we were accused of everything from being disrespectful to being disgusting and those were specific words that were used. Bob found it extremely, extremely negative and what some of them, and some of them were very, very polite, what they were accusing of us some of their own supporters were doing the same. He was accused of using a fictitious couple when he explained how much the one couple earned per year on Social Security which is their total earnings versus what their expenditures were just for their medical coverage and taxes and, you know, it's an actual couple and he wasn't giving their name but it is actual people in the Town. Bob was very taken by the meeting and it still continues in the newspaper to this very day, or at least two days ago.

Chairman Sordi stated he thought there might have been an article in today's paper, too. John Edgerton asked if these were just editorials or were they articles. Bob stated letters and Chairman stated editorials and he thought the last one he saw was yesterday. Chairman further stated in a couple of instances there was some pretty vitriolic language being used, but one comment that was made was just some of the language that the Budget Committee has been using in commenting on some of the efforts or the comments that were made at the School Board meeting from the parents and the reaction to them not wanting to cut the budget and in going back and taking a look at some of the references that were made in the meeting, the person that spoke had a point and, you know, maybe some people in the public are using that type of language and inflammatory, vitriolic, rude, disrespectful, whatever it may be, but he thought from this point as a Committee we need to be cognizant of the fact that when we do make comments in the public regarding budget issues, we need to watch the way, not the way we say it, but we need to not use inflammatory, disrespectful language. There is no need for it. Chairman doesn't like being called a cheater; he doesn't like being called whatever, so he is not going to do it to anyone else and hoped that everyone on the Committee can follow that because it's going to get a lot worse this budget season than it already is and there's going to be a lot of language and he, for one, doesn't want to lower himself to that level. Chairman asked that members keep that in mind if we're asked by the paper or if we're sending in a letter to the Editor or whatever; even in these meetings try to keep it at least respectful of the people that we are referring to or the issues we're referring to.

John Edgerton stated he was surprised that no one in the room, and that was a good turn out and he really wanted to credit the Town because that was an amazing turn out, and thought it was better than some Town meetings he had been to. It was amazing that not one person in the room realized that we could get a 20% increase in taxes. They absolutely could not comprehend that being what we were bringing forward.

Chairman Sordi stated some people commented they didn't care which he was pretty surprised at. He thought that at no point did anyone consider at what point do you stop with this escalation of taxes and he didn't think it was atypical to this school system or even to the Town budget, he didn't think it was atypical anywhere; no one wants to see services cut, but no one wants to see taxes go up and sometimes they don't care if taxes go up. He thought it was something we will have to deal with and to be honest right now we're like a voice in the desert, no one else is crying out here. Last week was a perfect example; the people that don't want to see services cut were at the meeting, but no one that really is supporting fiscal responsibility was at the meeting. So, we need to get the word out to people that if you don't want to see your taxes continue to go up, then you need to start participating in these meetings because there are those people that want to see the status quo, want to see the budgets continue the way they are going, are going to attend these meetings and they're going to speak their mind and that's their right, but we need to have everybody coming to these meetings.

Chairman asked for any further comments on the meeting last week. Karen Umberger stated one of the things that she was not sure everyone understood was that the Committee had not received any budgets at this time and that the issues that were being discussed should have been discussed with the School Board and she knew they had been to the School Board and had expressed their concerns there and until such time as we get a budget to look at, it's difficult for us, we aren't able to make any decisions or comments or anything else because for us, until we receive the Town and the School budget, that's when really our work begins. We obviously attend meetings beforehand and do any number of things, but our role is not to influence what the Town or the School brings forward to us. Our role is once we get the budget, then it's our responsibility to review it.

Chairman Sordi stated his only comment to Karen was that our role is not to influence it, but we can provide some, which is what we are doing in this letter, which is to provide some voice of what we think where it needs to go. Right now it looks like it will be the beginning of December when we will be seeing the binder from Dr. Nelson or the School Board. Janine McLauchlan stated they hoped to approve their budget at their meeting on December 13th. Chairman asked Bob Drinkhall if that was about the same time the Town's would be coming out. Bob stated he was not sure.

Ray Shakir stated he had a prepared statement but would reserve it until the end of this particular segment; of course, he'd rather put it at the end. If we are done with the School segment of it, he would read the statement, otherwise he would reserve comment until we are done with this.

Chairman Sordi asked Bill Masters if his comment was related to the School. Bill Masters stated it was related to the actual tax rate for 2010. What we've actually seen is the tax rate, the base tax rate will increase \$.79 per thousand. It will go from \$17.08 to \$17.87; that's not including the Precinct tax increases. You're going to see quite a significant increase in your June 1st tax bill in 2010. Karen Umberger stated 31 December. Bob Drinkhall stated the one you are going to get in

a few days will show this increase. Chairman stated actually that \$17.87 only is the School tax rate and the Town tax rate; it does not include the State tax rate either which went up. Bill stated it includes all of it. Janine McLauchlan stated it includes all of it. Bob stated no, it doesn't include the different Precincts or Districts; he calculated his out just prior to the meeting and his increase will be \$398.00 for this year. Bill stated that's the base tax rate that is going up from \$17.08 to \$17.87, then you have your Precinct adjustments going on to that which can bring it up anywhere from about \$18.15 to \$21.63 depending upon where you live within the Town. Bob stated it is even greater than that because some people live in dual Precincts and it could be as high as \$21.78. Bill stated that's a significant increase in some of the things, for example, the Town tax rate is actually going up about \$.37 and the School tax rate, this is the local School tax rate, is going up \$.47. The State tax rate is actually going down \$.02 and the County is going down. What we see is a lot of the stuff being passed along to us which we have to absorb and he didn't think the taxpayers realized what they voted on in April is going to produce these results in the first of June. In theory, he felt we should be out and caution them that if they go through and increase that, it's going to go up even more significantly in 2011.

Chairman Sordi stated one of the things, and he didn't want to beleaguer this because he wanted to make this a relatively short meeting and maybe Bob (Drinkhall) could clarify, but the tax rate is going from \$17.08 to \$17.87, but what's happening to the appraised values, is that going to be going down. Bob stated no, that is staying the same this year for most people. He talked to Tom (Holmes) on his way up, the total Town increased by \$6 Million or \$7 Million, total evaluation of the total Town. Karen UMBERGER stated she thought Tom had told her \$8 Million when she spoke with him. Chairman stated Earl (Sires) had shown him and had also sent a figure showing the value of the assets in the Town that are being taxed from 2000 to 2009 and if you take that along with the tax rate, then you see the total amount that's really being gained in taxes and it's staggering between 2000 and 2009 and he will take that information and put it into a graph for us next time, but it is really staggering to see how much total tax money has been collected compared from 2000 to now, it's unbelievable. Bob stated just this year alone, depending on where you are, it's as much as 6.53%. We're talking about freezing wages, this, that and the other thing, and some people actually being paid less, yet your taxes are going up by roughly, depending on where you are, by 6% just this year alone. Again, just to correct what Bill said, it's December when you're going to be seeing the increase; you won't see any increase, you'll see half of this year's next June but then next December in 2011, then you'll see the next big increase.

Ray Shakir stated he did have a prepared statement but before he read it, he would like to preface and say he does really regret not being here last week. He knows there were some accusations made that he skirted his responsibilities because he was afraid of what was going to happen but he assured, first of all, he had no idea that anybody was going to be here; and secondly, had he known he really regrets it because he would have really enjoyed himself. That being said, he will read his statement: Without question in order to maintain a thriving civilized society, a good education is paramount. So therefore, the argument becomes a

question of balance between educational demands and affordability. An objective evaluation is vital in order to determine what is truly education versus that which is spin used to feather bed, blow up bureaucracy, complicate administration or pander to Unions. He submits that balance to date despite their shell game justifications strongly favors the latter. Clearly, the result has been a proportional School tax burden far above the combined sum of all other municipal taxes despite uninterrupted decline in enrollment and to the punishing detriment of a community that must endure a rancid economy, unaffordability, and humble average incomes. They are simply unwilling, conscripted victims. Although comprehensive review would likely produce pages of areas of programs for reduction or elimination, here are a few suggested candidates for discussion: Personnel: Hall Monitor, the Mentor Program, Cheerleader Coach, Student Advocate, Teacher Re-certification Reviewer, Assistant Superintendent; Administration: class sizes are too conservative, explore areas for private contracting, review space and infrastructure utilization, close Pine Tree Elementary, evaluate and review all unfunded mandates; and finally, Programs: eliminate State funded programs no longer funded, routine third party screenings of new or outdated programs, restructure public funding of School meals, special interest education is too liberal, institute private subsidies for many sports programs, controversial courses should be classified as Electives and funded privately, there should be no discussion in terms of public funding of Pre-K Programs and public Kindergarten should require private subsidies. Thank you.

Chairman Sordi asked if the members had any comments on Ray's statement, there being none, Chairman stated the meeting would move on. Chairman stated there were two more things to do tonight; one being the letter and the other being to briefly discuss the calendar. Chairman continued with the letter by stating that he knew there were some mistakes regarding the tax rate, the School tax rate needed to be changed, it wasn't \$11.37/\$12.70 that was with the State tax rate included. What he would say is the School budget resulted in a School and State tax rate increase from \$11.37 to \$12.25 because when Janine (McLauchlan) and he went through what Articles were approved last year, it brought it from \$12.70 down to \$12.25. Chairman asked for any other comments, changes or suggestions on the letter.

John Edgerton stated he thought the letter was very well written. Karen Umberger stated the only question she has was that the School tax rate is \$9.30. Chairman Sordi stated the School tax rate as of 2010 is \$9.30 and the rest is the State. Karen stated the State rate is \$2.52; when she adds those two together, she gets \$11.82. Chairman asked Janine McLauchlan how did they get \$12.25; the number that he had was it was going to be \$9.30 per thousand, so \$9.48 per thousand and \$2.53 which came out to \$12.01 plus another \$.24 for the Articles. Karen stated that was just projected; that wasn't what the final approved tax stuff was and that's what these numbers here reflect. Chairman stated change \$11.37 to \$11.82 and asked if that tax rate takes into account the money that was returned. Karen stated yes, everything; these are the DRA approved numbers and this is what will show up on your tax bill. Chairman asked if the numbers that they have, did she get them from Earl (Sires) and Karen stated yes, he sent them and it covers all the various Precincts and it's

their MS-34 which is available. Chairman asked about the actual budgets; he had \$31.4 Million and \$31.2 Million, are those numbers correct. The \$1.3 Million reduction in Debt Service, John and he figured it out and that came out okay.

Bill Masters stated he went back in and looked at the School Annual Budget Reports and he came out with staying with the 2009/2010 criteria in 2009 it was \$32.5 Million and in 2010 it was \$32.8 Million so that's based upon the School Reports in our budget increases.

Karen Umberger stated this shows a gross appropriation of \$32,886,525.00. Chairman Sordi stated that was for 2010 and then for 2009 and asked Karen if she had the number for 2009. Karen stated she did not, but it should be in the book. Chairman stated it looked like the adopted 2009/2010 was \$32,832,000.00. Bill Masters stated what he has is \$32,886,525.00 was on the School's 2010 MS-22 and he came up with something a little different when he went through their columns, added all of the numerical additions and came up with \$32,876,000.00; so \$32.5 Million or \$32.8 so that would be for 2009/2010. Chairman asked Janine McLauchlan if that jived with what she had. Janine stated according to this the adopted 2009/2010 budget is \$32,832,718.00. Chairman asked if she had the final spend and Janine stated she did not and wouldn't have it here as it hadn't ended yet that year. Chairman stated basically it's \$32.8 Million, \$32.8 Million, \$32.9 Million; he's got the exact numbers and will make that change and update the rest of that sentence.

Chairman Sordi asked if there was any other changes to the letter that he needed to make; the \$91 Million deficit for this year, and the \$600 Million and \$800 Million we talked about at the last meeting. The Cost of Living, Social Security, they are not getting it next year; that's already been announced.

Karen Umberger stated the only other question she had was the third paragraph down is that we don't know at this point, we really have no idea what the budget is going to be like in 2012/13 and the possibility exists that there will be downshifting of additional costs but we don't know that; you may want to say there is a potential. Chairman stated instead of saying likely be reduced, should he say potentially or possibly. Karen stated possibly.

John Edgerton stated there's a hundreds of millions of dollars shortfall. Ray Shakir stated how about a real possibility. Linda Teagan stated a strong possibility. John Edgerton stated there's hundreds of millions of dollars in shortfalls; they can't print money. Karen stated she understood that; we don't know where the State budget is going and this year, the 2010/11 budget was one of the first times that downshifting had actually occurred where we said we're not going to send you the revenue share and that accounted for \$91 Million that the cities and towns didn't get; so she didn't know whether that would be repeated again next year, the next budget cycle or not. It would be her hope that it wouldn't be but she couldn't sit here and say it definitely won't.

Chairman Sordi asked a year or two ago, what was the projected shortfall for this budget season; was it a \$91 Million deficit; what did it start

out at; was there a projected. Karen Umberger stated no, when the one before closed out, there was a small surplus at the end of the year and she didn't know. Right now the Governor says that we're \$70 Million to the good for the first year and she wasn't going to get into whether or not she concurred with that, but that's where he stands and she thought a lot will depend on what happens to the revenue that's coming in for the rest of this year. Some things are holding steady, some things are up, some things are down, and she really thought the key is if we start seeing any up surge in the economy then as that occurs whatever the projected deficit goes down or up. Chairman asked about using the word "could" instead of "possibly" and Karen stated that would be fine.

Bill Masters asked if the language in paragraph 3 was being changed and Chairman Sordi stated it would read: "With future State budget shortfalls looming, State funding to towns could be reduced." Instead of "will likely be", it will be "could be".

Bob Drinkhall stated personally he liked the original wording. John Edgerton stated he did also, but still the intent is there. Ray Shakir stated numbers don't lie. Janine McLaughlan stated the numbers may not lie, but you're making an assumption as to what action will be taken as a result of those numbers and she didn't think we could do that. She thought it needed to be "could be" reduced. Chairman Sordi stated because the shortfall may be there, but they may not pass it down to the towns.

Linda Teagan stated first of all, this is a great letter and she thought if the Budget Committee had any reason for being this is one of the points that has to be made, just a general overview of the economic situation. She had a couple of minor things, didn't have a huge investment in, so the Committee can toss them or not. The Cost of Living issue, Social Security won't see a Cost of Living, but neither will military retirees or many private pensions don't have Cost of Living. Cost of Living is a pretty interesting thing if you get it, you think the whole world has it, but the whole world doesn't have it and the other thing is there's a larger, at least there always used to be, a fairly substantial amount of military, retired military in the Valley. Your point about Social Security also applies to military and private. Karen stated she thought what he was saying was that folks on Social Security as well as many other retired personnel. Chairman Sordi stated he could add that to the letter.

Linda Teagan further stated that the other thing was in the third paragraph down, "Future State budgets shortfalls looming. State funding to Towns will likely be reduced." The Federal receipts are really tanking and she was sorry that she didn't bring it in, but there was a reference to the Federal Fiscal Year which closed the 30th of September and she happened to read an article and picked out one particular item which happened to be quarterly payments. In other words, it's not salaried employees with deductions, it's quarterly which reflects business and the decrease from 2007, 2008, 2009 is staggering in terms of business activity out there. She couldn't see, again she wasn't saying what the numbers are, but in terms of the possibility of the reduction of State funding, she would think there would be the possibility of a reduction of Federal funding as well because a number of the items that came from

Federal funding were a result of the Stimulus money and she didn't think, but there is the possibility, that won't come again. It's a triple whammy. Chairman Sordi stated what he would say is "With future State and Federal budget shortfalls looming, funding to towns could be reduced." As they say, it all rolls down hill.

Linda Teagan stated when you talked about the 3% for target for reduction. Chairman Sordi stated he just pulled that out of the air. Linda stated that was fine because she had been fiddling around with 5% only because if you consider the reductions in the various funding/revenue sources, Town, State and Federal, there's a possibility of 5%, which doesn't at this point it's unclear but her sense still is that if every department held its numbers to last year's numbers we'd still have a substantial tax increase if it's 3%, 5%. The other thing is, it's such a great letter; when she talked about involving the County and the Precincts in this and you had said to just write a letter and this is the letter that she would have written so she guesses what she is saying is that she would like to see some how and she didn't know what the protocol is but if we could send a copy or have the Selectmen send a copy or somebody sends a copy of this letter to the County and the Precincts just so that a couple of years from now they won't say "nobody ever told us" or "nobody ever warned us". This is what we're thinking about. People are certainly welcome to refute what's in here and can say things are looking up, etc. The other thing she thought was important to send to the County because the County is now engaged in probably the largest capital project it's ever done in Carroll County and evidently that's going to hit the County tax next calendar year.

Chairman Sordi stated he had 5% overall reduction in budget; sending it to the County and Precincts and he will ask Bob how to do that and asked the members if anyone had any comments or any concerns about changing it to 5%. Karen Umberger stated she did and she says that not because she's in favor of any number of things but she does feel that if they are willing to go to the 3%, she thought that would be a very positive thing. She thought that if we put a figure of 5% and this is just her feeling, they won't even try because she feels that we need to try to balance needs on the one side or balance needs on the both sides and last year, for example, the Town said they did all kinds of things to cut expenses as did in some regards the School, but she thought that if we give them a target that is, in her opinion, more realistic than the 5% which is something she thought we wouldn't argue with.

Linda Teagan stated since we have no numbers, she certainly wasn't going to the mat on a percentage. Chairman Sordi stated the way he came to 3% actually was the School Board was looking at \$1 Million and \$1.5 Million, their budget is \$32 Million, he said 3% of that is going to be about \$1 Million. That's basically how he came up with it, he was taking the lower of the two and even with the Town understanding that a 3% reduction out of \$10 Million is going to be about \$300,000.00 or something like that. Linda stated she thought the School Department came in with a 5% reduction, that \$1.5 Million. Chairman stated that would have been \$1.5 Million, but they did 2, they did \$1 Million and \$1.5 Million, they did two scenarios. Linda stated in other words they did the 5%; since we

don't have numbers there's no point arguing about a percentage of a question mark.

John Edgerton stated he thought it was well written, it's guidance; we don't have any budgets yet and he liked the letter the way it was.

Ray Shakir stated he didn't want to make a big deal over a word but the fact is that the Chairman's original word was very, very much more accurate than any other word. Like he said, numbers don't lie. You are not saying that the taxes will increase, you're saying likely and your basing that likely remark on the data that you've reviewed. Again, you're not saying that it's going to happen, you're using a word that's stronger than could but you're using that based on the likelihood of the cuts and those cuts are real.

Janine McLauchlan stated this is just a question with regard to the whole purpose of the letter. Is it then the intention of the Budget Committee not to support the budgets that don't come in at the 3% reduction. John Edgerton stated you can't say that. Janine stated she was curious. Chairman Sordi stated he didn't think so, he thought we're just saying you need to consider this and you need to consider doing this.

Chairman Sordi stated he saw two things that there was a difference of opinions on and he guessed the easiest way to do it was to take a vote. What he will do is read the statement one way and we'll take a vote to see who agrees with it that way and obviously the others would be for the other way.

With future Federal and State budget shortfalls looming, funding to towns will likely be reduced. In favor: 6; Opposed 3; Abstain: 0.

Chairman asked for those in favor of 3% rather than 5%. In favor: 4; Opposed: 5; Abstain: 0.

Chairman asked for those in favor of 5%. In favor: 5; Opposed: 4; Abstain: 0.

Bill Masters stated in clarifying that; if you set it for 3%, this is just an arbitrary figure; all of these things in terms of looking at them, it's much easier to go down than it is to go up. If you set it at 5%, you can always reduce it; if you set it at 3%, try and raise it to 5%. The point is in the laws of practicality in terms of rationale we might question something that comes in from, as an example, the School Department, they might feel very, very, very strongly about it that they won't be able to meet their mission function or the goals of education if that's not included. Therefore, it would make some sense to evaluate that clearly on the merits of what they're saying and if they substantiate it, then approve it. That's why he would say to stick with 5%.

Chairman Sordi stated he would read what the final letter would say and then if someone wants to make a motion on it, we can vote on it. The letter to read as follows:

"As you are well aware, the last several years have seen our residents and communities endure numerous financial hardships. Unemployment and underemployment remains a challenge for many people. Our State is facing a \$91 Million deficit this year and a projected \$600 Million to \$800 Million deficit in the coming budget year. Folks on Social Security, military and private pensions will again not see a Cost of Living increase in 2011, while many people are still not getting raises. Foreclosures continue to be common place and many families still have trouble just putting food on their table.

"During this same period, our Town and School budgets have increased while our local revenues have decreased 20%. In fact, our Town budget, including approved Articles, increased from \$9.4 Million to \$10.3 Million or a 9.7% increase between 2009 and 2010. Our School budget has ostensibly stayed flat, but in reality increased from \$32.8 Million in 2009 to \$32.9 Million in 2010. This change does not reveal the \$1.3 Million reduction in Debt Service in the School budget between the two budget cycles resulting in an actual \$1.4 Million increase from 2009 to 2010 or a (not sure of the percent; will have to update that). This change in School budget resulted in a School and State tax rate increase from \$11.37 to \$11.82 per thousand. These increases came during the year when inflation was minimal.

"With future Federal and State budget shortfalls looming, funding to towns will likely be reduced. If you, our town leaders, do not take into account these potential shortfalls by reducing budgets, we face even greater local tax increases in 2011.

"With these issues in mind, the Budget Committee, acting in its role as the voice of the people, ask you to, at the very least, maintain a flat budget including all variable costs such as salaries, benefits and Special Articles for the coming budget year. We also believe that you should strongly consider reducing the overall budget 5% for the coming year.

"We look forward to working with you during the upcoming budget season. We hope you accept this letter in the spirit it's been sent, to reduce the financial burden on our neighbors."

Karen Umberger stated that she knows the Chairman highlighted the tax increase for the School, but he should also have a sentence in there about the tax rate for the Town. Chairman Sordi stated he would put that in there. Karen stated she did not know what the numbers are, but she thought it was only fair. Chairman stated fair enough.

John Edgerton moved, seconded by Ray Shakir, to accept the changed letter with the addition of the Town. In Favor: 9; Opposed: 0; Abstain: 0.

Chairman Sordi stated to Bob Drinkhall that the two of them could talk quickly after the meeting on how to get the letter sent out; the logistics of doing it; but it will get sent out within the next couple of weeks some way.

Chairman Sordi proceeded to discuss the proposed schedule. For November and December, the items in green are the School Board meetings; the items in purple are the Town meetings; and asked those members present if they wanted to have a meeting during November or December; is there any need to have a meeting during November or December.

Doug Swett stated if you do, you don't want it after the 15th or 18th of December because everybody's headed this way and that way. Chairman Sordi stated he agreed and that he didn't see a need for it. We'll be getting the binders in mid-December and you'll have a couple of weeks to review it. If there is a reason to have a meeting, then he will get a hold of everybody, but right now he didn't see a need. For January of 2011, he put it in as Monday and Wednesday with the School on Monday and the Town on Wednesday, but someone had said not to do the School on Mondays. Janine McLauchlan stated the School Board meets on Monday nights. Chairman stated if he could change it to Tuesday nights. Karen Umberger stated can't do it on Tuesdays. Bob Drinkhall stated the Board of Selectmen meet on Tuesday. Chairman stated he knew, but figured by the time we did the Budget Committee meeting, the Selectmen's meeting would be over. Bob stated not necessarily. Doug asked why not just switch them. Chairman stated there was a reason he did it this way. Karen Umberger stated on Wednesdays she was not generally available if she is fortunate enough to go back to Concord. What she asked was if it would be possible to do the School on Monday, but of course, she recognizes that the School Board meets on Monday so on those weeks the School Board meets, then the School could be on Wednesday and the Town could be on Monday and that's only because during last year she missed everything on the School and she would just like to indulge people. Bob Drinkhall asked which ones would that be. Janine stated the School Board meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday so they will be meeting on the 10th and the 24th. Chairman stated what he would do is work it out and asked if he worked with Janine or with Dr. Nelson about the scheduling of coming to the meetings. Janine stated with Carl first. Chairman stated he would work with Earl for the Town and he will get it finalized and send it out and then he just put a date in there for the non-profits which would be the last Saturday in January, 9:00 AM to 12:00 Noon.

Karen Umberger stated the Budget Hearing is the 9th of February; is that the Budget Hearing. Chairman Sordi stated he just threw that in from last year. Karen stated we don't know what the real dates are and Chairman agreed and stated that he would get those and fill everything in. He was trying to frame it out so that everyone had an idea of what it would look like. Karen stated it's based on days prior to the election. Chairman stated it was based on last year and it was the same time.

Ray Shakir stated he was a bit confused; purple is the Budget Committee, so we won't have any meetings in November. Chairman Sordi stated no, we were just talking about that and asked Ray if he wanted to have one in November. John Edgerton stated without a budget, we can't do anything. Ray stated for two months we're not having any meetings. John stated we should go to the School and the Town meetings if we've got the time. Chairman stated if you think there is a need or if an issue comes up and we need to have a budget meeting for, let him know and he can pull

everyone together; but right now there is no pressing need to schedule a meeting.

Karen Umberger stated to Janine McLaughlin that at the beginning of this session she said they (School Board) would not be discussing the Elementary School budgets on the 8th. Janine stated that was right; they are going to take a little different approach with the budget and will be having a regular School Board meeting on the 8th. Chairman Sordi asked if they would be doing the Elementary budgets on the 17th. Janine stated they are going to be presented with an overall budget picture on the 17th and then they will decide how they are going to address it after that. Chairman asked if he should take out the other stuff on the 22nd and Janine stated he should leave it in there because it could end up that way; they're just pushing it forward a little bit. Karen stated so the presentation of the budget is going to be the total budget on the 17th. Janine stated that was the intention; they will look at the total and see what it looks like, what the default will look like, what the current would look like and so forth and then move from there.

John Edgerton moved, seconded by Doug Swett, to adjourn the meeting at 6:55 PM. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Iris A. Bowden, Recording Secretary