

**MINUTES OF MEETING  
MUNICIPAL BUDGET COMMITTEE  
February 16, 2012**

A meeting of the Municipal Budget Committee was called to order at 5:30 PM in the Auditorium at Kennett High School with the following members present: Chairman David Sordi, Doug Swett, Dick Klement, Betty Loynd, Bill Marvel, Maureen Seavey, Ray Shakir, Greydon Turner, Joe Mosca, Mike DiGregorio, John Edgerton, Brian Charles, Danielle Santuccio, Maury McKinney (arriving at 6:37 PM), Ted Sares, Kelly DeFeo and Karen Umberger.

Karen Umberger led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

John Edgerton moved, seconded by Ted Sares, to consider and accept the final Minutes of January 11, 2012. In favor: 16; Opposed: 0; Abstain: 0.

John Edgerton moved, seconded by Joe Mosca, to consider and accept the final Minutes of January 18, 2012. In favor: 13; Opposed: 0; Abstain: 3 - Ted Sares, David Sordi and Daneille Santuccio.

Ted Sares moved, seconded by John Edgerton, to consider and accept the Preliminary Minutes of January 30, 2012. In Favor: 16; Opposed: 0; Abstain: 0.

John Edgerton moved, seconded by Joe Mosca, to consider and accept the Preliminary Minutes of February 4, 2012. In favor: 12; Opposed: 0; Abstain: 4 - Joe Mosca, John Edgerton, Kelley DeFeo and Danielle Santuccio.

John Edgerton moved, seconded by Betty Loynd, to consider and accept the Preliminary Minutes of February 6, 2012. In favor: 15; Opposed: 0; Abstain: 2 - Kelley DeFeo and Maury McKinney.

Chairman Sordi stated the Committee would start off with the School tonight, then the Precincts and then the Town. Lucy (Philbrick) has gone to get the Precinct Budgets so that members could sign them tonight if approved and get those out of the way.

SCHOOL VOTE

Dick Klement moved, seconded by Betty Loynd, to approve Article 2, the Operating Budget, of \$31,901,212.00. Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$31,855,211.00, which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Conway School District or by law, or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only. In favor: 15; Opposed: 2 - Ray Shakir and Doug Swett; Abstain: 0.

Ted Sares asked how does this compare when all things have been adjusted to last year's, you can use percentage increases, however you want to do it, but there has to have been some adjustments made. Ted stated he was not sure he wanted to get into the Bond. Dick Klement stated Special Education was reduced substantially by several hundred thousand dollars and Health Care was substantially reduced by some \$400,000.00 to \$500,000.00.

Chairman Sordi stated according to what was given to us last night, the adopted Budget for 2011/12 was \$33,039,842.00. The proposed Budget for this year is \$31,901,212.00; that's a 3.45% reduction.

Ted Sares stated so we are talking about a reduction; what about if the Bond had not been matured. Dick Klement stated there's a \$600,000.00 difference that would have been higher. Chairman Sordi stated it would have been \$32.5 Million. Ted asked what would have been \$32.5 Million. Chairman stated if the Bond had not matured and the \$600,000.00 was still in there, the proposed Budget would have been \$32.5 Million this year. The proposed Budget is \$31.9 Million, if the \$600,000.00 was still in there for the Bond, then the proposed Budget would have been \$32.5 Million and it still would have been about \$500,000.00 less than last year. Ted stated so either way you cut it, it's less.

Bill Marvel stated he didn't see how the Committee could turn that down. Chairman Sordi agreed and stated that one of the things that surprised him last night was the reduction in Health Care Benefits, that was he thought the first time he had heard that. Chairman asked Dick Klement if that was something new with the Health Care Benefits. Dick stated no. Chairman stated he didn't think it was that much and he thought the School System did a very good job.

Ted Sares stated they managed that down as opposed to the Town which just let it happen, they didn't manage it down. Chairman Sordi stated he didn't follow what Ted was saying. Ted stated the Town by its own admission did not manage its Budget down, it did not manage a Budget that was less than last year. The School did. They went out and negotiated and negotiated, got the health costs down. The Town really didn't do that by Earl's (Sires) own admission and if he shows up Ted would grill him on that so there's a big difference and it's to the School's favor that they actually did some managing on this Budget and didn't just say "the people must want this, we won't turn light on" blah, blah, blah. They made some decisions. Chairman stated absolutely, they listened to what was said last year and they took very strong action and that's to their credit. Ted stated they weren't robotic; they did a real good job on the overall Budget.

Bill Marvel stated part of the reduction we have to understand is because of the economy of scale, a small reduction in health benefits amounts to a large amount of money and that's because the personnel costs are the greatest costs that we have. That works to the benefit of the appeal ability of the Budget here, the main Budget, but he thought it was needed to be realized that increasing personnel is probably the worst impact that we can make on the Budget while there's apparently little or no increase in the main Budget, there is in the Warrant Articles, increase in personnel. For the overall Budget he was impressed.

Chairman Sordi stated the Budget went beyond the \$600,000.00 for the Bond being retired, went beyond the \$300,000.00+ for the health benefits, it also reduced probably a couple hundred thousand in other areas. That's very good news.

Ted Sares called the question. Chairman Sordi stated to the members when we vote, please keep your hands up so that we make sure we get everybody on the record.

After the vote, Ray Shakir asked when is it appropriate to introduce an alternate Budget. Chairman Sordi stated there is no time, not on the School Budget, it's been voted and approved and that's it, that's the way it works. If the budgeted Article is approved then there is no reason to discuss any other Budgets for the School. That's the way we did it last year, that's the way we do it this year.

Karen Umberger stated when we are discussing the vote, she would assume that if there is an amendment to be made that it could be made while we are discussing the vote. Chairman Sordi stated yes, that's the way we did it last year. Ted Sares stated after the second is made and it's open for discussion; between the second and the vote. Karen stated she just wanted to make sure because that wasn't exactly what was said. Chairman stated he was asked when can we propose another Budget, not an amendment but a whole other Budget and he stated we were not going to do that until the first one is voted on.

Dick Klement stated he would like to briefly overview Articles 3, 4 and 5 and only say it one time. These are contractually required by the agreement with the Towns to provide this. Should we not approve these, then we may be in violation of the contractual agreement with the sending towns. These all three are maintenance articles; number 3 is to ask for \$54,443.00 for a Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund for the new High School, of that \$36,380.00 would be sent from the sending towns leaving us with the remainder to provide through taxation.

**Dick Klement moved, seconded by Joe Mosca, to approve Article 3, in amount \$54,443.00 (to be offset in part by payments from the sending towns in the amount of \$36,380.00) to be added to the Expendable Trust Fund (New Kennett High School Facilities Maintenance Fund). In favor: 17; Opposed: 0; Abstain: 0.**

**Dick Klement moved, seconded by Joe Mosca, to approve Article 4, in amount \$17,086.00 (to be offset in part by payments from the sending towns in the amount of \$7,681.00) to be added to the Expendable Trust Fund (A. Crosby Kennett Middle School Facilities Maintenance Fund). In favor: 17; Opposed: 0; Abstain: 0.**

**Dick Klement moved, seconded by Joe Mosca, to approve Article 5, in amount \$9,900.00 (to be offset in part by payments from the sending towns in the amount of \$1,271.00) to be added to the Expendable Trust Fund (Elementary Schools Facilities Maintenance Fund). In favor: 17; Opposed: 0; Abstain: 0.**

Dick Klement stated he wanted to group the next three Articles together as they were all personnel contract issues.

Dick Klement moved, seconded by Joe Mosca, to approve Article 6 and to see if the school district will vote to approve the cost item included in the collective bargaining agreement reached between the Conway School Board and the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits at the current staffing levels:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Estimated Increase</u>
2012-13	\$49,340.00
2013-14	\$50,058.00

and further to raise and appropriate the sum of Forty-Nine Thousand Three Hundred Forty Dollars (\$49,340.00) for the upcoming fiscal year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits required by the new agreement over those that would be paid at the current staffing levels. In favor: 16; Opposed: 1 - Ray Shakir; Abstain: 0.

Karen Umberger stated the only question she had was that if we pass this as it is then the \$50,058.00 will go into the Default Budget for the School next year. Dick Klement stated it is automatically included in the Budget next year. Karen stated her second question was why is this particular contract for two years. Dick stated that was the agreement reached between the negotiating team and the Union representatives and everyone felt that for this particular Union and this Contract that it was an excellent result.

Doug Swett stated that several years ago it was voted on and decided that we wouldn't have more than one year Contracts. Chairman Sordi stated that was neither here nor there and thought it was up to the School Board to decide on the Contracts. Doug stated he was just making a statement. Ted Sares stated there is no law that says it has to be 1, 2 or 3 years; it's up to the negotiators and multi-year contracts can be more favorable to taxpayers than single year contracts. This is his expertise now and it depends on circumstances, cost of living, blah, blah, blah, but what he's learned over the years is never criticize the negotiators of a labor agreement unless you're sitting in the room and know what transpired because you don't have the context.

Chairman Sordi stated to Dick Klement that if he remembered correctly, the previous Contract with the AFSCME was a non-increase, no impact to the taxpayer. Dick stated he believed that it was. Chairman stated with this Contract there is some impact, but with the previous one there was none.

Dick Klement moved, seconded by Joe Mosca, to approve Article 7 and to see if the school district will vote to approve the cost item included in the collective bargaining agreement reached between the Conway School Board and the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits at the current staffing levels:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Estimated Increase</u>
2012-13	\$49,340.00
2013-14	\$50,058.00

and further to raise and appropriate the sum of Forty-Nine Thousand Three Hundred Forty Dollars (\$49,340.00) for the upcoming fiscal year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits required by the new agreement over those that would be paid at the current staffing levels. In favor: 13; Opposed: 3 - Karen Umberger, Ray Shakir and Doug Swett; Abstain: 1 - Betty Loynd.

Ted Sares asked why was there an abstention on the School Board vote. Dick Klement stated that is an individual who has a spouse who is a teacher. Ted asked if that individual felt there was a conflict. Dick stated that was his understanding. Ted asked if that conflict was because there was monetary gain. Dick stated yes. Ted stated they had huge arguments over that point over the years and the point being is there an RSA that supports that and he didn't believe there was and even though there is a myth saying you have to abstain, he didn't believe there was an RSA that supports that. That's just his point. Dick stated he couldn't speak to that, but the person in good conscience felt it was proper to abstain. Ted stated he would speak to it, there is no RSA that supports that abstention.

Dick Klement moved, seconded by Joe Mosca, to approve Article 8 and to approve the cost item included in the collective bargaining agreement reached between the Conway School Board and the Conway Educational Support Personnel which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits at the current staffing levels:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Estimated Increase</u>
2012-13	\$13,132.00
2013-14	\$54,569.00

and further to raise and appropriate the sum of Thirteen Thousand One Hundred Thirty-Two Dollars (\$13,132.00) for the upcoming fiscal year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits required by the new agreement over those that would be paid at the current staffing levels. In favor: 15; Opposed: 2 - Ray Shakir and Doug Swett; Abstain: 0.

Ted Sares stated this is what is known as a back loaded Contract and if you're going to do a labor agreement, the best way to save on costs is to do back loaded; front loaded will get you every time. The other thing and he'll just say it, it's really unfair because at this level of negotiations it's easy to pick apart people, but it's easier said than done. If he were in there, he'd feel kind of overwhelmed by the professional negotiators on the School Board, on the schools. He's never seen the cash specific technique used in these negotiations and it's too bad because there are so many ways to save money using that and asked if the members knew what he meant by cash specific. It's just a chunk of money, you get it now but it's not built into the base. In tough times

which he didn't think these were as tough that would warrant that, it is something to think about in the future. It's a great technique.

Dick Klement stated he believed that year 1 was a 1%, 1.5% increase. Randy Davison stated he was Chair of that Committee and Contracts that are longer than 1 year sometimes can be beneficial for a District and this Contract that they negotiated was 2% the first year and 1.75% the second year. The Cost of Living this year is a 3% increase and COLA in general they went from a 2% to 1.75% for two years in addition to the actual cost of it and he believed it was really insignificant. Ted Sares stated his comments weren't meant as anything negative, they were just meant as educational, that's all. Mr. Davison stated the other thing so that people are aware of it, this is the support staff and all Districts have a dollar amount that an individual person would get, it's not an overall salary amount, it's an hourly amount and it's compared to other Districts or other personnel if you were a secretary or if you were a Teacher's Aide or something. That's how they went.

Dick Klement moved the question.

**Dick Klement moved, seconded by Joe Mosca, to approve Article 9 to raise and appropriate Twenty-Nine Thousand Nine Hundred Twenty-Five Dollars (\$29,925.00) to supplement the funding of the John H. Fuller School, Conway Elementary School, and Pine Tree School Project SUCCEED Programs. (Designated as a Special Article) (Note: Anticipate \$20,000.00 in revenue to offset taxes.) (Additional grant sources will be sought to offset taxes further.) In favor: 15; Opposed: 2 - Doug Swett and Ray Shakir; Abstain: 0.**

Bill Marvel stated to Dick Klement you stated strongly anticipating. Dick stated that was what he was told last night. Bill stated the last time we were told it was guaranteed or at least when he asked if it was guaranteed, is it.

**Dick Klement moved, seconded by Betty Loynd, to approve Article 10 to raise and appropriate One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000.00) to be placed in the School Buildings Maintenance Fund established for that purpose in 1995. This fund will be capped at \$500,000.00. In favor: 14; Opposed: 3 - John Edgerton, Doug Swett and Ray Shakir; Abstain: 0.**

Ray Shakir asked what is the difference between Article 10 and Articles 3, 4 and 5. Dick Klement stated this Trust Fund was put in place to take care of longer term, big dollar items that were unforeseen. An example of those would be the recent replacement of the fuel tanks at Conway Elementary which were \$100,000.00 and they also had a roof fail in the Library which ultimately later was paid for through insurance, but they had to front the money and that was \$75,000.00/\$80,000.00. Dick asked Jim Hill if he could give one other example from the last couple of years. Jim stated those are the big ticket items. Dick stated they are looking at in the longer term a replacement of the roof at the High School in about 15 years, it's a 20 year roof, which will cost potentially several million dollars; the roadway has not received its top coat and that's due next year or the year after that and that's in the vicinity of \$100,000.00 or so; the furnaces at John Fuller and Conway Elementary are both the same type of furnace and you need both furnaces to run the building during the winter, so if one fails you can't cripple through the

winter you have to replace something. Those furnaces are 50 years old and replacements would be in the \$100,000.00+ category, so that's why they want to amass this amount of money up to a certain amount so they will be able to do that without going back to the taxpayer. Later on they can hopefully level the requirements that they have so that they are not spiking in certain years.

Ray Shakir stated so in the meantime you have Articles like 18 and 19 that specifically target such examples as what you have exemplified. Dick stated no, that's a known problem. These others are for unknown, unforeseen problems that occur before they can budget them.

Doug Swett stated this doesn't do as much as you think it does the way the dollar value is shrinking across the country. He understood this roof was going to last a lot longer than that when they went to build it, on this new High School, some were yelling for having a pitched roof and it didn't happen and it's going to cost real money. Every 20 years do something like this, he didn't think so.

Karen Umberger stated this was not approved last year, correct. Dick Klement stated it was disallowed, it was approved.

Chairman Sordi stated all members should have two pieces of paper in front of them; one is a summary of the Warrant Articles that are on the Budget this year and what happened to them last year and then there's another document regarding the Town Budget which we will be talking about in a little while.

**Dick Klement moved, seconded by Betty Loynd, to approve Article 11 to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Eighty-Six Thousand Dollars (\$186,000.00) to be added to the Capital Reserve Fund (School Buses) established for this purpose in 2009. In favor: 16; Opposed: 1 - Ray Shakir; Abstain: 0.**

Dick Klement stated they were not able to have the school buses last year because it was disallowed. They are getting into critical condition on their school bus maintenance, aging and mileage. This is a critical Warrant Article for them to have passed this year.

Karen Umberger asked how many school buses are maintained and Dick Klement stated 17. Karen asked how many are used on a daily basis for picking up students. Jim Hill stated 8. Karen stated the other 9 are used for sports and extra activity and to fill in. Jim Hill stated broken down or in the shop, yes. Karen stated if we put this money in, is it planned to take it out right away to buy a school bus. Jim Hill stated yes and in fact he had already put them out to bid. Karen asked why is she bothering to put it in a Capital Reserve Fund. Dick Klement stated he would try to answer this for Karen; what they were trying to do every year is buy a bus and a half. Karen stated she understood that. Dick stated they established this Fund so that half of it would go in there for the following year. They need \$186,000.00 to buy two, but since they had it set up to go into the Capital Reserve Fund, that's why they wrote the Warrant Article that way. Karen stated what you are planning to do is to take the money that's already in the Capital Reserve, add it to the \$186,000.00. Jim Hill stated that was wrong; the reason they are putting

this in the Capital Reserve is, for example, if these buses come in \$5,000.00 less than what he has estimated here, that money remains in the Capital Reserve for future years. The School District, unlike the Town, can not carry money in the Operating Budget as fund balances, but they can if it is in a Capital Reserve.

Karen Umberger stated the total cost of the two school buses is what. Jim Hill stated estimated to be that number. Karen stated so \$186,000.00 is for two and Jim stated correct. Karen asked what happened to the half that was already in there. Jim stated it got disallowed last year. Karen stated but we didn't buy a school bus last year so we should of have half still left in there; is that wrong. Jim stated that's wrong; they had one year they budgeted one and half, the next year they budgeted one and a half so they bought 3 buses. As of last year essentially there was zero in that account. If that Warrant Article would have passed last year, they would have had one and a half in there from last year and another one and a half in there this year and would have bought 3 buses. If he had added three buses, he was afraid it wouldn't have passed, it would have been too expensive. They are actually only purchasing 2 buses when they should have had 3 if this had not been shut down by DRA, they should have been buying 3 buses in that two year time span.

Karen Umberger stated out of the 8 buses only 5 of them are relatively new; 3 were purchased two years ago and the other 2 were purchased two years before that, so your 8 buses that you use every day will all be less than 5 years old. Jim stated he wished these questions would have come up earlier because he would have come more prepared. Karen stated she was sorry, but she was trying to understand if she wanted to support this Article. Randy Davison stated he could kind of help because he is the Chair of the Committee.

Chairman Sordi asked everyone to hold on and stated to Karen (Umberger) that he didn't hear the last thing that she had said. Karen stated her last question was that basically if this Article is approved, we will have 8 buses that are used to transport children on a daily basis back and forth to school; we will have purchased 5 of them within the last 3 years and then we've been purchasing one every year before that so we will have in our fleet of buses that we use 6 new buses within the last 5 years. Chairman Sordi stated that's correct. Ted Sares stated so what, benchmarked against what. Who says that's wrong.

Karen Umberger stated her question is should she agree to buy 2 buses this year and when she hears that her fleet is very old and what she is saying is that 6 of the 17 are less than 5 years old and of that 3 of them will be less than 3 years old. Ted Sares stated he (Jim Hill) needs 8; he didn't buy any last year. It got turned down, so he needs money this year. This could go on forever, Dave (Sordi). Karen stated you're certainly right, Ted.

Chairman Sordi asked Karen if she had the information she needs. Opinion notwithstanding, did she have what she needed. Karen stated she guessed what she was trying to come to grips with is that the reason that we buy buses and turn them over is because they get 100,000 miles on them. Randy Davison stated no, 200,000. Karen stated the oldest bus in the fleet is 12 years old. Randy Davison began to speak and Chairman asked that

everyone settle down so that we could work through this as quickly as possible.

Chairman Sordi stated to Karen that he understood what she was saying, what's her point; what's the question that she has before we go to vote on this. He understood she was struggling with it, what else could they do to answer her question. Karen stated she was just trying to come to grips with the fact that out of our 17 buses, 8 of them are used and the ones we want to be the safest are the ones that we transport our children around all day every day and are used to go back and forth. That's why she asked that question. So out of that, 5 of them are less than 3 years old and she didn't know what kind of mileage those have and that's probably immaterial and so the remaining 12 that are not brand new. We have been purchasing buses, except for last year, on a regular basis so the oldest bus that we have is probably, and she didn't know the answer to that, is less than maybe 8 years old. Mr. Davison stated no. Jim Hill stated in the books that were provided to the Committee probably a month and a half ago, there is an inventory of all of the buses, the age of every bus and the current mileage on every bus as well as projected mileage at the end of the next fiscal year. Mr. Davison stated he has it in front of him if people need the answers. Jim Hill asked if that answered the question and Chairman stated yes.

Mike DiGregorio stated he would like to try to help Karen (Umberger) grasp at what she is getting at. Because the School Board made the move a few years ago to increase the time and longevity and mileage on the buses, it went from 150,000 to 200,000 and also from 10 years to 12 years. There are 6 buses that fall under that category currently. Since that decision was made, maintenance on vehicles has gone up 100%, if he is correct, because of that one decision. You keep talking about 8 buses that are used on a regular basis, he assumed those are the ones for the kids for the daily school. Many of those buses are used on a daily basis for trips and even though we may want the kids that are being picked up at school to be safe, we want the other ones to be safe too. Karen stated she was not arguing that. Mike stated it's not just 8 buses that we want to be operating properly and safe, we want them all to be operating properly and safe. That decision that they made, although he disagreed with them at the time to increase that time and longevity, they've replaced motors on buses that should have been gone, they've done all sorts of stuff as Jim (Hill) as alluded to 100% in increased maintenance costs. He didn't know where that dollar figure actually falls in, he was sure someone who was smarter than him could figure out whether spending the extra money on maintenance was better than buying a whole new bus. They didn't get their buses last year, they certainly should be getting them this year so that we can stay in the rotation as we go.

**Mike DiGregorio moved the question, seconded by Betty Loynd. In favor: 14; Opposed: Bill Marvel, Ted Sares and Karen Umberger; Abstain: 0.**

**Dick Klement moved, seconded by Joe Mosca, to approve Article 12 to raise and appropriate Seventy-Five Thousand Dollars (\$75,000.00) to maintain the Conway School District Technology Plan. In favor: 15; Opposed: 2 - Ray Shakir and Doug Swett; Abstain: 0.**

Dick Klement stated this is for the Technology Plan. This is their second go at the Technology Plan, the first one carried them forward for 3 years. They are renewing the Technology Plan and once again they are asking for \$75,000.00 to maintain the Conway School District Technology Plan.

Ted Sares stated he thought this fell under the category of those that the longer you wait, the more they build up for the need because of technology being technology per se. He'd hate to see this delayed any more than we've delayed it, but then he is very pro-technology. He really hopes that we vote for this.

Karen Umberger stated that personally she has no problem with the Technology Plan, but this is in addition to all of the money that's in the Budget for technology. It's not like we're not putting any money in the Budget for technology, it's there. This, as she understands it, was to buy servers.

Dick Klement asked if he could have Bob (Godowski) speak on this since he is the head guru for their Technology section. Mr. Godowski stated in the Budget there is Technology money; the majority of that is for staffing and tech support. If you take all of the lines out from all of the buildings, they've got approximately \$36,000.00 that is earmarked for supplies and for hardware. The \$75,000.00 would be specifically earmarked for things like servers, replenishing Labs, basically just taking care of obsolete machines.

**Dick Klement moved, seconded by Joe Mosca, to approve Article 13 to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$55,000.00) to purchase and install a new heating and ventilation unit at the A. Crosby Kennett Middle School. In favor: 16; Opposed: 1 - Ray Shakir; Abstain: 0.**

**Dick Klement moved, seconded by Ted Sares, to approve Article 14 to raise and appropriate One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000.00) to be placed in the Expendable Trust Fund (Special Education Trust Fund) established for that purpose in 2008. This fund will be capped at \$500,000.00. In favor: 13; Opposed: 4 - Karen Umberger, Doug Swett, Ray Shakir and John Edgerton; Abstain: 0.**

Dick Klement stated he believed there was \$200,000.00 in that fund.

Ted Sares stated this was the flash point as he recalls for last year for a lot of flash and he noticed that it's the only one that said disapproved. Could somebody explain exactly what happened. Was this approved and then disapproved by the DRA. Dick Klement stated this particular one the voters disapproved last year. Ted asked how much was proposed last year. Dick stated \$100,000.00. Ted stated and the voters turned it down. Dick stated yes. One child could require easily up to \$100,000.00 and if a child moves in after the Budget is approved, then you have to find funds to take care of that child. Chairman Sordi stated and that's what this Fund is for. Dick agreed, it's for the uh-ohs. Chairman stated just like the other Capital Reserve Funds.

Mike DiGregorio stated just as a comment he believed this discussion and creation of this, asking Dick Klement to correct him if he was wrong, but he

believes there was on particular year where 11 kids moved in after the Budget was created. Dick Klement stated it might have been 11, but it was a significant number. Mike stated when he was on the School Board they talked about doing this and how to stabilize that if something like that occurred and that's why they came up with this idea.

Ted Sares asked if somebody could give him two or three solid rational sentences on why he should say yes to this. Mike DiGregorio stated he thought he just did. Ted stated what Mike gave him was a technical one, it was that people moved in after. What is a substantive reason why he should vote for this. That was the reason to cover your butt on people moving over and coming in after you had budgeted. What he was saying is what is the reason for asking for \$100,000.00 for Special Ed. Mike DiGregorio stated for the unknown. Ted stated for the unknown, that's kind of like when the Police say "hey, we want to budget such because if somebody resigns we don't know what it's going to cost" and he could dig that; he could understand that.

Dick Klement stated he thought a couple of things come into play here; one is of course that they can't carry money over in a general fund to take care of the unknowns so if this were to happen as Mike (DiGregorio) described, without this money the administration would be forced to go, and you can't fire people because they have Union Contracts, so the stuff at your disposal is quite limited during the course of the year. You could not use heat or whatever.

Ted Sares asked if anything happened last year because we didn't have the money. Dick Klement stated no, we didn't spend any money. We were fortunate because, he believed, more children moved out than moved in.

Karen Umberger stated basically in the past, every year they've been turning money back, and so what had been occurring in the past was that they would turn back a smaller amount if, in fact, they had a need for additional Special Ed money and so they've been turning back roughly \$500,000.00 to \$600,000.00/\$700,000.00 some place along there over the last couple three years. She believes, from her point of view, that she will not vote for this.

Bill Marvel stated ordinarily he is opposed to what might be considered slush funds and that's one reason why he's been opposed and still is to the concept of putting Maintenance Articles into these Capital Reserve Funds. He would rather see them in the main Budget if we hadn't had previous School Boards that were irresponsible enough to cut maintenance all the time, but this is one instance where a Capital Reserve Fund is, because of the limited options if you're faced with this unfunded mandate from the State, it makes sense to him to have a reserve set aside and because it's capped at \$500,000.00 that should take care of two or three worst cases, if you have them, and he thought over the course of time you're not going to have an average of more than 2 or 3 like that a year. This is one Capital Reserve Fund that makes sense to him.

Chairman Sordi stated he found it interesting that last year all of the Warrant Articles up to that point had been approved, that one was disapproved and he wasn't sure if that means the voters didn't understand what it was for or the reason behind it. When the 11 moved into town, what kind of cost was that to the Town; was it a \$1 Million cost, \$500,000.00 cost. What's the criteria that is used to use the money in the fund; is it just when a new

student comes into Town; how does the Fund work. Dick Klement stated in part he could answer this for the Chairman and then he was going to refer to Bob (Godowski). Dick stated if you would notice, one of the major reductions this year came in the area of Special Ed. He gives them credit, they went in there with a chain saw, a hatchet and everything else and really cut themselves down to the bone. He really applauds that. If they don't have this \$100,000.00 put in and if that Fund is not there and they made a mistake and a child moves in, then we have a major problem. They've reduced the money they are putting in the main Budget for Special Ed. One child, as he's said, can easily cost \$100,000.00. They have a number of children that they are spending \$40,000.00 or more in the year end, it's not one or two. Anyone who has a full-time Aide, essentially that's \$50,000.00, just to the Aide and this is all driven by IEP's and 504's. It's an agreement reached between the Special Ed people, the teacher, the administration of the school and the parents to do this. Dick asked Mr. Godowski to fill in the rest of the blanks. Mr. Godowski stated as far as predicting how much it will be, it's impossible to do that. You may have a child that needs \$5,000.00 or \$10,000.00 in services or it might be an out-of-district placement for \$100,000.00 plus.

Chairman Sordi stated he guessed he was asking about predicting, he was trying to explain to the people watching that some people might say "what do we need \$100,000.00 for" but when you talk about 11 people, what did that cost the School. Chairman asked Mike (DiGregorio) if he remembered. Mike stated he did; it forced them because they came in with IEP's and legal documents, it forced them to hire 11 people to cover these kids. Chairman stated so that's \$500,000.00 right there. Mike stated unfortunately he knows there are people that probably don't like that, but unfortunately the only place to recover that from is from the other programs, the kids that are not in special categories, that's where you take money from in order to fix this problem.

Dick Klement asked Mike DiGregorio if that was the year that they froze the Budget in October. Mike stated he believed that it was. Dick stated so they basically went in and just said they weren't spending money on a lot of stuff because they didn't know.

Betty Loynd stated the other thing that she was going to say is that this is all federally mandated, all of the Special Ed, there's nothing that we can do at the State level, there's nothing you can do. That comes off the top, that gets paid first and everything else gets paid for after.

Doug Swett stated he knew Special Meetings cost money, but how long would it take to get a Special Meeting set up. How quick can it be done. If something shows up like that and we have to have a Special Meeting, how long would it be getting to a Special Meeting. Chairman Sordi stated he thought about 3 months for the whole process. Last year we went through the process and it was 3 months. Doug stated maybe we should concentrate on changing that.

**Dick Klement moved, seconded by Joe Mosca, to approve Article 15 to raise and appropriate the sum of Thirty-Five Thousand Four Hundred Ninety-Eight Dollars (\$35,498.00) for the purpose of funding 70% of a Sous Chef position previously funded by the Carl Perkins Federal Grant, which is no**

**longer available for this position. In favor: 13; Opposed: 4 - Bill Marvel, Doug Swett, Ray Shakir and Ted Sares; Abstain: 0.**

Doug Swett stated he understands that this is a very well run program. The word "Grant" is a dirty word in his mind. We get set up in these things, this whole country has been set up by Grants and that's why we're in the hole we're in. Federal, State and Conway is headed for it even though they won't admit it yet. He knows this is a successful thing, but he won't be voting for it.

Karen Umberger stated the reason this is on the Warrant is because the Grant has expired and that's why it's on there. As she understands it, they are hoping to build the Café so that it can serve more meals and the money that is raised out of the Café and other things that they do goes to reducing the costs to the taxpayer for the Sous Chef. That's her understanding of what the plan is and she guessed the key is if more people came to Mineral Springs for lunch or more organizations asked the School Program to provide whatever, then that in fact would reduce the amount of taxpayer dollars to the Sous Chef and she thought the trade off here is that we are only funding a portion of the Sous Chef with out taxes and that the remainder of it, even this could be reduced if the services that are provided by the Culinary Program are used by the people in the community.

Betty Loynd stated when they built the new school, at the old school they had one position in Culinary and that was all they had room for and that was it. When they built the new school, this Sous Chef position she thought was federally funded so now they have two. The other thing that has happened is that the students that take Culinary has really increased. It's a beautiful facility, it's a wonderful program, both of her kids have taken the course or have taken courses in that program and so she thought it was very valuable and thought we should support it.

Ted Sares stated what financial wizard could possibly track the amount of extra business created by the Sous Chef so that that money could then be given back based on the amount of business increased by the presence of this position, he submitted that's impossible. We have always worried about Grants evolving into line items. Well, here's a situation facing us right here and now. Will this Grant evolve into a line item or will we say for a change no, not this year maybe next year but not this year. We're going to say no because this is 2012 and it's a tough year for a Sous Chef.

Bill Marvel stated he thought in fairness we should decide now because you're going to be putting someone out of work and hiring someone else new if we were to approve it in the future. He thought he was growing more opposed to it partly because originally only one Chef was necessary and now another one is vital because it's no longer being funded. What really has changed his mind and he guessed he would put it in the form of a parliamentary question since it came from a legislator, the idea, Mr. Chairman does it mean if he votes for this, the salary of the Sous Chef who is training potential Chefs for the future will be taking business away from restaurants in town and thereby leaving fewer places where those potential Chefs could work. Chairman Sordi stated his answer to that would be if the restaurants in town are afraid of some student

Chefs, they probably maybe need to hire some of those student Chefs. Bill stated he thought, and maybe he's the only one who no longer goes out to eat, but he thought you'd find that the people in the restaurant business are struggling. Chairman stated he had no doubt about that and he said that in jest, but he also knows that the school is not open in the evenings for dinner and so we're talking about lunch and it's for a few days a week. He understood what Bill was saying, but if that's their biggest fear. Bill stated conversely wouldn't that mean the likelihood of more funding through that source is also minimal. Chairman asked Bill to repeat what he just stated. Bill stated conversely does that not mean that the likelihood of funding through that source is also minimal if there is so little potential to take business away from private restaurants. Chairman stated that he didn't know.

Doug Swett stated initially this was suppose to come close, very close to supporting itself. Now they say it never will because it's only open 3 days. Chairman Sordi stated he was not sure they were saying that; he thought they were saying that they were trying to continue it and trying to generate enough revenue to do it. At least that's what he's hearing.

Mike DiGregorio stated just a follow up on what Dick (Swett) said, it was originally attempted to try to do that, to fund itself. It probably will never make it to some degree. He knew they were trying, it's all about block scheduling and how to fit the amount of kids in there for the amount of hours. He wanted to get back to a couple of things that Ted (Sares) and Bill (Marvel) said. First of all, the second person that you're talking about is a totally different Program than what Betty (Loynd) was referring to back over here. This guy is building a Program to teach children how to run stuff, not just learn how to cook, or what we remember years and years ago as Home Ec, that's what the original person was. This is a little bit different. That's what the second person is for.

Mike DiGregorio stated he thought what Ted is trying to say about Grants and do we hold a line on Grants or not. He thought what he's getting at is Grants come before the Board and that eventually turns on to the taxpayer, but what he's missing out on is that not all Grants get here. There's a lot of stuff that happens through Grants that they try Programs that may not work out well and they go away. They don't even get here. This particular one and several others that make it here is because they are good Programs and they want to continue it. They start it with a Grant, they see if it works, if it doesn't work, it goes away. In fact, he thought 3 years ago there was a Grant that was funding some videography stuff that happened and it actually was a very good Program. There were several kids that went through that Program and are now in college in fact and have jobs in that line of field, but when the funding ran out, the School chose not to bring that forward as a petitioned Article to put in their Operating Budget. He believed they should have, he tried to talk them into doing it because it was a good Program, but what he's getting at is not all Grants make it this far. The School decides to get rid of them before they get here. The ones that get here are potentially the good ones.

Dick Klement stated the kitchen at the High School is approximately the size of this room. You've got deep fat fryers, you've got ovens, there's

dangerous equipment there. There are a number of students who want to take Culinary Arts. When the cafeteria is open those 3 days a week, you have two instructors, the Sous Chef and Chef. One of them is taking care of the outside and the other one is seeing to the inside. He's not making food, he's a safety issue and he's advising the students. If you don't have a Sous Chef, they are probably going to have to reduce the number of students who will take the Program because, from a safety perspective, you can't have over a certain amount and he didn't know what that number was personally. He just wanted to put it in that perspective. As far as being open only 3 days a week, it's only open 3 days a week because they're doing classroom work the other 2 days. There's no students if you will to run the cafeteria itself or the Mineral Springs Café.

Ted Sares stated just about every Grant that he's ever been confronted with, Project SUCCEED and this evening we are going to get to the Police Grant, there's always a negative downside. If we don't do this, thus and so bad things will happen. He doesn't buy that. Over the years he's looked at Grants with a keen eye of objectivity; he's looked at Project SUCCEED and in the beginning nobody was more against that than he was, but then he said that's a good thing and he likes what they do. That's not a babysitting thing, that's a real substantive thing and he likes it. Now nobody supports it more than he does. He's going to support that Police Officer later on, so it's not like he's against Grants per se, it's just that he looks at each one separately and he's looking at this one a little separately. He doesn't want anyone to think there's a Grant and Ted's going to be against it. No, quite the opposite, quite the opposite.

Dick Klement moved, seconded by Kelly DeFeo, to accept Article 16 to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty-Two Thousand Two Hundred Ninety-One Dollars (\$22,291.00) for the purpose of funding 30% of a Student Advocate position previously funded by IDEA/ARRA which is no longer available for this position. In favor: 9 - Kelly DeFeo, Dick Klement, Maureen Seavey, Brian Charles, Mike DiGregorio, Betty Loynd, David Sordi, Greydon Turner and Maury McKinney; Opposed: 7 - Karen Umberger, Joe Mosca, Danielle Santuccio, John Edgerton, Ted Sares, Ray Shakir, Doug Swett and Bill Marvel; Abstain: 0.

Dick Klement moved, seconded by Joe Mosca, to accept Article 17 to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Sixty-Two Thousand Eighteen Dollars (\$162,018.00) (3 teachers at \$52,506.00 and \$1,500.00 per school for supplies and equipment) to establish a full-day kindergarten program in each of the three elementary schools. In favor: 8 - Maury McKinney, Greydon Turner, Betty Loynd, Mike DiGregorio, Brian Charles, Maureen Seavey, Dick Klement and Kelly DeFeo; Opposed: 9 - Bill Marvel, Doug Swett, Ray Shakir, Ted Sares, David Sordi, John Edgerton, Danielle Santuccio, Joe Mosca and Karen Umberger; Abstain: 0.

Betty Loynd stated she went to full day Kindergarten 50 years ago so she thought it was appropriate that we support this.

Joe Mosca stated he never went to Kindergarten and he put himself through a Masters Program. He doesn't support this and that will be his vote.

Bill Marvel stated this sort of goes back to his complaint about taking maintenance out of the Operating Budget because doing that and throwing that responsibility on the taxpayer leaves the School Board feeling free to be more ambitious about curriculum and he doesn't necessarily dispute the efficacy of Kindergarten today. He also went to a Catholic Kindergarten when he was a kid and what he remembers out of it is getting beaten for using his left hand which he stopped doing. Unfortunately he still has Catholic penmanship with the other hand. It also goes back to his comment that personnel is our biggest expense and that's what we have to keep a handle on. Continually expanding the curriculum beyond the community's affordability is probably what has created more opposition to the schools nationwide and so regardless of the potential for a wash in expense by the elimination of certain Special Ed requirements this year at least. He thought it would be a little too ambitious for us to go beyond our means now.

Doug Swett stated he too went to Kindergarten for half a day and he will be voting against this and it was 77 years ago.

Ted Sares stated conceptually and philosophically he is for it; what he is against is the manner in which it was presented. As Bill (Marvel) stated he thought that the School Board should have kept this in the Budget, presented it as part of the Budget. To make it a Warrant Article just totally threw him off and he thought that a certain high profile member of the community wrote a letter to the editor which she and he rarely agree, but he totally agrees with her on this in that they abdicated their responsibility by making this a Warrant Article.

Dick Klement stated he would like to go through what actually occurred to get it to be a Warrant Article. The School has their own Budget Committee, but it's composed of 8 members. This was asked to be put back in the Budget. The answer tied 4 to 4. As it was a tie, it was denied. Then they had the Conway School Board which is composed of 7 members meet to approve the Budget. At that meeting, a motion was raised to add a Warrant Article for All Day Kindergarten. That Warrant Article passed 4 to 3. That was the only mechanism to get here. It wasn't asked to be a Warrant Article to begin with, it was asked to be included in the Budget and it failed and it passed to become a Warrant Article. That's the history behind why we are where we are.

Chairman Sordi stated this goes along the same lines that he had asked Dick Klement at the hearings that we had. The meeting that you had where it was tied 4 to 4, the people voting against it were from the sending towns. Correct? Dick stated not really; the person voting on it was the Chair of the SAU 9 School Board. Chairman stated his point was that it was not necessarily within the Town of Conway that caused it to fail and so the Conway School Board took it and decided to put it as a Warrant Article. It does not have the full support of the participants in the Elementary Schools. Is that a fair statement. Dick stated the vote was 4 to 3 on the School Board. Chairman stated on the Conway School Board, but that's not what he was talking about. Dick stated the Schools themselves he thought one would find that all of the Principals are in favor of this and the Schools themselves. Chairman stated he was sorry, if that's the way it came across then he apologized; what he meant to say was the people that voted, the Budget Committee that voted 4 to 4, the members of

that include who. Dick stated the Conway School Board plus one. Chairman stated and that one is SAU 9 and the reason the SAU 9 is on that Board is because why. Dick stated he didn't know. Bob Godowski stated because you need representation from SAU 9. Chairman stated his point was, and the Chairman voted no and Dick agreed. Chairman stated his point was the person representing the sending towns is not on board with a full-day Kindergarten. Dick stated correct. Chairman stated if this passes then it will basically be forced upon them even though they don't want to. Dick stated what we have to remember is the only sending towns for the Elementary Schools is Eaton and Albany. Chairman stated but the fact remains that they will be having to pay for something that they don't necessarily want. Dick stated that's what Carl (Nelson) said.

Betty Loynd stated she thought that School Board got the consensus of the people from the town. She was just saying. Chairman Sordi stated but she is representing the area.

Ted Sares asked Dick Klement what would have happened if the 4 to 4 vote had been 5 to 3. Dick stated it would have gone into the Budget. Ted asked what would have happened if the School Board had voted 4 to 3 for the Budget. Dick stated the Budget was already set and at that point already approved so the only option left for them was for it to become a Warrant Article. Ted stated then the real key was the 4 to 4 vote. Dick agreed. Ted stated there was a defect in the process. As far as he was concerned, that's where they made their mistake; somebody should have had the foresight.

Mike DiGregorio stated he had a question for Dick Klement. The representative from SAU 9 sits on the School Budget Committee, did he know if the SAU 9 Board which is made up of the sending towns took a position on Kindergarten. Dick stated he didn't recall that. Mike stated Bartlett is going to All-Day Kindergarten. Bob Godowski stated he would say that was never proposed to the entire SAU 9 Board. Mike stated his point is that instead of taking the position of the SAU 9 Board and bringing it forward as the Budget person, that person took their own opinion because the other areas are going to full day Kindergarten is his point. Betty Loynd stated that's right.

Chairman Sordi stated other communities that have their own Elementary Schools are going to full day Kindergarten. Mike DiGregorio stated some of them. Karen Umberger stated there's one. Mike stated he was just trying to point out that it's just one person. Typically, he's the representative of the Town as Dick (Klement) is for the School, and he is going to vote the way the Selectmen tell him to vote as we get to the Town's stuff. Chairman stated but you have to assume that the person representing SAU 9 is speaking for SAU 9 and not necessarily for themselves. Mike stated that's why he was saying he didn't believe that ever took place. She didn't take that position with the Board.

Dick Klement stated we are where we are.

**Dick Klement moved, seconded by Joe Mosca, to accept Article 18 to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Five Thousand Dollars (\$105,000.00) to replace a portion of the roof at John Fuller School. In favor: 15; Opposed: 2 - Ted Sares and John Edgerton; Abstain: 0.**

**Dick Klement moved, seconded by Joe Mosca, to accept Article 19 to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$115,000.00) to replace a portion of the roof at A. Crosby Kennett Middle School. In favor: 16; Opposed: 1 - John Edgerton; Abstain: 0.**

Doug Swett asked how many years is it going to take to fix these roofs entirely; are they going to have another one next year. Dick Klement stated they've been patching roofs for a lot of years and they will continue to do it.

Jim Hill stated if these two pass this year, there's one more ballasted roof to do which is the stone over the membrane roof. Now they will be through with all of the roofs since he's been here which is 20 years so frankly it's almost going to be time to start going back over it again. Hopefully we are going to have a few years of a breather, but again not this year nor next year, but we'll have a breather for a little while but those roofs he started replacing when he was hired are now 20 years old.

Karen Umberger stated if this Article fails, you can certainly take the money out of the Maintenance Trust Fund. Jim Hill stated he thought Mr. Edgerton would say no means no. Karen asked why. John Edgerton stated because the law says if a Warrant Article fails, you can not do it. Karen stated he was right.

**Dick Klement moved, seconded by Joe Mosca, to accept Article 20 to raise and appropriate the sum of Ninety-Six Thousand Nine Hundred Seventy-One Dollars (\$96,971.00) to provide for a 4<sup>th</sup> academic team at A. Crosby Kennett Middle School. In favor: 7 - Maury McKinney, Betty Loynd, Mike DiGregorio, Brian Charles, Maureen Seavey, Dick Klement and Kelly DeFeo; Opposed: 8 - Bill Marvel, Doug Swett, Ray Shakir, Ted Sares, John Edgerton, David Sordi, Danielle Santuccio and Karen Umberger; Abstain: 2 - Joe Mosca and Greydon Turner.**

Dick stated he wanted to amplify that the voting on this proceeded identically on the voting for All-Day Kindergarten. The School Board Budget Committee voted 4 to 4 so it couldn't be included in the basic Budget and then when the Conway School Board met, they voted 4 to 3 to implement it.

Chairman Sordi stated we went through a long discussion about what this actually represents. There are two teachers or two spots in the current Operating Budget for a Special Ed and another teacher for Reading. If this Warrant Article passes, this will fund two people for the team and those two that are already in the Budget will transition into the 4<sup>th</sup> Team, just so we are clear on that.

John Edgerton stated what it really means is that all of the people moved out of Team 4 into 1, 2 and 3 will be moved back to 4. That's what we were told. Chairman Sordi stated no, what we were told was what he just said, just two; there was a Special Ed and a Reading teacher that are not in existence now that will be next year if this Article fails. If this Article passes, those two people go back into the 4<sup>th</sup> Team and this is to fund two new teachers.

Ted Sares stated Dick Klement was speaking and he missed the end of it and asked if Dick would repeat what he said. Dick stated this is an identical process that took place during the discussion on the Kindergarten that they had 8 members on the Budget Committee for the School, 4 voted yes and 4 voted no, so it could not be included in the base Budget. After that, when the School Board met there was a motion to make a special Warrant Article to approve this 4<sup>th</sup> Team. The vote was 4 in favor and 3 against. That's why it's a Warrant Article and why we are seeing it here. Ted stated very close all the way through the process.

Bill Marvel stated the 8<sup>th</sup> vote, the opposition vote from the SAU member, came from a woman whose devotion to education could not be challenged. She's been on School Boards since more than most of the people here have lived in Conway and he knows her as a vigorous advocate of education and she is convinced that this can be managed and will not have any adverse effect on education. It's often an argument of people who are involved in School Board, or any Boards for that matter, when some sort of oversight Committee like the Budget Committee or Selectmen makes a comment that "well you don't know what you're talking about; we know this, we've been doing it for years". That woman has been doing this for years, she is convinced this is a prudent course.

Chairman Sordi stated he had a procedural question; given what we've been talking about where the Budget that was set he assumed was approved by the Budget Committee and within that Budget was the Special Ed and Reading positions. If this is approved, how are you going to take those two people and put them into the 4<sup>th</sup> Team if a Budget has been approved by the Budget Committee that mandated a Special Ed and a Reading position. Dick Klement stated because if they put this in, the Middle School Principal has the authority to manage his own Budget and if they tell him to put the 4<sup>th</sup> Team back in, he will accomplish that.

Chairman Sordi stated that concludes the School Budget and thanked Dick Klement and he thanked Bob Godowski and Jim Hill for their help.

#### TOWN VOTE

Chairman Sordi stated he was going to start with the Precinct Budgets and if they passed without any changes, he needed each member to sign the forms like they did last night.

**Chairman Sordi moved, seconded by Karen Umberger, to accept the Redstone Fire Precinct's Budget of \$50,450.00. In favor: 17; Opposed: 0; Abstain: 0.**

Mike DiGregorio stated he just wanted to make sure that everyone understood that we can amend any of the Budgets.

**Chairman Sordi moved, seconded by Joe Mosca, to accept the Center Conway Fire Precinct's Budget of \$168,325.00. MOTION WITHDRAWN.**

Bill Marvel stated he had \$177,825.00. Chairman Sordi stated on his Budget Summary they have revenues and credits of \$9,500.00.

Chairman Sordi moved, seconded by Joe Mosca, to accept the Center Conway Fire Precinct's Budget of total appropriations recommended of \$177,825.00 less the amount of estimated revenues and credits of \$9,500.00 for the amount of taxes to be raised of \$168,325.00. In favor: 16; Opposed: 0; Abstain: 0. (Ted Sares not present for the vote.)

Chairman Sordi moved, seconded by Joe Mosca, to accept the East Conway Fire Precinct's 2012 Budget of total appropriations recommended of \$57,845.00 less amount of estimated revenues and credits of \$50.00 for the amount of taxes to be raised of \$57,795.00. In favor: 17; Opposed: 0; Abstain: 0.

Mike DiGregorio asked that each Article be placed in the Minutes verbatim even if he did not read each verbatim. Chairman Sordi agreed.

Mike DiGregorio moved, seconded by Betty Loynd, to support Article 6 to raise and appropriate as an OPERATING BUDGET, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the Warrant for the purposes set forth therein, totaling Nine Million One Hundred Twenty-Three Thousand Eight Hundred Twenty-Three Dollars (\$9,123,823.00). Should this article be defeated the default budget shall be \$8,813,373.00 which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town of Conway or by law, or the governing body may hold one special meeting in accordance with RSA 40:13 X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only. NOTE: This operating budget warrant article does not include appropriations contained in ANY other warrant articles. AMENDED TO AN OPERATING BUDGET OF \$9,052,925.00 AND A DEFAULT BUDGET OF \$8,813,373.00. In favor: 14; Opposed: 3 - Kelly DeFeo, Maureen Seavey and Mike DiGregorio; Abstain: 0.

Ted Sares stated so it's come down quite a bit so the Default Budget is considerably less than the Operating Budget. Chairman Sordi stated it's \$310,000.00 less. Ted asked how does this compare to last year's budget. Mike DiGregorio stated it's an increase of \$119,000.00. Ted stated so percentage wise it's almost nil. Betty Loynd stated it's 1%. Mike stated it's less than 1%. Ted stated so it's almost flat and Mike agreed.

Joe Mosco stated in terms of dollars it's only a 1% increase, but in terms of apples to apples it's a 6.25% increase when you take out the Bond that was retired and take out the money for the Ambulance service that was in last year, but isn't in this year's, you're actually talking that the Budget is up 6.25%.

Ted Sares stated that's why he mentioned before that the School managed it's Budget and the Town didn't. It let certain things happen that automatically put them in a good spot. That's why he said that.

Mike DiGregorio stated to Ted Sares that he wished when referring to the Town, he would refer to departments that are up rather than the Town because the Town is down because other departments are rolled into their budget. He just wanted to make that clear, they don't have a choice over some of the stuff that comes before them.

Joe Mosca moved, seconded by Karen Umberger, to amend the Budget by reducing the Police Department by \$66,000.00 from \$3,084,597.00 to

**\$3,018,597.00 and by reducing the Highway Department from \$1,883,061.00 to \$1,848,061.00 for a total reduction of \$35,000.00. The Budget as approved by the Selectmen is currently \$9,123,823.00 and his proposal with reductions is \$9,022,823.00 for a total reduction of \$101,000.00. In favor: 6 - Maury McKinney, Bill Marvel, Doug Swett, John Edgerton, Joe Mosca and Karen Umberger; Opposed: 11; Abstain: 0.**

Joe Mosca stated that although it pains him to do so because he was told whatever we amend, even if we amend certain agencies within the Town departments that the bottom line of all of the departments are going to be affected, not just the ones we actually line item. Karen Umberger stated not so. Joe stated that was what he was told last night.

Bill Marvel stated Point of Order; are we then going to follow with further amendments rather than coming up with individual budget totals. Chairman Sordi stated we will entertain amendments to specific line items in the Budget sequentially.

Joe Mosca stated the motion is to reduce the overall Budget by \$101,000.00; \$15,000.00 out of Medical Insurance, \$30,000.00 out of Earned Benefits, \$1,000.00 out of Office Supplies, \$1,000.00 out of Electricity, \$3,000.00 out of Equipment, \$500.00 out of Uniform Maintenance, \$500.00 out of Exams and Physicals, \$3,000.00 out of Telephone, \$2,000.00 out of Vehicle Maintenance and \$10,000.00 out of Gasoline for a total of \$66,000.00.

Chairman Sordi stated Joe Mosca on the Police Budget those numbers just read are the details you would take out of the Police Budget. Joe agreed.

Joe Mosca stated out of the Highway Department: reducing the Highway Labor by \$20,000.00, the Garage Labor by \$5,000.00 and fuel by \$10,000.00. Ted Sares asked Joe to explain taking out of Labor. Joe stated if you look at their Labor, the Highway Department is budgeted \$509,000.00 and they had Actual of \$455,000.00; this year they're budgeting \$499,000.00 and based on the \$455,000.00 that they had last year, he left 5% and that's where he came up with his reductions; 5% should be more than enough over what they had last year. Same thing with the Garage Labor, it's actually 8% left in there. The fuel is based on \$4.00 per gallon and last year they used \$107,000.00 worth of fuel, they have budgeted \$120,000.00 so he cut it down to \$110,000.00. Right now plowing is way down so they haven't been using a lot of fuel and he thought the numbers were pretty solid.

Dick Klement stated the labor that we have is Union labor. We haven't had much of a winter per se except they've been doing a lot of sand and salt work because we've had a lot of ice and they're not plowing but they're doing other stuff to the roads. Do you think that portion of the cut may not be a little too much because right now they could be doing other stuff and are. He sees them out there filling potholes so they are doing other stuff to make it happen. If we get some snow, they could get to those dollars pretty quickly. He wasn't saying he disagreed, he was just kind of thinking about it.

Joe Mosca stated he left 5% above what they had from last year and he thought that was more than sufficient and even though they are out

sanding more and icing more, they're not plowing as much so the trucks may be out probably half of what they've done normally.

Dick Klement stated you're probably right. The other one was on the Police gasoline side, they were down 4, they're down 1 now. They probably drive more and will be driving more so they may need that gas or has he misunderstood that. Joe Mosca stated this year they spent \$63,000.00; they have \$75,000.00 budgeted for next year. Again, we used the \$4.00 figure for this year. He thought that cutting them down to \$65,000.00 is going to keep them right in the same ball park and if not, then they can take it out of their Labor line item which he didn't touch which he probably could have touched.

Lucy Philbrick stated as she looks at the actual Gasoline for 2011, it's \$73,997.00. Joe Mosca stated that's not the number that he has in his book. Lucy stated to Joe that he has figures that don't go through the end of the year. Last night you got a packet with figures through the end of the year. Joe stated this was put together before last night; sorry Lucy. He still thinks that the Police Budget is too high.

Betty Loynd asked how do you propose saving \$1,000.00 on electricity and office supplies, office supplies maybe, but electricity and telephone. Joe Mosca stated based on the usage for the last couple of years which is the way the Commissioners did their 3 year numbers, he went back and looked at the 3 year numbers, but he took out the first year they used and tried to put in the current year's numbers and he thought there was a lot of wiggle room in there and he thought there was more than what he was proposing to cut.

Ted Sares stated he wasn't criticizing what Joe (Mosca) was doing. Paul DegliAngeli has stated on more than one occasion that ice is far more expensive than snow so the snow argument doesn't get it with him. Secondly, he feels very queasy at this last minute, this last second in the process of superimposing his judgment for that of the Town or the Highway Department or the Police or whatever particularly when they're not here, except for Lucy, but he didn't see anybody from the Police here. He thought that we've had all of these meetings; why didn't we do this then. Why are we waiting until this last second to do this. He didn't get it. Chairman Sordi stated because it's part of the process. Ted stated he understood that, but why are we waiting to argue it. We could have argued this and said "hey, you guys are way off" blah, blah, blah, "we should be doing this", "we should have this". Now, all of a sudden we're saying to cut \$1,000.00 off electricity. Why didn't we say that two or three weeks ago. Chairman stated he thought we did. Ted stated he didn't remember it.

Chairman Sordi stated let me refresh your memory. During the discussions with the Police and, as a matter of fact, it was the evening we were at the Town Hall and we were discussing with the Commissioners our disagreement of using 2008 through 2010 as their 3 year average rather than 2009 through 2011. We also were discussing with them very adamantly that we didn't feel that they should be including funds for costs that might happen. They should only be including costs for what they know is going to happen. Ted Sares stated to go back to the Chairman's statements on the very first day we met as a Committee, we said we were going to

look at this stuff strategically from a conceptual standpoint. Let's look at it strategically, let's not micro-manage and he knows that's a flash point phrase, but by God to come back now and start going into these little line items in the Police Budget and the Highway Department to him was micro-managing.

Chairman Sordi stated one of the issues that came up and he doesn't like to talk about last year, but one of the things that came up was that the Budget Committee did not do its job and just took a number off the bottom line and the argument was that we should have gone in and identified specific line items that we should look at to cut funds for. Ted Sares stated the argument was never adjudicated. Chairman stated it wasn't adjudicated, but when Joe (Mosca) talked to him about it, he instructed him that when he was ready to come in and was ready to make an amendment, come in with something concrete and he thought Joe had done a very good job identifying areas where he felt the Police Department or the Highway Department had fat and that's what he's proposed here. Now, you may not agree with it, but this is the way you should do it, you should understand the Budget enough to at least be able to make a sensible decision on how much to cut and he thought that Joe had done that.

John Edgerton stated we've been given more than 800 pages and you're allowed to read the whole 800 pages. He agreed with the Chairman that the decision was made that yes, you have to identify a line item, but in the long run the School Department and the Town can run the money any way they want to from the bottom line. All we're doing is saying these are items that appear to be out so the amount comes off of the bottom line. Chairman Sordi stated Joe (Mosca) said that he was hesitant to make this choice.

Karen Umberger stated just as an example and unbeknownst to her because she wasn't available last evening for the Public Hearings, she also put together a \$65,935.00 cut to the Police Department. She is sorry, but she was off by \$65.00 from what Joe (Mosca) had recommended. She chose a little bit different areas that she would have cut, but the bottom line is that separately and distinctly they both came up with a figure of approximately \$66,000.00 to cut from the Police Department and she just wanted to say that and she did look at what Joe proposed during the meeting and she certainly is 150% in support of the \$66,000.00 from the Police Department.

Bill Marvel stated it's classic management strategy when an oversight Board criticizes you to either say "you just picked that number out of the blue, you didn't give us any specifics" or "you're micro-managing" depending on which way the oversight went.

Mike DiGregorio stated first of all he didn't believe it was micro-managing this time of year and he was glad that they've pointed out stuff that they believe should be cut. It's not up to him to defend the Police Budget except to say that they returned nothing at the end of this year; in fact, they almost went over by \$20,000.00 and at the last minute there was some savings going on there. He also wanted to point out to everybody that at last year's Deliberative Session within a matter of 5 minutes \$90,000.00 was put back into the Budget from the voters. He did relay the concerns on to other members and he was glad that Joe (Mosca) had pointed

out particular Departments. In his (Joe Mosca) motion and the way he has expressed himself he's identified the Police Department and certainly the Highway which he will talk to in a second, but that information will get relayed back to the Selectmen that, in his opinion, that's where the cut should come from. Whether the other Selectmen vote on that or generalize and reduce everybody's budget by a certain percentage, he couldn't say. His opinion would be that's where it should come from.

Mike DiGregorio stated as far as the Highway Department goes, he thought it was a little short sighted on some of the stuff that was mentioned. Paul DegliAngeli has been doing this a long time, he's been very good at it, he's very accurate about the things that he does. It is more expensive to take care of ice instead of snow. Don't forget we've been very lucky weather wise this year. We could go into the following year with just the opposite. We're at the beginning of our Budget, we have to wait until the end of next year. He certainly did not support any reduction in the Highway Department at all and he was going to vote against this motion obviously and hoped everybody else does and then see if someone doesn't make a motion from the floor on another number or accepts the Town's Budget as it is.

Bill Marvel stated he discussed an amendment that he was hoping to present later with Earl (Sires) and he pointed out to me correctly that the Selectmen generally try if a number is reduced from their Budget for a specific Department, they try to apply it, they have the authority to apply it.

Maury McKinney stated Karen (Umberger) stated she came up with around the same number; he was interested in where her number came from; what did she see. Karen stated hers was reduce the Prosecutor's line to \$25,000.00 and instead of a salaried employee for \$63,000.00 to put \$37,000.00 into a Contract line and pay the Prosecutor per hours worked and if you do, the rate for a Prosecutor by the hour is about \$37.50 and if you take the \$37,000.00, you roughly have about 1,000 hours worth of prosecutorial work that you can contract out. She didn't take all of the money, she just took a portion of it and put it into a Contract line. In Medical Insurance, she spoke with Lucy (Philbrick) today and Lucy said that no one in the Police Department was receiving Medical Benefits at the single rate. She assumed 2 person; however, if this person is one of those 3 employees and she was hoping the Police Commissioners or the Police Department might have been here, but if she is one of those employees, then she would reduce the medical line by \$6,460.00 which was a result of the Commissioners indicating that they had put extra money into the insurance just in case a 2-person family had a child.

Karen Umberger further stated if the Prosecutor doesn't have a medical policy with the Town, a full-time employee, it's an option, but if she doesn't then just take out \$6,000.00. Earned Benefits, she used the figure of \$20,000.00 to lower that by \$20,000.00 and what that was is that they had said that one person was retiring and indicated that his Earned Benefits was \$30,000.00. If she takes out \$20,000.00, it leaves \$15,000.00 in there for just in case money, which of course she is not in favor of but nor is she a real ogre. She eliminated two months salary and benefits for new employees that they are going to hire because they haven't hired them for either January or February and that was \$6,000.00

on Salary and \$2,000.00 on Medical Insurance because they had no single there, they planned for a 2-person person and she said she'd let them keep Social Security, Retirement Benefits, Unemployment, Worker's Comp, so they have some money just in case. If she adds up those numbers, it comes to \$65,935.00, but she was only asking for a \$60,000.00 reduction just in case they might have an emergency of some sort or other. The \$66,000.00 was right on target for where she was.

Ted Sares asked Karen Umberger if she eliminated the just in case argument and took that out of the Budget. Karen stated no. Ted asked if she left that in. Karen stated she left in about \$25,000.00 for just in case. Ted asked instead of what. Karen stated instead of recommending that it come out. Ted stated no, instead of how much was in there. Karen stated she had no idea how much is in there. Ted stated that was a snarky answer. Karen stated it may be snarky, but they couldn't tell us either. Ted asked how can you take money out of a line item if you don't know what was in the line item. Karen stated she does and she did. Ted asked what was it. Ted stated he didn't have his book because he didn't anticipate this, my bad.

Chairman Sordi stated in the interest of moving this along, we are not even considering this motion. This isn't the number on the floor that you've stated, it's Joe's (Mosca). Ted Sares stated he would stop because it was obvious where the Chairman was on this, it's pretty obvious. You're cutting down a lot of people on this.

Mike DiGregorio stated actually he was getting ready to call a Point of Order because we're talking right now about Karen's (Umberger) amendment, she was asked a question and he understands that and she did a great job answering it, but he didn't want to confuse the people in this room that when they go to vote they're voting on Joe's (Mosca) motion which is \$101,000.00. Ted Sares stated he knew that. Mike stated not everybody may Ted and he wanted to get that out there. If they want to get to Karen's motion, they have to vote no. Karen stated she didn't have a motion. If they want to get to Bill's (Marvel) motion, they have to vote no. That was all he was saying. Chairman Sordi stated he understood. Mike stated it was a little confusing because we were talking about Karen's stuff. Chairman stated on the floor is Joe's motion and asked if there were any further questions or comments about that.

Dick Klement asked if we were going to vote for both the Police and the Highway Department in the same vote. Chairman Sordi stated yes. Dick Klement asked Joe Mosca if he was willing to split them. Joe stated he has proposed it as one. Dick stated he was giving Joe an opportunity to split it. Joe stated he understood that, but he proposed the motion as one.

Bill Marvel stated the \$45,000.00 that Rod (King) was going to set aside for retirements, wasn't \$15,000.00 of that for an assured retirement and \$30,000.00 for a potential or was it the other way around. Karen Umberger stated it's the other way around. Joe Mosca stated they had \$65,000.00 in the line item for Earned Benefits and he believed there was \$20,000.00 to \$25,000.00 that was going to be used, that they knew they needed. Bill stated there was another \$15,000.00 that they thought they may need. Joe

stated Health Insurance was an extra \$15,000.00, the Earned Benefits was about \$45,000.00 extra.

Ted Sares asked how do you justify getting 15% out of gasoline. Joe Mosca stated he was looking at the numbers in the book. Ted stated they requested \$75,000.00 and the Selectmen approved \$75,000.00. Joe stated and he cut it to \$65,000.00. Ted asked why. Joe stated because the number in the book that he had at the time was \$62,000.00 that they had used for the year. That was the number he was going by and that was based on last year's anticipated Budget of \$4.00 per gallon. Ted stated when they budget their gasoline, aren't they circumspect about how they do that, using averages with fuel and so forth. Joe stated all he was doing was using the same methodology that the Police Commissioners used, that's all he could say.

Danielle Santuccio stated the known retiring person is going to cost about \$30,000.00 which is what they said and the extra just in case is \$35,000.00 and Mike (DiGregorio) was correct that the \$15,000.00 was a just in case Medical Insurance. So there's \$35,000.00 plus \$15,000.00 is \$50,000.00 of just in case money just between those two things.

Mike DiGregorio stated to Ted Sares that he (Ted) had mentioned on gas, the actual number, Lucy (Philbrick) yelled it out a little while ago what the actual number was because his data (Joe Mosca) was off. Ted asked what the actual number was. Lucy stated \$73,997.00, that is the actual number.

Maureen Seavey stated so he (Joe Mosca) figured these from what's in this book which is 12/14/11 and they put those on weekly. That could be a whole month missing. Joe stated like he has said, he used the same methodology that the Police Commissioners used and he came up with a number very similar to someone sitting next to him on the Board who used a completely different methodology and he would leave it at that.

**Bill Marvel moved, seconded by Joe Mosca, that we reduce the bottom line of the Budget to \$9,118,925.00 which means the reduction is for \$4,898.00. In favor: 13; Opposed: 3 - Kelly DeFeo, Mike DiGregorio and David Sordi; Abstain: 1 - Ted Sares.**

Bill Marvel stated this is really only a token reduction and it reflects his dissatisfaction with what seemed to him the only really irresponsible budgeting that we've seen this year. At the Library they had already overspent he thought half of their line items by December 14<sup>th</sup> and the reason for that was supposedly because of a number of maintenance and repair emergencies. Yet most of those line items that were already overspent were overspent more in the last 17 days of the year when it was obvious they were going over budget anyway and the worst of it is that those were all discretionary line items and that just seemed to him to be an absolute refusal to stick to the Budget. It was just blatant and he didn't see how we could overlook that. Ted (Sares) may remark on that because Bill spent long enough on the Trustees to recognize that there is a certain contempt for oversight among the Trustees and he thought that needed to be addressed and he thought it best done not by subtracting \$1.00 from the Budget but by a similar token gesture and he chose that number because that's the amount by which they overspent their Budget.

Dick Klement stated when we were chatting with the Trustees when they came in to present their case, it took him aback when they said well if we over run we just go to the Town and they make it right and then he recalled the discussion with the Police Department and the world was going to end if the Police Department overspent their Budget. If we tell the Police Department they have to stay within their number, why do we not tell the Library the same and hold them accountable for that.

Ted Sares stated he was not going to be able to vote on this one because he was a Library Trustee. Bill Marvel stated no RSA prevents you. Ted Sares stated his common sense does, he may be dumb, but he's not stupid. Bill makes a good point, there's no question about it and he wasn't make excuses, but there was a technical issue and he wished he could articulate it but it had something to do with the last weeks earnings. Ted stated he believed Lucy (Philbrick) was involved with Tara Thomas, Library Director, as she got clarification whereby where people earn money in the following year, the anticipation was that that would be counted in that year, but it wasn't, it was counted in the prior year and so under any normal accounting method that would have been expected but she didn't see that coming and it cost her that chunk of payroll which was that chunk over the Budget.

Lucy Philbrick stated hours that are worked in 2011 and paid in 2012 are charged back to 2011 because that's when the work was actually done. Ted Sares stated in actuality then the money was charged during the time it was earned. Lucy stated correct.

Bill Marvel stated he would like to add to that in case nobody read this (his handout), it's also occurred to him that the Library Budget is going up at the same percentage rate that the usage of the Library is going down. He also was disturbed when he looked back at the last 25 years and saw that until the current leadership got its Chair in that body, they never went over Budget except for one \$500.00 mistake essentially, but that year and thence forward it's been almost regular. The first year that the current Trustee Chairman became Chair, they went over \$12,000.00 and the next year \$5,400.00 and now \$5,000.00. He thought it had something to do with leadership that needs to be addressed.

Chairman Sordi asked if there were any more comments or questions. Mike DiGregorio stated he obviously has to vote against this because he is the Selectmen's representative, but Bill (Marvel) makes some very valid points about holding people accountable and he hoped that was relayed this year during the Budget season. As Dick (Klement) had pointed out, they indicated that some partnership at the problem exists and that's not exactly what the Selectmen would like them to think. They should live within their Budget and was letting everybody know that he will be voting against this thing.

**Karen Umberger moved, seconded by Betty Loynd, to reduce the Police Department Budget by \$66,000.00. In favor: 11; Opposed: 6 - David Sordi, Kelly DeFeo, Dick Klement, Maureen Seavey, Mike DiGregorio and Ted Sares; Abstain: 0.**

Karen Umberger stated obviously since she didn't have this new number, we will take \$66,000.00 out of the bottom line for a new total of \$9,052,925.00. Ted Sares stated so it's the same as Joe's (Mosca) figure. Chairman Sordi stated no, Joe also included the Highway Department. This is just for the Police Department which is \$66,000.00. Ted stated he thought Joe's number was \$101,000.00. Chairman stated it included \$35,000.00 for the Highway Department. Ted stated okay, but \$66,000.00 was for the Police and Chairman agreed. Ted stated now Karen is going with \$66,000.00 and Chairman agreed. Ted stated so it's the same as Joe's. John Edgerton stated no. Ted asked John why he stated no. John stated because it doesn't include the Highway. Chairman stated Joe's motion was for \$101,000.00; it's the same as the Police part of Joe's. Ted stated he was fine.

Chairman Sordi stated to Karen Umberger that the amount she gave was wrong; the original Budget is \$9,123,000.00. Karen and Joe Mosco both brought the new reduced Budget to the Chairman's attention which included the reduction in the Library Budget.

Dick Klement asked if this motion fails, can he introduce a motion to reduce the Police Budget by \$15.00; are we going to go at this all night. Chairman Sordi stated this is a valid motion and yes it is; we will go at it all night, it could happen.

Chairman Sordi stated the new amount is \$9,052,925.00 with the Default Budget still at \$8,813,373.00. That is the current motion on the floor.

**Mike DiGregorio moved, seconded by Joe Mosca, to accept Article 7 to approve the cost items included in a TWO-YEAR (2012-2013) COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWN OF CONWAY AND AFSCME #93, LOCAL 859, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS which calls for no increase in benefits or costs to the Town for fiscal years 2012 and 2013. This means that the proposed contract results in no additional costs attributable to the increase in benefits over those of the appropriation at current staffing levels paid in the prior fiscal years. In favor: 16; Opposed: 0; Abstain: 0.**

Bill Marvel stated he didn't think to ask this last night, is it no cost either year. Mike DiGregorio stated that's what it says and he thought it was because of the reduction.

Dick Klement stated we don't know what the Health Insurance is going to be next year.

**Mike DiGregorio moved, seconded by Joe Mosca, to accept Article 8 to see if the Town will vote to establish a CAPITAL RESERVE FUND under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the PARKS DEPARTMENT VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to withdraw and disburse funds in accordance with the purpose of the fund. Further, to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000.00) to be placed in this fund for fiscal year 2012. This appropriation is in addition to Warrant Article 6, the operating budget article. In favor: 16; Opposed: 0; Abstain: 0. (Greydon Turner not present for the vote.)**

**Mike DiGregorio moved, seconded by Joe Mosca, to accept Article 9 to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Three Hundred Twenty-**

Five Thousand Dollars (\$325,000.00) to be placed in the INFRASTRUCTURE RECONSTRUCTION CAPITAL RESERVE FUND to be used according to the purposes for which the fund was established. This appropriation is in addition to Warrant Article 6, the Operating Budget Article. In favor: 15; Opposed: 1 - Ray Shakir; Abstain: 0. (Greydon Turner not present for the vote.)

Mike DiGregorio moved, seconded by Joe Mosca, to accept Article 10 to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Ninety-Five Thousand Dollars (\$195,000.00) to be placed in the HIGHWAY EQUIPMENT CAPITAL RESERVE FUND to be used according to the purposes for which the fund was established. This appropriation is in addition to Warrant Article 6, the Operating Budget Article. In favor: 16; Opposed: 0; Abstain: 0. (Greydon Turner not present for the vote.)

Mike DiGregorio moved, seconded by Joe Mosca, to accept Article 11 to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Forty-Four Thousand Dollars (\$44,000.00) to contribute to the CAPITAL RESERVE FUND FOR POLICE VEHICLES to be used according to the purposes for which the fund was established. This appropriation is in addition to Warrant Article 6, the Operating Budget Article. In favor: 15; Opposed: 1 - Ray Shakir; Abstain: 0. (Greydon Turner not present for the vote.)

Mike DiGregorio moved, seconded by Joe Mosca, to accept Article 12 to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Eighty Thousand Dollars (\$80,000.00) to be placed in the MAINTENANCE OF TOWN BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES CAPITAL RESERVE FUND to be used according to the purposes for which the fund was established. This appropriation is in addition to Warrant Article 6, the Operating Budget Article. In favor: 16; Opposed: 0; Abstain: 0. (Greydon Turner not present for the vote.)

Mike DiGregorio moved, seconded by Bill Marvel, to accept Article 13 to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Seventy-Five Thousand Dollars (\$75,000.00) to be placed in the SOLID WASTE EQUIPMENT CAPITAL RESERVE FUND to be used according to the purposes for which the fund was established. This appropriation is in addition to Warrant Article 6, the Operating Budget Article. In favor: 17; Opposed: 0; Abstain: 0.

Dick Klement asked how much was in the fund currently. Lucy Philbrick stated \$109,000.00.

Mike DiGregorio moved, seconded by John Edgerton, to accept Article 14 to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Dollar (\$1.00) to be placed in the LANDFILL CLOSURE CAPITAL RESERVE FUND to be used according to the purposes for which the fund was established. This appropriation is in addition to Warrant Article 6, the Operating Budget Article. In favor: 17; Opposed: 0; Abstain: 0.

Mike DiGregorio moved, seconded by Joe Mosca, to accept Article 15 to Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) to be placed in the LANDFILL EXPANSION CAPITAL RESERVE FUND to be used according to the purposes for which the fund was established. This appropriation is in addition to Warrant Article 6, the Operating Budget Article 6. In favor: 17; Opposed: 0; Abstain: 0.

Dick Klement stated since we are expanding this Landfill in 2014, how much money is in there currently. Lucy Philbrick stated \$1,715,000.00. Dick asked if

that amount would accommodate the whole thing or are we looking at a Warrant Article next year. Chairman Sordi stated \$1,715,000.00 is currently in the account and we are adding another \$50,000.00. Chairman further stated that he didn't know. Karen Umberger stated that Paul (DegliAngeli) indicated that with the \$50,000.00 this year and another same amount next year that he anticipated that would cover the Landfill Expansion Project. Now there won't be any left when he's done unless we get a good deal, but that's what he indicated.

Mike DiGregorio moved, seconded by Joe Mosca, to accept Article 16 to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$130,000.00) from the annual cable television franchise fees to add to the PEG EXPENDABLE TRUST FUND, to support the operations and equipment needs of Public Education and Government television services. No property tax funds will be raised to support this warrant article. In favor: 17; Opposed: 0; Abstain: 0.

Mike DiGregorio moved, seconded by Joe Mosca, to accept Article 17 to see if the Town of Conway will vote to approve all costs associated with the addition of ONE PATROL OFFICER POSITION IN THE POLICE DEPARTMENT. The annual cost of one additional position is estimated to be Eighty Thousand Eight Hundred Dollars (\$80,800.00) and further to raise and appropriate Forty Thousand Four Hundred Dollars (\$40,400.00) for the current fiscal year, such sum representing the costs to fund the position for one half of the year. In favor: 12; Opposed: Ray Shakir, Danielle Santuccio, Joe Mosca, Karen Umberger and Betty Loynd; Abstain: 0.

Chairman Sordi stated just to clarify, the annual cost is \$80,800.00 and they are asking for \$40,400.00 this year because they won't hire until mid-year.

Mike DiGregorio moved, seconded by Joe Mosca, to accept Article 18 to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Hundred Fifty-Eight Thousand Three Hundred Dollars (\$258,300.00) to hire a new FULL-TIME OFFICER FOR THE POLICE DEPARTMENT. This amount includes salary, benefits, and equipment. Said hiring to be conditioned upon receiving a grant for 100% of the officer's salary and benefits from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, which if awarded would provide salary and benefits for three (3) years and require the town to fund the position awarded under the grant for the 4<sup>th</sup> year. If approved, funding for this position will be contained in the operating budget for the 4<sup>th</sup> year. In favor: 13; Opposed: 4 - Karen Umberger, Joe Mosca, Ray Shakir and Doug Swett; Abstain: 0.

Ted Sares stated he assumed there would be some discussion; for him the issue is multi-faceted. Three years of benefits and salary and then the 4<sup>th</sup> year we hire the person and from that point forward depending on circumstances. Now there are a couple of risks in that; one risk is do we hire anybody else between the time we begin this and the time that the 4<sup>th</sup> year begins because everything is based on the assumption we are going to replace one person, we're going to hire another one which we just voted on and then we are going to do this but nobody has talked about what happens between the time we begin this and the 4<sup>th</sup> year. We need to keep that in mind because we could end up with more than just one replacement, one additional one and then this one. This number could grow by 2, 3, 4 depending on the crime rate.

Ted Sares further stated the other part of this is the one that one of the people in the audience brought up last night, although his proportional argument was weird, that is that the rate of crime goes up but the School enrollment goes down and he didn't quite see the relationship, but the fact is the crime rate is going up, there's no doubt about that, the crime rate is going up and that really bothers the heck out of him. Now he doesn't look at that as a pure cost item, he looks at this as what is he going to get for the buck; what's the quid pro quo. If the quid pro quo is a safer home where he can continue to leave the door open and his car door open, that's what he wants. He wants solid protection in this town. He wants to feel like he lives in Hanover, he wants to feel like he lives in Exeter, he wants to feel like he lives in towns like that. He doesn't want to feel like he is back in Boston. He is kind of leaning towards this; it's multi-faceted, it's not as easy to yea or nay as it first appears. Here's where he's going: he didn't think the Police gave it justice. He thought he could have made a better argument than they did. To talk about "bait and trap" was absolutely the wrong thing to say last night, that was an insult to his intelligence.

Joe Mosca stated he saw one facet: we can't afford it. Ted Sares stated that's pretty blunt; how about going into detail on it. Joe stated he didn't think the Town could afford it. He didn't think the Town could afford the Police Budget. Ted asked if Joe could translate the cost of it to tax and could he weigh that against the cost of crime. Joe stated you can make numbers say anything you want to and you (Ted) know that as well as he does and he will leave it at that. He just didn't think right now was the right time to add. Ted stated that's fair enough.

Greydon Turner stated he thought that we are probably going to add at least one more officer in the next 3 to 4 years and he thought we should take advantage of this program. We are going to pay for it one way or the other so we might as well take advantage of it because he feels fairly confident that in 2016 we'll have 24 Officers on the force.

Chairman Sordi stated everybody assumes in 4 years we're going to need this extra Officer anyways, but what they forget is that we do have attrition on the Police Force and in 4 years just because we have this one person that we do have to keep on for the 4<sup>th</sup> year, doesn't mean that there might be another Police Officer position that's eliminated and so we may end up with a level number of Police Officers or back to where we currently are which could be anything. The fact of the matter is no matter the situation we need the extra police now and this is free for 3 years. In 4 years we can decide whether we need that additional Police Officer position or not and could eliminate one of the other ones that aren't controlled by this Grant.

Ted Sares stated when he looked back and did a little research on crime in the area for other reasons, he was shocked at what he saw and what he discovered in his own research and, of course, the Dittmeyer case only added to his horror and that happened here. This town has had some severe crime; we've had robberies, we've had bank robberies, crime has gone up and he did not like that. He wants to live in a town that's safe and he wants to feel safe. He believes that there's no cost that you should put on crime.

Karen Umberger stated unfortunately when the Police Chief was here and he carried with him his crimes A, B and C or whatever, and it was unfortunate that he didn't choose to share that with us totally. Ted Sares stated he gave us the sheet. Karen stated he did not, he passed around the sheet, he did not give us a sheet. He passed it around, she didn't write down all of the figures and she was sure no one else did. (Joe Mosca indicated that he did write down the figures.) Karen stated she believed they were basing the majority of the increases that they are asking for in the Police Force on the study that they provided to us 2 years ago where they said they needed a total of 37 Officers. Bill Marvel stated 38. Karen stated she believed the figure may have been 36 and she was not sure that it was necessarily based on what is occurring right now because as we looked at the figure quickly as to what was going on with crime and yes, we've had some high profile crimes and no one will argue that and those are very intense in a relatively short period of time. The overall crime business is not up significantly in the Town of Conway.

Joe Mosca stated the Class A incidents on the piece of paper that the Chief handed out there were 1,288 Class A Offenses; there were 175 Simple Assaults, 128 Intimidations, 238 Other Larceny, 205 Vandalism for a total of 766. Four items consisted of 60% of the whole list. There were about 25 items on the list and 4 of them contributed to 60%. Ted Sares asked what the 4 were. Joe stated they were: Simple Assault, Intimidation, Other Larceny and Vandalism.

Ted Sares stated to Karen Umberger that she was saying that crime wasn't increasing; can you prove that. Karen stated they didn't provide the numbers and so you can't prove that she was wrong either because you don't have the numbers. Ted stated he wouldn't try; God forbid.

Mike DiGregorio stated to Karen Umberger that she missed last night's meeting and Lt. Perley did give quite an explanation when he compared our Town to some of the other towns. Clearly a lot more of high population, much higher, yet we were almost at the top of the list on almost every category of crime. Even though our population is low, we certainly get a huge influx of people that come in here. Unfortunately, we have to compare our population to some of those city areas, but we're comparing out Budgets to a small town and Lt. Perley gave us a lot of numbers last night with the amount of Police Officers that were in these towns and gave us the crime rate. Unfortunately, our crime is a lot higher than we want it to be.

Chairman Sordi stated he could understand this argument for Article 17 because it required money, but this is nonsensical. This is do we want something free for 3 years. We can eliminate a position in 3 years if we don't want to pay for that extra Police Officer. This is for something for 3 years and is not increasing the cost to us for 3 years. In 3 years we could reduce the Police Department or any Budget. He understands the argument that Karen (Umberger) and Joe (Mosca) are making for 17, he may not agree with it, but he understands what they are saying. For this one, this is something we are going to get free for 3 years and in the 4<sup>th</sup> year we are going to have to pay the benefits for a full-time Officer in 4 years, but that doesn't mean it's going to cause the Budget to go up because we could eliminate a position still. That's just his two cents.

Bill Marvel stated he thought we have to give Chris Perley in particular credit for having presented it to us honestly. Bill thought Lt. Perley made it clear that we're probably not going to get rid of any Police that we have. Yet, he agrees that it is nonsensical to vote against this one and for the other one, but he was signing stuff. He looked at Chris's (Perley) numbers last night when we had our break and the one town that was next to us in population, Claremont, has about 12,000+ people, they have 24 Officers. If we add both of these, we'll have 24 Officers. We're at 10,000, but as you point out we have a high effective population in any given moment and apparently a rowdier one. Good thing we have all of those bars. He really did mean to vote against the Officer that we are going to pay for and in favor of this one, so he guesses that he's arguing about an Article that's dead.

Ted Sares stated not to be overly path antic, but there's no issue of affordability here. There can't be because there's no cost next year, there's no cost the year after, there's no cost the year after that so there's no issue of affordability here which in and of itself is the argument.

Karen Umberger stated it simply reminds her that as long as you don't pay any Federal Income Tax you're okay; she happens to pay Federal Income Tax so whether it comes out of her right pocket or comes out of her left pocket, it's still money out of her pocket. Ted Sares asked what in God's name does that have to do with this. Chairman Sordi stated at least we get some of the Federal tax money back to this town rather than sending it to a place like DC and never seeing it come out.

**Dick Klement moved the question; seconded by Brian Charles. In favor: 17; Opposed: 0; Abstain: 0.**

**Mike DiGregorio moved, seconded by Karen Umberger, to accept Article 19 to see if the Town will vote to approve a five year Memorandum of Agreement for contributions to EMERGENCY AMBULANCE SERVICE between the Town of Conway and two providers (North Conway Ambulance, Inc. and Conway Village Fire District) beginning at 12:00 AM May 1, 2012. Further, to raise and appropriate One Hundred Two Thousand Six Hundred Sixty-Six Dollars (\$102,666.00) to be disbursed to the providers in accordance with the provisions of the Emergency Ambulance Service Memorandum of Understanding. This amount is in addition to the Fifty-One Thousand Three Hundred Thirty-Four Dollars (\$51,334.00) contained in Warrant Article 6, the Operating Budget Article, which is the cost of ambulance services from January 1, 2012 to April 30, 2012. In favor: 17; Opposed: 0; Abstain: 0.**

**Mike DiGregorio moved, seconded by Betty Loynd, to accept Article 20 to see if the Town will vote to approve a five year Memorandum of Agreement for contributions to EMERGENCY AMBULANCE SERVICE between the Town of Conway and two providers (North Conway Ambulance, Inc. and Conway Village Fire District) beginning at 12:00 AM May 1, 2012. Further, to raise and appropriate One Hundred Two Thousand Six Hundred Sixty-Six Dollars (\$102,666.00) to be disbursed to the providers in accordance with the provisions of the Emergency Ambulance Service Memorandum of Understanding. This amount is in addition to the Fifty-One Thousand Three Hundred Thirty-Four Dollars (\$51,334.00) contained in Warrant Article 6, the Operating Budget Article, which is the cost of ambulance**

services from January 1, 2012 to April 30, 2012. In favor: 17; Opposed: 0; Abstain: 0.

Mike DiGregorio moved, seconded by John Edgerton, to accept Article 21 to see if the Town will vote to approve a TEN (10) YEAR LEASE FOR A MUNICIPAL PARKING LOT IN NORTH CONWAY VILLAGE. And further, to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Forty Thousand Dollars (\$40,000.00) to fund CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS TO SAID MUNICIPAL PARKING LOT. Of this total amount, Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$30,000.00) will be funded by tax revenue and Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) will be funded by the owners of the leased property. In favor: 15; Opposed: 2 - Ted Sares and Greydon Turner; Abstain: 0.

Chairman Sordi stated he should probably have said something last night, but we are looking to raise and appropriate \$40,000.00 but we only have to pay \$30,000.00. How come we are looking to raise \$40,000.00. Greydon Turner stated he thought that was what the Capital Improvements were totaling is \$40,000.00. Chairman stated so in other words, we'll show \$10,000.00 coming in as revenue coming from the owners. Mike DiGregorio stated \$30,000.00 from taxes and \$10,000.00 for revenue from the owners.

Ted Sares stated he made the point last night and he hoped that people heard it. He's been parking on and off in this parking lot for 13 years and nobody parks there. It's a total waste of money; this is a complete and total waste of money. You'll just have to take his word for it. If you ask anybody who parks there, they would say "huh, you're paying for what". This is crazy, this is absolutely crazy.

Bill Marvel stated or you could say that we're putting in a parking lot for the 20 new employees of the new business moving in there. Do we really want to do that.

Maury McKinney stated he parks there all the time; it's actually a great place to park. People who are using the Gibson Center and there are a lot of Gibson Center folks that use that parking lot and just walk through. You don't have to get on to main street once you park there, you can cut through. It's also a safer place to park than out on the street. He thought it was worth it, but his concern is how many parking spaces will be left for the public to use if up to 30 spots were used for the new business.

Doug Swett stated Ted (Sares) parks there at certain times, but how about 5 hours away from that time. What's happening then. Doug didn't know. Ted stated nothing.

Greydon Turner stated it was reported to him that it would be Birch Hill Credit Services and there would be about 20 people and since we don't seem to car pool very well around here, one would assume there would be 20 cars.

Chairman Sordi stated the fact remains that the life blood of businesses downtown is people have access and easy parking down there and he would have to disagree with Ted (Sares) because he's been in that parking lot when it is full. You go down there on weekends, you go down there on some nights, the holidays and at other times that parking lot is full. Fourth of July people are parking all the way down to Artist Falls. He thought and believed that the property owner pays taxes on the parking lot, he's willing to let us use it for a nominal fee to provide parking to people that are coming to this town and

spending money and businesses that are employing people in this town. To try to eliminate the use of this parking lot would be very shortsighted.

Mike DiGregorio stated what the feedback that they get from the business owners in that area is there are a lot of employees that probably use it during the day and he's gone in there during the day and during those hours it's very full. The problem is that if that is not there, those 30, 40, 50 spots are going to be out on the main road and now where do customers park because now customers are parking along Route 16, going in the stores, spending their money. If those areas are all filled up with employees which they have the right to park there, then where do the customers park. He thought it made good sense, it's short money to allow us to use that parking lot. Ted Sares questioned short money. Mike stated he thought so; for the amount of money that people spend on that strip and the taxes that those businesses generate in this Town, this is short money.

Dick Klement stated if we do this, who's clearing the snow from the parking lot. Karen Umberger stated the municipal people. Mike DiGregorio stated we would take care of the parking lot. Karen stated they take care of it now. Mike stated we've been taking care of it for 10, 20 years or something like that.

Ray Shakir stated he would like to reinforce what the Chairman said. He couldn't agree more and he would just like to add that he is for anything that supports business in this town and he believes that making parking available to tourists, especially on peak times, and making it easier for them to park, etc. definitely is positive for the town and he supports it fully.

Ted Sares stated we're all talking like we know what goes on in that parking lot. He did for about 7 years when the Cigar Shop was there because he parked there every day and then went in to the Cigar Shop so he knew exactly what went on there, but then he stopped smoking cigars. Greydon (Turner) is the expert on that parking lot; he works there and today Ted went to visit him and they walked out of his office over to his truck and guess what, how many cars were in that parking lot. Greydon stated 8 to 10; he drives through the parking lot probably 8 to 10 times a day. He uses it coming off of the North South Road by Bellini's into the Pinkham Real Estate parking lot which it shares with the Chamber of Commerce which is where Birchwood Credit Services are going. What you find in that area are some unique characteristics to that area. The parking lot in between Bellini's and Taste of Thai belongs solely to Taste of Thai. For years there were issues about Bellini's customers parking there. Bellini's customers predominantly park in the parking lot that we are discussing tonight in the evening. During the day with the exception of holidays, the parking lot is half utilized except during the time that the Gibson Center people come to pick up lunches. At that point it is full. He did think that there are a limited amount of people that use that parking lot. Watching the public on a 3 day weekend go to the Thomas the Train Exhibition across the street, they tend to fill up the closest spots and gravitate towards the ones in the back so the Chamber of Commerce fills up first as does Schouler Park. He didn't know exactly what the owner of the property pays in taxes each year, certainly there's a fee there, certainly there's something worth the town maintaining it and cleaning it off. To him, he didn't see that it was in that much disrepair that it required \$40,000.00 at this time, but he is also not a parking lot expert despite what Ted may say.

Mike DiGregorio moved, seconded by Karen Umberger, to accept Article 22 to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum not to exceed Four Thousand Three Hundred Dollars (\$4,300.00) for Conway Public Library purposes, specifically, for the purchase of literary, AUDIO AND VIDEO MATERIALS FOR THE YOUNG ADULT SECTION. This article will not affect the tax rate as the funds to be expended for these purposes have been donated to Conway Public Library. In favor: 17; Opposed: 0; Abstain: 0.

Chairman Sordi stated if he remembers the way they explained it, it was because of the way the money was coming into the Library. Ted Sares stated it came in as a donation and half of it was spent last year and because of that the other half has to be pushed as a Warrant Article. There's no tax impact whatsoever.

Mike DiGregorio stated that end's the Selectmen's Articles and questioned going through the petitioned Articles. Chairman Sordi stated the he would do them. Ted Sares questioned why the Chairman was going to present the remaining Articles. Mike stated everything going forward is non-profit and not the Selectmen.

Chairman Sordi moved, seconded by Karen Umberger, to accept Article 23 to raise and appropriate the sum of Thirteen Thousand Dollars (\$13,000.00) for TRI-COUNTY COMMUNITY ACTION for the purpose of continuing services of the Fuel Assistance Program for the residents of Conway. In favor: 13; Opposed: 4 - Joe Mosca, Doug Swett, Ray Shakir and John Edgerton; Abstain: 0.

Chairman Sordi moved, seconded by Greydon Turner, to accept Article 24 to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Three Thousand Dollars (\$3,000.00) in support of CARROLL COUNTY TRANSIT SENIOR AND GENERAL PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION. In favor: 0; Opposed: 16; Abstain: 0.

John Edgerton stated he made his comment last night. There's \$2 Million being spent for roughly 100 trips which is 50 people round trip. You could buy cars for every single one of these people. This is an absolutely ridiculous amount of money being spent. This is Washington money flushed down the toilet.

Karen Umberger stated right hand, left hand; free Federal money; doesn't cost us anything. Isn't that what she was told. What you need to understand is that this is not for the bus that was highlighted in the newspaper on Tuesday. This money does not go to support that bus at all. What this money goes for is for the call service that says "I need to go to a doctor's appointment at Saco River and I have to be there at 10 o'clock; can you pick me up and take me" and the answer is either yes or no and you call 24 hours in advance. This is what they call door-to-door service. It is not the line that runs up and down between Conway and Wolfeboro and Conway and Ossipee, it's not that. It's the service for the elderly that need to go from point A to point B. They have gone to the County for money. She just wanted to make sure that everyone understood that.

Dick Klement stated he was there on Saturday when we all sat down to listen to the non-profits, the lady took great pride in discussing in detail how they were going to go down to Ossipee and you would get off one bus and meet the other bus and go to Wolfeboro or Laconia or wherever the heck, so if you had a round trip there that's not 2, that's 4. He's seen these buses and they've got nobody in them and they're running around town. If he misunderstood what Karen (Umberger) just said because that lady didn't discuss any of that stuff that he heard, it was we need the money to run this program. It may be that Karen has more

information than what was presented to us on Saturday, but he thought this was an absolute waste of money and he will vote no on it.

Bill Marvel stated he tends to agree, whether Federal money is going into this or just ours. Usually he prefers Federal money because he earns so little that not much of that is his, but the very environmental damage of an empty bus, especially one as poorly tuned as that one tootling around town is something to think about and doesn't this somewhat replicate the service of the Gibson Center which got hammered by the State because it counts it's ridership in a way that the State doesn't like and takes potential customers away from them. It doesn't seem that they are very efficient. They had reduced their hours so much that they were virtually ineffective and he forgot what they were. Doug Swett stated 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Bill stated you're going to get from here to Ossipee, change, get to Wolfeboro, get back, get home in 6 hours, if you're lucky. The other thing is that this is a new non-profit. Non-profits once strangled this town every year if only in the amount of time they took at our Town Meetings and they've dropped off over time realizing perhaps that it's more trouble than it's worth to ask for a few thousand dollars from the Town and in many cases it was to them as well as it was to us. He was just not very receptive to new non-profits unless they are phenomenally beneficial.

Doug Swett stated a couple of years ago when this was just on the horizon, he asked a gentleman that was voluntarily taking people to appointments, the elderly and whoever, and he said as far as getting drivers for these local short runs, they had no problems whatsoever. It was once in awhile there was a longer run and he didn't know if it was Portland or wherever, and he said they had to dig to get somebody to take them in a private vehicle. With the amount of money invested here, plus when these buses wear out you're going to replace them if you keep this going. These buses are being given to us out of one pocket or the other. They are coming here new, but the next round of buses, this is just exactly why this country is in a mess. Nobody's figured out what is going on.

John Edgerton stated the administrative expenses at Tri-County are way out of hand as far as he is concerned. He didn't care what program they were running, it's way out of hand.

Joe Mosca left the meeting at 10:15 PM.

Karen Umberger stated she would like to stress again, and she didn't say she was going to vote for this, but she wants the members to understand that this is not, you are not supporting the bus that Bill (Marvel) was describing or what Dick (Klement) was describing. This is called Demand Respond Transportation. The passengers receive rides to medical appointments, hair dressers, grocery shopping, social events, Senior meals and employment. We had 782 trips were in the Conway area and that was to support that. Now the question that came up about the Gibson Center, it is a complimentary service. You call the number at Tri-County Cap and they'll make a determination of whether the Blue Loon Demand Response will pick you up or if Gibson Center can pick you up. They are complimentary services. One isn't taking over from the other. She just wanted the members to understand that she agreed the lady talked a lot about the new bus service, but that she thought was to get people to ride that bus. The \$3,000.00 is only for the Demand Response part, not for the service that goes up and down the road.

Mike DiGregorio stated to Karen Umberger that what he understood is that he didn't care which bus it was. He didn't care if it was the one that went to Wolfeboro, he didn't care if it was the one that's local, when he asked the question about why do they have the pricing the way it is, the answer for him was not good enough. As bad as it is to have the Federal money to buy all of this stuff, they don't even want to discuss having a pricing schedule that sustains them. It's way under and for him, he looks at this as a foot in the door for what we're going to be paying later on. If they had sat in front of him and said "you know what, we're looking at the pricing structure and we're going to start figuring out how to sustain itself" then you can make the argument that they've already bought the buses. At \$2.00, it will never fly. He thought when the presentation was done and he was sitting there 4 years ago or whenever, even at full operation on their projected rides, if he recalls and this was a while ago, if they were at their projected numbers for riders, the people that were paying the bill would only sustain 1 bus, fuel for that bus and 1 driver and then there was, between the two of them, there was 12 other buses or something and he just didn't understand why they would price themselves in that market when they can't sustain more than one bus.

**Kelly DeFeo called the question, seconded by Greydon Turner. In favor: 15; Opposed: 1 - Bill Marvel; Abstain: 0.**

**Chairman Sordi moved, seconded by Karen Umberger, to accept Article 25 to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Thirty-Two Thousand Dollars (\$32,000.00) (level funded from last year) to support the Conway home delivered meals (Meals on Wheels), congregate meals, transportation and program services provided by THE GIBSON CENTER FOR SENIOR SERVICES, INC. In favor: 15; Opposed: 0; Abstain: 1 - John Edgerton.**

Doug Swett stated this is a very, very well run long-time organization. John Edgerton stated 65,000 meals this year.

**Chairman Sordi moved, seconded by Betty Loynd, to accept Article 26 to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twelve Thousand Dollars (\$12,000.00) for the Early Supports & Services Program (birth to 3 years) of CHILDREN UNLIMITED, INC. (Level funding request). In favor: 13; Opposed: Doug Swett, Ray Shakir and John Edgerton; Abstain: 0.**

**Chairman Sordi moved, seconded by Betty Loynd, to accept Article 27 to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) for VAUGHAN COMMUNITY SERVICE, INC. In favor: 12; Opposed: Bill Marvel, Doug Swett and John Edgerton; Abstain: 1 - Karen Umberger.**

Ted Sares stated he wanted to point out that they had increased the budget considerably. He thought it was a 50% increase. Betty Loynd stated they went from \$3,000.00 to \$5,000.00. Ted stated that's 56%, he thought that was kind of a heavy increase.

Chairman Sordi stated they went from \$2,880.00 to \$5,000.00, a little more than 40% they went up. Chairman apologized stating it is 67%. Ted Sares stated it's a good chunky increase.

Maury McKinney asked what was the difference in the Vaughan Community Service as far as what was submitted by Petition. He thought they were

saying that they didn't wash out. Greydon Turner stated he thought Maury was right, the next Article they dropped from \$5,000.00 to \$3,000.00. Ted Sares stated no, no, no, no, no; the next Article they didn't even get it last year, nor the year before. Greydon stated he thought they had dropped it each year incrementally. Ted stated they did, but they didn't get it, they didn't get a penny.

Chairman Sordi stated the Vaughan Community Service went from \$2,880.00 to \$5,000.00; the Vaughan Community Service - North Conway Day Care Center went from \$4,800.00 to \$3,000.00. Ted stated but they didn't get \$4,800.00 and they didn't get \$3,000.00.

Mike DiGregorio stated maybe Karen (Umberger) remembers this when she was a Selectman, didn't the Town ask them at some point do something for us. Karen stated the Food Bank. Mike stated they are basically doing our Food Bank for us, correct. Karen stated that was correct. Ted stated he thought he remembered that. Mike stated they talked early on about the administrative costs at the Welfare Department to dole out a small amount of money, he couldn't say in the past he'd been a big supporter, but the more he understands it, it takes away their administrative costs so they give out direct amount of food.

Ted Sares stated they picked up a big cost at one point and then we kind of took it for granted. Mike DiGregorio agreed. Ted stated good argument. Mike stated that's a good way to put it; we asked them to do something and then took the funding away.

John Edgerton stated this is only one of the two big Food Pantries; this does half and the Brown Church does the other half. This gets \$5,000.00 and the Brown Church gets zip.

**Chairman Sordi moved, seconded by Ted Sares, to accept Article 28 to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Three Thousand Dollars (\$3,000.00) for VAUGHAN COMMUNITY SERVICE, INC. d/b/a NORTH CONWAY DAY CARE. In favor: 13; Opposed: Doug Swett and Ray Shakir; Abstain: 1 - Karen Umberger.**

Bill Marvel stated the North Conway Day Care Center has been stiffed two years running and as you noted, they've dropped their request each year and he knows vicariously that and in fact he has heard from someone very close to him suggest that the North Conway Day Care is the best Day Care around and has been for quite some time and he kind of hopes that the Committee would be unanimous on this simply because they deserve something whilst people are handing out.

Maureen Seavey stated she also has had grandchildren that have gone there, they haven't benefited by it because they've had to pay the full amount, but kids that can't afford to and mothers that wouldn't be able to go to work if they didn't have some kind of coverage for part of the cost of sending them to Day Care. They have 3 meals a day; they get there at 7:30 AM and they accommodate the parents until 5:00 PM or 5:30 PM and she thought it was a very worthy cause. Three thousand dollars isn't a lot to support the young kids and mothers that really want to go to work.

**Chairman Sordi moved, seconded by Karen Umberger, to accept Article 29 to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Seventy-Five**

Thousand Dollars (\$75,000.00), said sum to be allocated to the NORTH CONWAY COMMUNITY CENTER for programs of the North Conway Community Center. In favor: 14; Opposed: 2 - Ray Shakir and John Edgerton; Abstain: 0.

Chairman Sordi moved, seconded by Karen Umberger, to accept Article 30 to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Thirty-Five Thousand Five Hundred Sixty-Five Dollars (\$35,565.00) for the support of WHITE MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER to help meet the healthcare needs of the uninsured and underinsured residents of the Town of Conway. In favor: 14; Opposed: 2 - Doug Swett and Ray Shakir; Abstain: 0.

Lloyd Jones of The Daily Sun stated the Chairman keeps saying 15 to 2, but Mr. Mosca has left. Chairman Sordi apologized and thanked Mr. Jones for bringing that to his attention. The votes were re-tallied showing that Joe Mosca had left the meeting.

Chairman Sordi moved, seconded by Karen Umberger, to accept Article 31 to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Seven Thousand One Hundred Fourteen Dollars (\$7,114.00) in support of STARTING POINT providing advocacy and support to victims of domestic and sexual violence and their children. In favor: 12; Opposed: Doug Swett, Ray Shakir and Ted Sares; Abstain: 1 - Danielle Santuccio.

Ted Sares stated once again we have an increase in each of the last 3 years in the face of tough times. Chairman Sordi stated two years ago the number that came in was a significant reduction and they have gone up the last two years. They are one of the few non-profits that actually base their request on the number of people that they get from the Town of Conway. They take their full budget, they divide it up by the number of people that come and then they apportion it out to each of the different towns. They've had more people coming from Conway in the last couple of years than from other towns in the area, so that's why that amount has gone up.

John Edgerton stated this is one of those Articles to which the Town would have to spend more money because of the explanation the Police Department gave on how close they work with the Police Department, the security and safety of those people who are subject to violence.

Karen Umberger stated Starting Point went up \$233.00 from the year before. Last year they requested \$6,880.00 and this year they are requesting \$7,114.00. It's not like it's \$1,000.00, \$2,000.00 or \$3,000.00.

Chairman Sordi stated and they have had an increase with the number of people from the Town of Conway.

Ted Sares stated but it's the trend up, that's what he was getting at. Chairman Sordi stated and unfortunately or sadly it's the trend of the number of Conway residents that have needed their help too.

Dick Klement stated did he misunderstand Lt. Perley when he said there were 9 rapes, was it last year or the year before. Chairman Sordi stated he did not know. Dick stated so we're setting records where we don't want to be setting records and these women are going to need our help.

Karen Umberger stated she was just going to say that assaults went up.

**Chairman Sordi moved, seconded by Betty Loynd, to accept Article 32 to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000.00), in the interest of public welfare, same to be payable to COMMUNITY LEGAL SERVICES, INC., a NH non-profit organization. Said Community Legal Services, Inc. is offering low cost legal services to residents of the Conway area, at space currently provided by the Northern Carroll County VNA, on Seavey Street, North Conway. In favor: 5 - Kelly DeFeo, Dick Klement, Maureen Seavey, Brian Charles and Betty Loynd; Opposed: 11; Abstain: 0.**

#### OTHER MATTERS

Karen Umberger stated she had just a couple of things she wanted to say. There are two petitioned Articles on the Warrant, 34 and 35, that deal with the Budget Committee. Recognizing that they have no financial impact except that the Budget Committee Chairman does receive \$100.00 a year. Chairman Sordi stated no he doesn't. Karen stated yes, he does. Chairman again stated no he doesn't. Karen stated according to the Budget he does. Chairman stated according to the Budget yes, but he doesn't take it. Karen stated that's neither here nor there, it's a budget item, you are entitled to it, whether you take it or not is immaterial. However, whoever did these Petitions and it doesn't say, normally when you read the Article it shows who the lead petitioner was, but in this case it does not. It is evident that whoever submitted this is not aware that we have a Charter and in order to make any changes to the Budget Committee's authority, position or anything else, it requires a Charter change. When she was a Selectman in 2005 she believed it was, she requested that the Selectmen and the Town Manager think about setting up a Charter Committee for a Charter change and you can see that it's now 2012 and no action having been taken on that issue. As she happened to be going through the Charter today, she saw that there were some other issues that the Town has overlooked in relationship to amount of time that people can serve on certain committees. She thought it was important, if people are going to do this then they should confer with folks that understand what the Town is about and how it is the way it is. Whether these pass or not, they won't affect anything the Budget Committee does because the Charter is the rule and this is not how you amend the Charter.

Mike DiGregorio stated just so it's clear to everybody, he wrote those Articles and he did read the Charter and, as Karen (Umberger) pointed out, the Charter has a tremendous amount of flaws in it going back from right after it was written. Part of the Charter says it should be updated every two years. There have been many changes in the way we do business in this Town and the Charter has not been updated or changed. One of the biggest things within the Charter is it has to comply with State law and State law decides whether a Budget Committee goes in or out. The Town Attorney is currently looking at the Charter to determine legally where it stands and we'll get an opinion on that at any time. The Charter was based off of the Home Rule Law which he couldn't quote off hand. Karen stated RSA 49. Mike stated RSA 49 talks a lot about what the local voters can and can't do and who has the authority to make changes and the legislative body has the authority so we'll find out legally who can make changes and if it's simply done at the Deliberative portion. The funny

thing about the Charter is that it doesn't even talk about SB2, it simply talks about the Town Meeting, so we don't even do that any more. Karen stated excuse me, we hold a Town Meeting.

Chairman Sordi shut the discussion down and stated that this would be discussed he was sure at the Deliberative. Mike DiGregorio stated we will definitely be debating this on Deliberative night, there's no doubt about it. Chairman stated he was sure we would but there's no sense debating it tonight because everybody's tired.

Chairman Sordi thanked everyone for their help and cooperation. Someone from the audience questioned the Chairman about public comments and the Chairman stated no public comments, that was last night.

Kelly DeFeo left the meeting prior to public comment.

Mark Hounsell stated Point of Order. This is a public meeting and you always have public comment. He sat through this meeting in order to make public comment. Now it may be inconvenient for you folks to sit here another 5 minutes or so, but it was a little bit tedious for him to sit here and listen to the debate, although he did enjoy it. He would submit that it is out of order not to allow public comment. Chairman Sordi advised Mr. Hounsell to proceed.

Mark Hounsell stated he wanted to rise and speak against this Amendment to rescind the Budget Committee. He does so because of things like tonight. There was a stellar performance this year. He believes this Budget Committee this year and he's watched it on television and he's sat here tonight has done a stellar performance. Much better than what it has done in the past he would observe. The purpose of the Budget Committee is to serve in the capacity of representative government that allows the people to measure with their confidence of vote whether or not their recommendations are in order. Without a Budget Committee, the questions and answers and debates that you've held here could only be done at the Deliberative Meeting. If that was to take place at the Deliberative Meeting, the work would not be done. First of all, there's low turn out at the Deliberative Meeting in most years. Second, who can sit there in a Deliberative Meeting and go through all the questions and look at the scrutiny that this Budget Committee has done over the last 6 months. It is absolutely essential to representative government that the Budget Committee exist. No matter how frustrating it is at times, it serves a purpose that is absolutely vital to democracy. He thanked the Committee for allowing this public comment because it's going out on Channel 3 and he wants people to understand, very much understand that to rescind the Budget Committee is a step backwards, not a step forward. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Stephen Steiner stated the comment he had was this: he saw the Committee debate all these different Warrant Articles and these Budgets and he saw so much of a rubber stamp when it came to the School Budget but then we started looking at the Town Budget and we started making cuts. He would ask the members when they go home and go down the strip, look at all of the hotels and look at all of the tourists that are in those hotels. He wanted them to go find out like he did, go down and find out what these hotels are paying in property taxes and ask yourself how in the h\*\*\* do

they stay in business. You guys are putting shackles on them and it's not easy to stay in business with these high property taxes. That's basically it, but he does want the members to go and not just to the hotels, any of the stores down here.

Stephen Steiner further stated that he was talking to Greydon (Turner) the other day and Greydon said "it's seasonal". That's right and our property taxes should be seasonal. This is not a 365 days a year tourist attraction, we have seasonal, we have mud season. What he's trying to say is that the hotels still need to turn their lights on, they don't shut their lights off during mud season. They still have to employ people in the Valley. Just imagine if the taxes were lower, maybe these poor hospitality workers could start making more money. You guys are stifling businesses in this community with these things. He disagrees with the gentleman about how great of a job you did because he thought what the Committee had done is put big shackles on these businesses and they're not going to be around.

Stephen Steiner stated to Greydon (Turner) that he was going to put a Bowling Alley downtown when he got his money, now he wouldn't put a Bowling Alley in North Conway to save his life because he couldn't afford it. How could he afford it; is he suppose to charge people \$10.00 a lane to go bowl. It's crazy what you guys are doing and then there's these not for profits for \$2,000.00 or \$3,000.00 and you're cutting them out and then you just rubber stamped a \$33 Million School Budget, that is such a bogus.

Dale Thomas stated she was here concerning the last Article voted on for the CLS, Community Legal Service, for people that are poor. She herself is on disability and they have helped her, they cut the fees, they asked for a \$2,000.00 Grant or whatever to help them get started and it was denied. People don't know that the service is out here. She tried calling Pro Bono and they wanted a \$3,000.00 retainer fee. She called Legal Services and they wanted \$2,500.00. These people took her case for \$365.00 to represent her in Court and she met with her lawyer twice. These people are trying to help the community to get them through because people like her on disability don't have \$3,000.00 to put out or \$2,500.00 to put out to get yourself a lawyer. She is suing a contractor and she herself brought it through District Court and now it's going through a Jury Trial and she can not do it herself and you people probably have no idea what CLS is, but it's community low payment service for a lawyer for citizens in the Town.

Chairman Sordi stated he wanted to thank everyone for all of their help. He knows it has been a long slog. The Deliberative Meeting is March 5<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> at the High School.

**Danielle Santuccio moved, seconded by Brian Charles, to adjourn the meeting at 10:30 PM. Motion carried unanimously.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Iris A. Bowden, Recording Secretary