

**MINUTES OF MEETING  
MUNICIPAL BUDGET COMMITTEE  
February 6, 2013**

A meeting of the Municipal Budget Committee was called to order at 6:32 PM in the Professional Development Room at Kennett Middle School with the following members present: Chairman Joe Mosca, Maureen Seavey, Steven Steiner (arriving at 6:40 PM)=, Peter Donohoe, Maury McKinney, Karen Umberger, Bill Marvel, Karen Milford, Mark Hounsell, Doug Swett, John Edgerton, Michael Fougere, Brian Charles, Danielle Santuccio, Mike DiGregorio, Greydon Turner and Syndi White. Also present: Crow Dickinson, Selectman; Dave Weathers, Selectman; Mary Seavey, Selectman; Stacy Sands, Selectman and Eric Eisele from The Daily Sun.

Greydon Turner led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Mosca welcomed everyone to the joint meeting with the Budget Committee and the Board of Selectmen to review the non-profit applications.

TRI-COUNTY CAP TRANSIT

Jack Rose, Chairman of Carroll County Transportation, Blue Loon Bus Service System made the presentation. Mr. Rose stated he was here to hopefully convince the Budget Committee, which members have a packet they received previously, to approve their budget request of \$3,000.00 for use in running their Dial-A-Ride buses. They have 2 bus systems in operation: one of them is to schedule buses which is paid for by the Department of Transportation that members see running from West Ossipee to North Conway to Wolfeboro to Laconia. The system that he is looking for funding for is the Dial-A-Ride buses. That's the door to door bus service. Just in the last half of last year there were 1,419 rides, that's round trip on Blue Loon Dial-A-Ride buses. That equates to about 2,800 rides per year and they're asking for \$3,000.00 which is just like \$1.00 a ride; \$3,000.00 compared to your citizenship is pretty low as well.

Mr. Rose further stated there's been a lot of talk about the condition of what's going on with Tri-County CAP. He has a letter which he would like to circulate which explains their position and he thought would be very helpful. Tri-County CAP is being operated by a Trustee of the Attorney General along with the Chief Operating Officer who has been in charge of the company. He also has a copy of the Budget which he wished to circulate to the members. He also circulated a new brochure he designed and attached to it are endorsements from Ray Burton and from the President of Memorial Hospital.

Mr. Rose stated that they have been successful with their bus system here in Conway. The ridership has grown; the people are depending on it. Last year, this Committee turned him down when he came and requested \$3,000.00. Fortunately two private donors put up the \$3,000.00 and they were able to keep that service running uninterrupted. He would hopefully not have to go back to a private donor because you can't always find them and trust that the members will be willing to give them the \$3,000.00

which they are looking for in order to operate the Dial-A-Ride System successfully.

Karen Milford stated when she looks at the Budget from last year it looks like there's quite a discrepancy, quite a shortfall with the actual revenue and expenses. Where did that additional funding come from last year. Mr. Rose stated it came from some purchase of service money which they were able to get from the Department of Transportation which totaled around \$90,000.00 for use between three systems: Tri-County CAP Transportation, Gibson Center and RSVP.

John Edgerton stated this is just Carroll County Transit, you don't have the rent on the building, no expense on the building. Mr. Rose stated no.

Bill Marvel stated he sees a line for Program Income (Fare Box), is that a real fare box. Mr. Rose stated yes, it is. Bill stated then why is there no actual income. Mr. Rose stated he couldn't answer that question, there should have been, but there is not. They do have a fare box. Bill stated but you don't know how much you got out of it. Mr. Rose stated the fare box mostly applies to the route buses and the fare box is on each bus. It's not necessarily used with the Dial-A-Ride System. The Dial-A-Ride System works on a different basis. Bill asked if the Budget was for both systems or only for the one. Mr. Rose stated that Budget is for both systems. Bill stated but there's still no fare box income. Mr. Rose stated he couldn't answer that and apologized.

Stacy Sands stated it shows on their Operations that they have a Contract Maintenance Service for the bus line, but then under Salaries there is Maintenance also. She was wondering what that was. Mr. Rose stated it depends on the level of maintenance. Ms. Sands asked if they hired a maintenance person to maintain the buses or is it a different maintenance fee. Mr. Rose stated there is a maintenance service that maintains the buses, but also some of the drivers do some of the minor maintenance.

Bill Marvel stated what Stacy (Sands) was talking about is not the Contract Service Revenue line. What would that entail and why would there have been such large expectations and no income. Mr. Rose stated he couldn't answer that either.

Chairman Mosca thanked Mr. Rose for coming in.

#### NORTH CONWAY COMMUNITY CENTER

Ryan Sommer, Executive Director, made the presentation. Mr. Sommer stated he has been the Executive Director for the past 8 years, he is going on his 8<sup>th</sup> year. He comes before the members to again ask for support in voting for the North Conway Community Center's request for \$75,000.00 for this year. This is the same request that they have had for the past 6 years. Their Budget is slightly up from last year, 1.73%, but their request is still flat funded. With the activities that are increasing at the North Conway Community Center it is still a vital resource for the Town of Conway and the citizens of Conway to continue to vote for this Article in every year. In their programs every year their numbers go up. The enrollment, the activities, the new activities and so forth continue to go up and as the Director, it is his responsibility to offset those

costs with program costs and so forth. Without this financial support from the Town and from the citizens, it would be a true hardship for the Community Center.

Bill Marvel stated one thing he wanted to point out about most of the non-profits that have tax exemption, in the case of the Community Center that's a \$16,500.00 tax exemption, so a request for money on top of that would mean essentially the Town is contributing \$91,500.00. This really isn't a question, but a thought from him, we have a \$320,000.00 Budget for Town Recreation and it just seems to him that maybe it is time to start phasing out private.

Mr. Sommer stated he would agree that it's North Conway based but a lot of his clientele are not just from North Conway. They have in most of the programs that they offer open it to all residents, not just from North Conway but from other areas as well. The Summer Camp is as well as the Tackle Football Program is, but there is an influx between the two, and he didn't want to say North Conway and Conway, that utilizes the Community Center facilities as well as the Playground as well as the activities and programs.

Bill Marvel stated he understood that. It does seem that it would just be logical because of the location.

Maureen Seavey stated she has kids that go to the North Conway and she pays part of this tax and she pays for the kids in Center Conway. She really didn't think it was a fair thing to say because a majority of the kids that go there are from North Conway that go to the North Conway Community Center. She thought it was unfair to say we should cut their \$75,000.00 when her tax dollars are going into Conway where her grandchildren use the North Conway Community Center; yet she has no problem with paying Conway's too because it's for the kids of Conway.

Bill Marvel stated he guessed he would say that overall we're spending well over \$400,000.00 on recreation essentially for children. He thought we are only spending, including tax exemption about \$51,000.00 or \$52,000.00 for the other end of the age spectrum which he thought was much more numerous.

Karen Milford stated she spent some time thinking about that, like if we some how brought the Centers together or tried to consolidate efforts and she thought she ended up by thinking that we are getting a deal by only having to contribute \$75,000.00 to the value of the services that the North Conway Community Center provides. We don't have Union Contracts to deal with. We don't have to worry about adding their facility to the facilities that we maintain and she thought at least given the number of children that they service, she didn't know if our existing Town facilities could accommodate that. She felt like at this point in time and thought that it is worth looking at each year but felt that at this point in time she thought the Town was best served by paying this amount to the North Conway Community Center.

Bill Marvel stated he thought Karen (Milford) may be right about that, but perhaps the direction to look is the other. If we're paying so much

on the Town side, perhaps that's the side we need to adjust. We're paying, from our perspective, more than three times as much.

Steven Steiner apologized for being late. Being that he runs his own not for profit, he thought not for profits tend to be able to get more done with less. He agrees that we should look at the Town Recreation Center. We have a Director that's getting paid \$64,000.00 or \$70,000.00 a year. Steven asked Mr. Sommer how much he was getting paid. Mr. Sommer stated he gets paid \$47,250.00. Steven stated that's a deal. Bottom line, that's what he would do.

Karen Milford stated her only other comment is before she came here tonight she did kind of look at what the Conway Rec Department does. They clearly manage quite a few more facilities, they do offer more programs than what North Conway does, but she thought at this point in time and she couldn't say there's excess in the Conway side but she does feel that the way we have things structured at this point in time is optimal for what we are doing for the Town.

Stacy Sands asked Mr. Sommer if he charges anything extra for non-Conway residents or does he seek funding from other towns or fundraising in other towns specifically for a purpose. Mr. Sommer stated they do have a fee structure for non-taxpayers for Summer Camp that's about \$100.00 more per child. For their Football Program, it's \$20.00 to \$25.00 more and the other programs that they offer it's usually about \$5.00 more.

Karen Milford stated the only other comment that she would make is that her children have attended both the North Conway Day Care and they have attended for many years the North Conway Community Center and she knows the savings her family has experienced by sending her kids to North Conway Community Center in the summer. It was significant. The benefits that it provides to the families in terms of cost savings during the summer months for their children she thought is really significant. She didn't know if families could absorb the costs of sending their kids to Day Care. She thought, and she didn't want to say it's a Day Care facility, but she does think it provides just more than a form of recreation for our children.

Doug Swett stated he believed they do have one source of private income. Mr. Sommer stated they don't use that source as a private Fund. You're talking about the Sprague Fund which has about \$100,000.00 in that account that was donated from Charlie Sprague almost 15 years ago. The way the donation was set up was that they have the ability to utilize the interest from that Fund to purchase new equipment, to enhance recreational programs and activities and so forth. He doesn't have the ability to tap into the \$125,000.00.

Doug Swett stated what he has always been concerned was that if they did away with that up there, that would put us in a position of running buses back and forth.

Mary Seavey stated she really finds it hard to believe that the Conway entity could support in themselves all of the community needs in this Valley and she thought each of these places have a very strong support for them and as a taxpayer in Conway, she certainly finds it's support

for our children and she doesn't have children and feels we can support both of them.

Mr. Sommer stated he just wanted to point out, and he is sorry to interject but the Town of Conway Recreation has been brought up quite a bit. You have two departments who work for the most part hand in hand. We do some overlapping programs, but there are some programs that we offer that are very different. We have a lot of collaboration between the two departments. We work very well together. This is by no means between the Conway and North Conway Community Center looking to put a divide between the two entities. Over the last 8 years we have done a nice job having a working relationship with each other and thought they do a very nice job for not only kids, but for adults in this town.

Stacy Sands stated her comment was that she knows the Summer Program in Conway was full last year and she believed Mr. Sommer's was also full last year. To combine those two would probably be very difficult at this point. She would like to reiterate what Doug (Swett) said about the buses, she thought we'd get into a whole other issue there and to reiterate what Mr. Sommer said which was that they don't just serve children. Mr. Sommer stated correct.

Mike Fougere asked about how many families does the North Conway Community Center serve, not children but families. Mr. Sommer stated in the sense of all activities that they do and you're looking from special events to Zumba classes to Tango classes, he thought on an average family through the course of a year 250 to 300. You're looking at Breakfast with Santa, you have 150 people that comes to that event so you take those families in and they usually have 3 members so you're looking at 50 families right there. They have 125 kids participating in their Summer Camp program and most of them are two kids, so you have 60 families there. In the course of a year, and that excludes the Playgrounds next to the Community Center, at least 300 to 350 families.

Mike Fougere stated he saved substantially himself bringing his daughter, bringing his son and his daughter in, to the Day Cares over the years. They're great programs. You can't ask anything better for the kids. He can't support it enough.

John Edgerton stated just a minor item going back in history. The deed to the property is very specific and you've got to go look it up and see what the problems are, they can't be combined. Mark Hounsell stated he didn't hear what John stated at the end. John stated the deeds to the property in North Conway can not combine with Center Conway. Look at the deeds to the property and see what the restrictions are.

Bill Marvel stated he had a question for Karen (Milford) when she said that North Conway was a better deal. Did she mean the Town Recreation Department or private Day Care. Karen stated she was thinking more about the cost to have her children taken care of while she is working during the summer months when they don't have school. Opportunities they had with the Community Center, the value of those were pretty significant for the amount that they spent.

Mary Seavey stated you can't let out the Mud Bowl which is through the Community Center that not only brings in revenue, it brings in revenue all over. It brings in everything for this Valley that we are getting back as taxpayers. She thought it was important to look at the big scope of it for what we are paying.

Chairman Mosca thanked Mr. Sommer for coming in.

WHITE MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER

Patricia McMurry, Executive Director, and Judith Towne, Business Manager, made the presentation. Ms. McMurry stated she was going to talk briefly about what they do at the Health Center. They have been in existence for 11 years and have asked for level funding since their existence, even though they have doubled the amount of patients that they have seen in those 11 years. They work very hard to try to keep level funding for all of the towns that they request support from.

Ms. McMurry stated they do primary care for men, women and children. They have a dental program for children. They do family planning and they have an array of staff, mostly Nurse Practitioners. They have a physician, a dentist, dental hygienist, dental assistant, and nursing staff. They do a lot in a small building. In fact, they are sort of crunched inside that building. They do a little bit of outreach because of that as well.

Ms. McMurry stated members have probably heard a lot of what they have done in the past, she usually reads along that takes 5 to 10 minutes, but she is not going to do that tonight.

Bill Marvel stated he guessed the only question he had was the Executive Director's salary the same last year, less last year. Ms. McMurry stated she thought everyone had a 2% raise. It was the same last year and they've budgeted for 2% for everyone now. Bill stated for next year. Ms. McMurry stated yes.

Mark Hounsell stated he had no problem with this; this is one of the most important health care opportunities for several families, scores perhaps. He did have a question though; as far as the potential impact of Memorial Hospital going to Maine Medical and having Maine Medical in fact be this. Did they have any comment about that.

Ms. McMurry stated it will have one negative impact that they are trying to mitigate. That impact is that they buy all of their insurance, workers comp, liability through the hospital and because they are a bigger buying group than them, they're not paying as much as if they went out on their own. With Maine Health purchasing the Hospital, they won't be able to do that any more. They are going to have to try and look for a group to make them a little bit larger to buy their insurances. Other than that, there shouldn't be any impact. The Hospital provides community benefits that support them and as they have grown, they have told the Hospital where they needed a little bit more support and the Hospital has done that; the Hospital has been very supportive.

Mark Hounsell stated he understood that; his concern is when this goes to a Board of Directors based in Portland, Maine that they may for business

reasons just cut you loose and what type of impact might that be for your organization. It probably goes beyond what you're requesting here, but at the same time, it's a concern to him and he was wondering if it was a concern to them that the authority to say goodbye from Memorial is very real.

Ms. McMurry stated it is; their understanding however is that Maine Health embraces the Memorial Hospital's support of them and other people and that will continue. In fact, she is working with the CEO of the Hospital right now to formalize, to make them more contractual than just a hand shake. That's part of the reason because Maine Health would like that, Memorial would like that and of course she would like that as well because that kind of formalizes the whole relationship. She thought they would be fine.

Mark Hounsell stated he thought the community would like to see that as well, that type of commitment. Ms. McMurry stated she was hearing that from the Hospital.

John Edgerton asked what effect does Obama Care have or have you looked at it as to what it's going to do to you in the future. Ms. McMurry stated she had and she has some data that may be helpful; she and Karen (Umberger) were at a Legislative meeting this morning in Concord and the LEWIN Report estimates that all of the community health centers will see an increase in utilization for newly insured people of 70% above current utilization. That's a guess. They are also looking at, and Massachusetts has done this, and Judith (Towne) worked there in a health center. Ms. Towne stated there was certainly a significant increase in the number of people trying to access medical care and there wasn't enough medical care to go around. The capacity of providers to meet the need was not predicted as much as it actually happened. What it means to them is that they want to be prepared to serve the community in the way that they have and not be overwhelmed or leave people out that need to have medical assistance.

Ms. McMurry stated that's another reason why the Hospital wants to work with them because they are going to have a similar impact. All of the providers are going to have more people. You all access health care and generally most people don't access it unless they need it. Not a lot of Americans are into prevention even though we should be. People that haven't had it and have a symptom or an issue will access it and that's the whole purpose. They hope that there will be more prevention if people are actually covered.

John Edgerton stated he asked that question because most doctors are refusing Medicaid soon, if not already and you will be the only source other than the Emergency Room.

Ms. McMurry stated actually she hadn't heard that. She does know that another practice in town does freely take Medicaid and she was not sure what the other practice does. She had not heard that, but they will continue to do that.

Greydon Turner asked if a portion of their clients come from the Bartlett/Jackson area. Ms. McMurry stated yes. Greydon asked how many and

that he didn't need an exact number, just a rough percentage would be fine. Ms. McMurry stated 7% or 8% maybe. They do ask for town funds from them too. It's all proportionate to the number of people that they see.

Chairman Mosca thanked Ms. McMurry and Ms. Towne for coming in.

#### NORTHERN HUMAN SERVICES

Jane McKay, Area Director for Northern Human Services in Conway and Wolfeboro, made the presentation. She wrote some of her presentation down because this is the first time she has spoken to the Committee. She will try to make it brief in order to give the members time to ask questions. Of course, she wanted to thank the Committee for allowing her to speak.

Mrs. McKay stated as you know, Northern Human Services has not requested funding for the past few years. She has been Area Director for Northern Human Services in Littleton for several years. As a cost savings measure because, like all other health care and social service and non-profit businesses, they're stretching everyone to the max these days. She has assumed responsibility for Conway, Wolfeboro, Carroll County. When she came down to Conway she realized they were not asking the Town of Conway for funding although they were asking and receiving funding from every other town. That seemed crazy to her and she asked their secretary why that was and she said that several years ago they had been turned down 2 years in a row and it felt sort of hopeless. She apologized for that; that's kind of embarrassing that they just sort of folded their tent. She guesses the Town has gotten a good deal in a way because they have continued to serve people during this period without any retrenchment of services. She is here to sort of rectify that situation.

Mrs. McKay stated she wanted to provide the Committee with a little bit of information to sort of convince the members that funding mental health services is not just the right thing to do for residents, but it's also a very wise investment for the Town. She wanted to just say again that you are sort of the only Town that they haven't approached and they certainly can't blame the Town for not appropriating money if they don't ask.

Mrs. McKay stated that about 20%, a little more than 20%, of their clients are from the Town of Conway. Members can see in their packet that Northern provided 1,386 hours of service to 227 Conway residents last year. Their cost to provide the service is about \$115.00 per hour because they employ licensed mental health clinicians, psychiatrists, professional staff, so the cost to them for providing the services, these are services for people that are uninsured and are coming to them for Outpatient services, regular people. She will tell the members in a second that that's sort of a second population from the people that the State of New Hampshire assists them in supporting through Medicaid. Anyway, their cost was about \$159,000.00 to provide services to residents of Conway last year. They are asking for the Town to contribute about 6% of the cost and they are writing off about 94% and that's part of why they ended their Outpatient services last year with a deficit of \$405,000.00. They certainly are not doing well these days.

Mrs. McKay stated that a common misconception is that Northern Human Services receives State funding to support services to people who are

uninsured. Actually they receive no money at all from any source to help them see people who can't pay. In a way, they are exactly like a group mental health practice in this regard, but at the same time they're considered the safety net provided for people who need services and don't have the means to pay for them. Again, they are not receiving any funding from the State or Federal Government to do that. Those days are long gone.

Mrs. McKay stated at this point what they are really looking at is that about 75% of the people walking in their door are not, as they say "State eligible", meaning they're not seriously mentally ill people who would otherwise be treated in the State Hospital. Those folks are funded, not adequately, but certainly they are funded somewhat by Medicaid. If they have Medicaid, they will bill Medicaid and the State of New Hampshire considers the way they fund mental health services. Without getting too technical, the State of New Hampshire has turned every dollar they give them into Medicaid Match. They don't get any money from the State, what they get is permission to bill Medicaid and the State puts up 50% of that payment. They can get that money by serving people who are very seriously mentally ill; they have to have a specific biologic serious mental illness diagnosis after having been hospitalized. There's a whole bunch of criteria.

Mrs. McKay stated what they were coming to the Town for was for everybody else. She is getting to the end. Why should you fund us. She could sort of imagine herself in these times thinking "okay, that's a sad story, but why should the Town be worried about this" and she thought it really was because mental illness really impacts the whole fabric of the community. There are dramatic examples like the Newtown shooting of course and all of the other terrible situations that you read about in the newspaper, but if you worked in her office you would see what doesn't happen in the Town of Conway because they are there. Every day, and she is not exaggerating, they see people coming in their doors who are not yet seriously mentally ill, but who are in great distress and are a risk to the community. She doesn't mean to say that people that have an emotional problem are high risk, but there is some risk not just of violence but of things like losing your job or showing up for Town welfare or becoming overwhelmed and drinking and abusing your child. All of those kinds of things when people are under great economic and social stress. These are people who can't pay because it's a vicious cycle. Your life begins to deteriorate, your economic condition deteriorates and then you can't pay for services to get things better.

Mrs. McKay stated she just wanted to say that they are asking for breaks down to \$7.29 an hour to provide residents of Conway with very costly professional medical services because she does consider mental health a form of health care. She actually doesn't consider it a social service, she considers it health care because mental health and physical health are very closely aligned as any of you who have suffered with any kind of mental condition could confirm that your whole being is really impacted. She was asking the members to consider this an appropriation not just to be good to people, but to be good to the community and to avoid the impact of not treating people that need to be treated.

John Edgerton stated you brought up the subject of Newtown; how many clients do you have that are a hazard if going off drugs to the community. Mrs. McKay stated many she would say, but she doesn't have the list. She didn't know if the members were aware that there's been, and this is another whole topic, but these are really terrible times in the mental health world. Right now today, every day she gets the list, there are 4 people in Huggins Hospital who have actually been involuntarily committed to the State Hospital but there are no beds, so they are being warehoused in the Emergency Room at Huggins and there's one person tonight in Memorial, but a lot of times there will be 6. To answer your question, she thought more and more there are people who need to be on medication and who need treatment who are not getting treatment and if we aren't able to see them for free or for a small amount of money, they are going to give up and they are not going to be seen. There are a lot of private practitioners in the Valley and many of them have been their employees, some of them are excellent but they are all, of course, trying to make a living, so their ability to see people for \$10.00 is nil; so they're it.

John Edgerton asked if those people that are hazardous to communities, are they reported to NCIC. Mrs. McKay stated she didn't know what NCIC was. John stated it was a division of the FBI that controls threat investigations. Mark Hounsell stated oh, for heaven's sake. Mrs. McKay stated they have very specific guidelines about when they can and can't report. People who make a specific threat are reported, but you'll have to talk to our Legislature about the rules for confidentiality.

Bill Marvel stated he didn't see a line for the Executive Director's salary. Mrs. McKay stated you're right and she could certainly tell Bill the salary. That salary is spread between 7 cost centers and this year they didn't allocate any of the Executive Director's time to Conway. She should have brought the location analysis because the Conway and Wolfeboro areas are losing so much money. Conway and Wolfeboro are their losing areas for a number of reasons. The salary of the Executive Director is \$129,000.00 and it's spread throughout the Agency. That's not her salary, that's the Executive Director of Northern Human Services.

Bill Marvel asked if it was Dennis McKay. Mrs. McKay stated yes. Bill asked if he was any relation. Mrs. McKay stated yes, only by marriage though, no blood relationship.

Peter Donohoe asked Mrs. McKay to explain what the basis is for the Bad Debt Expense. Mrs. McKay stated Bad Debt is people who don't pay. They budget a certain amount of money for Bad Debt every year and it shows up in their fiscal statements.

Peter Donohoe stated he heard Mrs. McKay say that they were doubling up on management to try to save costs and he noticed that there is a Staff Psychiatrist between both Conway and Wolfeboro that are separate line items and that hasn't been considered. Mrs. McKay stated they have two psychiatrists. Peter stated right, there's a line item for a Conway Staff Psychiatrist and then one in Wolfeboro as well. Mrs. McKay stated correct. Peter asked if there was a mandate that requires one for each location. Mrs. McKay stated no, they really are struggling with 2 Psychiatrists. They have a case load of about 600 open cases, so they are

working very hard. Their Wolfeboro Psychiatrist actually comes to Conway every other Friday because the Conway Psychiatrist just can't manage the load.

Karen Umberger stated looking at your Budget for 2013, you're showing Local & County Government contribution of \$21,000.00 and she assumes of that they are asking Conway for \$10,000.00. Mrs. McKay stated no, sorry. The Budget for 2013 isn't done yet. They are not on the Town's fiscal year so this is a rough projection. She didn't do it actually, their CFO did it. She thought he looked at last year probably; he projected based on last year and they didn't ask Conway last year so the total is actually, and she did it this morning, is \$35,000.00 that they get from towns. She apologized if the projection is inaccurate.

Karen Umberger asked how the organization interacts with the Peer Support Group. Mrs. McKay stated they have a really good relationship. She was in fact on the phone with Pat Powell a couple of days ago regarding a letter of support for their new Respite Center that they are considering. The Peer Support Center is focused on, and you must know since you mentioned it, assisting people with very serious mental illnesses. That's not the population we are asking for funding for because those are the people who are funded more by the State of New Hampshire. The Peer Support Center gets all of their funding from the State of New Hampshire, as far as she knows. They do refer people to the Peer Support Center, they are a nice resource. Northern goes there sometimes to give educational presentations. It's a cordial relationship.

Greydon Turner stated you mentioned that Wolfeboro and Conway are the ones that lose the most amount of money. Mrs. McKay stated yes. Greydon stated is he to understand that Littleton, for instance, makes up for some of these massive deficits. Mrs. McKay stated yes. Greydon stated that's a huge gap between the two. Mrs. McKay stated their mental health services system wide always ends the year with a deficit. It didn't used to be that way; there used to be a time when they ended substantially in the black actually. It's actually Berlin that bails everyone out. They have a different payer mix and they actually have many people in Berlin with serious mental illness because the Inpatient Unit used to be in Androscoggin Valley Hospital and they've been kind of a magnet for people with serious mental illness and weirdly enough, because they can bill for those folks if they have Medicaid, they actually help Northern out more in a way. It's people who don't have insurance and do not meet State eligibility criteria who really are the loss for them or people who meet State eligibility meaning they are very mentally ill and they have hospitalizations and they could be at very high risk. They run them by her every week, so she has 2 or 3 people a week in this category who are really ill and do not have Medicaid so they can't bill anybody for them. They don't have any money and the reason they don't have Medicaid is usually because they, or if it's a child their family, has private health insurance but it may have a very high deductible. Those are the people that they lose money on. Berlin makes Northern the most money on the mental health side, Littleton is next, Colebrook is third, Conway is fourth and Wolfeboro was a very big loser and it's been like that for the last few years.

Stacy Sand asked if Northern was the only provider for that group of people that are uninsured or not eligible for Medicaid. Mrs. McKay stated yes, they are; they have that distinction. Northern is the contractor for the State of New Hampshire for mental health services, substance abuse services and developmental services. The Agency also does services to people with mental retardation and developmental disabilities. They are it.

Mike DiGregorio stated that Mrs. McKay had mentioned that some of your clients or people with illnesses have been having extended stays at Emergency Rooms. Mrs. McKay stated yes. Mike asked Mrs. McKay to explain what's happening there either at a State level or local. That clearly is costing somebody a tremendous amount of money. Mrs. McKay stated it's costing the hospitals, it's costing Northern because they are providing a lot of support. She didn't think this is going to go on and on because the mental health centers are outraged, the hospitals are outraged. Mike asked why are they staying there. Mrs. McKay stated they are staying there because there aren't enough beds at the State Hospital. The State Hospital closed two Units of 12 beds each in the last couple of years, cost saving measures. The State doesn't have enough revenue. The money has to come from somewhere so some of that money came from the State Hospital and a lot of it came out of the mental health system. Don't get her started; they've had one rate cut after another.

Mrs. McKay stated the reason people are in the local Emergency Rooms is that they're deemed by a Psychiatrist, a doctor and often a family member that they could be in imminent danger to themselves or others so they are committed against their will to the New Hampshire State Hospital for treatment, but they don't go because there's literally no place to put them. What happens in many hospitals and it depends on the hospital, some hospitals will admit the patient and do their best to provide nursing care and some hospitals want to make a stand that they can't treat these people because they don't know how to treat psychiatric people so they'll keep them in the Emergency Room department which is horrible for the patient. When you talk about what it's costing, and she has talked to family members, think if that's your adolescent daughter who just made a suicide attempt and you think you're finally going to get her treatment and she's on a gurney in the hospital hall for 4 days instead of getting treatment. It's a ridiculous situation. It's so ridiculous that she thought there's a lot of movement now. She bets that when she comes back next year to this Committee, which she will, this will have changed.

Mike DiGregorio stated when that situation occurs, do you know how that's paid for. He can't imagine the hospital doing that entirely for free. Mrs. McKay stated if the person happens to have health insurance, the hospital can bill like they would for any other patient. The diagnosis would be severe depression. They can bill on a psychiatric diagnosis. If the person doesn't have insurance, the hospital loses. She was in the Lancaster area today meeting with the hospital and like all of the other hospitals they are very upset about this. They said that they had a person there for 12 days, the person was uninsured, so it cost them thousands and thousands of dollars because not only did they have a person there, but they had to call in security. This was a 14 year old boy who was in 4 point restraints for much of the time so they had to have the Police come in and watch him. So the hospital is also paying the

police. Meanwhile, Northern is being called every day as they should be to reassess that person to be sure that they are still meeting criteria for an involuntary admission. In many cases, they are actually going in to provide treatment in the hospital to see if they can get the situation stabilized so that they can go home. It's really pulling resources from their Agency as well. It's a crazy situation.

Bill Marvel stated he didn't see the standard question about whether or not Northern has a real estate tax exemption. Mrs. McKay stated it was in the application. They have a group home in Conway that's valued at \$257,300.00. Bill asked about the tax exemption from the Town. Mrs. McKay stated that she didn't think she knew the answer to that, but she did know what the Town values the property at. Bill stated he thought we needed to know that. Mrs. McKay stated she looked at the pilot bill and the property value is \$257,300.00 but she didn't think it said anything on that form about it. She apologized and stated that she could have called the Tax Office if she knew that was going to come into question. Mrs. McKay stated she could call tomorrow morning.

Bill Marvel asked how much is paid in taxes. Mrs. McKay stated \$3,250.00 and she wanted to say that the Kearsarge Group Home is an extremely important resource. If they didn't have those 12 people living in a Group Home they would be living in the community not supervised. Bill stated is the \$257,300.00 for the Group Home only or does it include their offices. Mrs. McKay stated she thought they don't pay for their office building. Bill asked what the exemption was on that building. Mrs. McKay stated she didn't know that answer and apologized. Bill stated it sounds like at \$3,250.00 about \$100,000.00 of the assessment is not taxed and if the other building is not taxed at all, it could be a significant tax exemption which he thought would be deducted from any request. Mrs. McKay stated she could increase the request to accommodate the deduction and she gets his point. She is not familiar with towns approaching it that way, she knows Conway does, but there's no other town that she goes to, and she goes to 36 towns, and she's not familiar with people looking at the fact that a non-profit doesn't pay taxes as if that money is part of the Town's contribution. She gets the reasoning. Bill stated Conway is the town here that has all of the buildings and we lose all of the taxes. That's a contribution in itself. You don't have a building in Albany. Mrs. McKay stated they have one in Wolfeboro, one in Ossipee, but you also get a huge advantage of having access to services locally.

Chairman Mosca stated we need to get going because we are getting really far behind so if you could keep your answers a little shorter, he hated to cut her off but there are 15 other people waiting. Chairman asked Mrs. McKay to get the Committee some numbers on tax exemptions, that would be great. Mrs. McKay asked if that was available at the Town Office. Chairman stated yes. Mrs. McKay asked who should she call for the information. It's your Town Office and she would be happy to get it, but you would have access to that information obviously.

Karen Umberger stated to Mrs. McKay you identify one Group Home and she understood there were two Group Homes in town. Mrs. McKay stated no. Karen stated there's just the one. Mrs. McKay stated just the Kearsarge Community Residence on Kearsarge Street. Karen stated the one on West

Main Street. Mrs. McKay stated that was their office building. Karen asked if they owned that building. Mrs. McKay stated yes.

Stacy Sand stated she wanted to clarify that the \$10,115.00 that Northern is asking for is the difference between what people are able to pay and what you would charge at the normal rate. Mrs. McKay stated no; the cost of their services is \$159,000.00 and people are able to pay almost nothing. Mrs. McKay asked Stacy if she was asking how they came up with that figure. Stacy stated she was. Mrs. McKay stated they figured that out many years ago based on population and they haven't moved it up. That's the same amount they asked for in 1996 and it was based on, she thought, \$1.50 per person. Stacy stated so you just came up with a general figure based on population to help shoulder the cost. Mrs. McKay stated it's based on the size of the town and it seems to work pretty well.

Chairman Mosca thanked Mrs. McKay for coming in.

#### GIBSON CENTER FOR SENIOR SERVICES

George Cleveland, Executive Director, made the presentation. He thought the members were fairly familiar with what they do. They provide Meals on Wheels, transportation and social/educational for seniors in the northern part of Carroll County, that's Madison north to Hart's Location and Chatham. Of all of that, members will see in the paperwork provided that 76% to 78% of all of that effort goes to Conway residents. He also pointed out that they are asking for more money than they did last year. It's the first increase they've asked for since 2003. They hope they can go at least another 10 years before having to ask for an increase.

Mr. Cleveland stated they have been hit with some fairly substantial unexpected expenses and surprises from the State of New Hampshire; however, they have attempted to make adjustments within their organization. As the members can see, they had to change their health insurance so that the employees' deductible went up \$1,000.00. Any frills that they had such as staff cell phones, like his own personal cell phone, had to go away. They had no Christmas message from Santa in their December checks this year, no Christmas bonus and their Board of Directors actually stepped up and individually paid for their Christmas Party this year. They have been making substantial cuts wherever they can. He also wanted to point out, as you all may be aware, that they did quite a building project in North Conway this year of building a new Thrift Shop and expanding their parking lot. The entire project was paid for out of raised money from Foundations and individuals and no operating income whatsoever went into that project.

Karen Umberger thanked Mr. Cleveland for coming, it's always a pleasure. It was her understanding in the past and maybe her mind is not working well, but the money that was requested was for the food program, the nutrition program. Mr. Cleveland stated no, it primarily goes for Conway's share of not just nutrition, but transportation also and programs.

Karen Umberger asked if Mr. Cleveland was able to work anything out with the State on transportation or was that still an issue. Mr. Cleveland

stated it's an ongoing issue. He is a lot more confident about it now than he was before. What Karen's referring to is the State came in kind of in the middle of the ball game last year and said "oh, you need to start counting your transportation units differently" and that little differently cost them \$50,000.00 and it was retroactive to the beginning of the fiscal year which is a very pleasant surprise to have. Briefly, all of you here know very well that, according to the State of New Hampshire, anything that is much north of Concord or Laconia is another state altogether so that when they were trying to devise how to calculate the transportation unit, that was being done by somebody in Manchester or Concord, where a transportation unit, which is a ride, person on the bus and off the bus, could be half a mile. Here it could be 18 miles and the roads aren't all as good as they are in Manchester. They lost a considerable amount there. Their unit cost in here is something like \$19.00 and they get \$5.74 from the State per ride. They've had a big hole and have had to do a lot of scrambling to fill that.

Karen Umberger stated the last question that she has is the door-to-door service by the Blue Loon, has that reduced his number of rides in relationship to their door-to-door service. We heard earlier tonight that the number was 3,000 and what has that done to your door-to-door service. Mr. Cleveland stated not a thing. If anything, it's probably augmented it. That's how they look at it. They have a fairly well trained base of riders who understand that if you want a ride from the Gibson Center, you call at least 24 hours ahead of time, tell them where you want to go and they try to do things a certain way, a certain day so that they are not going to Madison and Bartlett on the same day. They spend most of their time in the Conways. He would say the Blue Loon is an augmentation to their service as far as their Dial-A-Ride is concerned and it remains to be seen on the larger route what impact that may or may not have.

Bill Marvel stated first he would like to recruit Mr. Cleveland to maybe do a seminar in budget managing for our Superintendent. He did just in the interest of fairness want to point out that Gibson gets \$23,000.00, almost \$24,000.00 tax exemption. Mr. Cleveland stated that is correct. Bill stated that doesn't look like that's factored into the proportion. Mr. Cleveland stated it is not. Bill stated his theme is that it should be. Mr. Cleveland stated he has heard that.

Stacy Sand stated with your new building, are there additional maintenance and upkeep costs, property costs that you are having to incur; has it also increased your tax exemption because now you've added another building and is that part of what you are looking for in your increase. Mr. Cleveland stated he didn't know about the tax exemption yet because they had to blend the lots, so he doesn't really know what the new figure is going to be based on. The property they bought, the Kennison House, was a separate lot and it's now combined and he honestly doesn't know what that figure is at this time. Mr. Cleveland stated on increased maintenance for the building, you betcha. It has to be heated and taken care of and maintained and shoveled and sanded and salted like everything else. What they are hoping is that everybody here will make more visits to the Thrift Shop so that they can see that income go up. Ms. Sand stated she assumed that's what the goal was.

John Edgerton stated the new Thrift Shop takes the place of the one that is gone. Mr. Cleveland stated we doubled the size. John stated we are in better shape now. Mr. Cleveland stated much better shape. A much more comfortable shopping experience.

Mr. Cleveland stated any of you that have never been to the Gibson Center for lunch or been there to see what they do, you are invited at any time. Give him a holler as he would love to show anyone around. Chairman Mosca stated he had been shopping there.

Chairman Mosca thanked Mr. Cleveland for coming in.

#### TRI-COUNTY COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAM

Kathleen McCaush, Energy Programs Manager, made the presentation. Ms. McCaush stated she had never been to one of the Budget hearings, it's usually one of their staff that attends this, however they've had some staff changes so here she is. There was a letter that they sent today from the Trustee, Todd Fahey, to the Town of Conway explaining the status of Tri-County CAP which she was sure everyone had questions about. She would be happy to answer as best as she could. Ms. McCaush asked if members had a copy of that letter. Members stated they did. Ms. McCaush stated that Todd Fahey was the Trustee that was appointed by the Attorney General's Office and that Tri-County CAP right now was basically being operated by the Trustee. Peter Higbee is the Chief Operations Officer, he's the person whose in charge of the Agency; however, the Trustee has taken the place of the Board of Directors and is the one that makes all of the final decisions about what they do or don't do.

John Edgerton asked how many square feet do they occupy in the building. Ms. McCaush asked what building. John stated you are paying rent of almost \$29,000.00 a year. Ms. McCaush asked if it was for a number of their locations. John stated you have more than one location. Ms. McCaush stated yes, they have a number of locations and she was not really sure what John was looking at. John asked if they were paying anything at the Tri-County building. Ms. McCaush stated yes, they have to pay rent at that building just like any other tenant of the building to take care of the expenses of it, but they certainly don't occupy 29,000 feet of it.

Ms. McCaush stated their request is the same as what it has been for the past 3 years and she wanted to say that with the budget cuts that they've sustained through a bunch of their programs, their Federal funding was cut last year substantially for their Fuel Assistance Program and the support from the local towns and you all is as important as ever, probably more important than it has ever been. They are really glad to have the members support and hope they can count on it again this year.

Chairman Mosca thanked Ms. McCaush from coming in.

#### CHILDREN UNLIMITED

Jackie Sparks, Executive Director, made the presentation. Ms. Sparks stated she comes with appreciation for all of the support the Committee has given Children Unlimited over the many years that they have been

coming to the Town. Ms. Sparks asked if the Committee wanted an overview or just ask questions. Chairman Mosca stated whatever you'd like; if you're comfortable with just us having this, that's fine. He was sure everyone had looked through it.

Ms. Sparks stated basically the only program that they come to the Town for is the Early Intervention Program for children Birth to 3. In New Hampshire it's called Family Centered Early Support & Services. Around the rest of the country it's called Early Intervention. They are one in the same, but in New Hampshire we have to have different names, it's more entertaining she guessed.

Ms. Sparks stated the most number of children from percentages come from Conway and this year it's 56%, but they do serve the 9 towns of the Mount Washington Valley, so 44% are spread over the other 8 towns. They are asking for level funding again; this the third year, maybe the fourth year actually.

Karen Milford stated a little bit of a departure from your request here, we've been talking a lot about the Special Education costs that the School System incurs. Do you work at all with the SAU or the different schools in providing or assisting in any of the services they need for Special Education. Ms. Sparks stated yes, for ages 3 and up. The Department of Education, or the School District, is not responsible in this State for the Birth to 3 population. The Early Intervention Program is part of the Federal IDEA and it's a totally different part and section, it's Part C. The School System is Part B and maybe other portions of it. They actually do provide services for Preschool aged children, but that's totally separate from this particular program.

Karen Milford stated she wasn't trying to understand the \$12,000.00, she was trying to understand from the School's perspective and the costs that they are incurring. They do contract out services with Children Unlimited. Ms. Sparks stated yes, starting at 3. Some of the children that go through the Early Intervention Program get discharged prior to turning 3 because they've made a lot of progress. Some children are aged out at 3 and they don't go on for any Special Education and then there are children who have like Cerebral Palsy, Down Syndrome or other cognitive or rehab situations/diagnoses that they do go on and get referred to the School District, whatever School District they belong to, and then some of the time the more severely involved children will be sent to Children Unlimited for services. They don't really provide services at that age, from 3 to 5 or 6, except for the moderate to pretty serious moderate to severe children. Others go to their neighborhood Preschools.

Karen Milford stated you don't ever go to any of the Elementary Schools or anything like that to provide any services. Ms. Sparks stated no, they do during transitions from Preschool to the Elementary School. They certainly participate in transitioning a child to make it as smooth as possible, but they don't provide any of those services.

Bill Marvel stated just to illustrate what he means about the tax exemption, there's a total request between the other towns and Conway and the tax exemption, there's a total of, contribution as it were,

\$49,872.00, \$30,000.00 in cash and \$19,872.00 in tax exemption from Conway. He thought Ms. Sparks had said 56% of the kids are from Conway this year, so if we were proportionately asked to contribute, a proportion would be a total of \$27,925.00 for us, with the tax exemption, it's \$31,772.00. You actually come closer to a fair proportion than say the Gibson Center where we're asked for \$55,000.00 and the proportion would probably be \$30,000.00 or \$32,000.00. Ms. Sparks stated that they do take that into consideration. Bill stated obviously because otherwise it would be much more significant and in many cases it is.

Mike DiGregorio stated there's a lot of talk about the cost of Special Ed, certainly in our Elementary Schools and High School and stuff and he knows they do a phenomenal job at Children Unlimited. Do you have any opinion, or do you keep track of children that have gone through your program that are no longer needing services as they move up through because you got to them early enough in your environment that they didn't need services later on. Do you keep track of those kids as they age out of the program. Ms. Sparks stated she had to say that they haven't done formal tracking or analysis. She did know that probably 30% of the children that go through Early Intervention never go on for other services. Another 30% have minor issues that they may go on to their local District and receive services from the Team at SAU 9 and then anecdotally just a year ago they had a child that left their facility and within the half year had the IEP dropped. He still maintained a diagnosis which is significant, but he was totally on target academically and pre-academically so more of the issues were social. Usually she hears from parents that call her or she meets in the grocery store and they'll say "wow, my son's in 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade and they got such a great start and now he isn't required to have an IEP any more" and they hear that more often except for those children who really do have those life long disabilities. She was pretty proud of the track record that they have and that some of the children go into the School System with fewer services than they had in Early Intervention.

Mike DiGregorio stated that's his point exactly. It's \$12,000.00 and if he just heard Ms. Sparks correctly, 30% of those kids move on to no services at all. When they get into the School System and the resources there are substantially more, in his mind it costs us a lot more. He thought this was short money to get at the problem as early as possible and he thanked her for the work she does. Ms. Sparks stated thank you.

Ms. Sparks stated there is a lot of research and more research coming out, especially for children with Autism. The earlier that we can have a diagnosis and get services, they're making really phenomenal progress. They've actually seen that very much in their program and this is not part of the Early Intervention Program, but they also have a Pediatric Evaluation Center for just ruling in or out of the Autism Spectrum Disorders and they have a Board Certified Pediatric Psychiatrist and a Psychologist who come and join their team and luckily they are paid for by some other nice Agency that wants to have an Evaluation Center up here. We're actually identifying children earlier and then if they are in our area, we provide them with more services earlier and there's a special Grant they can apply for to add some extra services and those children are really doing extremely, extremely well and that's great.

Ms. Sparks thanked the Committee for all of its support.

Chairman Mosca thanked Ms. Sparks for coming in.

VAUGHAN COMMUNITY SERVICE, INC.

Denise Leighton, Administrator, and Dan Jones, Chair of the Vaughan Board, made the presentation. Ms. Leighton stated before she starts she would like to pass out a little history about Vaughan that members can read at their leisure and some figures she will be referring to.

Ms. Leighton stated as you know, we are the Town of Conway's Food Pantry. She did put a letter in the back of the packet for the members to read and hoped everybody read it so that she would not have to read it again unless members wanted her to read it. The papers that Dan (Jones) is passing out gives the Food Pantry statistics for 2012. They served over 901 households; the number of individuals was 2,349; the number meals provided for the year was 99,456, out of that total 242 were elderly, 702 were children. They also gave out 140 Thanksgiving Baskets and 40 Christmas Baskets this past year.

Ms. Leighton stated the need is ever growing with their Food Pantry and just to give the members an idea in January 2012 they had given out 6,426 meals; this past January they gave out 12,180 meals. Their Food Pantry is very, very busy. They are open 3 times a week. They had to even convert one of the rooms in their building as a waiting room for the Food Pantry clients because it was getting way out of control in their hallway. They are seeing new people constantly every week coming in and the \$5,000.00 she is asking from the Town barely covers the cost of their part-timer that does most of the figure work that she has to provide to the USDA and New Hampshire Food Bank and other resources. They are hoping that the Committee will get behind them again this year for the \$5,000.00.

Stacy Sand stated you put no value for tax exemption, but it shows on your Budget that your space is donated by the Church, is that correct. Ms. Leighton stated yes, but they pay for all of their utilities. The Church owns the building. Ms. Sand asked if the Church was exempt from paying property taxes. Ms. Leighton stated yes, it is. Ms. Sand stated she felt that a proportion of the tax exemption should be put on there just to be clearer in what you are utilizing. You are using part of the building that is tax exempt and maybe put a proportion of that towards your Budget, just so people could see.

Karen Umberger stated she was not sure that Churches are even assessed. Ms. Leighton stated they are not, that's why we are tax exempt. Karen stated she didn't believe Tom (Holmes) does an assessment of Churches so we wouldn't have a figure. She thought that was right. Stacy Sand stated that would make sense.

Chairman Mosca thanked Ms. Leighton and Mr. Jones for coming in.

NORTH CONWAY DAY CARE

Jackie Howe, Director of North Conway Day Care, and Dan Jones, Chair of the Vaughan Board made the presentation. Ms. Howe stated that the Day

Care has been operating since 1972 serving families in the area and she thought that the main focus of the funds being requested from the Town is to help those people that do not get that assistance from the State of New Hampshire and just for the Conway residents. The total amount in the narrative was \$16,000.00 and they do have other fundraising that they try to supplement. Their pay scale for rates is in the packet. As for the actual costs and what they allow, an example would be for people up to \$26.00, \$27.00, \$28.00, \$32.00 and \$34.00. She actually right now only has 2 families paying the maximum of the total enrollment.

Ms. Howe stated they have a lot of part-time staff because they have to sort of adjust their schedule and it's different since about 2008, 2009 when the work force changed and the economy went down, people are not working as much full time so that her numbers fluctuate. They try, and the Board has approved, that they work with parents that have changing schedules that either work in retail or in restaurants that they're not going to have their kids at Day Care if they don't have to. So it's kind of a figuring thing every week to get the schedule just for that cost effective amount of not having staff there when they are not needed.

Steven Steiner asked how many children are served. Ms. Howe stated right now their enrollment is about 69. It fluctuates. Age range is from 9 months up to age 12 so during School vacations, summer time they have other children that do come in.

Mike Fougere stated as you know, he used that facility the whole time his daughter was growing up. If it hadn't been for them, it was a substantial savings by having these great people watch his daughter.

Ms. Howe stated she thought that was one of the things that Vaughan has as their mission to help working families stay in the work force and not be forced to go on welfare because they can't afford child care. Danielle Santuccio stated she found that striking in the description.

Michael Fougere stated he wanted to add that if you had a problem with work, you called them and they fluctuated with you. If you had to be to work a little bit earlier, they were there for you. It's a great organization.

Bill Marvel stated two years ago you asked for \$4,800.00 and he thought the Day Care's standard request was for \$6,000.00 years ago. Ms. Howe stated 5 years ago, but then they had asked that everyone take a percentage down so that's why it came to \$4,800.00. Bill asked about the reduction. Ms. Howe stated there was a year that they had nothing. Bill stated he remembers that and guessed what he was getting at is was that a political decision or was that based on numbers dropping it from \$4,800.00 to \$3,000.00. Dan Jones stated he thought the biggest thing that they were seeing was that the demand for the Food Pantry and the services coming out of Vaughan had increased disproportionately and it seemed like they really needed more funds for Vaughan and they decided, as a Vaughan Board, to request less for the Day Care and more for the Food Pantry.

Ms. Howe stated that last year a gentleman asked if they received money from SAU 9 and she noted that Karen (Milford) had brought up about that

and there are children that choose their Center for a Preschool experience if they have an IEP. She went back and last year they received \$3,914.00 for tuition which is included in her Parent Fees because they just book it on that category as a Parent Fee. Somebody asked that question last year and she wanted to make sure she had the figure this year. That figure varies, some times they don't have anybody. They just picked up a new child about a week ago for about 3 mornings and that will probably only last until the end of the School year.

Chairman Mosca thanked Ms. Howe and Mr. Jones for coming in.

#### STARTING POINT

Karen Umberger and John Edgerton began the presentation and was joined by Suzette Indelicato, Executive Director.

Chairman Mosca stated before beginning he was going to pose a question because he didn't know the answer to it, if the two of you speak on behalf of Starting Point, will there be a conflict when you come to vote. Karen Umberger stated she could abstain. John Edgerton stated he could abstain. Chairman stated he was just asking the question. Mike DiGregorio asked if they were on the Board or anything like that. Chairman stated no. Mark Hounsell stated they determine themselves if there is a conflict. Mike stated he thought they would have to disclose that if they were on the Board or something like that and they're not.

Karen Umberger stated she didn't know what had happened to Suzette (Indelicato). Suzette is a very responsible person and she had no clue why she wasn't here.

Karen Umberger stated Starting Point is probably one of the most valuable services that is offered in the community for people of domestic and sexual violence of which we happen unfortunately to have quite a bit of and she would point out that people think that domestic and sexual violence only happens to women, but it also happens to men and they service both male and female. If your wife beats you up, you can call Suzette (Indelicato) any time.

Karen Umberger stated she had talked to Suzette about the financial situation in the past and she knows that from Suzette and the things she has talked to her about, they are very engaged in fundraising and have really targeted fundraising to help assist with their home. They also receive some money from the State and she was not exactly sure how much that is. It is a well run organization and she believes that their request for the \$6,900.00, as you can see it is less, but again it's proportional to the people that they serve in the community.

John Edgerton stated he could add that it is a direct service involved with the Police Department. The Police Department has to call them in on domestic violence to take care of the problem that arises. It is doing this town a great deal of service by taking the pressure off of the Police Department long term. Chairman Mosca stated he recalled Chief Wagner speaking highly a couple of years ago. He missed last year's non-profit meeting, but does remember that from a few years ago. John stated he would say that their fundraising is high pressure.

Karen Milford stated she saw that last year it looked like the numbers provided showed a surplus of revenues, over expenditures, so she wanted to see if they were using a Rainy Day Fund, if they had plans for those funds or if they expected that in the future. Suzette Indelicato stated that the Board of Directors has the goal of having 6 months worth of operating reserve and having a Building Maintenance Fund to make sure that they are able to repair the roof or any of those things that need to get done if they weren't conscious of it.

Bill Marvel stated again about the tax exemption, you don't have an amount for other town's contributions but you do have a total municipal contribution of \$25,875.00 and we're asked for \$7,166.00 which looks like it is about 38% of the total, give or take, but we're also contributing, and he's sorry, the tax exemption is \$7,166.00 and you're asking for \$6,935.00, so our proportion is about 36% he'd say. With the tax exemption, we are actually contributing 54%. He's been bringing that up to each non-profit that gets the tax exemption because we lose that as well as give you money.

Ms. Indelicato stated if you actually look at their services, you will see that about 40% of the population that they serve is Conway residents and, in particular in their building, it's about 80% that are from Conway that stay in their facility. When you look at the benefits they are actually providing, the service of shelter, when you break down their emergency safe house, which is what they are asking the tax exemption for, the majority of that is overwhelmingly Conway residents.

Bill Marvel stated you have so many other people from other towns, but they never stay at the shelter. Ms. Indelicato stated not to say that they never stay, but the overwhelming majority of people that stay in their building are from Conway. Bill stated that seems strange. Ms. Indelicato stated no, it doesn't because the reality is that when people are leaving and when people are looking to stay they don't want to uproot themselves from their community. They do serve northern Carroll County certainly better than they serve southern Carroll County. As for shelters, they have some people stay in hotels if they're from Wakefield or Wolfeboro, but the individuals that can stay within their School District and keep their jobs are the people that end up staying in the shelter the longest because they are successful transitioning from an abusive home to independent housing.

Chairman Mosca thanked Ms. Indelicato for coming in.

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

John Edgerton stated he had not received copies of the Minutes for the last 3 meetings. Chairman Mosca stated on Monday night he told the Committee that if a member didn't have the Minutes they were to let him know and he would see that a copy was given to them. Chairman told John that he had not heard from John. John stated he called the Town and they said they would give him copies, but they didn't. Maureen Seavey stated you have to go down and pick them up. John stated no, they e-mail them to him.

**Maureen Seavey moved, seconded by Maury McKinney, to consider and accept the Minutes of January 16, 2013. In favor: 16; Opposed: 0; Abstain: 1 - Brian Charles.**

Bill Marvel stated on page 15, second paragraph, line 6, "deluding" should be changed to "diluting".

Chairman Mosca stated he knows it was stated that the Committee was going to vote on everything tonight, but it has been brought to his attention that 1) the Selectmen have not voted on any of these yet and 2) although the RSA is unclear, he thought it was best to wait until after the Public Hearing next week before the Committee votes.

#### OLD BUSINESS

Danielle Santuccio stated as promised, in 2006 the Conway PD had a Street Super Grant from the Attorney General's Office for the shotguns and rifles that they all bought at that time. She was not speaking in support or against, she was just informational. The mobile radios and portable radios were bought with a Homeland Security Grant in 2005; that's why they were bought in bulk. The Server that went down was a separate Warrant Article and they wanted it to be clear that the portable radios that they had in there cost \$3,500.00 each. She was thinking not that much. John's (Edgerton) point about it always being in the Budget before, they wanted her to follow up that it hadn't always, some of them were Grants and some were Warrant Articles. That's her objective report.

Bill Marvel stated he just wanted to point out something, and he almost hated to bring it up because the Committee has talked about it so much, the issue of the salaries, particularly for the teachers in this case, it was suppose to be so difficult to come up with that list of people and degree levels and experience. They do that every year for the Town Report. One is imminently available. They used to have two levels of experience, in District and overall, but they stopped doing that in 1985 for some reason. You know they know how much salary each of these people gets, they pay them every other week. Why is it so difficult? He just kind of feels like we are getting the run around.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

Evan Lucy thanked Chairman Mosca and the members of the Budget Committee. Mr. Lucy stated the last time he spoke before this Committee he encouraged the members to make hard decisions for the benefit of the taxpayers of Conway. He is here tonight to encourage the members to not only consider, but to approve apparently at a later date, the \$3,000.00 request to help fund the continuance of the Carroll County Transit's Program better known as the Blue Loon Dial-A-Ride service, again for the benefit of the Conway citizens.

Mr. Lucy stated the following are quotes taken directly from the Town of Conway's Master Plan adopted May 29, 2003 after considerable discussion and deliberation as to the direction of our growing community. Local public transportation is very limited in Conway with 2, now 1, taxi service, 1 interstate bus service and an independent human service program plus now 1 limousine service. Like many rural communities, Conway

has difficulty justifying and sustaining regular public transportation. Alternative means of transportation must be developed within Conway in order to fully address a variety of local and regional needs. There is no public transportation available within Conway or adjacent communities. Remember this was in 2003. Conway has not been able to demonstrate the feasibility for such service given the population base, wide dispersion of dwellings and general independence of commuters. Additionally, there were no major urban areas that serve as employment centers that could justify public transportation.

Mr. Lucy further stated the Town adopted the Conway Transportation Policy Report on June 25, 1992 to work with the State of New Hampshire and other organizations to develop means of transportation other than personal vehicle use. The primary problem identified in the Report was traffic congestion during peak tourist periods. There are few viable options for alternative transportation modes and tourists are driving to and through Conway to reach their destination. Part of this 4-prong policy approach approving the roadway system involves the North-South Road and upgrades to Route 16 was for the Town and the New Hampshire DOT to work together in providing increased highway capacity and efficiency in the system and to develop long term alternative modes.

Mr. Lucy stated that's all taken kind of out of context, but it's right there on your web site, our web site, under the Master Plan. He is here as a private citizen, not as a pitchman. Certainly there have been changes since 2003 and yes, there are private transportation services available such as the Gibson Center's buses and various specific shuttles which help in the overall transportation equation, but the need for regular public transportation for the public to access is great. The Blue Loon bus Dial-A-Ride Program provides a unique public service for an affordable nominal cost. He is a former rider and found the service timely and beneficial. The Blue Loon is a direct investment in the community's infrastructure and fulfills requirements of the Master Plan. Thank you.

**Bill Marvel moved, seconded by Karen Milford, to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 PM. Motion carried unanimously.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Iris A. Bowden, Recording Secretary