

**MINUTES OF MEETING
MUNICIPAL BUDGET COMMITTEE
December 18, 2013**

A meeting of the Municipal Budget Committee was called to order at 6:30 PM in the Professional Development Room at Kennett Middle School with the following members present: Chairman Joe Mosca, Danielle Santuccio, Maureen Seavey, Bill Marvel, Doug Swett, Michael Fougere, Greydon Turner, Stacy Sand (arriving at 6:42 PM), Dick Klement, Frank McCarthy, Steven Steiner and Dick Pollock. Excused: Peter Donohoe, Maury McKinney, John Edgerton, Brian Charles and Mark Hounsell.

Greydon Turner led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Greydon Turner moved, seconded by Michael Fougere, that the Minutes of October 23, 2013 be accepted. In favor: 11; Opposed: 0; Abstain: 0.

OLD BUSINESS - LIST OF QUESTIONS FOR TOWN AND SCHOOL

Chairman Mosca began the meeting by reviewing the list of questions previously forwarded to the members. Maureen Seavey asked if the questions had been submitted and Chairman stated they had not because the Committee needed to decide what to keep on, take off or amend. Dick Pollock asked what the additional question was. Chairman stated it was for the Schools: "Please supply a list of Conway School District teachers by name, salary, years of experience teaching and years of teaching in Conway." Chairman stated it was sent out late this afternoon and was not on the previous sheet and all members should have it in their In Box at home, in their e-mail. It was something that was pointed out to him that he had left it off the list and he apologized for that.

Chairman Mosca asked for discussion points on the questions for the School. Maureen Seavey stated in the handout from the School given tonight that it went to an 8.99% increase in health costs. Chairman stated some people don't have what she had. Maureen asked if #10 was the total increase of 2013, total cost increase for teachers for 2014, that's an increase from 2013 to 2014. Chairman agreed. Dick Klement stated we're looking for a number rather than a percentage. Chairman stated we're looking for a dollar figure.

Michael Fougere stated it was brought up when Carl (Nelson) was here about the cost for our paperwork that he had asked for. Does that need to be asked for again in this. When Carl (Nelson) was here, Mike had asked him about the cost of producing the documentation for just us in paperwork. He had asked about it, saw Carl (Nelson) make a note during session, but should it be asked for again. Chairman Mosca stated we can add it here. Mike stated he didn't want it lost again. Dick Klement stated it was actually the School Board that had asked them to keep track of all expenses that were made by the Administrators, whomever in providing information to this body. Mike stated that would include updates. It's not just the individual packet they give us, but there's the revisions and they revise a lot. Chairman stated he will say "Total cost to supply the Budget Committee with information and documentation." Chairman asked Mike

if that sounded reasonable and Mike agreed that it did. Mike further stated he would like the same question for the Town. Chairman agreed.

Chairman Mosca asked for any further discussion with the remaining 39 questions for the School.

Dick Pollock stated he didn't understand the relevance of some questions, i.e. 15, 16, 20, 21, 22 and 23. Since he was not the maker, he requested that the maker explain it. Dick Klement stated he could answer 15 and 16. Questions 15 and 16, we had asked that the Administrators be reduced at the High School specifically and they've done that. The question would be: "How many kids are they supporting with the Administrators they have left" to determine whether they should either dig deeper or in fact they have too few people.

Chairman Mosca stated on Questions 20, 21, 22 and 23, about a month ago there was discussion of increasing pay for substitutes in the High School because they couldn't get people in the High School and these questions are related to is it just the High School or is it all of the schools. We asked to see what the calling is for each school; is there a problem with one school or with the other schools. It all relates to do we need to pay the substitutes more or is there an issue at the High School that needs to be taken care of and is the pay for the substitutes okay where it was. That's the thinking behind these questions and they actually came from the community, they did not come from the Board, they came from the community.

Chairman Mosca stated he was going to go to Question 39, the Charter School. The question was to deal with whether or not the Municipal Budget Committee should be required to justify the expenses of the Charter School. According to their website, they do not receive local tax dollars so we would not have the purview of overseeing any of their expenses. Dick Klement stated that is not entirely correct. He asked that the Chairman delete the stuff that was added about their website. This community pays for the children with an IEP from Conway that are attending the Charter School. As of 6 months or so ago, there were 2 Conway special ed kids in that school and he thought they both had full-time Aides. He may be wrong, but he thought they both have full-time Aides. In that case, with benefits an Aide runs about \$50,000.00 a year so that would be \$100,000.00 if they are full-time.

Dick Klement further stated then there is also discussion that hasn't been broached yet, and he didn't know the legality of it at this point, and that is since it is a public school should they request bus transportation, it would have to be provided. He was not sure if that was 100% correct. If it is, and they have kids from, we're typically at Conway El, Pine Tree, John Fuller, that means those buses are going to have to make a run up to the Charter School so there would be 3 buses going to their destinations and then to the Charter School unless we have them change buses and that's kind of tough for a 1st Grader or whatever. We would be putting on another 30 or 40 miles a day and that's taxpayer money. Chairman stated that's not happening yet. Dick stated that isn't, but the Aides are. Chairman stated that he thought that is so small in dollar figures over their Budget, we would never have a say in that any way. He thought that was a State requirement. Dick stated the Chairman may

be correct, but then they are accountable to nobody. Chairman stated other than their Board of Directors, you (Dick) are absolutely right.

Chairman Mosca stated he personally did not think that this question should be on the list; that's his personal feeling and he would leave it up to the members as to their feeling on it. Mike Fougere stated his feelings on it was if we dig into the Charter School, we are going to be opening up a can of worms and we'll be here all night discussing it. Chairman asked the members if they were comfortable pulling that question off. With a show of hands, the question was taken off the list.

Chairman Mosca updated Stacy (Sand) on what was happening with the list of questions. We were discussing the School questions in general; to see if people had questions on any thing, if there was any relevant information that one member can give to another or if there are any questions that should be taken off. The only one that we are in agreement to taking off is the Charter School one.

Chairman Mosca proceeded with the Town Questions and asked if there was any discussion. Bill Marvel stated he could still answer two of the three Library questions if members wanted it now or did the Chairman want to wait until all the questions are asked. Chairman stated let's put pressure on the Library Director. If you (Bill) want to answer them, go ahead. Bill stated the first "What are the Library Trust Funds used for?" Bill stated much of the income from it they give to the Town, not all of it. Sometimes, as in their last meeting, they have people who want to buy something like a Parking Lot and they would use that money as pressure to get what they want. For #2: "Why aren't the Library Trust Funds used when the Library over spends its Budget?" That's Municipal Budget Law, you can't spend what hasn't been appropriated. They can spend money that they get in that is unanticipated on stuff even beyond the appropriation and it's been his hope to try to do that to the extent they have to keep within their Budget. The money is used to offset taxes. Every year they give a certain amount of their income and their donations and their Trust Fund income to the Town. This year it was \$36,100.00; next year they are bumping it to over \$40,000.00, but that's not all they have. At some point the Trust Fund would be depleted if they continued to give a great deal, but they give something every year. As for #3, he can only say there was talk in his previous two terms as Trustee back in 2000 and back about 4 or 5 years ago about coordinating with the Schools and he thought it was done under Margaret and if it was done under the last Director, he would be surprised and the new Director is new and probably hasn't had time to deal with that, but it is a periodic consideration.

Chairman Mosca stated to the members if the response to Questions 1 and 2 for the Library was satisfactory to the Board, we can remove those questions. All members were in agreement to eliminate Questions 1 and 2.

Dick Pollock asked on Questions 3, 4, 5 and 6 could someone explain. Chairman Mosca stated he had 3, 5 and 6 and was still trying to figure out 4. Before we even discuss it, he didn't think they had any budgetary point. Dick Klement stated it would. Chairman asked how. Dick Klement stated if you're not asking for remuneration when somebody knocks over light poles and we are calling out Town workers and everyone else, then that impacts the Town Budget. Danielle Santuccio asked if Dick Klement

knew they were not because she knew the State does. She didn't know if Conway did in this case, but the State does if you smack into a guard rail you have to pay for it. Chairman stated he wasn't as concerned with #4 as he was with 3, 5 and 6. Dick Klement stated if you read the newspaper and he realizes the newspaper isn't always correct, but it appears that no matter how many times you offend in this Town in drugs, drinking, driving without a license, driving after suspension, take a car for a joy ride or whatever, that a sentence is imposed, the sentence is suspended and a fine is imposed and part of that fine is suspended and everybody says have a nice day. One of the things he feels is that if you don't teach somebody that there's consequences for your actions, then we have what we have in the United States today.

Chairman Mosca stated he wasn't going to disagree, but how does that have anything to do with our review in questioning a Budget. Dick Klement stated if you're reducing sentencing in terms of the money that you're collecting and the State may get the money instead of the Town, but if the State gets the money then that means the taxpayers here are paying less money to the State to support something. This Judge that we have, that's not elected but appointed, coming in and saying "everything is well and good" we're basically putting in more money, we're not even recovering the cost of the Court. This is a farce and that's why he put those in there. We have people that are drunk driving all the time, they don't care if they have a license or not and nobody's doing anything about it. Danielle Santuccio stated that's DMV, that's not Conway PD. Dick Klement stated it's budget because they're not giving them the fine that they need. They're suspending fines saying your license is suspended and it's a \$200.00 fine. Danielle stated actually in a DUI you can't suspend a fine, you can't and it doesn't go to the Town. Dick Klement stated if it goes to the State that means that the State is receiving that money and the Town doesn't have to submit it. Danielle stated on a DUI specifically you can't suspend that fine. Dick Klement stated but the State does, somebody gets it. Is this just going into a bottomless pit where we are collecting all of the DUI money and saving it for he didn't know what. Chairman stated he understood Dick's (Klement) point but didn't see how that has an impact on what we do.

Frank McCarthy stated he agreed 100% except he didn't think it came under the purview of this Committee. What he would like to see is this Committee make a recommendation that if an individual in the Town of Conway or wherever under the purview of the Town Government, if they are found guilty of an infraction of the law that caused damage that the Town send them a bill, not the Court but the Town send them a bill.

Danielle Santuccio stated she would agree with that but she would just make sure that they are not doing it now because she knows the State does it and the State Police do it. Just make sure first that Conway Town isn't. Dick Klement stated he was just sick of paying for people that are just running amuck.

Frank McCarthy stated people that go up on a mountain and they are found not to be properly prepared, it can cost them thousands of dollars for a search team to go up and look for them and bring them down. If somebody hits a telephone pole when they are driving drunk, why can't the Town charge them for replacing that telephone pole or a fire hydrant or

whatever. Dick Klement stated that would then be the Prosecutor going to the judge and saying that they want damages for the town in the amount of whatever. This is a Town Prosecutor, isn't it. Chairman Mosca stated yes. Dick Klement stated paid for through the Police Budget and it just seems that there is never a trial, everything is always pleaded down. It appears that way any way.

Chairman Mosca stated on #4 we can rephrase it to say "Are we demanding remuneration in every instance" and let the Police Department tell us what is going on. He thought we could bring up the other instances, DUI's or whatever, under that when they are here talking to us. Is that satisfactory? Dick Klement stated the Police Department made such an almost emotional request that they have this Prosecutor because it was off-loading all of the work from the police and the question would be "Are we effectively ..." Chairman Mosca stated getting a bang for our buck. Dick stated exactly, thank you. Chairman stated we can ask that; he can re-word it, but basically bang for our buck with the Prosecutor.

Stacy Sand stated she questioned whether this Committee had any power to change the law in terms of whether we can ask for remuneration at a Town level for somebody hitting an electrical pole for example. Even if it does cost the Town, she really questions if that is in the purview of a Town law. She didn't even know if the Legislature would allow that sort of thing, so she didn't think the Police would have an answer for that. Chairman Mosca stated if it's allowed on the State level he couldn't see why it wouldn't be allowed on the Town level. Stacy stated because there are a lot of things that they don't allow us to do at the Town level. Danielle Santuccio stated it's just restitution. Chairman stated if you don't ask, you don't know. Michael Fougere stated that's all we're doing is asking.

Chairman Mosca stated Questions 3, 5 and 6 are coming out; Question 4 is being re-worded, we are going to put in a question about the Prosecutor.

Danielle Santuccio stated she did like the phrasing of "How many pleas have been accepted and why is this not excessive". Danielle asked Dick Klement if he already knew the number. Dick stated no, he didn't know the number, but it just seems that very few are bound over for trial. He knows trials are expensive. Maureen Seavey stated the Courts can't get things through the system as it is, they're overloaded too.

Chairman Mosca proceeded with discussion on the Questions concerning the Landfill. Mike Fougere stated is recycling not profitable any more. Chairman stated there's all kinds of questions going on about that. Stacy Sand stated she was on the Solid Waste Committee and the Town has never made enough money through recycling to pay for all of the activities at the Transfer facility, but the Town does get income from their recycled products. We have saved decades off the life of a landfill by recycling since 1989 and we recycle more than we started out and we're doing a better job of getting the best price for it than we have ever gotten, but no, we do not make a profit per se at the Landfill. It costs more to handle trash than it does what they get paid for recycling, but the more that's recycled the more income they get from recycling. Does that answer the question? Mike stated it answers the question, it's just not acceptable. Stacy asked what's not acceptable. Mike stated he guessed he

was more of the working class and knew a little bit more about recycling. He thought just for a little more effort as far as transporting our recyclables, we could actually increase our profits. Stacy stated if more people would recycle, we would get more. Mike stated it's not wanting to do as far as he can see and no one is coming up with a suggestion within that infrastructure. Oh, we could do this and make a lot more money for the Town; no, I don't want to bother with it is the feeling. Stacy asked where can they make more money for the Town and wished she knew what he was thinking of.

Chairman Mosca stopped the debate between Mike Fougere and Stacy Sand and asked that the members go back to the list of questions. If anyone would like to put a question on there about profitability of recyclables, we can do that. Mike agreed. Chairman stated he thought Questions 7 and 8 should come out.

Doug Swett stated he wanted to remind people back when they found this Landfill location, they had looked for months in this town and that was the place they found. If we fill it, he was not sure under the guide of the Federal Government, if we could find another one in this town. Chairman Mosca stated and to Stacy's (Sand) point, the moderate recycling that the Town does produce he thought was far and above what was anticipated and that is why as much as we haven't made money in recycling, we've saved money by not having to expand the Landfill faster than was anticipated. One may wash the other.

Dick Klement stated from a long-term perspective, he thought it was the purview of this Board because, as Doug (Swett) points out, in 15, 20 years there may be a need for another Landfill which would be a major monetary impact to the Town. If he recalls correctly, Paul DegliAngeli a year or two ago threw the chart up in the air and said basically we've got up to a recycle point and it's flat; we're not recycling more and we're not recycling less. To further reduce the Landfill, you got to do something to encourage recycling. You can put the annual costs that you are seeing for selling metal, selling this and selling that, but long-term is an even more important point. We're making about \$175,000.00 a year in recyclables or there about. Stacy Sand stated that sounded right, but she didn't have it with her. Dick stated that's a lot of money, but at the time you have to have 3 employees doing all of that stuff, too. If you go single stream then you're doing other things that need people. The crux is you've got to get people to recycle. We're doing that by having an enforcer come in and be stationed there to go through people's trash if they feel it is appropriate which is contrary to "Live Free or Die". There were guys there from the Forest Service and these guys come up with their truck and they chuck a canoe and a bunch of signs in the dump waste. He was not saying that canoe could have been recycled, he's saying "we don't need them". We should just close the door to people like that. It's long-term and that's money. How long does it take for a canoe to decompose. Doug Swett stated fiberglass will take forever.

Stacy Sand stated when you (Dick Klement) talked about the flat, since that time, we now have an Enforcement Officer that averages 20 hours a week. Paul (DegliAngeli) asked for that to be turned into full-time, but the Selectmen at this time voted it down because of the great increases in other areas of the Budget, though they still have in the Budget the part-

time enforcement but also the Landfill Manager also does enforcement so it's not like when he's not there there's none going on. The reality is that not everyone recycles. The people who are going to recycle will do the best job they can, but without enforcement they found that there was more trash and less recyclables. From a Budget standpoint she thought it was important that they consider the cost of the enforcement which seems to be the only way people are going to recycle in this Town, more than already are, because a lot of people are and doing a good job of it because as soon as they took that away, their recycling numbers went down. Therefore, we have to assume that it is going some where and that means our trash is probably increasing. They are enforcing; trying to do it in an educational way so that people who want to do the right thing will do the right thing, but if this Board feels that needs to be upped probably the only way to do that is to increase the personnel that are doing the enforcement.

Frank McCarthy stated he agreed with what's been said. He really thought there are numerous intangible benefits to recycling and not the least of which is elongating the life span of the Landfill and there are many more. The problem is he didn't think the people in the town understand some of those things. They look at recycling and it's a pain in the neck; they've got to do this and they've got to do that. They think the primary purpose is for the Town to make money out of the Landfill. Maybe a little informational boost in the Town letting them know that recycling will give 10 to 15 more years or whatever it is out of the Landfill that's going to save us umpteen hundreds or thousands of dollars. That's his look on it. Chairman Mosca stated point well taken.

Greydon Turner asked what the purpose was for Questions 7 and 8 of the Landfill. Chairman Mosca stated we are going to take those out; those are his pet peeves. Stacy Sand asked the Chairman if he got an answer to his question. Chairman stated he knew what the answer is and in full disclosure, there was a position for a part-time employee at the Transfer Station. He applied for the job. When he was interviewed for the job he found out that he would have to work every weekend and he had already made a commitment other places for weekends. He sent a letter saying "thank you for the opportunity, but it won't work for me". He believes the person that was hired in the temporary position may have property up here, but is not a resident because their car was parked there with Mass plates on it and it drove him crazy because there are enough people who are residents here who could have had that job. To give it to a non-resident bothered him and that's why he is saying full disclosure because he was a candidate for the position. He did not take the position when he found out what it was. Again, it's one of those things that we have people up here who could use the work, who live here full-time, who pay car registration fees and everything else. It just bothered him. Again, that's more his pet peeves and he is more than happy to take those off because he knows the answer to the questions. He doesn't think it is right and he thought it was something that should in the future be looked at: to hire residents when you have positions like that over non-residents.

Stacy Sand asked Chairman Mosca if he was offered the job first. Chairman stated he was not offered the job, he was in line for it. Stacy stated you took your name away. Chairman stated he respectfully declined once he

found out that he would have had to work every weekend. Danielle Santuccio stated you withdrew your name and the Chairman agreed.

Maureen Seavey stated you also have people that work for the Police Department, the Town, whatever that do not live in the Town of Conway. Chairman Mosca stated he wasn't saying they had to live in the town, he's saying a resident of New Hampshire. Greydon Turner stated you did state you suspect he may own property here. Chairman agreed.

Chairman Mosca proceeded with Questions 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13 and asked if any member had any issues with those questions. Frank McCarthy stated he asked the Chairman to add #13 and the reason he did that is the people that run the Blue Loon, either they keep telling everybody how wonderful it is and how little money it's going to cost the people. They are looking for a few dollars in donations. What they failed to tell is that the initial purchase of those vehicles came to about \$460,000.00 and when those vehicles reach their life span, the taxpayers are going to be responsible for the next purchase of vehicles. That's why he wanted to get that in there.

Chairman Mosca proceeded with Questions 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19 and 20 concerning Non-Profits. Bill Marvel stated theoretically at least, non-profits wouldn't make a profit. Why is #19 a question. Chairman stated he just writes them down as he gets them. Dick Klement stated they may be in fact having extra money in the bank at the end of the year and probably some of that is good to do, but in some cases, amounts of money that are squirreled get rather high and nobody's accountable for it or it's not visible that the money's there.

Stacy Sand stated based on these questions, do we receive like an annual report when the non-profits apply. Chairman Mosca stated there's a questionnaire that they fill out and there's basic information that we receive but some of the information you can get from it, but some of it is difficult at best to try to pull from what they give you.

Doug Swett asked if he could go back to the Blue Loon. Chairman Mosca stated absolutely. Doug stated some years ago he asked a gentleman in town that was doing some of this driving voluntarily. Doug asked the gentleman if there was a problem and was told the short hauls, there weren't any problems. Once in awhile they had a problem with the longer hauls, but they did eventually find someone to take care of it. These were older people that wanted to drive to doctor's appointments and this and that. He realizes that this may be 2% of the people around here that really need this service, but if we can see the total picture of this thing, including the value of the vehicles and the miles per rider, he thought it would make all wonder what are we doing here. He doesn't think it should have ever been established and he knows a few people that it has helped.

Bill Marvel asked why does the Budget Committee care how bad the Men's Softball League is. It just doesn't seem like a budgetary question. Chairman Mosca stated as he has said, he just writes them down. Greydon Turner stated he thought Questions 23 and 24 should be sufficient to cover that. Chairman asked if all members were okay with removing Questions 21 and 22. We can always ask Question #22 while the Rec Department is here.

Stacy Sand asked how are they going to answer Question #24. If they became a non-profit, they're going to be run by a Board not by the Town. How can they possibly know the answer to that question. She would think that would require a very extensive study. It just doesn't make sense to her.

Maureen Seavey stated her biggest thing is the North Conway one, they get \$75,000.00 a year, but they've had funds set up by the Gibson whatever it is that pays a lot of that and that's been set up for years. How are you going to find an organization or a Fund that is going to support this and then we donate so much money to them. She didn't think that was feasible.

Chairman Mosca stated what if we just had one Rec Department for the whole town. Dick Klement stated what a novel idea. Mike Fougere stated he loved that one. Maureen Seavey stated because that funding was set up for North Conway years ago and that would just dissolve, so you'd be paying the total cost of the whole thing. Chairman asked why could we not just have North Conway Rec and have everything run out of that. Stacy Sand stated run it out of the North Conway Community Center and Chairman stated sure and you could use both buildings. You don't have to shut down the other building, you can have one Board that does everything instead of two, eliminate some positions and save money. Stacy stated the Charter of the North Conway Community Center is set up to be very specific about what they can do as a Community Center, so what would happen is that they would lose that building if they left that purview of what they're set up to do. It's pretty specific. Chairman asked if they could change their Charter. Stacy stated and not lose the building. Chairman asked how are they looking to build a new building if they're going to lose that building. Stacy stated they are not going to lose that building. Chairman stated that's going to change things if they build a new building and move. Stacy stated they are not moving. Chairman stated they're not now, but they were talking about it. Stacy stated they would have kept the Community Center where it is and they would've kept that building and had two buildings. Chairman stated he still thought it was something that was worth looking at personally.

Mike Fougere stated he thought to re-word the one about the fees is eliminate it for Softball, but their fees period. Why is it their fees for a non-profit are so high and why is it when they took a licensing or permitting process from the Town at \$15.00 a year and turned it into \$150.00 permit a year when they took leadership of it. They became the issuers of certain permits that went from \$15.00 when the Town had it to \$150.00 when they took it over. Their prices for a non-profit are fairly high.

Chairman Mosca stated we're taking #21 and #22 off, leaving #23 and there's a question about #24 of whether it should stay or go. Dick Klement asked if we could combine #23 and #24 so, in other words, are there advantages for Conway Rec becoming a non-profit for a similar mission to the North Conway Rec. Chairman stated we could do that and there is a possibility to combine everything under one.

Maureen Seavey asked who is the one that is going to answer this question, the Rec Director, the Town Manager or who is going to answer this question for us. Chairman Mosca stated they may come back to us and say what Stacy (Sand) said: we can't answer it without doing a study. Dick Klement stated

the Rec Department works for the Town. Chairman stated it's up to them to give us an answer and their answer may be "we can't answer it at this time".

Stacy Sand asked if what we are really looking for is whether they should be combined or are you looking for two non-profits because that's what the questions are about. Chairman Mosca stated they weren't his questions and couldn't answer that. He thought probably it should be two separate questions or just combine them into one.

Frank McCarthy stated relative to #24, and he agreed it would take quite an investigation to come up with a figure of what the savings would be, but why couldn't we say "Will there be a savings if we did this". Maureen Seavey stated she still felt that the Rec Director does a lot of work. He does the Parks and also the Rec Department. The time he would need to do this research, does he have that time. Chairman Mosca stated again it's a question of is there going to be a savings, could there be a savings. Maureen stated she didn't think he was qualified to do that. Chairman stated they may come back and say that, but it's a valid question.

Steven Steiner stated first off, the question should be is there enough time to even establish a non-profit, which it is, and do they have an attorney that can do it pro bono for them because he thought there were a lot of advantages of being a not-for-profit, being that he is a not-for-profit himself. The way this Town is with the givings and everything they could probably bring more money in and buy better services for the Town and not have to look to us for help totally. Obviously we give \$75,000.00 to North Conway Rec Center. He was just throwing his ten cents in.

Dick Klement stated he thought they do a tremendous job at the Conway Rec Center and please don't get him wrong, but then he looks at the Town Beach which is a joke. You've got this little tiny beach there; they took the raft out because, God forbid, somebody got hurt and then they took the Lifeguard away because it cost too much money. They have a lady that sits in the street with her umbrella watching people come in and out with their boats. He thought there was an opportunity through the Town to perhaps research switching things around with what the Rec Department does and what the Public Works Department does. The Rec Department is cutting grass all over the place and is that a recreational thing to cut the grass in the graveyard, he was not quite sure, but he thought they are spending money on things, and they are not being gratuitous just throwing money around, but he didn't think the Rec Department was just doing recreation stuff, he thought they were doing a lot of stuff for the Town out of a Rec Budget and he thought that was another reason to look at this.

Stacy Sand stated it is the Department of Parks and Recreation just so you are clear and there are a number of Parks in Town including, of course, Whitaker Woods facilities, Davis Park, River Road, as well as the Town Beach and the Rec area. There are quite a few and the seasonal personnel that are doing a lot of that work are actually the same people who plow our roads in the winter time. Those Budgets are split between the two departments: where it is Parks and where it's Highway or other Town purviews. Dick Klement asked if a graveyard was a Park. Stacy stated it was actually its own department.

Chairman Mosca proceeded with Questions 25, 26 and 27 concerning Town Wide questions. Greydon Turner stated he didn't understand #26. He understood having some of the classes work on smaller things, but didn't necessarily know if we should have Town vehicles worked on by students overseen by one teacher. To him that doesn't seem a very wise idea in the long run. Chairman stated they could do oil changes, they could do tune ups. Dick Klement stated everything in Question #26 is done by the kids. They've built gazebos, picnic tables, sheds. He thought Madison had been the recipient of a number of things they've done. They do some automobile work; the people that come in with their private cars pay to have that done, like oil changes, lube jobs and that kind of stuff and serious body work he believes they are also doing. He thought that was a good thing to stick on the School side and not on the Town Wide perhaps.

Chairman Mosca stated could we do more. Some of the basic work which would free up some of the other people in town to do other things. Danielle Santuccio stated she guessed it would be difficult because you don't always know how many students are going to be there able to do those things. She imagined they are doing it at capacity if they are doing it already.

Stacy Sand stated Madison has utilized the High School students for picnic tables and it is actually her question because of that experience and knowing that she just wanted to make sure the Town was utilizing all resources, not duplicating efforts in things. She doesn't know the answer to that question and she didn't get a chance to ask Public Works when they need a shed built, when they needed the skating rink built, she knew it was Town employees that built it, but maybe that would have been something the School could have jumped in on and saved on some of the Town's costs. She just wanted to make sure the communications are open, that's why the question.

OLD BUSINESS - MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS

Chairman Mosca stated on January 8th he added "review of the Warrant Articles" on the schedule as we are meeting that night with the Town. We are not adding any additional dates, we are just adding a little bit to that night.

Chairman Mosca stated our next meeting is January 2nd which is a Thursday at 6:30 PM in the Professional Development Room at the Middle School. We are going to start reviewing Town Budgets. He will send out a new schedule to everybody, just to make sure that everyone has it.

Stacy Sand stated that the Town Manager (Earl Sires) wanted her to relate to the Committee that members will have the final Town Budget Friday afternoon at the earliest or Monday at the latest. He further asked when did the Committee need answers to these questions that the Chairman will be submitting. Chairman Mosca stated he would like to have answers by the first night if we could or specific to whatever department it is when the departments are meeting with us. He will relay that to the Town Manager. Chairman reminded members that the Budget books will be available Friday afternoon at the earliest or Monday at the latest at Town Hall.

Chairman Mosca was asked about the School Budget. Chairman stated he didn't think we would see anything until Christmas vacation week and it would probably be towards the end of the week.

Chairman Mosca stated the next meeting is January 2nd at 6:30 PM here; all meetings will be here except for February 12th at the High School for the Public Hearings. He will make sure that he sends out the schedule to everybody just so he knows members have it. He will probably do it tomorrow with the questions.

Maureen Seavey stated she went down to visit the Pine Tree School and she has to say, she has seen the other two schools, this is the first time she's seen it and she was very impressed with the quality of that school. If anybody goes down to look at it, the way it's organized with the kids and everything down there, she would hate to see that school and she knows that's not on our Agenda now, but she would hate to see that school closed. She was very impressed with it.

Mike Fougere stated is it more how the school is built or is it the school blossoming. Chairman Mosca stated we are not talking schools, it's not on the Agenda, it's not an issue and we're not going to talk about it. End of story. We are not going to talk about it.

NEW BUSINESS

Chairman Mosca stated he had something he wanted to throw out to the Board. At best, he was disappointed in the Town and the School for not having information to us yet. For those people that are new, the books that we get have a lot of information in them and having a week to a week and a half to go over all the information is not enough time. Under the RSA, the Budget Committee can direct the Town and the School to give us information by certain dates. It has been tried in the past and it has never happened. He almost sent e-mails out to our State reps asking them to look at changing the RSA to put a drop dead date of December 15th for SB2 Towns to have information to Budget Committees but he didn't think he should be doing that himself. He thought it was something he should do on behalf of the Board and he didn't know how the Board felt about that. We can discuss it now; we can discuss it later because it is not going to be something that's going to happen this year but the information we get is just way too much to have 10 days to go over and he will leave it at that.

Frank McCarthy stated if you go and do that, he would suggest that the Chairman do it very quickly because the Bills for next year will be taken up starting January and in order to get the Bill in there is a very, very narrow opening to get new Bills in unless you know the Speaker or somebody. He would do it quickly if we are going to do it. Otherwise, you're waiting until 2015 or 2016.

Chairman Mosca stated it happens every year and it's not fair to this Committee. We're all elected by the townspeople to be here, whether we're elected to this Board or whether we're elected to another Board or appointed here, we're all elected and do not have the proper amount of time to go through the information is wrong as far as he is concerned. He knows the Boards do the best they can, but if there was something out

there that said they had to have it to us earlier, then they would have it to us earlier.

Dick Klement stated he agreed with the Chairman. From the School perspective that's all he can speak, he can't speak for the Town but Stacy (Sand) can, but they don't get their insurance numbers until middle/late November which over the past couple of years has been the big driver and then you've got the teacher, CSA, CSP, etc. contracts and they aren't normally voted on, even if they come to a quick agreement, until the end of November/beginning of December. When those numbers come in as they have this year for them and it's looking like a 6% or 7% raise on the base Budget for the School and then you throw the Warrant Articles on top of that, it could be a substantial number. What he is guessing is that they are going to go back in and try to chop that number. You run the risk if you say 15 December, they'll get us something on 15 December, but then the question is do you take that book and throw it away and start with a new book on the 5th of January because they've carved their numbers up. He didn't know if that was a win/win for anybody.

Stacy Sand stated she knew last night she got \$5,100.00 taken off of the Police Budget just by talking to them and talking about "can you give a little here because you've got a lot of increase because of benefits" blah, blah, blah and she got \$5,100.00 off the Budget this Committee is going to be getting. It takes that long to get some of this stuff worked out. Their final vote was yesterday so she thought getting it on Friday is pretty good. She knew they were going to try to get it by Friday for sure.

Bill Marvel stated on Monday the 16th they put most of that \$5,000.00 back into the Library Budget. Stacy Sand stated she knew, but you've got to start some where.

Frank McCarthy stated he would recommend to amend the State law so the default can never be more than the original Budget. It needs to be changed. Chairman Mosca stated there was no argument from him. It hasn't been tried and has never gotten out of Committee. Frank stated it goes to the County Municipal Budget Committee and their rationale was upside down and he thought that would change with the new members to the Municipal Government Committee, but there has to be something done about this Default Budget. Chairman stated he definitely agreed.

Chairman Mosca asked the members if this was something that the Committee would like to move forward with, to send something to our legislative leaders asking them to look at the Default Budget and to make changes to it. Frank McCarthy stated he would. Chairman asked if this was something the members wanted to think about and decide at our next meeting. Bill Marvel stated we would have to have some pretty specific recommendations. Chairman stated the Default Budget should be 5% less than the previous year's Budget. Frank stated exactly, that's all it takes. Chairman stated or 3% less or 2% less. Danielle Santuccio stated or not less than 2% less.

Dick Klement stated a rise in health insurance, forgetting about pay raises, of \$500,000.00 or more, that goes into the Default Budget. If you kept the same amount of money you had the previous year and just put the health insurance in there, you're up 2.5% or 3% right there. You haven't done anything else. The health insurance is just whacking us to death and

that's why the Default Budget starts climbing so fast. Chairman Mosca stated he knew what Dick was saying, but if the Default Budget weren't driven by add-ons and it was just a percentage of the previous year's Budget, 98% of the previous year's Budget or whatever, then that's a number that gets put on the Ballot and the voters get to say all right we choose the Budget that's being proposed or we say no to the Budget that's being proposed and we're going to go with this and the Town or the School, whichever one is going to have to live with it and figure out how to do it.

Frank McCarthy stated this is his opinion but he thought the way the Default Budget now stands, it's a slap in the face to the voters. It takes their decision process away from them. They say "why should I not vote for the Budget because the Default Budget is going to be \$4 Million more than the regular Budget". It's a slap in the face to the voters. They have to vote for the Budget; otherwise, they're paying more. Something has to be done with it.

Dick Klement stated we're back to the whole SB2 discussion. The people that go to that meeting are few in number and very opinionated towards the passage of the appropriate Budget, be it Town or School. If you go to make changes and have somebody stand up and say "I want to cut this", "I don't want to have sports" or "I don't want to have Hip Hop" or "I don't want to have whatever" and "I want you to cut that money out", they can cut the money out there but the School or the Town are still going to spend it the way they see fit. You can go at the meeting and either cut money or add money back in and we've done both for the past couple of years. He thought it was the fault of the voters for not showing up.

Frank McCarthy stated not too long ago there was this discussion about closing down the Government for a week or two or whatever. What happened? They closed down the National Parks, they closed down the World War II Monument in Washington, they closed visits to the White House. They closed down whatever was going to affect the people the most and that's the same thing the School does. If you don't get this Budget, we're going to have to cut out Arithmetic and we're going to have to cut out Music and we're going to have to cut out this. If they got the Budget, they would find a way. Dick Klement stated he didn't disagree.

Doug Swett stated what you are saying is that there is something wrong with this country and they've got us. That's all he had to say. Chairman Mosca stated he wasn't disagreeing with that, but he was more concerned with what was going on in the Town right now.

Stacy Sand stated on a positive note, the Town Selectmen are very aware that health insurance is a huge issue and effects this Budget tremendously every year even if it is just 1% or 2%. This year for the Town it's 14% which is a little hard to handle but it is what it is and it's the best price they could get with the time they had. The good news is the Selectmen will basically invite the public, including members of this Board that are interested, in forming a collaborative committee that's going to explore health insurance or health care options in the Valley to try and get that figure a little more under control in this Town. That's a positive thing and we know it can't happen for this year's Budget, but if we start now maybe for next year or at least the year after. Hopefully the

members will join in that discussion on how health insurance is paid for in this Town.

Chairman Mosca stated what he was hearing is the School Budget is going up by 8% to 10% and the Town Budget is going up by probably some similar figure, 5% to 7% or 8% so we're having a double digit in the taxes again this year. He was not going to try to beat the dead horse like he did last year. If we continue going the way we are going, the person who is paying \$4,000.00 in property taxes last year, in 8 years they are going to be paying \$8,000.00 in property taxes. We have to do something or we're going to price people out of living in the Valley because they are not going to be able to afford it.

Doug Swett stated the next Valley they move to will be in the same shape. Chairman Mosca stated Doug was right, it's every where, but if we don't take responsibility and that means everybody, not just this Board, it's everybody, if we don't take responsibility it's going to keep going the way it's going and we need to do something, whether it's at the Town level, the State level, the Federal Government level, we have to start somewhere. If we start in the Town of Conway and we can be positive and progressive, then maybe some one else will see what we're doing.

Frank McCarthy stated regardless of what an amendment to the State RSA on Default Budgets would be, if nothing else, you give the voter an option. If nothing else, at least they have a choice. Now they don't.

Chairman Mosca stated let's put it on our Agenda for our next meeting and we'll discuss it a little further and he will come up with some language. He will tap Danielle (Santuccio) to help him and we'll discuss it and if the Board wants to move forward then we can put something together and send it to our legislative delegation in early January and see where it goes. Danielle Santuccio asked Frank (McCarthy) when he thought we should do this by. Frank stated there was a very narrow door of when the legislators can submit new Bills and in January it comes up early and it's only a couple of weeks away; maybe late January or early February. Chairman stated he would reach out to Syndy and to Karen who were both on the Board in the past couple of years and ask them to let him know when we would have to have something in to them by and we'll go from there. If the Board wants to do it, then we'll put something together and send it forward.

Bill Marvel moved, seconded by Mike Fougere, to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 PM. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Iris A. Bowden, Recording Secretary