

**MINUTES OF MEETING  
MUNICIPAL BUDGET COMMITTEE  
February 2, 2015**

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, Maureen Seavey, Doug Swett, Michael Fougere, Dick Klement, Bill Masters, Steven Steiner, Greydon Turner, Stacy Sand, Mark Hounsell and Peter Donohoe. Excused: Danielle Santuccio, Christopher DeVries, Frank McCarthy, Terry McCarthy and John Edgerton. Also present: Earl Sires, Lilli Gilligan, Paul DegliAngeli, Chief Wagner and Rodney King.

Chairman Joe Mosca led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

TOWN REVIEW

Chairman Mosca invited Earl Sires and Lilli Gilligan to come up front to join the members. Chairman stated the purpose of tonight's meeting is to ask final questions of the Town and of the School Department. The Town is up first and the Chairman asked members if they had any questions or comments for the Town before he got into all of his.

Peter Donohoe stated to Earl Sires, and possibly Paul DegliAngeli, if the infrastructure improvements that were discussed a few meetings ago if it ever could be consolidated to a single dollar figure for consideration for a Bond; has anybody identified what that dollar figure is. Earl stated yes, they did and he did an exercise with the Selectmen and basically they looked at two options: a \$1 Million Bond and a \$2 Million Bond. They looked at putting all of their projects which were estimated to cost more than \$200,000.00 into a Bond package because it didn't make sense to bond a \$60,000.00 roof job and all of that kind of stuff. That would have been \$2.25 Million total so they rounded to \$2 Million and then they looked at just doing the culverts. They have a whole series of culverts over the next 5 to 10 years and that was about \$1 Million, \$988,000.00.

Earl Sires stated the exercise was for \$1 Million or \$2 Million financed over a couple of different things. One wouldn't want to finance \$1 Million or \$2 Million over 30 years because the interest just gets ridiculous, so they looked at \$1 Million for 10 years, interest payments of about \$200,000.00, so about 20% of your total gets paid in interest and the principal payments were about \$100,000.00 a year and interest was about \$25,000.00 roughly. One Million dollars for 15 years, you're paying \$300,000.00 interest, payments are lower annually, about \$75,000.00, interest \$10,000.00 to \$15,000.00, actually the interest declines by starting out at \$20,000.00 and ends up at \$1,200.00, but the key thing there is \$300,000.00 on a \$1 Million Bond. On \$2 Million for 10 years you're paying \$400,000.00 in interest, the payments annually are in the \$200,000.00 range with interest starting out at about \$35,000.00 and ending up at \$3,500.00. On \$2 Million for 15 years you're paying \$600,000.00 on \$2 Million. Looking at that, the Selectmen decided that it just didn't make sense to finance. The other thing they found out was as they programmed this thing their payments are \$300,000.00 or so a year

from the Capital Reserve Funds and if you're going to be paying \$150,000.00 or \$200,000.00 a year for a Bond plus interest, the split between what you would pay with a Capital Reserve Fund and what you're paying financed, you don't buy the taxpayer much of a break each year by paying interest on top of it. The Selectmen he believes for that reason didn't pursue that.

Peter Donohoe stated if the Warrant Article doesn't pass, if it fails for the Capital Reserve Fund, then the Selectmen would at that point, he guessed he was asking because Paul's (DegliAngeli) presentation was pretty compelling and it seemed as though these things sort of had to get done or we needed to get a schedule started for this.

Chairman Mosca asked Peter Donohoe to please speak up a little bit louder because some people here might be able to hear him, but some may not and Iris (Bowden) isn't here and she's going to have to take everything completely from the tape, so we need to use the microphones. Thank you.

Earl Sires asked Peter (Donohoe) what the question was again. Peter stated if the Warrant Article fails, what will the Selectmen do in order to keep up with the schedule of infrastructure improvements given how compelling Paul's (DegliAngeli) argument was for getting all of this done in a timely fashion.

Earl Sires stated that's a good question. Certainly regrouping and presenting a Bond next year would be one thing, going back to what they used to do which was present a particular project or projects each year, you know, just straight up to the voters: do you want to fund this or not would be one. They feel that this approach is the most financially reasonable and to the best benefit of the taxpayers by avoiding interest and the financing charges, but also to a degree the tax rate each year. Granted it's not cheap, granted it's a significant amount to pay each year. He guessed he would also say that they've presented the projects because they do feel like they are necessary, particularly the culverts, and Paul's (DegliAngeli) point was we could wait until they collapse and it costs us \$35,000.00 or \$40,000.00 more per culvert plus the inconvenience to traffic, commerce and all that kind of stuff. He guessed they were hoping for the best and hoping that the voters will support this. If they don't, then immediately for 2015 the Selectmen will have funding in the Capital Reserve Funds to do some of these projects. River Street culvert would still get done and some of the other projects would still get done, but the years into the future would be big question marks at this point. Good question.

Chairman Mosca asked if you did bond it, at least the culverts, could we do all of them in one year. Earl Sires stated he would look to Paul (DegliAngeli) for that. Chairman stated if we go the route we're going and something does fail, it's going to cost us more money any way. If we did bond just the culverts, knowing it's going to cost us a little bit more in interest payments, could we get them all done in one year or two years instead of spreading it out over 5 or 6 years.

Paul DegliAngeli stated it could be done; could it be done for 2015, they would have to do a lot of design work and permitting work. Earl Sires stated he didn't think they could get the Bond Public Hearings and legal work and all that. Mr. DegliAngeli stated he thought they were past that. Earl stated it would be 2016.

Chairman Mosca stated he was just thinking to the point Peter (Donohoe) is trying to make; if the situation is that bad that we feel something could in fact fail, it's going to end up costing us more money than going the route we're going, maybe it's one of those times where you just say "all right we may pay more in interest charges, but we get everything done in a 2 year period and then we're not worried about it".

Paul DegliAngeli stated hard saying not knowing. Chairman Mosca stated exactly, but we didn't know River Street was going to fail. Mr. DegliAngeli stated true, but what he looked at this summer and they went and looked at them and then sketched up a report and then they went a looked at them again, he thought they are going to be okay if they stick to this 5 years. Remember that part of his presentation was that the Town embarked on a 10 year Infrastructure Plan 20 years ago. Some things need to be done next year and the ones they've put for the following year are the ones that are more tender and he could be wrong. He's not sitting here saying "they all have to be done next year". Earl Sires stated they do have the funding to do River Street this year and he thought that was the only culvert on the list this year any way. Mr. DegliAngeli stated also the Skimobile Bridge deck. Earl thought that they could conceivably work for next year on a package if the Board decided that's the way they wanted to go. Chairman stated as he said, he has to defer to Paul on it, but no one thought River Street was going to fail and all your best guesses can be wrong; it could last another 20 years too, you don't know. He wasn't saying it will, but he wouldn't take that bet.

Mark Hounsell asked Paul DegliAngeli if it was the intention of the plan, and he liked the plan that was put before this Committee, based on that plan, is it your intention to use Town crew to do a bulk of the work. Mr. DegliAngeli stated it was their intention to contract out all of those that were on the plan. The reason being is that if you have your plan handy and look at it, the Town crew will be doing other work that doesn't involve having to get larger equipment and a crane, etc. When they look at that, there's an opportunity cost to doing Project A, you can't do Project B and so they know how much they can handle in a season. They have all of that work, so which job should they handle, they'll take the ones that require less specialty. All of these require pre-casts so right off the get go one needs a much bigger excavator, if not two, on either side of the road and a crane because the pre-casts will be delivered and so they just decided those would all be contracted out.

Doug Swett stated his question is on the one that is 18 feet in the ground, why take a chance and go 3 years, why isn't that further down the list. If you have to excavate that one, you're going to move a lot of yards of dirt. Paul DegliAngeli stated that's a good question. Chairman Mosca asked if that was the one the Town wanted to line. Mr. DegliAngeli stated yes. They are rolling the dice because their inventory this summer

indicates it's in good shape and, therefore, a stitch in time saves nine. They need to line it while it still has its structural integrity because then the lining will stop any further corrosion and will never lose its structural integrity from the brook side. He couldn't really say what's happening on the back side, but they know that the lining process has been pretty successful. Again, Doug, they are basing it on what they saw; they got in there and looked at thicknesses, looked at the tender spots. They think they are okay and they think that the plan is good. They lined a 36-inch culvert this past summer, not too many people know about it, the one that goes by the old Abbott's Dairy, the covered bridge. Mark Hounsell stated he saw that. Mr. DegliAngeli stated back in the day that was an open ditch. What was done there could not be permitted and done today. They lined that and that was an "in the nick of time" job. It was part of the Washington Street Project and the good news there is that the State participated 80%.

Peter Donohoe stated his only point on the Bond versus the Warrant Article is, in his opinion, and again he thought the Town had put a good plan together here, but the business cycle hasn't upticked an awful lot lately and contractors in bidding would probably be fairly competitive and, secondly, Bond rates are pretty low now and he didn't know how long they can stay this low. Earl Sires stated that's true. Peter stated those are just why he advocates that way.

Paul DegliAngeli stated it was definitely looked at before they produced this plan, which way to go, and when they started doing it they said there are two unknowns: 1) what's our situation and let's go study it and 2) what would the finances be. Earl (Sires) already spoke to the finances. He thought if the Town pulls this off, it's better for the taxpayers' pocket just by doing the numbers. Earl stated but not cheap.

Chairman Mosca stated he had two questions; one is going to be for Paul DegliAngeli and one is going to be for the Police. The person you're seeking to hire. Mr. DegliAngeli asked if the Chairman was talking about the Engineering Specialist and Chairman stated yes and you have said that it's a pass through cost, so it doesn't cost us anything now or does it cost us something as is. Mr. DegliAngeli stated it hasn't cost the Town anything these many years because they were using a retired Foreman to the Highway Department. A man that he worked side by side with and he knew this man could do the job, he lives locally, he only charged when he worked and he only worked when they had a contractor who was in need and that was a pass through cost, it was 100% covered by the contractor. Mr. DegliAngeli stated they will put an ad in the paper. He didn't know if that talent, that availability, that willingness exists. This is a person who was retired, who was on a pension and could only earn so much, etc. If all of those things don't come together, then he has to draw from the other pool of people who do this for a living and they're going to want their summer full. The Town doesn't do construction this time of year. In New Hampshire we have ski season and construction season, those are the only two seasons, and so that person will be on the payroll, and we've already heard about all of that, and there is plenty of engineering work to do, but he can't say that 100% of their time will then be charged out. For the larger projects, they will hire somebody specifically for the

project. He needs someone who can do the smaller projects, who can follow the paving contractor, follow the crack sealing contractor, who can respond when there is a water break in Birch Hill, who can go when the utility company says "I need 3 days and I'm crossing the road", etc. etc.

Earl Sires stated plan review as well. Paul DegliAngeli stated he has done all the plan review. Currently his docket is too full so they sub-contract that out to other engineering firms and then he looks at it at the end once they've cleaned that up. The Town would like to bring that back in-house because during construction season if that person was the person who did the reviews, they're intimate with the design, they do a better job. While he hired someone to be on the Wal-Mart job, and there were days when there were 2 people on the Wal-Mart job because of the intensity of the activity. He was the person that did all of the plan review, so he was fielding 6 to 8 questions a day on that job alone which means he might have to visit, he's on the phone because they needed background or they weren't aware that this was here or that was there underground and so if they bring someone in who can then start doing the plan reviews for these major projects and then be in residence or be the supervisor of whoever the Town contracts, they will have a stronger package.

Chairman Mosca stated to Paul DegliAngeli that he just said that some of the plan review is contracted out; what dollar figure, is there a dollar figure you can put to that. Mr. DegliAngeli asked for what the engineers cost or the dollar figure of the construction. Chairman stated the cost of the engineer to do the plan review now because that's a cost we won't have in the future if we hire this individual. Mr. DegliAngeli stated the Town doesn't have that cost, it's a pass through. If he can get them to do plan review when they're not out in the field, the Town has another source of income. When they make their application to the Planning Board, before the Planning Board gives them a final approval, they may get a conditional approval, they have to pay that bill and the Town then pays the contractor.

Chairman Mosca stated even though the costs to the Town is going to be approximately \$55,000.00, is that the number. Lilli Gilligan stated \$53,000.00. Paul DegliAngeli stated approximately \$55,000.00. Chairman stated approximately \$55,000.00, he'd go with the higher number, part of that we're going to get back. Mr. DegliAngeli stated yes. Earl Sires stated he would say the Town is going to get a significant amount of that back, it's hard to say.

Mr. DegliAngeli stated they have a pre-bid meeting scheduled for Thursday and this would be a classic example, does he hire someone else out or will this person be that person. The Town had 4 to 5 inspectors going this summer and he's answering the questions of those 4 to 5 inspectors. He'd like to have this inspector being the 5<sup>th</sup> and free agent answering the questions for those 4. Earl (Sires) can tell you there were a lot of things that he asked for that waited. His budget was late. If they have the same sort of construction season that they had this year, it's getting to be just too much for one person. They figured it was about \$14 Million that his office did which means him. Lilli Gilligan stated the major

difference in the Default Budget to the Budget the Town has presented is this position.

Mark Hounsell stated a total different topic. The North Conway Multi-Purpose Trail, the cost of this is to be funded by Grants, the construction of it for \$825,000.00, there's a note that says no tax impact, but we also heard that there will be future maintenance costs that would be attributed to this. There may be no tax impact for 2015, but do we have any idea what it's going to cost to maintain this multi-purpose trail. Earl Sires stated not a really good idea. It hasn't really been resolved yet exactly the surface, will it be paved or a hard packed gravel. He guessed all he would say, and he would look to Paul (DegliAngeli) too to maybe chip in or chime in, but he didn't think there was going to be huge maintenance costs associated with it. In the several thousand dollars a year if that and probably not even that. He didn't know.

Mark Hounsell stated the other part that he personally finds objectionable, back years ago the Davis Park Tennis Courts were constructed with Federal money and after they were open the Town became aware of certain Federal guidelines and restrictions, at the time at least didn't sit well with a number of people in town, and he just goes back to there is no such thing as free money and when he looks at some of the nutritional programs that the Feds have through the schools and other Federal Grants, he gets real nervous. It would be, he thought, important for the voters to know what the future impact might be for maintenance and also what strings attached are there to accepting Federal funds of this nature. It doesn't come without something. Earl Sires stated they would try to take a look at that and one of the things that they did explore, unlike sidewalks, the law would not require the Town to maintain it during the winter other than grooming as a ski trail that they would do on their own. They will look into that. Thanks.

Chairman Mosca asked if there were any further questions for Earl (Sires) and Lilli (Gilligan) before he asks the Chief to come up.

Lilli Gilligan stated she actually brought Revenues to hand out. It was asked last week that those be made available. They have not been acted upon by the Selectmen. The Selectmen's meeting last week was cancelled so they will be acted upon tomorrow night, but this is at least a projection that she could pass around.

Chairman Mosca asked if there were any further questions and there being none, Chairman thanked Earl (Sires) and Lilli (Gilligan) for coming out this evening.

Chairman Mosca stated the only question/comment he had for Chief Wagner was on the Prosecutor which he fully supports in a part-time basis. His concern is that it is going to morph into something full-time and he's not saying that it's not going to be necessary at some point in time, but if the voters are voting for something that's a part-time position, he thought they should have a say if and when it becomes necessary to go full-time, they should have a say in it going full-time and he didn't know

how the Warrant Article is worded and that's something that he might have an issue with.

Chief Wagner stated the Lieutenant and he just talked about this before coming over and he didn't think any of us really know what's going to go on next year, the year after and who knows, all of us here may not even be around at that point. He thought the answer is since they don't know, it has to pass basically three Boards to go full-time: his Police Commission, the Board of Selectmen and the Budget Committee. You can just take it out of his Budget if you don't think you have that say so. He can sit here and probably promise the members that 2, 3 or 4 years he's thinking right now, but even then he guessed they would have to reassess. If crime goes down in Conway, then they may not need it; if it doubles, then they will probably need it. He thought that was the best answer he could give right now because they just don't know what's going on.

Chairman Mosca stated we can take anything out of the Budget. Chief Wagner agreed. Chairman stated however when we go to Deliberative, everything that we take out usually gets put back in and it's who shows up. We all know that. It's a cat and mouse game. He guessed his concern was, again he supports what the Chief wants, but depending on how the Article is written, he might have a problem with it. He would like to see it written that it's coming in as a part-time position and before it becomes a full-time position, and he didn't know if it was legal to do this or not, that it will go back to the voters to get the chance to vote on it.

Stacy Sand stated the Prosecutor position is not a Warrant Article, it's part of the Budget. Chief Wagner stated it's a Warrant Article. Chairman Mosca stated it's a Warrant Article. Stacy apologized.

Chief Wagner stated you're talking the Victim Witness Advocate and Chairman Mosca agreed and stated it says Police Prosecutor on here. That's what he's looking at. That's the wording on his sheet. Again, he fully supports it. Chief stated he didn't know if that was legal. Chairman stated that's his problem, he didn't know how it could be worded. He did know the DRA has certain requirements for Warrant Articles. Chief stated personally, and he thought probably he could speak for the Police Commission, but he would promise that he would come back here and say "hey, this needs to go full-time" and he would make his argument just like he does for everything else every year and then go from there. Rodney King stated he would support that as well. He felt they needed to represent the true aspect of the job as a part-time position because that's what they want at the present moment. Should it change, they would come back before this Board and present that.

Chief Wagner stated he didn't even know if it would have to go on another Warrant Article. He didn't really know. Chairman Mosca stated he didn't either and, like he said, he didn't want to tell the Chief that he wasn't in support of it because he was and he was not going to speak for the Board either, but he thought there's probably enough support at the Board that it will pass. Again, his concern is that if he supports something that is part-time, he doesn't want next year to hear "we got it through as part-time, so we're just going to put it in the Budget" and he's not

saying it's going to be done that way, but again not everybody in this room today is going to be here next year or maybe 3 or 4 years from now and that's what concerns him. Chief stated he personally can make the commitment that it will come back to this Board and he will give his word on that and they won't do anything before that happens. Chairman thanked the Chief.

Dick Klement stated if he recalls the last time we spoke, and he thought it was Danielle (Santuccio) that said this, you're talking in the vicinity of \$17.50 an hour. Chief Wagner agreed. Dick stated if we're looking for a lawyer to work for \$17.50 an hour, do you really think you can find one in this area that's willing to make that kind of money, you've got to take Social Security later on, so without taking the hit, so you're talking about a 70 year old, retired lawyer that wants to work. Chief stated they can also be a part-time police officer. To stand in front of the Court in New Hampshire you have to be either a lawyer or a police officer. Mark Hounsell stated or a defendant. (laughter) Dick stated we're talking about bringing somebody in part-time and making them a part-time Police Officer potentially. Chief stated no, they have to have been a full-time certified Police Officer in New Hampshire who still has their certification. Dick stated so we're going to go open competitive bid for this, there will be a hiring process and not a selection. Chief stated yes.

Doug Swett stated last week the Chief (Wagner) said the biggest problem we have is drugs in this town and he's sure it's true in 90% of the towns across the country, not that he has any familiarity with it, but he considers anybody that knowingly brings drugs across the state line down here for sale or even not for sale, that's pre-meditated murder in his mind. Would it help at all if a State law was passed concerning drug deals. Chief stated he thought any law that restricts the possession or sale of a controlled drug would help everybody out. He knows for a fact that drugs come in here from the Portland (ME) area, drugs come in here from Lowell (MA) and Lawrence (MA). He thought any law that was passed that would restrict that would be beneficial. Doug stated the problem we have here is that you could be working in Massachusetts and going there every day and a guy could put drugs under your bumper while you're in your job and you wouldn't know you're bringing them in, that's why you'd have to have real proof in his estimation to go after somebody for that because he might not know it.

Steven Steiner stated in his opinion an organization like Starting Point is really better suited. He's not going to support it, he'll tell the Chief (Wagner) right now, but what he will support is training for the Chief's department to get somebody in town to train your guys and go after the real problem in this town which is drugs.

Stacy Sand stated she thought one has to be careful with what was just said about Starting Point. For one, they are a non-profit and it's not like when you dial 9-1-1 you're automatically getting Starting Point. They do a lot of really good things and she thought supporting them is very important in this community, but she also thought when it comes to an experienced individual getting them through the Court process to hand off to the County Advocate or something, she thought we really do have a

disconnect in this town. She would hope that he would maybe re-look at that and she thought that if you look at the actual services of what Starting Point does, they do a really good job with what they do, but there is still a little bit of a disconnect between by the time that somebody calls for help and the time that somebody actually gets prosecuted. She would please ask him to reconsider his determination and think about that disconnect.

Chairman Mosca thanked Chief Wagner and others for coming out tonight.

#### SCHOOL REVIEW

Chairman Mosca stated now we have final questions for the School. He thought we might have somebody from the negotiating committee here, as Mark (Hounsell) thought there would be somebody from the negotiating committee would be here to discuss the Contract.

Mark Hounsell stated he would like to have everyone here to know that there was an invitation put out to all 3 members of the School Board Negotiating Team to come here to present. They're the ones qualified to do so. He didn't know why they didn't take it. He can't use snow as an excuse for people in New Hampshire. He is disappointed that there is no one here to make that presentation. He is not equipped because he doesn't know the ins and outs of the negotiation because he wasn't part of it. He will say that he is here to represent the School Board. He did vote to ratify because it was clear to him that the two negotiating sides achieved mutual satisfaction and wanted to bring it forward. He was in favor of bringing it forward with the understanding that it satisfied both the wants and needs of the teachers and of the School District. Other than that, he can't say much about it to which he apologizes.

Stacy Sand stated since the answers to our questions were handed to us right before the meeting last week, she didn't feel she really had a chance to look at the answers and now that she's had the time, she doesn't feel satisfied in some of these answers and she has follow-up questions with nobody to ask. She is very disappointed that this is the second meeting where we've had basically nobody. Dr. Nelson came to that last meeting, but he was not prepared to answer most of the questions that she had. She knows that Mark (Hounsell) is representing the School Board, but he approved the Budget and was not the one that made the Budget. She thought some of her questions go to the Principals.

Chairman Mosca stated give Mark (Hounsell) a shot and maybe he can answer something and maybe he can't, but let's at least get it on the record.

Mark Hounsell stated he would like to point out a couple of things. He believes Dr. Nelson responded just as fast as he could once he was in receipt of the questions themselves. The questions didn't get to him until the Monday before we met on Wednesday.

Stacy Sand stated we didn't get the Budget until the week before that as well. Mark Hounsell stated plus the School Board held it up. Stacy stated she was just saying we got that Budget on Wednesday and met the following

week, had questions and were told to take those same questions we asked at the meeting and submit them in writing. We got the answers back a week later. Mark stated we got the answers two days after they were received. Stacy stated she didn't know when they got sent out, she sent hers out within a day of the meeting. Mark stated regardless of that, he thought he could take a stab at a good number of these questions, he won't BS anyone at all and if he doesn't know, he'll tell members he doesn't know. He did look through these and did notice that Stacy did have some questions on Technology that he thought were answered pretty much through Dale Anderson's Memo. Whatever the pleasure of the Chair is, he'll do the best he can to answer. Even though he didn't put the Budget together, he has reviewed it, he has looked at it and he is satisfied with it and he thought he could speak to it.

Stacy Sand stated these pages aren't numbered, so at the top of the page, question #22, and we're looking at some of the Rotating Funds and just to put out there that one of the items is that there are 3 new water fountains. She would hazard that we could save a lot of money and electricity costs, cooling costs and such by maybe not replacing water fountains, but by having a water bottle program where people can fill their bottles at a sink and have water with them at all times instead of having kids lose class time and go out to a water fountain. That's a philosophical thing she's looking at on how we spend our money. Maybe look at something different there; we have alternatives in this day and age.

Stacy Sand stated on question #23, the High School Internet, she asked why it was up 21% and the answer was the increase in Internet speed was \$10,000.00 and now it's \$18,000.00. When did that take place; that's a significant increase for one year and she looked through Dale's (Anderson) letter and there was nothing addressing that there was a major increase in the cost of Internet at the same speed. She knows at a domestic level we did have a small increase of maybe 8% at home, so maybe they had the same increase, but there was never an explanation of why or what.

Stacy Sand stated she also had a problem with question #24, as she recalls this Board took out of the School Budget last year, it wasn't a lot, she can't remember the amount and couldn't go back and find it, but thought it was something like \$80,000.00 maybe and she knows that a part of that was because we didn't feel that the Student Safety Coordinator at \$35,000.00 should be a part of that Budget. She knows that was part of that figure that this Board took out. When she asked this question, not only was the Student Safety Coordinator hired any way, but they hired them at a higher rate than what was budgeted for. She just wanted to make a public comment that she thought that was almost a slap in the face to this Committee. We can't tell people how to spend the money within their Budget, but if we specifically mention something that this is why we are reducing the Budget by a certain amount, she would hope that at the very least if you are going to still fill the position that you don't hire them at a higher rate than what you budgeted for.

Mark Hounsell stated he would answer that by saying that no one looks to slap any one in the face on where they take a position and the Budget Committee taking a position that they didn't want a Student Safety

Coordinator was diametrically opposite of that that the School Board has. The School Board is affirmly committed to the need and hiring of the Student Safety Coordinator and so there wasn't an agreement on that between the School Board and a majority of the Budget Committee. The Student Safety Coordinator was hired and has proven out to be a good hire and they continue to support that as a School Board.

Stacy Sand stated she just wanted to make that statement because she thought it's one thing because we don't have control if they are still going to hire the position, but to increase the Budget just to hire when, again, you couldn't hire at the budgeted amount. She thought it was a raise since it came in at \$1,000.00 more and it's a pretty significant raise for the first year, but she guesses that wasn't the case.

Stacy Sand stated another question just to put out there and she should have asked when Paul (DegliAngeli) was here, but she can ask him later, is she noticed that one of the things is a major increase in contracted services and Grounds, seal coating, striping and such, she was wondering if there was any way that could be coordinated with the Town and what they're doing, maybe get a better price, put it out there to see because she knows they are doing the same. Even if it's sub-contracted, maybe if they had one sub-contractor up here for a certain period of time or something to get a better price. Mark Hounsell stated that's a good idea.

Stacy Sand stated on question #28, she asked what the new Health equipment at \$3,400.00 at John Fuller was for. They said Audio Meter and a Manual Vision Screener and she was wondering why that type of equipment isn't shared amongst the schools because she wouldn't imagine that's something that's done every day at a school. An Audio Meter, she's assuming, tests hearing levels and the ones she's seen are not that big of a machine and she couldn't understand why it couldn't be used for the entire school system. Same thing with the Manual Vision Screener, why are we spending \$3,400.00 per school or are we. Mark Hounsell stated he didn't know, but that's a real good one.

Stacy Sand stated on question #30, School Board Services, she asked why is there a \$20,000.00 or 28% increase in Legal and the answer was "may be needed by the new Superintendent". She was kind of like why do you think the new Superintendent is going to need a 28% increase in Legal; are they going to be doing things, she finds that a little difficult if we're spending this much more to get a qualified person. They've upped the ante really high and now add another \$20,000.00 in Legal because this person might need legal advice. She has a little problem with that. She didn't think we should be doing that.

Dick Klement stated this is the Conway Budget, this is not the SAU Budget, so to have \$20,000.00 in Legal in the Conway Budget and the answer being "may be needed by the Superintendent", he thought that's misplaced. It should have been in the SAU Budget to be covered by all of the towns. He stated to Stacy (Sand) that he was sorry he interrupted.

Chairman Mosca stated he was going to jump in too. This is some of the things when we go to vote on Budgets next week that you may want to look

at and where you may want to make cuts in things and reduce things because the last two years when we've suggested cuts in any Budgets we've tried to come up with reasons and not just a number and these may be some things that we may want to look at to say "we can cut \$20,000.00 here, we can cut \$5,000.00 from Fuel here, we can do this and we can do that" to reduce the Budget. He didn't think it was going to be a significant number, but did think to Stacy's (Sand) point, they are all good questions. He apologized to Stacy for interrupting.

Stacy Sand stated not all of these are her questions, but question #33, "what is average salary increase under the new Agreement", it states "See Attachment B". She didn't figure out from Attachment B what that increase is so she would appreciate it if someone gave her an actual percentage on that versus her having to go down and figure it out, but that would supposedly be answered with the salaries. Chairman Mosca stated it's all of the salaries listed. Mark Hounsell stated go down to the very bottom on page 5, the average increase is 4.38%, if you're talking teachers.

Stacy Sand stated but it also asked "what is the highest salary increase under the new Agreement". Chairman Mosca stated that was not addressed either, he agrees. Stacy stated it's not really addressed specifically. Chairman stated those numbers don't include longevity pay, correct. Mark Hounsell stated right. Chairman stated so the numbers we're looking at are based on contractual, but not the longevity pay which is going to be different for all of the teachers over 5 years. Mark Hounsell stated 10 or 12. Dick Klement stated there's about six different buckets, 4 to 7, 8 to 14, 15, 19; they all are different. Chairman stated so some of these teachers are getting \$4,000.00 raises this year with the longevity pay tacked on to it. They could be getting over a \$5,000.00 raise this year. Is that something that we should be giving out teachers and he didn't know the answer to that, but it seems like an awful lot of money in some instances.

Dick Klement stated when he took a look at the list of teachers, he guessed by mutual agreement the Conway School Board and the Teachers' Union representatives came to the agreement that merit pay wasn't working and they went to a Salary Schedule. He looked at the Salary Scale and he looked at the wages and, as an example, a Masters +30, Step 12, would get \$44,145.00, that's the top of their salary. If you look at the list for a Masters +30, Step 12, they are all over that and they're getting a raise on top of that. His question to the School Board is: How can you put in a Salary Schedule that's brand new and have a significant number of teachers already making higher than that salary and getting a raise on top of that. There's one person in that group that makes \$60,000.00, and again the top is \$44,145.00, and they're getting a 2.4% raise on top of that. He is having a problem with the whole thought process that went into this and that's why he was really looking forward to having somebody here tonight that could answer that question because he's confused.

Chairman Mosca stated to Dick (Klement) they gave the Candy Store away; they gave everything the Teachers' Union wanted and he didn't know what we got back. That was going to be one of his questions. What did we get for

everything that we're giving because he didn't see anything we were getting.

Dick Klement stated he understood the philosophy taken by the School Board that they needed to increase the starting salary because they needed teachers to stay here longer and he wholeheartedly agreed with that. It's kind of a float in, float out zone. By increasing the starting pay and by throwing in some benies like helping with Student Loans if they stayed for 5 years, that's fine, but when you've got a teacher that's been here for 12 years and has a Masters +30 and making \$60,000.00 and they're throwing a \$1,500.00 raise on top of it, he has a problem with that.

Mark Hounsell stated any one who's ever been involved in Union negotiations, you've got to give something to get something. The School Board has been pretty strong in saying that it wants to attract and retain good teachers. In order to get that, and he's probably stepping out where he shouldn't, but he would suspect the way negotiations go with Unions, the veteran teachers aren't going to just roll over and let that happen unless there is something in there for them and that's the nature of negotiations.

Dick Klement stated but then you don't come up with a mutually agreed Salary Schedule that a teacher exceeds by \$15,000.00 if they're step. You just don't do that. Both ends of the solution kind of have to come together and meet some place and not be off by \$15,000.00.

Mark Hounsell stated he wished one of the negotiators had come. Chairman Mosca stated it would have been beneficial.

Peter Donohoe stated he's heard Dr. Nelson make reference and it's shown here on the Special Education decreases so to speak; is it true that an awful lot of the decreases to one placement and if that one placement had been in the population this year we would have seen a 10% increase in the overall Budget. Mark Hounsell stated it was his understanding that the Budget did benefit by the no longer required out-of-district placement. Quite frankly, it could happen tomorrow morning, they could have someone placed.

Peter Donohoe stated that's what he is saying: are we living that much on the razor's edge here. Mark Hounsell stated he didn't think so because they find a way to provide the services that a student needs in-house because they do so well in-house and so out-of-district placements aren't as pressing as they used to be in the District, as pressing as they are for other Districts. He thought they are doing more in-house and a little bit, and he didn't want to use the word hard nosed, but a little bit more insistent that their staff be given a shot at fulfilling the requirements of an IEP. He thought what they have is very good Special Education services, but it's also one that is very much aware of budgets. He didn't think they were in a critical state where all of a sudden everything would fall apart because of an out-of-district placement. He could be wrong, it's always a roll of the dice. Some of the problems with Federal laws, Federal Grants, like previously stated with the free walkway. There's nothing free and Special Education certainly hasn't been, they haven't

really benefited by the Federal Special Education laws as it pertains to funding. He didn't know if that answered the question or not. He guesses that's his way of saying "I don't know". Peter stated no, it didn't and thank you for asking.

Stacy Sand stated under questions requested from Dr. Nelson for the meeting held 1/14/15 and #3 under that is Staff Development, why has it gone up \$18,000.00. This was not her question, but the answer was "pay for consultant", but what consultant.

Mark Hounsell stated the consultant would be Elaine Millen. Right now they don't have a full-time Superintendent and Dr. Nelson is restricted to 29.5 hours per week. To help him out, the workload has been divvied up between himself, Kevin Richard as the Assistant Superintendent and Elaine Millen. The focus that Elaine has is on staff development and if you were to check out her credentials which is quite easy to do, you would find that they're quite fortunate to have someone with her experience and expertise available to them. That's why.

Stacy Sand asked if this was a new budget item, hasn't she been doing something for the School District in the past. This says "why has it gone up \$18,000.00", so she's getting \$18,000.00 more because she has more responsibility. Mark Hounsell stated he didn't know if it was all hers or not.

Stacy Sand stated she didn't ask the question, but it's kind of vague, "at the Middle School Lease Purchase Agreement for a new field mower". Again, she asks if this is a piece of equipment that the Town has and since most of the fields for the schools are being mowed like Spring and during the school year when most of the Town fields are being mowed and done during in the Summer. Mark Hounsell stated this mower is quite a bit bigger than the one the Town has and there's a considerable amount of fields that have to be prepped, both in the Fall and Spring. Stacy stated she understood that. Mark stated this one is about to die.

Dick Klement stated we had asked the Town a number of times to cut the grass, mow down the weeds, whatever it is, up Eagle's Way, specifically the start of school, graduation, you know, when you really want the school to stand out, and if it wasn't on your schedule they couldn't accommodate it. It's a question of the Town having resources available when we need them at the school. For example, before a football game or whatever to maintain the field, he didn't think they could depend upon the Town to provide the resources at the times required.

Stacy Sand stated she wasn't saying they shouldn't have their own person to run the mower at your convenience, but she was just wondering if there was a way to share some of this equipment. We're spending a lot of money on capital equipment between the Town and the School and she just didn't know if that was an item that the costs could be shared, but if it's specific to the School's needs then it's not possible.

Dick Klement stated at the Middle School remember that equipment's paid for by, he believes, 4 towns: Madison, Albany, Eaton and Conway. Mark

Hounsell stated Freedom also. Dick stated Freedom too pays for that equipment, so that's why you'll see some things in one column versus another. A different one would be the School Resource Officer for years was paid out of Conway PD and we changed that over to the School because then all of the towns were paying a part of the School Resource Officer. That may not answer your question, but it shows some of the rationale behind it. Stacy Sand stated she just didn't think that the equipment being used at the Middle School was shared cost, she thought it belonged to the Town of Conway. Mark stated it does, but the cost is borne through the Tuition Contracts. It's like a Bond, the sending towns paid a portion of the Bond.

Chairman Mosca asked Stacy (Sand) if she had anything else. Stacy stated that was going to be her last comment. She did join Andy Grigel and Jim Hill and Bill (Masters) and Mark (Hounsell) for a tour of how the operating system works in the plant and they also went over to the Elementary School and, to tell you the truth, she does a lot of testing of heating systems as part of her energy auditing, the two boilers she saw next door were a pretty sad sight to see in her opinion and with the size of the building they are heating she was like "okay, let's hope we don't have a lot of cold days". They never shut off the entire time they were there, a lot of the piping is very badly rusted, there was a leak on the floor. The door getting into the building looks like you could put your fist through it. She didn't know if it's true, but the paint is peeling which is often a good sign of rot and such, she guesses she thought we definitely need to find a way to better these systems, but they are running.

Stacy Sand further stated she was shown that at all three Elementary Schools basically if we lose a boiler and we have days like what we've had for the past couple of days in the low single digits first thing in the morning, we're probably not going to be able to keep those buildings. It is intense, but they have a wonderful system that let's them know when things go wrong, if things are interconnected and the whole bit with Seaman's she thinks she has a better understanding now. Years ago they made a commitment to this contractor for providing the systems that they use. If we were to put any of this out to bid, not individual jobs, sub-contracting jobs, but the overall thing, we'd be losing years of experience that go with that bid and she thought that was something that she knows she hadn't thought of that much. She was thinking of fairness and this and that, but we made that commitment years ago to go with this particular contractor and they've kept all of our buildings running 10 years at least, or 15 years.

Mark Hounsell stated it may be 18 years, he knows that it's been awhile. Stacy Sand stated she thought the reality is that we have a contractor that is not steering us wrong and trying to get the price up because all of this gets sub-contracted, the piping, the equipment and such, it's not just them that's getting all of this. Basically, we're going to come out with a set of plans at the end of this design that will give us the direction we need to go to make sure that all of these classrooms have heat, fresh air and whatever else they need to maintain these buildings. It makes sense to her now, it didn't make as much sense before.

Steven Steiner stated he wasn't against the Technology that's out there to make these systems more efficient, what he's against is, and he thought Mark (Hounsell) may have said it, that we need to put these million dollar heat plants in these buildings so that we can sell them. Chances are that the two buildings that he is thinking of and unless the Town goes into one, John Fuller is either going to be razed or depending on what the best use of that building is, maybe a condominium, they aren't going to use that heat plant. It's wasted money, wasted taxpayer money. He hasn't heard any other options from the School, he doesn't hear any option on the table about closing two of the schools. Save the taxpayer money, put our money and maintenance into this building and Conway Elementary, not into the other two buildings. It's a waste of money; can not afford it.

Stacy Sand stated then you need to get a new School Board that wants to put the money into a real independent study that will tell you whether they're going to close these schools or not and whether it's worth it to the taxpayers. She has the same opinion about this as she has about the Fire Departments that the Select Board wanted to invite the Fire Departments to the table to see if we could save the entire town money by maybe combining resources. They wanted to talk about it. Unfortunately, that didn't happen. The timing wasn't right to talk about it, but she didn't think anybody on that Board or a single Fire Department can say whether it would save the taxpayers money or would not. She says the same thing about these Elementary Schools, it's fine and dandy to think that closing two Elementary Schools might save money. Dick (Klement) did a little exercise that showed it's a good possibility, but our reality is nobody has sat down and taken all of the elements into consideration, the buses, the remodeling, the this, the that, what we lose from the incoming schools, it's a very detailed study that needs to be done before any of those decisions should be made in her opinion. If you're going to do something like that, sure ask the questions and make it, but meanwhile we have 5 buildings that we're maintaining and they need to be maintained. You can't say "we might close schools" when we don't know that; in fact, when we were in a classroom, her enrollment is going up 4 students next year, 4 per class in the Kindergartens. Maybe we are going up, maybe we don't really, because we don't know whose in all of the pre-school ages yet, we don't know because nobody's done the work. If you do the work, then she might be on his side.

Steven Steiner stated just one thing, one thing he knows is that the Budgets of this town are breaking the backs of the older folks and that's that.

Chairman Mosca stated you really can't not fix something that you're really not going to close. To Stacy's (Sand) point, until there's people on the School Board or people in the town that put Warrant Articles on or do whatever, to actually get to the voting public to see what they really want to do, you have to maintain what you have and if a boiler blows up in any one of those schools, whether it's John Fuller, Pine Tree or Conway Elementary, tomorrow it's going to cost us and it's going to cost us dearly. To not do the Study and not look into it is crazy in his opinion.

Steven Steiner stated but the School's already proven they don't want to do a Study, we've already gone down that road. Chairman Mosca stated that's why he said to put a Warrant Article on and let the voters vote on it. That's the only way it's going to get done.

Peter Donohoe stated piggybacking on both Steven (Steiner) and Stacy (Sand), yes Stacy is right detail is all important and yes Steven is right that consolidation is something that needs to be considered. We seem to be in this District structurally stuck with a lot of plant property and equipment. We also have very talented teachers who he thought we should pay more and keep pay scales high so that we can attract and keep good talent. The fact of the matter is that in his 3 years on the Board he's watched both of those realities trying to co-exist and he didn't think we could keep going the rate we're going in trying to keep them both afloat. He thought we're just going to have to make some hard decisions and we're going to need to go one way or the other way because we can't keep this whole thing going and keep paying these teachers what they need to get paid.

Chairman Mosca stated he agreed wholeheartedly with that and if we were to lose a school or two schools and we were to cut our personnel, we're not going to save any money because we're going to end up paying the teachers that we keep more money. The bottom line is going to change, but it's not going to change that dramatically. To Peter's (Donohoe) point, to keep talented people here because we're a training ground, people stay here for 4 or 5 years and then they leave and some don't even stay that long. If you want to keep them, you've got to pay them, but we're in a Catch 22: we can have all the buildings and have lower salaries or we can have higher salaries and try to eliminate something. Peter's right, we're on a collision course and it's going to explode at some point in time.

Dick Klement stated he's been given some more Revenue information regarding the sending towns and he thought there was a couple of things that are of note: if we would want to adjust whose town children we educate, that would probably take us 8 years or so to get there because that's when the Contract expires or get to be renegotiated. For 8 years or so, you're in this never, never land of what are you going to do, but then to go back and look the other way and say "what's the Revenue", he said the annual cost was some place like \$2.8 Million we could save by eliminating two schools. Again, this is not set in stone, it may not even be set in sand, it may be in jell-o, he didn't know, so he got some Revenue information and the information that he was able to ascertain and it's a mystery how this thing works, we would lose about \$4 Million worth of Revenue by not having those 300 or so kids come. So you say wait a minute I'm \$1.2 Million in the hole now and I've gotten rid of two schools, what isn't included, yet again another piece of the puzzle, if you go down 300 students or at the Middle School and the High School combined, you're going down basically 30% and you're going to have to reduce some teachers some place.

Dick Klement further stated if you reduce 20 teachers and Aides at the Middle School/High School, it would be a wash. You probably could get rid of more, but more time and energy have to go into this Study. If you get

rid of two buildings, you get rid of all of those unknowns that happen at 2:00 AM where a pipe breaks and it gets flooded and this happens and that happens, these are the unknowns that have been plaguing us for years of these buildings and as the buildings get older, they get worse. Yes, a Study needs to be performed. Some folks have got to sit down that have appropriate data at their hands and go through this thing. We can't just ignore it and he thought Mark (Hounsell) was the one that wanted to come up with a Long-Term Study, but he didn't believe that facilities were envisioned to be discussed. Is it the job of this Board to hold the School Board's feet to the fire to say something, he didn't know, but it's the job of this Board to look at money and if it's being wisely spent.

Greydon Turner stated has anyone at any point looked at a firm; there are firms out there that perform this type of Study. What has been the School Board's objection to do so. Dick Klement stated it was \$250,000.00 and they didn't want to put it on the Warrant. Greydon stated wouldn't it be as justifiable to spend the \$267,000.00 we're spending to have our plans looked at, but to also look at the District overall. For \$250,000.00, it seems like a fairly reasonable sum to determine what we can do. Chairman Mosca stated on a \$34 Million Budget you would think so. Dick stated the vote was 5 to 2. Greydon stated and the vote is ultimately up to the School Board. Chairman stated no, the Town or someone could put a Warrant Article on to force the School Board to do it. It can be done. Greydon stated it's been 4 joyous years of going back and forth both on camera and off camera with all of these various ideas, but unfortunately none of us are qualified to make this ultimate decision. He remembers the Bus Study and after hours and hours of the Bus Study sitting up in Town Hall and 2 of the members simply pushed it aside and said "I don't believe it". What was the point of doing that. It seems to him if we're going to do this, enough with the opinions, there's got to be a way to just hire someone and go along with that because everything you're saying about this coming to a critical mess is going to and it makes no sense. You're right, it's being penny wise and pound foolish.

Mark Hounsell stated he wanted to talk about what Dick (Klement) was saying about the future of the Conway School District and the long range plan. He's been looking at and doing his own study, you can probably put this under opinion but it's one that has been thought through. He's been involved in the discussions about closing schools since he thought it began. He's of the position that under the current way they do schools in the Conway School District by receiving sending towns community students, that we could ill afford to close an Elementary School in any way, shape or manner and fulfill the terms of the Contract.

Mark Hounsell stated Dick points out something that he thought members should look at and that's the trending that's taking place. He thought this was the first year, of the \$34 Million, that over 50% of it is borne by the Conway taxpayers. They're seeing declining enrollment in Bartlett and Jackson and he kind of has this wonder in his head as to what SAU #13 is really up to. He didn't think any of the sending towns, other than Albany and Eaton, represent anything that's solid in the future, affordable in the future and he did think that part of the Long-Range Plan, and he prefers that over Strategic Plan, because he thinks this is

where they really need to look at things, need to take a look at what would our District look like if Conway no longer was a receiving District at the Middle School and High School levels. He thought at that point, the conversation changes totally because basically one-third of the students or 300 students, that's a big impact. We should be looking at that now because that's 8 years out. In the meantime, that's 8 years out, and there is no startling evidence that we do not need these 3 Elementary Schools. Nothing that he's seen; granted there hasn't been an expert and, in fact, in their quest to find a consultant, they found that there wasn't even anyone who did that type of work, so they would have been learning on the job as well.

Mark Hounsell further stated how does that tie in to the boiler at the Elementary Schools? They're committed to them staying open and staying operational at least into the foreseeable future. When he says "we" he means the School Board and thereby the School District. The question on how we get this engineering work done because the engineering work needs to be done in order for them to get the work done which work needs to be done. What's the best format to do this. One of the things that came up at the last meeting was whether this question should be in the Budget or as a Warrant Article and stand by itself and let the voters decide up or down. As John Edgerton pointed out "no" means "no". If the voters say "no" to a Warrant Article then we will not do the engineering; whereas, in the Operating Budget they could haggle that out. As he was listening to Frank (McCarthy) and possibly Dick (Klement) and others, that the people should be asked this question and as he got thinking about it, he was thinking "why not", why not put this out there as a Warrant Article, let the voters vote it up or down on whether they want the engineering. He's comfortable with that in the sense that if the public's informed, the public will support it and he believes it would be important for the public to be informed.

Mark Hounsell further stated what he was wondering was: he was planning to, willing to, preparing to, bring this before the School Board next Monday to see if they would change their course of action in response to some of the feelings from the Budget Committee to pull it out of the Operating Budget and to write a Warrant Article, but he guessed he would only want to do that if he found that in any way shifted people's, on this Committee, feeling toward support of that Article versus being in the Operating Budget. He personally believes it should be in the Operating Budget, he believes maintenance is as much as operation as paying teachers or buying books, but he could understand when it's this type of money and it's tied to what looks like a capital improvement, which it really isn't because it's a maintenance improvement. He could understand where members of the Committee would like to see it stand by itself and he was curious as to what the members thought now.

Dick Klement stated he thought the problem was that there is a \$500,000.00 difference between the Budget the School Board approved and the Default Budget and that's just the big difference and that's got to play into this some how.

Chairman Mosca stated he said that the other day that if the voters vote against the School Budget and the Default Budget comes into play, where are the cuts going to come from. Mark Hounsell stated he would fight to do the engineering because it needs to be done. Chairman stated he heard Mark loud and clear and it was said by Jim (Hill) the other night that it would get done no matter what happened, but the realities are where are you going to cut if your Budget is \$500,000.00 short. If you do the Engineering Study, you're taking another \$280,000.00 out of your Budget and now you're down to close to \$1 Million, \$800,000.00. He knows there's always a little bit left over at the end of the year, but it's a little bit in the grand scheme of the Budget, if you're within a percent of so that's pretty good budgeting as far as he is concerned. He just didn't know if, for whatever reason this Board didn't pass the School Budget, again historically whatever this Board does, the taxpayers do. He didn't know, he guessed that he would ask to do a straw vote, nothing official, but if this were a Warrant Article, who would support it. If the \$287,000.00 became a Warrant Article and came out of the Budget, who would support it.

Stacy Sand asked Chairman Mosca if he could turn it around. Greydon Turner stated that doesn't make sense, you should ask if you'd support making it a Warrant Article. Chairman stated no, okay, would you support it as a separate stand alone Warrant Article, if it were a Warrant Article. Stacy stated she'd support it in the Budget. Stacy stated that's not saying what our preference is. If you would support it as it exists in the Budget she thought would be a good question. Then asking if it's not supported if it would be supported differently as a Warrant Article, don't you think. Chairman stated he thought it was both the same. Chairman asked the members if they support it as being in the Budget.

Dick Klement stated he could support it in the Operating Budget, but he's got a \$500,000.00 difference between the School Board Budget and the Default Budget.

Chairman Mosca stated his feeling is counting the votes and knowing the personalities of this Board that chances of the School Budget passing this Board is slim to none. It's going to be 8-7 or 8-8 or it's going to be 9-7 or it's going to be so close one way or the other, it's going to be too close.

Mark Hounsell asked Chairman Mosca if he was going to have the recommended cuts or are you just going to say "no" to it. Chairman stated he thought there would be recommended cuts. Mark stated last year he thought there was recommended cuts of \$100,000.00 plus. Chairman stated he thought it was \$200,000.00 plus. Mark stated and the School Board adopted that. Chairman stated exactly.

Bill Masters stated he couldn't support it in the Budget because it's a capital improvement. From his view point, he would support the concept of putting it in a Warrant Article because the boilers need to be replaced period, but they have to be demolished and removed and that's not a maintenance repair of an existing system, that's replacing an existing system, like buying a new school bus. It really needs to go into a Warrant

Article and let the voters decide on that. We make a case that they need to be replaced period and he is absolutely in agreement that the systems do need to be upgraded. They will put in principal and primary heating system which can carry the entire system and a backup which can also carry the entire system, but the system as it is right now at Conway Elementary, both of the boilers have to run continuously just to do the basic job. You lose one, you lose the whole system.

Bill Masters further stated when the system is through the monitoring system that's in place, he can support the concept for replacing perhaps two and he is in agreement that we should really look long and hard at closing at least one school and as an objective that we recommend that perhaps the Town consider moving the town offices into the school that's closed, maintain the configuration of that school whereas it has an adequate entrance, no more elevators, straight line in so handicapped have easy access. You have a Cafeteria, you have a Gymnasium, you have two classrooms per grade so that's 12 classrooms, you could move all of the Town offices, all of the Boards could have access there if you maintained the configuration of that school as a school. In other words, you would keep the Cafeteria, you would keep the food preparation areas.

Bill Masters further stated if you sold the existing Town Hall for example, you could put in an emergency generator and you now have the capacity of having an Emergency Shelter which can produce not only food but sleeping facilities to boot. The point being is, if in fact, because we do have a decline in enrollment because the age group between the two Censuses in 2000 and 2010, the one major age group that grew by 26% were people over 65. We've had 10 years of constant decline in enrollments, there's a history of that. Secondly, if you maintain that facility, the closed school with the Town in there, he can guarantee you you could reopen it, refurbish it and build a new Town Hall for far less money than we could ever build a new Elementary School. It's a no brainer. We really can't financially, and he's been told this by people who are in the know, for school maintenance and operational systems, the physical plants, that we can't really afford to maintain 5 facilities. Now if the individuals want to come up and identify themselves, that's fine, but the point being is it is a no brainer.

Bill Masters further stated the fact of the matter is we need to clearly begin to address these hard issues and no one really wants to do that. It's a question of wants versus needs. Looking at the study of 15 States on the No Child Left Behind, Title I, the Study clearly showed that school of choice showed no significant improvement in scholastic standings and test results for those kids who elected to go to a school versus those that didn't. What it did show was the SES, Supplementary Education Services, there was a significant difference in the academic showing of the kids that were actively involved in that. We're caught in the dilemma, we just can't seem to get passed that. He can support upgrading the systems, but it's very hard not to address the issues that really need to be addressed.

Chairman Mosca stated but that's not our purview. It's not up to us to decide whether a school gets closed or not. All we can do is say "yes" we

support the Budget or "no" we don't support the Budget and these are the reasons why.

Bill Masters stated to Chairman Mosca, the question that you asked was would we support the Warrant. Yes he would support the concept of a Warrant, not in the Operating Budget because it's a capital improvement.

Peter Donohoe asked Mark Hounsell in relation to all of this on the overall maintenance priorities on Tab J of the book, and he apologized for making members open their book at this hour, the thing that he is struck by and he's not speaking directly to whether the Engineering Study should be undertaken or not, it seems to him that we have no choice but to undertake the Engineering Study given the fact that we own the buildings and it's our obligation to keep them running. He's confused by one thing and he has one point, he would just like to say that under Priorities, Items #2 through #9 are all Elementary School, with the exception of one item in the middle for Kennett High School, #7, there's some \$4 Million worth of improvements there that are anticipated in the next 5 to 6 years.

Mark Hounsell stated interestingly enough the work that they've bundled together that's been spoke of in this Engineering Study is about \$4 Million.

Peter Donohoe stated he just wanted to make the point that that's \$4 Million of expenditures on these schools where once again, and he sees fund source in the Operating Budget in a couple of instances Warrant Articles and some instances Bonds, so the net cost to the taxpayer in the case of bonded items which are the nearly million dollar items are going to be a heck of a lot more than a million dollars as we just heard the Town describe, so the net cost to the taxpayers here for \$4 Million worth of work is probably going to be a lot more than \$4 Million. Again, he makes the point to piggyback on earlier discussions of his own sentiments about how plant intensive this School District is and we continue to go down this road and these types of things need to be done to buildings that are aged and need to be replaced, but it underscores the point that consolidation is something that needs to be considered. Last point about this, there's a typo here unless he's having a terrible time with his calculator, that suggests over \$4 Million worth of work for all of the Priorities, Items #1 through #11, but he added it up and it's \$5 Million. Peter stated Items #2 through #6 are included on that bottom line and it's very misleading to the unsuspecting reader. He would also like to say on the record how disappointing it is and that he was glad Mark (Hounsell) was here and thanked Mark for his help, but he was aghast at the idea that nobody from the School Board is here. The Town made it here.

Mark Hounsell stated he shared Peter's (Donohoe) disappointment.

Chairman Mosca stated correct him if he was wrong, but Items #2 through #6 are a part of what's going on in this Study that's going to be taking place, so they would come out and be bonded differently. Is he wrong?

Greydon Turner stated he thought that was the point that Peter (Donohoe) was making, if you add all of these up, it comes up to \$5 Million not \$4 Million.

Peter Donohoe stated the cost of bonding is substantial and on over burgeoning plant property and equipment that the School District is responsible for. Greydon Turner stated roughly 20% on bonds.

Mark Hounsell stated he had a document and apologized if the members did not have it, it's from November 24, 2014, Quarterly Report and it's to consider the Facilities Committee's recommendation to include engineering design services related to Elementary School Energy Management Renovations in the 2015/16 Operating Budget. It starts out by saying that "the Board was previously provided a broad cost estimate for energy management renovations in each of the 3 Elementary Schools. The total price for this work was estimated to be \$4,225,000.00 plus an additional \$100,000.00 for a generator at Pine Tree. The cost was based on general over view of the project for that specific design and construction ...". It does go on with other stuff that really isn't pertinent right now, but that \$4.2 Million is the number we should go with and this other number is a list of things that he thought has been on an existing list that changes every year, almost like a Wish List because it never gets done.

Stacy Sand stated Peter (Donohoe) was correct because the total is \$4,921,000.00. Chairman Mosca stated he came up with \$5,221,000.00. Stacy stated she used a calculator and the Chairman stated he did too.

Peter Donohoe stated he was confused by this and he was not going to go so far as to say that it's misleading, but it's very confusing and in our deliberations it would be helpful if this information was better disseminated.

Dick Klement stated if, whether it's in the Operating Budget or in a Warrant Article, this design plan is done, the results of that would have to then be analyzed and determined how we want to prioritize it, whether to go for a Bond for not. We're in the 2016/17 election cycle to determine what we're going to do and basically you're going to throw all of this stuff in there, perhaps everything will be in there. We have to remember that these will all be paid by Conway taxpayers except for a little bit from Albany, who gets a special break from us and Eaton. The Conway Elementary kids are between \$12,000.00 and \$15,000.00 or something like that and Albany is \$11,000.00 and change. He hasn't quite figured out why we're giving this sending town a deal, but we are. We probably won't get this thing done until 2019 or 2020 given who we're going to get to do it and when we can elect contracts and so on because on a Bond that's going to have to be a special vote.

Mark Hounsell stated it would have to be a Bond vote at a School District Meeting and if it passed, a \$4 Million Bond to do the work described in the Engineering Plan, the work would begin that summer.

Dick Klement stated so you're talking the Bond vote taking place in April of 2016. Mark Hounsell agreed and stated if the Bond passed, the work

could begin on July 1<sup>st</sup> of 2016. Dick stated some of that could be done while school was in session. Mark stated a lot of it could be, yes. Dick stated he realizes that you have to take a first step to get some place. His concern is between now and 2016 if a boiler dies and there is not sufficient funds in a bucket some place where you can just take it from, you have to make other sacrifices and you can't make a sacrifice of people after the 15<sup>th</sup> of April because they're on for the next year. It's a tough decision to make.

Mark Hounsell stated it's an unholy game of roulette. He originally pushed for a Bond this year because of the urgency, but cooler heads and wiser heads prevailed because they do need to explain to people what it is they're doing and that's one of the things they are doing through this exercise, but the urgency, and you are right Dick (Klement), it could be a game changer, it could be major. He can't stress that enough. If this work doesn't get done, eventually something will go wrong.

Chairman Mosca stated he stands corrected, it's \$4,921,000.00, his fat little fingers must have hit a wrong button in his phone calculator. They're little buttons.

Mark Hounsell stated he guessed maybe we can find those people who are favorable to the engineering and what would be preferred: a Warrant Article or Operating Budget. Stacy Sand stated see if the vote is different with a Warrant Article.

Dick Klement stated it depends where you put it on the list of Warrant Articles. Chairman Mosca stated it has to be at the top. Mark Hounsell stated one or two. Dick stated the three contractual maintenance items have to go 1, 2, 3. Chairman stated actually 2, 3, 4. Dick stated no, the Operating Budget is 4. Chairman stated he thought #1 was anything that needed to be, maybe he's thinking of the Town Warrant, sorry. Dick stated if the teachers' Contract is the next one in line and that passes, you can pretty well be assured that anything below that would have a much tougher time. Peter Donohoe stated yes.

Chairman Mosca stated right now there is no Article #1, there's an Article #2 which is the High School Maintenance Fund, Article #3 is the Middle School Maintenance Fund, Article #4 is the Elementary School Maintenance Fund.

Mark Hounsell asked about the order of the Maintenance Funds. Dick Klement stated they wanted to be in front of the Operating Budget because a previous version of this Board voted a percentile reduction and the way that works is you start at the bottom of the Warrant Articles and take out your percentile from the bottom on up. If those 3 Warrant Articles were below the Operating Budget, they would have gotten blown up and we would have been out of sync with the Contract and the sending towns could have a field day with us. That's why that was moved up.

Mark Hounsell stated that doesn't say that something else couldn't be in front of it. Dick Klement stated he agreed. Mark stated it's not a law that they have to. Dick stated not to his knowledge. Article #1 is to

elect all necessary officers, so the Maintenance Funds are #2, #3 and #4; the CEA is above the Budget.

Chairman Mosca stated for a straw poll, who supports the \$287,000.00 in the Operating Budget: 3; who supports the \$287,000.00 as a Warrant Article: 4. Stacy (Sand) supports it both ways, so that's good. Mark Hounsell stated that Frank (McCarthy) would support it as a Warrant Article. Chairman stated he didn't want to put words in Frank's mouth, but Frank said he thought it should be a Warrant Article and the Chairman did not know if that meant he would support it. Chairman stated he thought no matter what, it has to be done.

Mark Hounsell stated if the Warrant Article doesn't pass, it will not be done. Chairman Mosca stated exactly, and again, we're in a Catch 22. If it's supported, will it pass, more than likely. If it's not supported, will it pass, it's a 50/50. Mark Hounsell stated what you will have then is a blood bath between the Administrators of the Elementary Schools and the School Board. Chairman stated exactly, on where are the cuts going to come from, but on the point where Dick (Klement) points out the \$500,000.00 difference between the Budget and the Default Budget, whatever happens on this Board, and he's telling everyone right now, it's going to be a close vote. He can guarantee it's going to be a close vote. He'll eat crow if he's wrong, but he thought it's going to be very close as to whether it passes or doesn't pass.

Mark Hounsell asked without some reductions by this Committee. Chairman Mosca stated he knew he was going to offer up a few reductions, they're not going to be major reductions, but he's going to offer up some reductions. He thought the reductions are going to be minimal and he thought whatever comes from this Board from what the School Board is looking for, from what this Board is going to come up with, is going to be close enough that it's not going to make that much of a difference. That's his guess. He didn't know what people were going to come up with, but he didn't think it was going to be a huge number, but you're still looking at a \$400,000.00 difference if we take \$100,000.00. If we say \$34,280,000.00 instead of \$34,380,000.00, you're still looking at \$400,000.00 and that's still a big number. It's a crap shoot.

Doug Swett stated if the people that are missing here from the School Board, not Mark (Hounsell), assumed this meeting wouldn't take place; it's the only thing he can think of. Chairman Mosca stated Dr. Nelson knew it was taking place and when he spoke with him at about 3:30 PM, he was under the impression that there was going to be people, at least one individual from the committee that worked on the contract negotiations would be here with Mark. That was his impression. The fact that Mark's here getting beat up by us by himself, there's nothing we can do about it. That's probably going to be reflected in some of the cuts that are going to be made. It is what it is. Doug stated he wasn't making excuses for them, he doesn't have e-mail and he called the Town Office twice today, it's really no excuse for them to not be here. Steven Steiner stated they don't respect us. Chairman stated he wouldn't say they don't respect us, he didn't think it was that.

Mark Hounsell stated he didn't think that was it all. He thought one of the things that he conveyed was that the School Board needs to listen to the Budget Committee, they speak the perspective of various people within the Town and what they have to say is valuable and the School Board needs to consider it. He didn't think it's a matter of disrespect, he thought it was just a matter of not realizing how important their presence would have been.

Mark Hounsell further stated he will go back to the Budget for a moment. Other than this Engineering Study, we're not really looking at a huge increase in the Operating Budget, quite minimal, under 1%. The thing that concerns him and also the Board is the limited options they have with Revenue. They're tied to a system, we've talked about the burden being placed on senior citizens, he didn't believe it's the children's education that creates the burden on the senior citizens; he believes it's the way that the State of New Hampshire participates in what they think their role is. He's going to go political for a moment, there are several Bills in to correct some of the things concerning the Department of Education this year that he finds encouraging: limiting their reach, limiting their ability to pass unfunded mandates and curriculums and other costs downshifting it to the taxpayers. Jeb Bradley has a Bill in that he thought has the merit that would limit the role of the Department of Education in establishing adequacy.

Mark Hounsell further stated all of these things he thought speak to the need for the State to get real that they are the ones who have for some strange reason preserving a structure where anything goes wrong at the State level, they simply put it on the backs of local property taxpayers. That has to do with nursing homes, infrastructure, culverts, any number of different things. When it comes to schools, the School Districts are being had by the State and he thought it was unfortunate because it tends to have us pit senior citizens against our children that we want to have a good education and how sad is that. We can do better than that.

Mark Hounsell further stated one of the things that the School Board did at its last meeting, is they are looking at ways they might be able to generate Revenues and the School Board voted either 5 to 1 or 4 to 1, there wasn't a full Board there, to construct a Policy Committee to look at implementing student activity fees. These aren't pay to play fees, these are fees that every student at the Middle School and the High School would pay, just an activity fee, for whatever club a student wanted to join, whatever sport a student wanted to play, it's available to you. You don't have to do it, \$20.00 in High School and \$10.00 in Middle School. This just goes to help shore up the co-curriculum which the taxpayers have funded. There are questions whether they can even do that legally, but he can tell the members that the School Board is looking for other ways they can to raise Revenues besides just putting it on the backs of the property taxpayers. There is a problem with the sending towns and the declining enrollments and how that affects our tuition Revenue. The impact to the taxpayers on this Budget is not in the Operating Budget, it's not on the spending side, it's on how significantly fewer dollars we are receiving than what they did last year. That's been a trend and he didn't see an end

to that trend in the future and that should be talked about at the Long Range Planning Committee.

Maureen Seavey asked if a Warrant Article could be done now, isn't the cut off done. Mark Hounsell stated until Tuesday and the School Board meets on Monday. Chairman Mosca stated a petitioned Article had to be in, but the School Board can put anything on their Warrant up until we actually go before the Public Hearing on Wednesday and the Town can do the same thing he believes, he may be wrong, but he thought anything up to the Public Hearing is fair game.

Mark Hounsell stated they are going to talk about this at the School Board meeting and he would like to get a sense from the Budget Committee as to which way it would like to go because people do listen to the Budget Committee. He listens to the Budget Committee and he wants it in the Operating Budget, but if the Budget Committee thinks it can support it easier if it's a Warrant Article, then he's willing to change his position.

Doug Swett stated a few years ago when we were discussing the closing of schools, it was brought up finally that if you moth-balled schools it would soak up about 60% of the money, he believes, than it does having it open. For insurance purposes, you have to maintain boilers, electricity. Pine Tree down there has a big tank with an engine that has to be started once a week to fight fire until the Fire Department gets there. He didn't remember the details, but any way, he was sure that's been looked at and he just thought that he would mention it.

Bill Masters stated one thing he wanted to point out is that he is in favor of putting it in the Operating Budget, it is just a plan and it's an administrative document, it has nothing to do with the actual installation, the purchasing, the installation of the boiler systems. If you really wanted to look at it solely as being an administrative plan to accomplish that on outline, a road map to do that, then it's not addressing the close to \$5 Million contract work that goes to remove it and install the new system which would be handled separately.

Chairman Mosca stated he was going to look at it completely in a different way. If it's in the Budget, when they do next year's Default Budget, that counts towards the Default Budget. Dick Klement stated no. Chairman stated yes because it's part of the Budget. Dick stated no because it's not long term. Chairman stated it doesn't make a difference. The Operating Budget, it's in; if it's a Warrant Article and it's a one-time shot, then it doesn't go towards the Default Budget. The whole Operating Budget counts towards the Default Budget, even if it's only a one-time thing they're putting into it, it's still the Operating Budget. That's just looking at it cynically.

Stacy Sand stated Mark (Hounsell) asked for our input to take back to the School Board. Her question is when the Chairman took his second straw poll of whether the members would rather see it as a Warrant Article, she didn't think the question was whether you would support it as a Warrant

Article and she thought that could be a big distinction. If you're still not going to support it, she didn't think it made any difference.

Chairman Mosca stated okay, then let's ask the question and it's a straw poll and you can change your mind. Mark Hounsell stated it's just something to take back to the School Board. Chairman stated he would like people to be honest, but if it were a ballot question, would you support it as a Warrant Article, as members of the Budget Committee would you recommend a Warrant Article for \$287,000.00 to do a Study. Chairman stated everybody but Steven (Steiner).

Dick Klement stated it's not a Study; it's an engineering design, so that you can give those specs to a sub and he knows what to bid to.

Chairman Mosca stated of the 11 people here, 10 out of 11 people would support it or say they would support it. He thought that's fairly clear and he couldn't speak for the people that aren't here, but looking over the names of the people that are not here, he's assuming a majority of those would also support it as a Warrant Article. Again, his thinking is if you take it out of the Budget, the difference between the Default Budget and the Operating Budget is now \$200,000.00+ and if the Budget Committee decides to tinker with the Operating Budget a little bit, the difference between the Operating Budget and the Default Budget is going to be so little.

Greydon Turner stated wait, the difference between the Operating Budget and the Default Budget is \$500,000.00 before you considered, so that \$500,000.00 would still be there. Chairman Mosca stated no it wouldn't because the Operating Budget is going to drop by \$287,000.00, so now you're down to about \$225,000.00 and, like he said, if there's \$100,000.00 +/- that we decide to cut, now you're looking at \$100,000.00 or \$125,000.00. It doesn't make a difference whether the School Board Budget passes or not because \$125,000.00 one way or the other he thought everybody could deal with it.

Mark Hounsell stated in the recent past, when this Committee comes forward with reasonable suggestions for cuts, the School Board has been agreeable to them. Chairman Mosca stated exactly. Mark stated that's the key, it's not just to cut for the sake of cutting.

Maureen Seavey stated she would support it as a Special Warrant Article if she thought the voters would definitely vote it in. Some times people will cut anything. She thought she did remember something in the School at one time, it was in the Budget and they took it out of the Default Budget and she didn't know if you could look something like that up. It was a one-time thing that was in the Budget, it was taken out of the Default Budget.

Chairman Mosca stated the way he reads the RSA is that it is part of the Budget. Maureen stated the Chairman was probably right, but she did think that they did do that.

Dick Klement stated when you (Mark Hounsell) are going back to the School Board, you're going to have a heck of a spirited discussion on the

position location of that Warrant Article. Mark stated he knew and he thought for it to work, it needs to be #2. Dick stated he was sure it would be very spirited.

Chairman Mosca stated again, historically speaking, if both Boards vote for something, he thought the taxpayers have enough trust in both Boards that 99% of the time they have gone along with us. There's once or twice since his tenure on this Board that something that we voted for wasn't passed and he kind of scratched his head because he didn't understand why. Again, he doesn't see it not passing and he hoped that the voters would understand what's going on. He thought placement as a Warrant Article is more beneficial to the School in the event the Budget isn't passed.

Maureen Seavey stated to Mark Hounsell that when he brings it to the Board, can you say that it's not just your idea but it's the Budget Committee's. Mark stated that's what he was going to say and he's going to say that he personally supports that and he'll make a motion to do that and that will probably be the motion that will be discussed. He doesn't know how it's going to turn out. He learned a long time ago not to predict such things. He thought it was safe to say that 7 people on the School Board know that this is a critical need.

Doug Swett stated speaking of Warrant Articles, for quite a few years there were two types of Warrant Articles: one if it passed it wasn't in the Budget the next year and the other one was that you passed it and that was the end of it. Then they asked Attorney Malia to check that out and he came back with an answer that blew that all apart. He's never understood why. Chairman Mosca stated under the RSA's there are two different types of Articles, but we don't use two different types of Articles any more. You (Doug) are absolutely correct. Doug stated we did for quite a few years here and then he comes back, and Dick has a great faith in him and he doesn't mean to criticize him. Chairman stated he (Attorney Malia) said there was no difference between the two types of Warrant Articles. Doug stated that's right. Chairman stated he begs to differ under the RSA's, but that's his take on it. Doug stated he thought it was a lot of people's take on it. The School Board used to honor that thing. His wife was on the School Board and she was amazed that night, she was here when he came back with that. It doesn't make sense, it isn't right.

Peter Donohoe stated he had a question for Mark (Hounsell): how soon will we, as a Board, get the final list of Warrant Articles from the School Board. Mark stated the hearing is Wednesday. Chairman Mosca stated the hearing on Wednesday. Peter stated that's why he was asking because if that is something that is in play, he thought the members deserved the time to review them. Mark stated what he would do is he'll send out an e-mail that night, Monday night, to Joe (Mosca) and he can send it to the members and, of course, any of you can come to the School Board meeting. Peter asked if the School Board planned to make a final decision about that Monday night. Mark stated yes, they have to. Peter stated snow or not. Mark stated he was absolutely amazed when he hears people talk about snow. Peter agreed, but that's a whole other conversation.

Chairman Mosca stated the information packets have to be available for Wednesday night at the Public Hearing. It would have to be put together rather quickly. Mark Hounsell stated he would get the word out as quick as he could.

Doug Swett stated this Wednesday night is non-profits, right. Chairman Mosca stated correct, only non-profits. Next Wednesday night is the Public Hearings and next Thursday evening we sit and vote, we come up with our recommendations on the Town Budget and on the School Budget. Doug stated on the 11<sup>th</sup> we go to the Auditorium at the High School. Chairman agreed. Doug asked where do we go on the 12<sup>th</sup>. Chairman stated on the 12<sup>th</sup> he believed we were at the Police Department. Doug asked how are you going to put a crowd in there. Chairman stated there won't be anyone there but us. Chairman stated on the 11<sup>th</sup>, a week from Wednesday, this Wednesday night is at 6:30 PM, next Wednesday night it's 6:00 PM at the High School and that's the Public Hearings. On Thursday, the 12<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 PM we meet at the Police Station to vote on the Budgets, to come up with the numbers that we're going to put forth for the School and the Town and we're going to vote on all of the Warrant Articles. We don't have anything then until March 2<sup>nd</sup> and March 4<sup>th</sup> and that's the two Deliberatives.

Chairman Mosca asked if there was any further discussion on Schools before he asks for Old Business. There was none.

#### NEW BUSINESS

Chairman Mosca stated he had one piece of new business. Some of you may have heard him before he went live, Maury McKinney has resigned and he will be giving the Chairman something tomorrow officially in writing. His schedule at the Aquatic Center is such that his backup person, he had two backup people: one was an elderly gentleman who decided that Florida sounded better this Winter than Bartlett and his second backup is an individual that works at the hospital and they transferred departments and are now in Orthopedics and on call a lot. Unfortunately, the past few meetings they got called in because of emergencies and the same thing happened this afternoon, so it is with regret that Maury is leaving us, he doesn't want to, but he understands he's missed enough and he doesn't know what his availability is going to be in the coming weeks. Chairman was hoping that Maury would re-run when he gets things straightened out at the Aquatic Center, but he thought for him and for us that this is best at this time. Chairman wanted to thank Maury for his service to us and wished him the best and, like he said, hopefully things will work out and we'll see him back next year. He was a good asset for us.

**Dick Klement moved, seconded by Michael Fougere to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Iris A. Bowden, Recording Secretary