

**Minutes of Meeting
CONWAY BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

December 7, 2010

The Selectmen's Meeting convened at 4:03 p.m. in the Meeting Room of Conway Town Hall with the following present: Selectmen, Larry Martin (Chair), C. David Weathers, Howard C. Dickinson, Bob Drinkhall, and Michael DiGregorio; Town Manager, Earl W. Sires; and Recording Secretary, Karen Hallowell

MOMENT OF SILENCE

The Chair called for a moment of silence in observance of Pearl Harbor Day.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Martin led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

ADJUSTMENT TO AGENDA

Mr. Martin advised that he would like to change the order of the agenda. Mr. Martin stated he would like to move Item 8 Review and Consideration of the Time Warner Cable Contract to after Item 7 Consideration of Unanticipated Revenue less than \$5,000 and, also, moved item 9 Valley Vision Budget Presentation to after 11a which is the Police Budget discussion. There were no objections. **Mr. Weathers moved, seconded by Mr. DiGregorio, to accept the agenda as amended. The motion carried unanimously.**

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Signing of Documents
 1. Tax Abatement/ Map-Lot 202-61
 2. Tax Abatement/ Map-Lot 259-101.3
 3. Tax Abatement/ Map-Lot 268-117.21
 4. Tax Abatement/ Map-Lot 272.14
 5. Notice of Intent to Cut Wood or Timber/Map-Lot 250-157
 6. Notice of Intent to Cut Wood or Timber/Map-Lot 280-61.1, 61.2 & 62
 7. Timber Tax Levy/Tax Map-Lot 214.31.3
 8. Certification of Yield Taxes Assessed/Map-Lot 214.31.3

- B. Consideration of Bills:
 1. Manifest dated 11/23/10

Mr. Drinkhall moved, seconded by Mr. Weathers, to sign the Tax Abatements for Map/Lot 202-61, Map/Lot 259-101.3, Map/Lot 268-117.21 and Map/Lot 272.14, the Notices of Intent to Cut Wood or Timber for Map/Lot 250-157 and Map-Lot 280-61.1, 61.2 & 62, the Timber Tax Levy for Tax Map/Lot 214.31.3, the Certification of Yield Taxes Assessed for Map/Lot 214-31.3 and the Manifest dated 11/23/10. The motion carried unanimously.

REVIEW AND CONSIDERATION OF SPECIAL EVENT APPLICATION(S)

There were no special applications for the Board to consider.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

Mr. Drinkhall moved, seconded by Mr. Weathers, to accept the minutes of 11/23/10. Mr. Drinkhall offered the following corrections to the minutes: Page one, Paragraph one, third line, the words (Acting Chair) should be deleted after David Weathers name. Also, on page seven, last paragraph, the word he should be changed to we. **Mr. Drinkhall amended the motion, seconded by Mr. Weathers, to accept the minutes of 11/23/10 as amended. The motion carried unanimously.**

PUBLIC HEARING: UNANTICIPATED REVENUE
\$8,520 FROM THE STATE OF NH/DEPT OF SAFETY TO THE TOWN OF CONWAY

Police Chief, Edward Wagner, appeared before the Board.

Mr. Martin opened the public hearing at 4:05 p.m. Chief Wagner advised that in 2005 they updated the base station at the Police Department. Homeland Security gives grants for maintenance contracts and the \$8,520 received is for a maintenance contract for the base station. Chief Wagner requested the Board accept the grant to fund maintenance for the radio system.

There were no public questions or comments and the public hearing closed at 4:07 p.m.

Mr. Drinkhall moved, seconded by Mr. DiGregorio, to accept the grant of \$8520 from the State of New Hampshire Department of Safety to the Town of Conway for maintenance of the radio system. The motion carried 5-0-0.

CONSIDERATION OF UNANTICIPATED REVENUE LESS THAN \$5,000/RSA
31:95-B,III (B): A) \$1460.83 FROM THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE TO
THE TOWN OF CONWAY FOR CONWAY PD SOBRIETY CHECKPOINTS;
B) \$1483.47 FROM THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE TO THE TOWN OF
CONWAY FOR CONWAY PD BICYCLE PATROLS AND C) \$1750.00 FROM
AN ANONYMOUS DONOR TO THE TOWN OF CONWAY FOR A "SPECIAL
NEEDS FUND" FOR CONWAY RESIDENTS

Police Lieutenant, Chris Perley, appeared before the Board. Lt. Perley reviewed that \$1460.83 from the State of New Hampshire to the Town of Conway for PD Sobriety Checkpoints and \$1483.47 from the State of New Hampshire to the Town of Conway for Conway Police Department Bicycle Patrols were grants received for extra patrols. Lt. Perley briefly reviewed information regarding the extra patrols with the Board. **Mr. Drinkhall moved, seconded by Mr. Weathers, to accept the \$1460.83 from the State of New Hampshire to the Town of Conway for PD Sobriety Checkpoints and \$1483.47 from the State of New Hampshire to the Town of Conway for Conway Police Department Bicycle Patrols. The motion carried unanimously.**

Mr. Sires next reviewed that \$1750 was received by the Town of Conway from an anonymous donor for a special needs fund for Conway residents. The Board and Mr.

Sires briefly discussed that the funds would be largely used in 2011 and it was agreed the Board should designate the funds be used in 2011. **Mr. Drinkhall moved, seconded by Mr. Weathers to accept the \$1750 received by the Town of Conway from an anonymous donor for a special needs fund for Conway residents for the 2011 budget year. The motion carried unanimously.** Mr. Sires and the Board stated a public thank you to the anonymous donor for the funds.

BUDGET

Police – Police Commissioners, Theresa Kennett and Rodney King, joined the meeting. Also present were Chief Wagner and Lt. Dicey.

There was first brief discussion of the budget process from department proposed budgets to Town Meeting. There was also brief discussion on the formation of the Conway Police Commission. Mr. Sires reviewed that in the past Town Counsel came up with an Agreement between the Police Commission and the Board of Selectmen delineating the roles of each.

Commissioner Kennett reviewed the Police Commission came before the Board a few weeks ago to discuss their budget and present a united front. The Commission wanted the Board of Selectmen to understand what their need was with regard to the request for additional officers and the Board did. Ms. Kennett next stated that the decision now to cut \$50,000 and then support and officer is not what was discussed at that meeting. \$50,000 out of the police budget would indeed be personnel. Given the priorities for services and to understand how they would make this cut – it would have unintended consequences for the public. Chief Wagner stated that when he heard about the \$50,000 cut out of the budget he looked at their services –and one thing he looked at was the dispatch for fire services and this will affect the taxpayer. Another thing they looked at was the Dog Officer and the taxpayer would be affected by this as well. Chief Wagner further stated that if the Board is asking the police to cut \$50,000 – then you are asking for a reduction in services. Commissioner King stated there is no where in the budget they can cut \$50,000. The new officer is \$35,000. There is no where to cut without affecting services in the Town of Conway.

Mr. Martin stated that he feels the Chief and Lieutenant made a wonderful case for the need and hopes they can also communicate this information to the public. Mr. Martin further stated that after reflecting on this for a week and hearing what is out there -everyone in town is trying desperately to reduce budgets and the thinks, at this particular, juncture, they need the officer but he is not comfortable putting it in the budget at this time. If they go to Town Meeting and it is inserted in the budget this is okay but he cannot, at this time, support putting the officer in the budget. Mr. Martin stated he would like to see them further present their case and then put 1, 2 and 3 officers on warrant articles. He would feel comfortable doing this instead. Further he feels the decision lies with the voting body as to whether to hire police officers.

Ms. Kennett stated we are all doing the best we can and we all have the taxpayers in mind. Ms. Kennett stated that to take the officer out of the budget now and then put it back in a few months later is a confusing process. Mr. Martin stated he disagreed with that. The issue now is only if the Board of Selectmen want this in the budget or not. The voters won't be confused and it will be up to them regarding the additional officers.

Chief Wagner stated that we are not talking about kickball or flag football –we are talking about public safety and you can't compare. What is discouraging is we have a meeting with the Board of Selectmen and basically come to an agreement to what he thought was a pretty fair resolution –to put one officer in the budget and two officers in a warrant article. Then, two weeks later, the Board agrees with an officer but takes \$50,000 out of the budget. There is no \$50,000 in the budget they can cut but personnel. He would rather the Board have just said you don't agree with an officer in the budget. We are going back and regressing to past when we met a few weeks ago. When we did meet a few weeks ago we came to an agreement with the Board and now the Board has changed and it would have been better to leave it all in there.

Mr. Drinkhall stated that due to what the Chief presented, he supports having at least one officer in the budget and feels it is extremely important. The general opinion of the Board last week changed and to get the officer back in the budget he made this proposal and this is where the \$50,000 cut came in. Mr. Drinkhall stated to get the officer in –if you could possibly make that cut the Board would be supportive under the conditions.

Mr. DiGregorio stated this Board is well aware the police department is not like the recreation center and if it were recreation, we wouldn't have asked -we would have told you to cut \$50,000. The Police, roads, etc, are all important. He was hoping that in a \$2,000,000 budget the police could find \$50,000 to cut. Once the officer is in the budget –it is in there. Mr. DiGregorio further added he is well aware of what the police do and knows it is important to provide protection. His strategy last week was to find \$50,000 in a \$2,000,000 budget. If the police try to find this money he will support the new officers. Mr. DiGregorio next added that we have told all departments to come in with a flat budget.

Ms. Kennett stated that since the Board asked the Police to reduce the budget by \$50,000 the Chief and Lieutenant have looked at the budget and the only place to get this is by cutting personnel and this would be dispatch. She is not in the mind to cut \$50,000 out because it will be personnel. They would be losing a dispatch person and they have not had an addition to dispatch in a long time. Ms. Kennett further added she sincerely knows where the Board is coming from but their (Police Commission) responsibility is to provide the best budget they can. Ms. Kennett next stated the ultimate say is by the voters and if the Budget Committee doesn't include all dispatchers and an officer they will stand up and ask for them at Town Meeting and she hopes the voters will vote for same. Ms. Kennett further added that reaching an agreement at this table was one way of telling the public we really need it. She cannot with a clear conscience reduce a dispatcher or an additional officer.

Mr. King stated this is for the safety of their employees and the public and there is no room to cut \$50,000. He will stand up at Town Meeting and ask the voters if this is cut out of the police budget.

There was further discussion by the Board and the Police Commissions and officers concerning the cut of \$50,000, the impact of same and, also, Town Meeting.

Center Conway Fire Chief, Ray Leavitt, stated that as to the fire department, they are caught in the peripheral of this matter. He does not want to muddy the water as to

an additional police officer, but they have been told they might lose a dispatcher and they need direction at this point as they are preparing their budgets for next year as well. Mr. Leavitt next read aloud a letter from the Fire Department. (A copy of same is attached hereto).

Ms. Kennett stated some services can't be cut such as dispatch or a police officer but if there is a \$50,000 cut it would have to be dispatch or an officer. Mr. Martin stated they are not asking for a cut in existing staffing and he is saying to put this out on a warrant article. Also, his feeling is that the budget stay status quo. Ms. Kennett stated they can't live without an additional officer. They have lived without additional officers beyond what is reasonable. They did not ask last year and they are not going to make that mistake again. Ms. Kennett also stated concerns of putting three officers in an article as they can't live without one officer. Mr. Martin stated his feelings are, not the rest of the Boards, that you can't look at cuts we are making on our side and then hire an additional officer. He believes it should be by warrant article.

Chief Wagner stated that 90% of the police budget is personnel and what the Board is saying is to take \$50,000 out of a \$200,000 budget. \$200,000 is the only part of their budget that is non contractual or vehicles. This Board is asking that 25% of that be cut and they can't do that. They will probably overspend the operations line this year and every year we take \$500 here and \$150 there and they just can't do this any further. Now the Board is asking to take out \$50,000. The police officer is not an option and so there would have to be a reduction in staffing. The police department needs to make a tough decision if staff will be a police officer and you (the Board) all agree on the need for a police officer and so he is not sure the cut is not going to come from there. The only other personnel is two secretaries who are overloaded with work and the dispatchers. The only place to cut is dispatch by reducing a dispatcher and then this will cause a reduction in service. This could be dispatch for fire or not answering Project Good Morning or somewhere else. The Town can cut off streetlights, not pave a road, do away with swim lessons, life guards, etc but the Police Department does not have the same situation –when the phone rings they have to go. If they make a cut it is a dispatcher, and this would be for fire and ambulance or Project Good Morning, or the dog patrol officer. If they reduce the dog officer, then the Town must take this on.

Mr. DiGregorio asked about the overtime amount of \$50,000 for police and dispatchers. Also how would a new officer affect overtime for regular officers. Also why can't the police dispatch for fire when they will have someone sitting in dispatch already. Lastly, if dispatching by the fire departments would cost so much money why aren't we billing out to those precincts. The Chief advised that the overtime number can not be reduced. The majority of overtime comes from court time. The officers don't just spend time on the road and it is a mandatory 2 hours just to go to court. Also, with regard to overtime for officers many times they only have two people on a shift and if someone from the next shift calls out they may have to pay someone overtime to keep an officer on duty. The same goes with vacations, training, etc. Mr. DiGregorio asked if a new officer would reduce overtime. Chief Wagner replied in the negative stating they are trying to get away from having just two people on at a time. They could get a call from the top of Hurricane Mountain Road and then a call in South Conway and then other calls come in as well. Chief Wagner next stated that with regard to the question regarding dispatchers, they would need to reduce phone calls coming in to the Police Department. Sometimes they only have one dispatcher on during the day and some nights they would have two. If they don't fill a dispatcher position and two are

scheduled to be on and one calls in sick, etc, then they will be short. Its not that they will not have someone in dispatch – they will have one but they can't have them dispatching police, fire, ambulance, etc. If they are going down to six dispatchers they will only have one on at a time. They need at least seven dispatchers. They are not asking for more dispatchers but they need what they have to maintain the number of calls they get a year.

Ms. Kennett stated that it has been 20 years since they have added a dispatch position and there comes a point in time when you can't deliver adequate service with the same number of people. Also, they don't want to lose the relationship with the fire departments as they work well together now. Ms. Kennett next stated that with regard to the dog officer position, if they were to cut this position the town would have to add same to their budget.

Mr. DiGregorio questioned if the police will have a warrant article for cars this year. Mr. DiGregorio suggested not asking for the money this year. Mr. Drinkhall pointed out they put money in an account every year for this expense and it is an even amount every year. Mr. Martin stated they ask for 1 ½ cars every year.

David Pandora stated that the dispatch center at the Police Department has been voted on by the public to put equipment there by fire and ambulance grants. Mr. Pandora questioned why they (fire departments) would have to go and pay for new equipment when the voters have put it there.

Mr. Drinkhall next reviewed that a citizen, Bob Barriault, could not be present at this meeting but sent a letter. Mr. Drinkhall suggested that Mr. Barriault's letter be read aloud. Mr. Martin proceeded to read the letter from Mr. Barriault sent via e-mail. (A copy of same is attached hereto).

Mr. Martin asked for final comments on this matter. Mr. Drinkhall stated he doesn't want to see a police officer cut from the budget. He also feels that doing it the other way (by warrant article) is iffy. On the other hand \$50,000 is only 5% of their budget and he does not feel it is that much. Further, he does not feel this should be taken out of vehicles either. If we want to hold to the 5% he understands it because it will be a tough year.

Mr. Martin next stated that a motion was made at the last Board meeting with a vote of 4-1 to ask the Police Department to take \$50,000 out of their budget and to support an officer. Mr. Martin next asked if the Board would like to reconsider the vote. There was no motion for reconsideration made by any Board member. Mr. Martin next stated this will now go forward and we will see what the Budget Committee does with it and, also, see what happens at Town Meeting.

North Conway Fire Chief, Pat Preece, next stepped forward and handed a letter to Chairman Martin from the North Conway Water Precinct Commissioners. Mr. Martin read aloud the letter. (A copy of same is attached hereto).

Mr. Martin next asked again if the Board would reconsider the motion. There was no motion made for reconsideration.

VALLEY VISION BUDGET PRESENTATION

Bill Edmunds, Station Manager for Valley Vision joined the meeting. Mr. Edmunds distributed a copy of the proposed Valley Vision budget to the Board and reviewed same. Mr. Edmunds advised that Valley Vision is asking for the same amount as last year's request and it is a flat budget.

Mr. DiGregorio pointed out that this proposed budget is for doing the same as they did last year. If we add stuff during the year, i.e., live feeds, etc, they may require additional funds at that point. Mr. Martin stated if this happens during the year, this Board can address same. The Board agreed. Mr. Sires asked about Fryeburg's contribution to Valley Vision. Mr. Edmunds advised they contributed \$5,000 of the \$6,000 they collected in franchise fees. Mr. Edmunds further advised they tape their own Board of Selectmen meetings and bring the tapes to Valley Vision. Valley Vision does do their Town Meeting and, maybe the Christmas tree lighting. Mr. Martin next asked about Bartlett and if they will be contributing this year. Mr. Edmunds replied in the affirmative. Mr. Martin next questioned the amount of Albany and it was advised they were contributing \$2,500 and now it is \$4,000. The Board next briefly reviewed the budget figures provided by Mr. Edmunds.

Mr. Sires reviewed that what has happened in the past is Valley Vision presents a budget and then the Board of Selectmen vote to put an amount into the PEG warrant article and once the voters approve the town enters into a contract with Valley Vision. Mr. Sires questioned if the Board would like to see the same agreement as last year with Valley Vision. The Board responded in the affirmative.

WINTER SIDEWALK MAINTENANCE

Robert Nelson of RWN Property Service, Inc. joined the meeting.

Mr. Sires reviewed the Town put winter sidewalk maintenance out to bid as per the previous discussion with the Board. Mr. Sires advised the town received two bids and he recommends going with the low bidder, which is RWN Property Maintenance. Mr. Sires advised that each bidder was aware that they needed to provide a certain type of equipment for the maintenance. Mr. Sires further added this contract would start one year from now in November of 2011. Mr. Dickinson questioned if this was for the sidewalks in North Conway and Mr. Sires replied in the affirmative. **Mr. Weathers moved, seconded by Mr. Drinkhall, that we award the contract to RWN Property Maintenance.** Mr. DiGregorio questioned how much money will be in the budget for 2011 for this item. Mr. Sires advised it will be an amount similar to the current budget and so the budget figure will not change. Mr. Nelson next presented a picture of the equipment he would be using for the maintenance work and reviewed same with the Board. Mr. Nelson also advised that he has spoke with the Town Foreman about the piece of equipment and advised that this is what he would be using. Mr. Nelson further advised that he has already purchased the equipment to perform the maintenance. Mr. Martin questioned if Mr. Nelson has enough staffing for this contract. Mr. Nelson replied in the affirmative and advised that he has five full time employees. Mr. DiGregorio next asked about the piece of land at the bottom of Sunset Hill and if this will be cleared. Mr. Sires advised he needs to talk with the current contractor regarding this issue. **The motion carried 5-0-0.**

REVIEW AND CONSIDERATION OF TIME WARNER CABLE CONTRACT

Mr. Sires reviewed the Board of Selectmen held a public hearing last week regarding the proposed contract with Time Warner Cable. He has not received any further comments on same. **Mr. Drinkhall moved, seconded by Weathers, to sign the contract. The motion carried 5-0-0.**

BUDGET (continued from earlier in meeting)

General Discussion – Mr. Martin reviewed last week there were proposed cuts to the budget. The proposed cuts total \$116,982 or about 3%. Mr. Weathers stated there are some items brought up last week that he would like to review. Mr. Sires stated it was also direction to staff to respond as well.

Mr. Martin next stated that with regard to the proposals he made last week, he has reviewed these and would like the Board to think about the following as well. He would like to take no raises and furlough off the table and, also, look at the overtime situation. With regard to the proposed cut of \$4,000 for minute taking he is thinking we can split that to \$2,000 and then they can also have comp time and some overtime available for staff. Mr. Sires stated if the Board agrees with going this route we would reduce the Office line in the Executive Budget by \$1600 and the Project Manager line in the Planning and Zoning budget by \$400 and this would be a total reduction of \$2,000. Mr. Martin pointed out that this would allow minute taking staff to manage it themselves. Last week he was just looking at everything just to try not to lay anyone off. Mr. Martin next stated that another piece to the puzzle is the transfer station hours. Mr. Sires reviewed the hours for the transfer station have already been reduced to a straight forty. Mr. Drinkhall reviewed that we have already made a unanimous motion on this and we just need to review the days for the transfer station to be open. Mr. Martin stated that in talking with staff the fair thing to do would be to close Sunday and Monday. Mr. DiGregorio stated he feels the busiest day is Sunday. Mr. Martin pointed out that Saturday is busy as well. Mr. Sires stated that the response from staff was Sunday and Monday would be good. Mr. Weathers stated what about two days during the week like Tuesday and Wednesday. Mr. Drinkhall advised that staff would like one weekend day off. Mr. Weathers stated that he agrees with Mr. DiGregorio and would like to see the transfer station open during the weekend. Mr. DiGregorio next questioned how much commercial items are received during the week. Mr. Sires explained we have residents and business owners that bring trash. The transfer station gets commercial trash but not large scale haulers during the week. Mr. DiGregorio pointed out that Sunday is the overtime day now. Mr. Martin stated that he also doesn't think that we should fill the position of retiring employee, Eric, at the transfer station at this time. This will save around \$50,000 plus benefits. Mr. Martin commented what is the sense of putting someone in there now and we could have a revenue shortfall in the future and then this would be the first person to go. Staff should be directed to look at moving people around internally and this way we can look at no furloughs and overtime for staff. Furloughing would have saved about \$21,000 and raises around \$35,000 and by not rehiring we would save both of these amounts. Mr. DiGregorio pointed out the current proposed budget is 2% below and with this proposed it would bring it to 2.5%. Mr. DiGregorio stated we need to keep in mind we are taking everything to the bottom and then we may still have the \$400,000 still hanging out there. Mr. DiGregorio next asked about the need for the position. How did we go from needing the position to not needing it. Mr. Sires explained that it is the same as other discussions about reducing services.

If we eliminate a position we will reduce services. At this point we are not sure how will this will get done but it will affect services. Also, it may come from other departments too such as a plow driver etc. There are a number of different scenarios. However, if you want to maintain the same level of service we need to replace the position and if we want to cut the position it will cut services. Mr. DiGregorio questioned if there would still be someone manning the shack. Mr. Sires replied in the affirmative. **Mr. Drinkhall moved, seconded by Mr. DiGregorio, to not fill from outside the recycling attendant position. The motion carried 5-0-0.**

Mr. Martin asked for a motion regarding the days the transfer station would be closed. **Mr. Drinkhall moved, seconded by Mr. DiGregorio, that we close Sunday and Monday to allow transfer station workers to have two consecutive days off as per contract and to reduce hours.** The Board discussed busy days at the dump, worker days off, etc. Mr. Sires stated the direction of the Board last week was for staff to speak with the workers to get their feeling on this and they indicated they would like Sunday off. Mr. Dickinson questioned the hours the transfer station would be open. Mr. Sire advised they would be open 7:30 am to 3 pm. Mr. DiGregorio stated his first reaction is that Sunday is extremely busy but the more he thinks about it people will adapt although they may not be happy about it. Mr. DiGregorio stated he will support Sunday-Monday closing. **The motion carried 4-1-0 with Mr. Weathers voting in the negative.**

Mr. Martin asked about the overtime issues discussed earlier. **Mr. Drinkhall moved, seconded by Mr. DiGregorio, for a reduction in the secretary line of \$1600 and the Planning and Zoning line of \$400. The motion carried 5-0-0.**

Mr. Sires reviewed we still may have to furlough, etc, if needed, if there is reduction in rooms and meals. Mr. Martin replied in the affirmative. Mr. Dickinson advised that he was speaking about rooms and meals money at a roundtable he had last week. Senator Bradley advised to put the money in because they may be able to get it to us and, if not, we could call for a special town meeting in July. Mr. Sires advised that he has checked into this and there is a Legislative Service Request (LSR) to restore state shared revenue so there is an attempt to do this. Mr. DiGregorio questioned if we should contact State Representatives. Mr. Dickinson stated he did not feel this was necessary as the LSR has already been filed and there is great interest in same. The Legislature is looking at this and every town has a Representative. Also, every town is going through the budget process now. Further, the NHMA will be 100% behind this as well. Mr. Dickinson next advised that we may also be getting the money we lost for police retirement in the past but this remains to be seen.

Mr. Martin next suggested looking at Mr. Drinkhall's proposed reductions. Mr. Martin cautioned that with reducing we don't give ourselves any wiggle room with the budget. Mr. Sires stated we have experienced staff and they have given their best estimates. We are penalized if we underspend and he would just argue that these are the numbers we need to do the best job. Further, we also haven't gotten to the end of this year yet and so we may be even closer than it appears now. We always end up within 1% or less under budget and we have a demonstrated track record of giving the Board numbers we need and not overspending.

Mr. DiGregorio stated he feels staff has done an excellent job of putting together a budget and he doesn't want to nickel and dime through this book. If we do find out we

need to reduce by \$400,000, we will be looking at all these items. With regard to salt and gravel, he likes the way we do our roads now and he won't support a reduction in this line. Mr. DiGregorio stated he won't support most of the proposed reductions as it is nickel and diming.

Mr. Martin questioned if there is room for adjustment to the Salt line. Mr. Sires advised there is information in the Board agenda packets for review regarding winter maintenance. The Policy from the DOT that lays down the dry pavement approach which is what we use here --no ice accumulation and it does not pack up, etc. The information provided explains why we do the things we do regarding winter maintenance. Mr. Sires next advised that 25 tons is a good number for the way we do things now. If you chose to reduce, we would treat the main roads the same way we have been but would have to reduce it on side roads.

Mr. Drinkhall stated he would like to make two points. Mike calls it nickel and diming but he feels this is the way to do a budget --you have to look at every budget item. With regard to salt, he thinks the State does a horrendous job and if the town does what the state does he thinks it is entirely too much. He does not feel we need to do this to the degree that we do and feels a 25% reduction in salt use would work.

Mr. DiGregorio asked about the numbers regarding salt used be reviewed. Mr. Sires advised the typical amount is 25 tons, last year it was 18 tons and the year before it was 28 tons. Mr. DiGregorio questioned if the town has a stockpile. Mr. Sires reviewed this is tons purchased and each year over the ten year period 25 tons is what is used per year. We may have stock on hand but he would need to have someone come in to discuss this with the Board. Mr. Sires also reviewed that we can put a number in now and adjust it closer to Town Meeting.

Mr. Weathers questioned if we reduce salt use by 25% is there any legal issues with this as the public is used to a standard. Mr. Sires stated that he is not an attorney but believes the Board of Selectmen have discretionary authority to do as they see fit. This is out in the public and is being discussed and he does not believe there is liability but could check with the attorney if the Board would like. Mr. Weathers pointed out there was a recent case in the news regarding black ice and the final determination was with the motor vehicle and not the town or state. Mr. Drinkhall advised that another local town has reduced their use and have not heard a lot of hoopla on same

The Board next reviewed the reductions proposed by Mr. Drinkhall. Mr. Drinkhall stated he would read though the list and if someone wants to hold it for discussion the Board can go back and talk about it. The Board agreed.

The Board first reviewed the Executive Budget. With regard to Board of Selectmen salary cuts by 5% -this item was placed on hold by the Board. With regard to the Mileage cut of \$300 --Mr. Sires advised we are at \$762 for the year already. This matter was placed on hold. With regard to a cut of \$400 to seminars -- there was no hold. With regard to Office Supplies cut of \$500 -- there was no hold. With regard to Advertising Notices cut of \$300 --there was no hold. The Board next reviewed the Elections and Registration budget. With regard to Clerks Salary --this item was placed on hold, Ballot Clerks -- this item was placed on hold. Under the Finance budget, the Board reviewed a reduction for the Budget Committee -- there was no hold. The Board reviewed the Planning and Zoning proposed reductions next. With regard to a cut of

\$500 to recording – there was no hold, supplies cut of \$250 no hold; a cut to Books was placed on hold; and a reduction to seminars of \$300 was also placed on hold. The Board next reviewed Government Buildings. Town Hall equipment reduction of \$500–this item was placed on hold. Town hall heat reduction of \$1,000 – this item was placed on hold. Water test reduction of \$1100 –there was no hold. Rec Building Heat cut of \$1,500 –this item was placed on hold. Whitaker Heat reduction of \$200 –this item was placed on hold. There was no hold on the Police as this was already discussed. With regard to the Inspections budget a proposed reduction to Books was placed on hold. The Board next reviewed the Highway budget. The Vehicle Fuels reduction of \$15,000 was placed on hold. Sand and Gravel reduction of \$2,000 – there was no hold. Salt reduction of \$36,117 – this item was placed on hold. The Board next reviewed the Solid Waste budget. With regard to Diesel reduction of \$3500 –this item was placed on hold. With regard to Equipment Lease cut of \$500 – there was no hold placed. The Board next reviewed Parks and Recreation. With regard to the proposed cut of \$3,000 to Maintenance –this item was placed on hold. With regard to a cut of \$450 to Office – there was no hold placed on this item. With regard to the Library, Mr. Drinkhall advised that his reason for asking for additional cut was if we are cutting other items they should as well. \$10,953 is something he would like someone to reconsider. Mr. Weathers reviewed that \$438,110 is the figure we are working with and last year the figure was \$443906. It is level funded this year. Mr. Dickinson reminded the motion would have to be to rescind. **Mr. Martin moved, seconded by Mr. Dickinson, to rescind the previous vote on the library budget. The motion carried 4-1-0 with Mr. DiGregorio in the negative.** There was a discussion with Librarian, Tara Thomas, concerning the Henney Fund, dividends, income, hours of operation, etc. The Board discussed further cutting or staying level funded. **Mr. Drinkhall moved, seconded by Mr. Martin, that we reduce the Library budget by \$5,000.** Mr. Weathers pointed out if we don't get revenue from the state we will have to ask everyone to cut. **The motion failed 1-4-0 with Mr. Drinkhall voting in the affirmative and Messrs. DiGregorio, Dickinson, Weathers and Martin voting in the negative.**

The Board next reviewed the items placed on hold.

Selectmen Salaries – **Mr. Dickinson moved, seconded by Mr. Weathers, that we take no reduction.** Mr. Dickinson pointed out the Selectmen have not had a pay raise since 1982 at which time it was brought forward due to cost of living. If some of us want to give it back to the town in the form of unanticipated revenue they can and this is what he recommends. Mr. DiGregorio stated he is not interested in reducing this item. He sometimes needs to use vacation days from work, and pay for travel, meals, etc. He didn't expense same to the town and paid out of his own pocket. Due to the amount of time spent he feels this is a small amount of money. Mr. Drinkhall asked if the motion is for all Selectmen or for his. Mr. Martin advised the motion is for all but he can contribute back to the town general fund. **The motion carried 4-1 with Messrs. DiGregorio, Dickinson, Weathers and Martin voting in the affirmative and Mr. Drinkhall voting in the negative.** Mr. Martin reviewed no reduction will be taken from the Selectmen line. **Mr. Drinkhall moved, seconded by Mr. DiGregorio, that his pay be reduced for the amount he would receive from January 1 to April Town Meeting.** Mr. DiGregorio stated he felt this is a political move and Mr. Drinkhall shouldn't do this. Mr. Drinkhall reviewed a tax situation of a citizen in town whose taxes have increased and stated he feels this is the right thing to do. **The motion carried 4-1-0 with Messrs. DiGregorio, Drinkhall, Weathers and Martin voting in the affirmative and Mr. Dickinson voting in the negative.**

Executive Mileage – Mr. Martin stated that gas is going up and he is uncomfortable with reducing this line and that we can look at this again later if needed. There was no reduction taken to Executive Mileage.

Elections/Clerk Salary – Mr. Weathers advised he spoke with the Town Clerk and every bit of the money proposed to be cut would come from the part time employee who gets no overtime. Also the numbers in their department have increased. This cut would mean that 18 hours in her office would be reduced to 16. There was no reduction taken in the Clerk Salary Line.

Elections/Ballot Clerks – Mr. Weathers advised he spoke with the Town Clerk regarding this item. This is a year that the Supervisors have to purge the checklist and they use ballot clerks to help with this work. There was no reduction taken in the Ballot Clerks line.

Planning & Zoning/Books – There is a proposed reduction of \$100. Mr. Sires reviewed to date have spent \$90. We do buy planning books each year. Mr. Martin stated less was spent this year but we need to keep up with the guidelines. There was no reduction taken in the Books line.

Planning & Zoning/Seminars – Mr. Martin stated he feels staff is pretty sharp and we spent \$922 so far this year. Learning is an asset we put into the employees and he has a problem with doing away with this. Mr. Dickinson agreed. There was no reduction taken in the Seminars line.

Government Buildings/Equipment – A \$500 reduction is proposed. Mr. Sires advised we budgeted a number as unforeseen items may go wrong. We will not use the money if it is not needed. This is for items we need to purchase. There was no reduction taken in the Equipment line.

Government Buildings/Fuel – Mr. Weathers stated he does not know how we can take any reduction on this line with the price of fuel. Mr. Drinkhall questioned if we have locked in on a price. Mr. Sires advised we have locked in on cost plus. There was no reduction taken in the Fuel line.

Government Buildings/Recreation Heat – Mr. Drinkhall advised he is okay with the number proposed without reduction. There was no reduction taken in the Recreation Heat line.

Inspections/Books – There was a proposal to reduce this by \$400. The Board reviewed the actual amount spent last year. Mr. Martin stated we need code books for the Building Inspector to do his job. There was discussion that we could probably get away with reducing that number this year. The hold was taken off of this item.

Mr. Dickinson stepped away from the meeting at 6:45 pm.

Highway/Fuel – The Board agreed no reduction should be taken. There was no reduction taken in the Fuel line.

Highway/Salt - **Mr. Drinkhall moved, seconded by Mr. Weathers, that we continue with the 25% cut of \$36117 bringing the Highway Salt line down to \$108,349.** Mr. Weathers pointed out this number could be adjusted at Town Meeting if needed. Mr. Sires questioned does this reflect that the Board wants to continue as is with plowing or to use less salt. Mr. Sires suggested having Highway Foreman, Andrew Smith, come in to discuss this matter with the Board. Mr. Drinkhall stated we could cut this now and decide later. Mr. DiGregorio stated he is not willing to change the philosophy or our method we presently use. Not everyone has four wheel drive or snow tires. Conway takes care of the roads the way he thinks it should be done. He may be willing to go along with a reduction if we can look and see how much extra we have because of a light year last. He would like to know if the salt bin is full or empty. Mr. Martin questioned if the Board would like to table this motion.

Mr. Dickinson rejoined the meeting 7:58 pm.

Mr. Weathers questioned how much salt we put down and if we can cut down on this amount. Mr. Weathers stated he would like to hear from Andrew Smith next week. **The Board agreed unanimously to table this motion until next week.**

Solid Waste/Diesel – The Board agreed no reduction should be taken. There was no reduction taken in the Fuel line.

Recreation/Parks Maintenance – Mr. Weathers advised that he spoke with John Eastman and he advised this item has to do with the employee work schedule. Mr. Sires reviewed that some year they need to mow 2 or 3 times a week and sometimes not. If we cut this line, it shortens the season and we do less work. Mr. Weathers further advised that Mr. Eastman mentioned we may have to reduce overtime for trash pick up in parks, etc as well. The Board agreed to remove the hold. **Mr. Drinkhall moved, seconded by Mr. Martin, to remove the hold. The motion carried 3-2-0 with Messrs. Drinkhall, Dickinson and Martin in the affirmative and Messrs. DiGregorio and Weathers in the negative.** The majority of the Board agreed to the proposed cut of \$3,000 to the Parks Maintenance Line.

The Board next proceeded to vote on the non-hold items.

Executive – **Mr. Drinkhall moved, seconded by Mr. Weathers, to reduce the Seminars line \$400, Office Supplies line by \$500.00, and the Advertising Notices line by \$300. The motion carried 3-2-0 with Messrs. Drinkhall, Dickinson and Martin voting in the affirmative and Messrs. DiGregorio and Weathers in the negative.**

Finance – **Mr. Drinkhall moved, seconded by Mr. Weathers, to reduce the Finance Budget Committee line by \$300. The motion carried 5-0-0.**

Planning & Zoning - **Mr. Drinkhall moved, seconded by Mr. Weathers to cut the Recording Line by \$500 and the Print/Supplies line by \$250. The motion carried 5-0-0.**

Government Buildings – **Mr. Drinkhall moved, seconded by Mr. Dickinson, to reduce the Town Hall Water System Testing line by \$1,100, the Rec Building Water System Test line by \$250, and Whitaker Heat by \$200. The motion carried 5-0-0.**

Inspections – **Mr. Weathers moved, seconded by Mr. Drinkhall, to cut \$400 from the Books line. The motion carried 4-1-0 with Mr. DiGregorio in the negative.**

Highway – **Mr. Weathers moved, seconded by Mr. Drinkhall to cut the Sand and Gravel line by \$2,000. The motion carried 4-1-0 with Mr. DiGregorio in the negative.**

Solid Waste – **Mr. Drinkhall moved, seconded by Mr. Weathers, to cut the Equipment Lease line by \$500.** The Board questioned the lease. Mr. Sires advised it for equipment screening and sifting compost material. **The motion carried 4-1-0 with Mr. DiGregorio in the negative.**

Parks & Recreation – **Mr. Dickinson moved, seconded by Mr. Dickinson, to reduce the Parks Maintenance line by \$3,000. The motion carried 3-2-0 with Messrs. Drinkhall, Dickinson and Martin voting in the affirmative and Messrs. DiGregorio and Weathers in the negative.**

Mr. Drinkhall moved, seconded by Mr. Dickinson, to reduce the Rec Office Expense line by \$450. The motion carried 3-2-0 with Messrs. Drinkhall, Dickinson and Martin voting in the affirmative and Messrs. DiGregorio and Weathers in the negative.

Mr. Sires advised there is one more Selectmen's meeting scheduled before we present the proposed budget to the Budget Committee. Staff will bring the final budget as per the action taken tonight to the next meeting. The only issue at this point to discuss that needs to be resolved is the Salt line. The Board agreed.

PERAMBULATION OF TOWN LINES

Mr. Sires reviewed NH RSA information in the Board's agenda packet concerning perambulation of town lines. Mr. Sires reviewed this is done every few years. Mr. Sires advised staff will look into this further and advise the Board on same. Mr. Sires advised the next year the Perambulation is to be done is 2012.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

Proposed Bypass Resolution from North Country – Mr. Sires reviewed the Board was provided with a proposed Resolution regarding the Bypass from North Country Council. Mr. Sires asked for any feedback on same or if the Board would like to take action. The Board agreed no action would be taken regarding the proposed Resolution.

Streetlights – Mr. Sires reported the streetlights in North Conway Village are being turned off according to plan. Mr. Sires next advised that as per the Board of Selectmen, he did take a look at the lights in Conway Village and two things have come to light. One, is the light at North Road could be removed and swapped out for one that Mr. Buco was concerned about. Also, he looked at intersections and the one by the Grindel Center –one light on the west was to be left on. He has asked that one crosswalk be left on and the other be turned off.

Mr. Sires next stated that there are two lights in the parking lot in back of Town Hall and questioned if the Board wants to turn one off or would they consider this parking lot lights. The Board agreed they are parking lot lights and should be left on.

Mr. Weathers questioned if Mr. Sires has looked at the West Main Street as well. Mr. Sires stated he did not yet, but will be looking at this street.

Mr. Weathers next inquired if we received a date that PSNH would be turning off the lights. Mr. Sires advised the last word received was they would start on the 13th. Also, PSNH will be providing a list to the Town of anyone who will be paying to keep a light on by December 13. Mr. Sires next appealed to the public again that if they want to keep a certain light on they need to contact the utility company.

Mr. DiGregorio stated that we asked Mr. Bucu at the previous meeting to appeal to the utility company to leave the fixtures on the poles. Mr. Sires stated that PSNH is not leaving the fixtures on the poles that are to be turned off; however, he can ask them again to leave the fixtures up for a while. Mr. DiGregorio pointed out that once the lights go out people may decide they want it left on and want to adopt the light. We are going to see people asking once the light is shut off and it would be nice if they leave the fixtures up for a couple of weeks. Mr. Dickinson volunteered to contact Senator Jeb Bradley to ask him to call a lobbyist for PSNH and ask if this can be done.

Public Works Director – Mr. Sires reported that Paul has a long road ahead of him and that hopefully he will be back to work by the end of the month.

BOARD REPORTS AND COMMENTS

There were no Board reports or comments

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND MEDIA QUESTIONS

There were no public comments or media questions.

ADJOURN

At 7:18 p.m. the meeting adjourned, without objection, at the call of the Chair.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen J. Hallowell
Executive Secretary