

**Minutes of Meeting**  
**CONWAY BOARD OF SELECTMEN**  
February 13, 2015

The Selectmen's Meeting convened at 1:05 p.m. in the Meeting Room of Conway Town Hall with the following present: Selectmen, C. David Weathers (Chair), Mary Carey Seavey Michael DiGregorio, and Carl Thibodeau, Town Manager, Earl Sires, and Recording Secretary, Karen Hallowell. Selectman Stacy Sand joined the meeting at 1:08 pm.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Weathers led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

**Mr. Thibodeau moved, seconded by Mr. DiGregorio, to approve the agenda. The motion carried unanimously.**

BUDGET/WARRANT ARTICLES

Mr. Sires reviewed that the Budget Committee Public Hearing on the budget was held on 2/11/15. There was not a lot of attendance from the public.

Mr. Sires next reviewed that the Budget Committee met again last night and voted on warrant articles. Mr. Sires reported that the Budget Committee voted to reduce the operating budget by \$50,000 from \$10,355,207 to \$10,305,207. Ms. Gilligan has reported that at the Budget Committee meeting last night it was their intent that the fuel lines be reduced. The Budget Committee indicated that they would look to the Board of Selectmen to see where to take the \$50,000 in fuel reductions.

Ms. Gilligan distributed information to the Board for reducing the fuel lines by \$50,000 and reviewed same. (See attached).

Ms. Sand joined the meeting at 1:08 p.m.

There was next discussion by the Board on fuel costs, the volatility of the market etc. There was also discussion as to whether this Board wanted to go along with the changes or to wait until the deliberative session to see where the town is at budget-wise for fuel. Mr. Sires reviewed that the information presented today is an exercise of where to take the reductions and not whether this Board supports the budget or not. This Board can still vote on whether to support the budget figure or not. Ms. Gilligan reviewed that the budget is posted with the warrant and has Board of Selectmen recommended amount and Budget Committee recommended amount columns. In order to post this we will need to know where to take the reduction of \$50,000. Ms. Gilligan advised that she requested this of the Budget Committee last evening but they deferred this to the Board of Selectmen. Ms. Sand stated that the Budget Committee said they would hope that the Selectmen will evenly distribute this reduction and that is their directive of where they think it should come from. However, the Board can now take the deduction wherever they want. Ms. Sand pointed out that this is a huge decrease in fuel and is 1/6 of the fuel budget. There was further discussion by the Board on the reduction, fuels prices, etc. The Board further discussed having information at town meeting as to where the budget is at regarding fuel. **Mr. DiGregorio moved, seconded by Ms. Seavey, that we direct staff to put the Budget Committee numbers as proposed.** (See attached spreadsheet). Mr. DiGregorio stated that this is so that we can submit the MS7 properly and doesn't mean we

have to agree or support the number. Mr. Weathers further clarified that this is for the \$50,000 cut. **The motion carried 5-0-0.**

**Mr. DiGregorio moved, seconded by Ms. Seavey, to support the budget figure of \$10,305,207. The motion failed 0-5-0.**

Mr. DiGregorio next asked about the article to expand the PEG fund and the non support of this article by the Budget Committee. Mr. DiGregorio stated there is no figure attached to this article and questioned if their recommendation goes on the warrant. Mr. Sires advised that we could ask the DRA for an opinion but it could be argued if it is monetary or not. Ms. Sand stated that the Budget Committee argument of why not to support this is because PEG funds come from cable fees and they don't feel it should be for people not paying the fees, such as broadcasting over the internet. There was further brief discussion of the article by the Board.

Mr. Sires next reviewed that the Budget Committee did not support the warrant article for the trail grant for Whitaker Woods. Mr. Sires stated that he would let people know who are involved with the project so they can be at town meeting to discuss the article. Ms. Sand explained that the Budget Committee did not like the concept of this article and, also, a lot were opposed to it being in Whitaker Woods. Another issue was future maintenance, etc.

Mr. Thibodeau stated he would like to revisit the article for the Victim Witness Advocate position. Mr. Thibodeau stated that Carroll County has this same thing in their budget and he feels this is a duplication of effort and would like to revote on the article. Ms. Sand stated that this is not a duplication of services and this position fills a gap. She has spoken to police officers about this issue. They have said there is a gap here in services from when something happens to as it moves through the court system. Mr. Thibodeau questioned what the county does that we are not getting. Ms. Sand explained that they deal with Superior Court issues. Ms. Seavey stated that she has also asked around about this and got the same information as Ms. Sand and there is a definite lack of need between the start of a matter to when it goes to court. Mr. Thibodeau stated he doesn't have enough information at this point and will wait for town meeting.

Mr. Sires next reported that the Budget Committee did not support the petitioned article regarding the Default Budget or the petitioned article for a Tax Cap. There was brief discussion by the Board.

APPROVAL OF 2015 TOWN WARRANT

**Mr. Thibodeau moved, seconded by Ms. Seavey, to approve and post the warrant as presented and to sign it out of session. The motion carried 5-0-0.**

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND MEDIA QUESTIONS

There were no public comments or media questions.

ADJOURN

At 1:44 p.m. the meeting adjourned at the call of the Chair.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen J Hallowell  
Executive Secretary