

MUNICIPAL BUDGET COMMITTEE

PUBLIC HEARING

Wednesday, February 15, 2017

Auditorium

Kennett High School, Conway, NH

Chairman, Joe Mosca called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm. The following members were present: Vice Chairman, Jim LeFebvre, Mike Fougere, Pat Swett, Janine McLauchlan (obo Mark Hounsell), Terry McCarthy, Doug Swett, Bill Marvel, Mary Seavey (arrived at 6:25, obo John Colbath), Steve Steiner, Richard Klement, Mike Tetreault, and Bill Masters (arrived at 6:10 and left at 7:10). Also present: Lisa Towle, recording secretary and the representatives from each nonprofit (see below for specific names of attendees).

Excused: John Edgerton, Pat Kittle, and Peter Donohoe

Absent: Frank McCarthy,

Vice Chairman, Jim LeFebvre lead those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Mosca advised that we will take the precincts in alphabetical order.

Center Conway Fire Precinct: The 2016 budget request was \$39,050. The 2017 budget request is \$254,550.

East Conway Fire Precinct: The 2016 budget request was \$57,650. The 2017 budget request is \$57,650.

Redstone Fire District: The 2016 budget request was \$55,500. The 2017 budget request is \$61,000.

Thank you very much, precincts are done. We will take a brief recess until we get the paperwork for the town and then we will start right up with the town stuff. Thank you everybody for coming out. Be safe.

Chairman Mosca called the public hearing for the town to order at 6:24 p.m.

Earl Sires, Town Manager presented an overview of the 2017 budget. This is the budget committee's public hearing on the budget that has been forwarded to them by the

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selectmen, this is required by law. The last remaining step in the budget process is the deliberative session coming up in March on the 6th. We are 2 steps away from the actual election. The packet that you have and we will be working from tonight, includes the discussion of the operating budget, there is a narrative that explains the budget, which I will go over in a minute. A budget summary on page 11, that's useful to look at how budgets have changed from last year to this year. The departmental budgets are summarized and then we get into a discussion of revenue and that's included in here. After the operating budget, we go into warrant articles, there's a narrative section that talks about some of the warrant articles. Then we have all the warrant articles that will be presented on the warrant this year included here. We are required by law, you are required by law to have everything available that is going to be voted on and it is all in this packet.

On page 37, there is a summary of all the warrant article costs, or the costs of all the warrant articles. Then there is a discussion of the total projected budget and tax rate. Then we have detailed information on all the capital reserve funds in this packet. This budget, the proposed operating budget for 2017 forwarded to the municipal budget committee by the selectman totals \$10,773,365. That's an increase of \$259,272 or 2.47%.

This budget includes 3 basic components overseen by independently elected boards, that being; the police department overseen by the police commission; the library overseen by the board of library trustees; and the town budget that per se is overseen by the selectmen and town manager. The police budget increases by 4.6% or just over \$170,000 and that is due largely to increased employee costs that resulted from the 2016 contract for union members that was approved by the voters. The library budget is level funded but they do propose to change a position that is currently part-time to full-time. The town budget increases by 1.4% or just under \$90,000. It is important to know that while it only increases by \$90,000, there is a little bit of difference in this year's budget and that is that, the funding for the ambulance contract that has typically appeared in the operating budget, the large part of that actually appears this year as a warrant article. If that is approved those monies will be added into the operating budget after town meeting.

The default budget is set by the budget committee. Lilli has calculated that according to the state law and the proposed default budget is \$10,761,355, which is just \$12,000 less than the 2017 recommended budget. If we look at increases this year in the budget we have employee benefits increase by \$54,000, the police again \$171,712, again based on the union agreement. Our insurance for property and auto increase by \$18,000, but as we talked about before that is because we shifted our payment schedule and we are back to paying for a full year starting in January this year. Highway and pavement there has been an increase of \$42,000 and if we look at decreases there really isn't a decrease other than that amount I mentioned, \$108,000 that funds the ambulance contract that has been taken out and put in a warrant article this year, because we are seeking to have a new contract approved.

If you would turn to page 37 of the packet I would just point out there is a useful spreadsheet there that shows you all the proposed warrant articles and the tax rate impact of those warrant articles and actually the cost of each one of those articles. So, if you look

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at the bottom right hand corner we are actually requesting \$331,000 less in warrant articles this year than last year. Again, I would want to make a note that \$200,000+ decrease is due to the fact the selectmen are recommending not funding the landfill expansion account this year to the tune of about \$110,000 and also not proposing contribute monies to the public education and governmental fund this year to the tune of about \$110,000. There is a decrease but the majority is due to these two recommended proposals to not fund contributions to those accounts.

If you go to the next page, 38, this is sort of where we pull all this information together and if you look at the total for everything being proposed including petitioned articles, this year is \$12.4 million. That's an overall decrease of almost \$48,000 or 4/10th of 1%, total spending with the caveats I have already mentioned. Then look at what the tax rate is going to be, the selectmen have set a goal of maintaining the same tax rate as has been established the last 3 years in a row of \$5.72. In order to do that, we assume everything has passed, including the tax breaks and credits that are being discussed for veterans and elderly and our revenues come out the way we think they will and the selectmen use \$500,000 in fund balance we should end up with the same tax rate. We think that is doable in this budget.

Chairman Mosca noted I am going to give a brief summary of each warrant article, I am not going to read the entire article and it is a forum for the public to ask questions, this isn't a forum to debate back and forth over issues. It is to ask questions and get answers, the time to debate is at the deliberative which is in a couple of weeks.

Article 8: The operating budget, as Earl said the operating budget request is \$10,773,365. If that does not pass the default budget is \$10,761,335 or approximately \$12,000.

Article 9: Approve collecting bargain agreement between the Town of Conway and AFSCME #93, local 859, Department of Public Works. The first year increase is \$4,085, the second year increase is \$24,245, and the third year increase is \$24,851. The first year \$4,085 is being requested to raise and appropriate that for this year and the reason that is low is because it only covers the last 2 months of the year.

Article 10: If article number 9 is defeated to have a special meeting to reconsider the article.

Article 11: Ambulance Service between the Town of Conway and the Conway Village Fire District. This year to raise and appropriate \$76, 667, this is in addition to that amount of \$27,032 contained in warrant article number 8, the operating budget. The first year of the contract is \$115,00, the second year of the contract is \$118,036, the third year of the contract will be \$121,073, the fourth year of the contract \$125,627, and the fifth year of the contract \$128,663.

Comments: Steve Solomon, Chief of Conway Fire Department, addressed the budget committee based on concerns about the size of the increase and I thought, I don't anticipate I can make you happy with the number, I can try to explain where the number comes from. I am passing this our first, why is it so expensive? Our

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costs keep going up to provide this service. An example I used is, an ambulance now cost 60% more than it did in 2008 to purchase. Cardiac monitors are now \$35,000 apiece. Of course, our number one cost is going to be personnel, staff the ambulances and provide the services. Our demand for the service is up 20% in the last 10 years and the demand for what we provide for service is up. It is no longer the volunteer service where people can come in from home and essence give you a ride to the hospital. They demand high level of care, right there at your house, so that drives the cost up. The current buzz word is “down shifting” going on from the state and federal government. The federal government is the number one payor of ambulance bills through Medicare, they pay well under what it costs to provide the service. I was actually on the phone with our billing company today and they reduced it another 1.6%, what they pay to ambulance services. The state government has also down shifted on the towns in two ways, one through Medicaid, who pays a small amount for ambulance bills and does not allow us to bill the patient for anything beyond what the state pays. The other thing they did just a few years ago, they cut the states contribution to police and fire retirement driving up the local portion of retirement. Again down shifting from the state drives us along as well. Between the higher expenses and the down shifting from the state and federal government, forces us to come to the town and ask for more money. I included our summary of expenses and revenue projected for 2017 and as you can see we are not making money on this. The last thing I wanted to give you for information purposes is on the back of that sheet, that is what other towns are paying for ambulance service. I included towns around us and I was looking for towns of similar size, but as you are all well aware there are no town just like Conway anywhere. If you look at these numbers, Wolfeboro pays more than what the 2 contracts in articles 11 & 12 would be to the Town of Conway. You look at Berlin, which is very similar in population to Conway, they are paying significantly more and getting less service. Although, the number is bigger and I don't like that anymore then you do, it is really not unreasonable.

Article 12: Emergency Ambulance Service between the Town of Conway and Care Plus Ambulance Services. It is exactly the same numbers as in article 11, raise and appropriate \$76,667 and that goes with the \$27,032 contained in warrant article number 8, the operating budget. The same breakdown \$115,00, \$118,036, \$121,073, \$125,627, and \$128,663.

Article 13: Non-Precinct Fire and Rescue Protection Agreement between the Town of Conway and the Conway Village Fire District. Agreement for five year term beginning January 1, 2018 and expiring December 31, 2022. The annual cost of this contract will be included in the operating budget and shall be funded by non-precinct tax payers only.

Article 14: Non-Precinct Fire and Rescue Protection Agreement between the Town of Conway and the North Conway Water Precinct. Same parameters, shall be funded by non-precinct tax payers only.

Article 15: LED Street Light Conversion Project. See if the town will vote to raise and appropriate \$75,000 to fund the LED street light conversion project.

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Questions:

Bob Barriault asked if the \$75,000 is the total cost for the lights as well as the installation or is part of this installation cost reflected in some of the other line items? Earl Sires answered the \$75,000 is the estimated total cost. It is 3 things; buying the fixtures, having them installed, and then actually compensating Eversource somewhat for their old equipment. That's the estimate for all to get those lights up and we estimated depending on the size of lights we use and how many we buy, etc., the payback on that should be in the 3 +/- range and we will start saving about \$20,000/year on electricity. One of the things that will happen is an approximate \$16,000 rebate we will get once we spend the \$75,000, so the net is actually less than the \$75,000.

Article 16: Raise and appropriate \$750,000 for Capital Reserve Fund for Infrastructure Reconstruction. Current balance is \$250,661.

Article 17: Raise and appropriate \$300,000 for Capital Reserve Fund for Highway Equipment. Current balance is \$187,269.

Article 18: Capital Reserve Fund for Solid Waste Equipment. Raise and appropriate \$115,000. Current balance is \$209,037.

Article 19: Raise and appropriate \$1 for the Capital Reserve Fund for Landfill Expansion. Current balance is \$223,237.

Questions:

Bob Barriault asked on the sheet where you show the projections over the next 4-5 years, I noticed that until 2022 it is \$1, is that the intention? Earl Sires answered that is the projection at this point to maintain that for that period of time then start to ramp up that contribution after that. Mr. Barriault asked if that will be to compensate for those years that you are not contributing to this are you going to have to boost this up to a larger amount in the increment? Earl Sires answered that based on the current material going into the landfill we feel like we can take a hiatus for several years and then go back the number we have been using of \$110,000. Actually, go back to \$84,000 in 2022, because we have extended the projected use of that cell by 15-20 years, because of recycling (thank you Tom).

Article 20: Raise and appropriate \$200,000 for the Capital Reserve Fund for Maintenance of Town Buildings and Facilities. Current balance is \$172,820.

Article 21: Raise and appropriate \$10,000 for Capital Reserve Fund for Parks Department Vehicles and Equipment. Current balance is \$10,251.

Article 22: Raise and appropriate \$70,000 for Capital Reserve Fund for Police Vehicles. Current balance is \$10,756.

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Article 23: Raise and appropriate the sum of \$1 for the Public Educational/Government Cable Television (PEG) Trust Fund. Current balance is \$212,391.

Questions:

Bob Barriault questioned taking those funds and putting them in general funds. The fee people are paying on that was intended to support PEG programming and I wondered if the funds could better be used to possibly providing computer access to programs. Could we do streaming of on-demand of programs, I don't know how much would be involved or the equipment cost would be to do something like that. There are certainly a number of people in the valley that don't have cable service and don't have access to Valley Vision. Then someone like self I find it is inconvenient to find the scheduled times when these meetings are being shown so that I end up seeing a portion of it one day and then next if I am lucky. Whereas, if you could buy it on-demand and access it on the computer with streaming the meeting or whatever this would be helpful I think. I would like to know if it is even possible to do that. Earl Sires answered the balance in there, the selectmen felt was more than sufficient to meet the needs of the PEG station, because every year we get about \$130,000 in and we use about \$110,000 for the contract that supports the operation of Valley Vision. They felt like they could inject that money this year into the general fund to offset some of the other things that were being proposed. They don't anticipate doing that on a regular basis, this would be a one year thing. With respect to streaming they are already streaming selectmen and I think planning board and some budget committee meetings and the plan is to ramp that up. I think you have to subscribe to one of the online services like Vimeo or YouTube, you know short money and you can upload, so they are going to have more and more available on there.

Article 24: Raise and appropriate \$10,000 for the Eastern Slopes Regional Airport.

Article 25: Vote to convert a one year lease between the Town of Conway and New Hampshire Solar Garden to a 20 year land lease pertaining to approximately 2,457,000 square feet at the current Conway landfill site. Lease of Town Property is for the Construction of a Solar Energy Generating Facility.

Article 26: Vote to convert a one year lease between the Town of Conway and New Hampshire Solar Garden to a 20 year land lease pertaining to approximately 250,000 square feet at the current Conway transfer station. Lease of Town Property is for the Construction of a Solar Energy Generating Facility.

Article 27: To see if the Town will vote to discontinue completely and absolutely an 870 foot long Town road known as McMillan Lane.

Questions:

Bob Barriault stated I have a problem with the language of this article. I was fine with it until the last sentence which says "eliminate McMillan Lane and construct

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and complete if found necessary by the Planning Board an alternate road prior to closing McMillan Lane”. That bothers me because, does that mean that maybe they will have another curb cut onto the North-South Road or just totally eliminate that. I know I use that a lot and I would hate to see anymore curb cuts put into the North-South Road. That was the whole intention when the overlay district was established and so forth was to try to keep that road from a lot of extra development. Chairman Mosca stated I agree with you 100%. Earl Sires responded I told this story to the selectmen and maybe the budget committee. This warrant article I wrote it and it had 3 lines in it and the first attorney looked at it and it had 6 lines in it after that and the second attorney looked at it and it had 12 lines in it after that. The original one says should we get rid of this road. What that all is intended to mean is that the road can't be eliminated until a suitable substitute, suitable to the planning board, has been approved and constructed. There wouldn't be any connection to the North-South Road, that's a pretty firm position of the Town and Planning Board. The actual proposal is to run a road that goes around the back of that property but ends where the current road does now. The real intent is to maintain the current road until an alternate or suitable replacement is constructed. Chairman Mosca noted the intent maybe that, but that is not the wording of the article. Earl Sires responded that we will revisit that and perhaps we can have another attorney look at it and it will be 24 lines by the time we are done.

Article 28: To see if the Town of Conway will vote to modify the Elderly Exemption from property tax pursuant to RSA 72:39b as follow: To qualify, the person must have been a resident of New Hampshire for at least three consecutive years as of April 1 of the tax year in which application is made; own the real estate individually or jointly, or if the real estate is owned by his or her spouse, they must have been married for at least five consecutive years. In addition, the taxpayer must have a net income of less than \$28,000 or, if married, a combined net income of less than \$37,000; and own net assets not in excess of \$77,000.

Article 29: To see if the Town of Conway will vote to adopt the ordinances and regulations [we don't have to vote on this one], together with a change in numbering, titling and formatting thereof, the entire texts of which are as published by General Code Corporation in “The Code of the Town of Conway” on file with the Town Clerk.

Article 30: To see if the Town of Conway will approve the Charter Amendments summarized below?

Earl Sires summarized that this kind of related to the warrant article before that talking about the code. The short story is we have had the project over the last several years to recodify and reorganize our laws, the local ordinances, our procedures and policies and the charter provisions. Over time those things had kind of gotten mixed up and appeared in different places. We had parts of what really should be in the charter were in the code and we had things that were really laws in the selectmen's policies and things that were really selectmen's policies appeared in the laws. We have taken the last several years to straighten that all

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out and that first article asked the voters to adopt what we have isolated as just being the laws that applied to the community members and all of us that live in the Town and visit the Town. The charter is really the operating manual for the Town government. It talks about all the different pieces and as you might imagine there are a number of different pieces that all get described. About 90% of all that was in the charter and then there was about 10% of stuff that ended up in the laws and elsewhere that needed to be put in the charter. This is really putting things that were not in the charter that pertained to how Town Government is organized into the charter so it all made sense. Two examples; the fact that we have a Town Clerk and Tax Collector is identified in the charter, but in the laws, there was a provision to have an appointed Deputy to the Tax Collector. So, we moved that provision into the charter so all the things that have to do with the Town Clerks office are in the same place. Likewise, police commission, there were things in the charter that talked about there was the establishment of the police commission in the charter but the duties and authorities of the police commission were in the code section, so we put all that in one spot in the charter. I would like to thank Bill for taking a look at all this and slogging through to make sure it sort of made sense.

Article 31: [starts the nonprofits] To raise and appropriate \$13,500 for Tri-County Community Action. This is for fuel assistance programs for Conway residents.

Question:

Bob Barriault asked you are now on the nonprofits, wasn't there going to be a warrant article for some funds for doing a study for the rec center? Chairman Mosca answered it is not actually a warrant article it is in the operating budget. It is not a warrant article it is \$35,000 in the operating budget and that is to do a study as to what can and can't be done with the rec center, come up with some proposals and cost figures for a couple different scenarios of what we can and can't do. Mr. Barriault asked what line item is that one? Chairman Mosca responded the capital reserve for buildings.

Article 32: To raise and appropriate \$35,000 for the Gibson Center for Senior Services.

Article 33: To raise and appropriate \$10,115 for the Mental Health Center.

Article 34: To raise and appropriate \$3,000 for the Vaughan Learning Center.

Article 35: To raise and appropriate \$35,000 for the White Mountain Community Health Center to help meet the healthcare needs of the uninsured and underinsured.

Article 36: To raise and appropriate \$8,704 for Starting Point, providing advocacy and support to victims of domestic and sexual violence and their children.

Article 37: To raise and appropriate \$ 4,000 for Tri-County Transit Bus Service.

Article 38: To raise and appropriate \$17,000 for Vaughan Community Service.

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Article 39: To raise and appropriate \$65,000 for North Conway Community Center.

Article 40: To raise and appropriate \$14,000 for the family resource center at Children Unlimited, Inc.

Article 41: To see if the Town of Conway will accept Royal View, Regal Circle, Palace Court and Camelot Court (off of Henderson Road which is off Davis Hill Road) Conway, NH as town roads. Submitted by petition.

Questions:

Bob Barriault asked why are these not recommended by the selectmen? Earl Sires answered that the selectmen have criteria that they developed when they are considering these proposals and as everybody may know that in the Town of Conway it is up to the voters to decide whether the Town will accept for maintenance roads constructed by private developers. This was a petition by a private developer to have roads in his subdivision accepted and the selectmen reviewed the criteria and determined this did not yet meet those criteria. Those criteria have to do with road construction standards and the number of houses that are built within the subdivision. What is the build out and what is the tax value of the build out. They determined this didn't meet those and recommended against it.

Article 42: Shall the town adopt the "all veterans property tax credit" under RSA 72:28-b. If adopted, the credit will be available to any resident, or the spouse of any resident, who (1) served not less than 90 days on active service in the armed forces of the United States and was honorably discharged or was an officer honorably separated from service, and (2) is not eligible for and not receiving the credit for veterans who served in a qualifying war or armed conflict or for veterans with service-connected disability. If adopted, the credit will be in the amount of \$500, which is the same amount as the credit for veteran who served in a qualifying war or armed conflict. If the credit is adopted, any person desiring to claim the credit will be required to file an application with the selectmen or assessors by April 15 of the tax year. Submitted by petition.

Questions:

Bob Barriault asked have you made any effort to try to project how much or how many people would qualify for this and how much a total cost this would be. Tom Holmes, Assessor answered yes, this is a petitioned article by the public, the town did not generate this article or originate it. In the interest of being a support staff to the petitioners, we estimated the potential number of veterans who may be eligible for this to eventually reach 233. That would be the most according to estimates by the NH VA and US Census Bureau. My own personal opinion is it will take some time for that number to be reached. Jim help me out, what was the number we agreed on 116,000 is the worst-case scenario if 233 veterans showed up between now and April 15th. I know from experience, being the assessor, that here are veterans in town who show up every year and didn't know about the one

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we already have for 10-20 years. They come trickling in, there will be an initial lump, perhaps a couple dozen or so, then as people become aware of this, it is printed on the tax bills and so forth, they will inquire about it. I am one of them, full disclosure, if it passes I stand to get the credit, one of those gap veterans. This is basically to serve veterans who did not serve in war time, basically the gap between Korea and Vietnam or Post-Vietnam and Dessert Storm I. Mr. Barriault responded I am totally in favor of it, I was just curious as to what the cost might be.

Article 43: To see if the Town of Conway will direct the Board of Selectmen, on behalf of voters, to contact our elected leaders in Concord, NH and Washington, DC to express our strong desire that student debt levels and this issue's impact on the sustainability of our rural communities and workforce be swiftly addressed.

Chairman Mosca stated that concludes the public hearing for the Town, we are going to take a brief 5 minute recess then we will start public hearing for the schools. Thank you all.

Chairman Mosca called the public hearing for the school warrant to order at 7:10 p.m.

Kevin Richards, Superintendent summarized the articles. If you flip to page 2, you will see a summary of all the different units in the budget and you will see that most of the increases are due to health insurance increases and/or retiree increases which is at 2%. The middle school unit 4, there is the addition of the Family Support Liaison in that and that is about \$69,000. Walking down, the Conway Elementary School, because that is a stable staffing you will see some life changes that have occurred in that building resulting in changes in health insurance as well as salary increases. John Fuller Elementary, there was a reduction of a staff member, but you will see the addition of the rotating fund there. That is a net increase of \$24,000. Pine Tree School you will see the reason that is reduced is the removal of the rotating fund. Between unit 6 and unit 7 those kind of wash each other out. Technology district wide, part of that was increasing some of our technicians to year-round employee. Career and Technical Education, there was again health insurance and some changes in staffing there. Unit 2 at the very top, that was some special education increases that we can talk a little bit more about. So, you will see the grand total at the bottom, increase of \$894,987. Page 3, that just goes through the increases and you will see again the increases, guidance services that's where the Family Liaison pops in. Then at the bottom you will see the special articles walking through there. Page 4, you will see there is some increased tuition to the Town of Conway. The unencumbered balance you will see is an estimate. Then revenue from the local sources, you will see the bond from last year is removed out of there. State adequacy is estimated at about 95%, then the state education tax. Remember the stabilization grant is being reduced by 4% per year, projected for the next 25 years, which is a decrease of about \$30,000. Page 5, you will see tax rate information, so if the budget should be approved you will see an increase of \$.59/thousand or 4.88% to \$12.70. All the articles I believe you will go through in a little bit. Should all the articles be approved you will see \$1.10 increase per thousand which is a 9.11% increase in the tax rate. Page 6 is the default budget and you

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will see the overall budget reduces about 3.66 people in the budget and therefore the default budget is actually below the proposed budget by \$6,500.

Article 2: To see if the district will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,100,000 for the purpose of renovations (including heating an electrical upgrades) to Conway Elementary. It has to pass by 3/5 vote or 60%. To appropriate an additional sum of \$41,002 for the first year's interest payment on the bond.

Questions:

Bob Barriault commented, last year when we were looking at the cost of these renovations the amount for the Conway Elementary School was the same amount, (\$2 million) as the one in North Conway. If I understood correctly they did not use the full \$2 million in the renovations at John Fuller, is that correct? Chairman Mosca answered that is correct, but I believe was pennies, less than \$25,000 that wasn't used. It was a very small amount. The increase this year is part of it is cost increases for labor and the lack of buying in quantity. So that is the extra \$100,000 basically for this year.

Article 3: To see if the school district will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$54,443 to be added to the Expendable Trust Fund for the high school established for that purpose in 2007, with \$35,663 to offset this amount from the sending towns and the remainder to be raised by general taxation. Current balance is \$484,850.

Article 4: To see if the school district will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$17,086 to be added to the Expendable Trust Fund for the Middle School, established for that purpose in 2007, with \$7,308 to offset this amount from the sending towns and the remainder to be raised by general taxation. Current balance is \$155,136.

Article 5: To see if the school district will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$9,900 to be added to the Expendable Trust Fund for the Elementary Schools, established for that purpose in 2007, with \$1,188 to offset this amount from the sending towns and the remainder to be raised by general taxation. Current balance is \$79,993.

Article 6: To see if the school district will vote to approve the cost item included in the collective bargaining agreement reached between the Conway School Board and the Conway Education Association which calls for the following increase in salaries and benefits at the current staffing levels: year 2017-18 the estimated increase is \$461,926; 2018 – 19 \$468,005; and 2019-20 \$482,627. Further to raise and appropriate the sum of \$461,926 for the upcoming fiscal year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits required by the new agreement over those that would be paid at current staffing levels.

Questions:

Bob Barriault commented that I am well aware of the benefits of having multi-year contracts and I share those views. Also, I don't have a problem at all with the salary

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increases that are reflected here. I do have a problem with the 3-year contract by virtue of the fact that I don't feel an adequate job has been done to get concessions upfront on costs like health insurance. I think the article that was in the Sun some time ago, an editorial, pointed out some things I thought made a lot of sense. As a senior retiree, I am 81 years old, I'm on a fixed income, I doubt whether I am going to be around here 10 or 15 years from now to reap any benefits in tax relief with the concessions that have been made in this contract. I truly feel that they should have done a better job of trying to get relief for the taxpayers upfront to compensate for things that supposedly we have no control over, health insurance increases. At least with a single year contract the voter has the option of looking at the affordability of the contract in light of any additional cost, which we have no control over. Since health insurance and retirement funds and all these other things that are included in that package of benefits, represents a good share of the total cost on that line item of wages and salaries. The budget is labor intensive and it is a big ticket item and I just feel it is unfortunate that this contract was negotiated the way it was.

Article 7: That is the operating budget, \$36,240,608, the default budget is \$36,234,101, approximately a \$6,500 difference.

Article 8: To see if the school district will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$53,998 to supplement the funding of the John H. Fuller School, Conway Elementary School, and Pine Tree School Project Succeed.

Article 9: To see if the school district will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$93,500 for the purpose of purchasing a full size bus. Current balance is \$47,409.

That concludes the warrant for the school and concludes the public hearing.

Thank you all for coming out, I appreciate it.

Vice Chairman, Jim LeFebvre moved, seconded by Steven Steiner, to adjourn the budget committee at 7:25 PM. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa E. Towle, Recording Secretary