

# MUNICIPAL BUDGET COMMITTEE

## DELIBERATIVE SESSION – TOWN

### RE-VOTE

**Monday, March 6, 2017**

**Auditorium**

**Kennett High School, Conway, NH**

Chairman, Joe Mosca called the meeting to order at 9:43 pm. The following members were present: Vice Chairman, Jim LeFebvre, Mike Fougere, Pat Swett, Terry McCarthy, John Edgerton, Doug Swett, Bill Marvel, John Colbath, Steve Steiner, Richard Klement, Pat Kittle, Mark Hounsell, Mike Tetreault, and Bill Masters. Also present: Lisa Towle, recording secretary, and Steven Porter, Selectman.

Absent: Mark Hounsell and Frank McCarthy

Chairman Mosca advised that there are 4 articles to revote on.

**Article 8:** The operating budget, the new amount is \$10,813,365.

Motion to recommend by John Colbath, second by Steve Steiner.

Discussion:

Bill Marvel commented that others feel as I do that the cut is appropriate un the library. The only thing to do is disprove the budget.

Dick Klement commented \$48,000 - \$49,000 more is totally out of sight and I am going to vote against it.

Chairman Mosca commented for the record unexpended appropriations over the last 10 years have averaged \$237,000 a year. The last 3 years; 2014 the unexpended amount was \$302,000, in 2015 the unexpended amount was \$525,000, and in 2016 the unexpended amount was \$234,000. I think there is plenty of money to fund everything that is in there.

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Vice Chairman, Jim LeFebvre commented the new proposed budget of \$10,813,365 compared to the default budget of \$10,761,335 is a difference \$47,230+, I am opposed.

**In favor: 6; Opposed: 9; Abstain: 0. Motion defeated.**

**Article 11:** Emergency Ambulance Service between the Town of Conway and the Conway Village Fire District

Motion to recommend by John Colbath, second by Steve Steiner.

Discussion:

Steve Steiner commented I believe we deserve good ambulance care with paramedic services, I think we should support it.

John Edgerton commented if we don't support it North Conway, Conway and Center Conway don't have ambulance services.

Bill Masters commented I absolutely support them, you are getting double service as not only are they EMT's but certified fire fighters. You are getting a lot for your money, skilled services. We had to use them this year.

Chairman Mosca commented that there has been a lot of information that came in, I was a strong opponent to this, but I think the price tag is just too high but I think everything I have heard, where Conway has had to cover the private ambulance company for a lot of calls over the last couple of years because they didn't have the right personnel on and they don't get reimbursed for that (that should be in the contracts too but that is not our perview). I think we need to really seriously support this.

Peter Donohoe asked in the absence of voting for this the selectman would continue the existing contract, until brought up again. Chairman Mosca answered no guaranty. Peter Donohoe asked in other words the matter is forced to that table again to come up with a solution.

**In favor: 14 Opposed: 1; Abstain: 0. Motion carried.**

**Article 12:** Emergency Ambulance Service between the Town of Conway and Care Plus Ambulance Services.

\*\*\* note there was not a recommendation made on this motion \*\*\*

Discussion:

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Chairman Mosca commented The original vote was 8-7, it was very close. It was changed by \$1. I was against it, I am still against it especially in light of some of the things I have been told in the last few weeks, but that is my personal opinion.

Doug Swett commented in the mean time you better to have something rather than nothing. It has been revamped and renegotiated. I know they are 5-year deals but you got to have ambulance service.

Steve Porter commented if this contract doesn't get approved everybody in the town of North Conway, Center Conway and East Conway will not have ambulance service. (discussion ensued about each areas coverage).

**In favor: 14 Opposed: 1; Abstain: 0. Motion carried.**

**Article 40:** Children Unlimited, Inc.

Motion to recommend by John Colbath, second by Bill Marvel.

Discussion:

Dick Klement commented what was eluded to tonight about the detail of money Children Unlimited receives from the school. Children ages 3-5 who need special education services are now getting through private contractors and Children Unlimited are one of them. I don't know how much money it is, but I do know it ranges from \$20,000 - \$50,000. Chairman Mosca commented the program that you are talking about goes away July 1<sup>st</sup>. The program that we have been funding for the past however years they have lost the rights to that as of July 1<sup>st</sup>. What they are continuing is going to be a completely different program. Dick Klement further commented they are going to continue to education through special education. Chairman Mosca responded that is not what they are looking for money for, what they are looking for money for is substance abuse. Dick Klement commented the schools are aiding people with family services. Dick Klement commented we don't have the fully story.

Peter Donohoe commented from the meeting, not being unsympathetic or insensitive to the cause but it seems like they are riding on the coat tails of a successful early intervention program. It took me awhile to get to the fact that this had a different face on it, I thought it was intentional on their behalf and I don't think it is appropriate.

**In favor: 3 Opposed: 12; Abstain: 0. Motion defeated.**

**Vice Chairman, Jim LeFebvre moved, seconded by Mike Fougere to adjourn the budget committee at 9:58 PM. Motion carried unanimously.**

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**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Lisa E. Towle, Recording Secretary**