

1 CONWAY MUNICIPAL BUDGET COMMITTEE AGENDA
2 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CENTER
3 KENNETT MIDDLE SCHOOL
4 CONWAY, NH
5

6 June 14, 2023, AT 6:30 PM
7
8

9 The meeting was called to order at 10:14 PM. The following Budget Committee members were
10 present: Chair Peter Donohoe, Vice-Chair Frank Jost, Bob Drinkhall, Jim LeFebvre, Dave Jensen,
11 Bill Marvel, Kit Hickey, Terry McCarthy, Randy Davison, Quentin Lewis, Ellin Leonard, Michael
12 Lacey, Steven Steiner, Ryan Shepard, and Stacy Sand.
13

14 Absent: ?
15

16 **Pledge of Allegiance-** The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chair Peter Donohoe.
17

18 **Approval of any Outstanding Minutes (May 3, 2023)**
19

20 ***J. Lefebvre moved to approve the outstanding minutes of May 3, 2023, seconded by B.***
21 ***Drinkhall.***

22 ***Motion Carried. (12-2-1 [K. Hickey])***
23

24 B. Drinkhall- it is probably my error but on the 3rd to last paragraph I was questioning whether
25 or not we are going to get a 14-wheeler. I don't think that is what I said. That was never what
26 was proposed by the town, It's a 10-Wheeler. I don't know if it's my error, Bills, or the
27 transcriber, because what the town is proposing is a 10-wheeler.
28

29 P. Donohoe- fair enough, I don't remember that particular point.
30

31 B. Marvel- yes, I can easily correct that.
32

33 S. Sand- it's a typo but my name has no E.
34

35 **Review and approve 2023-2024 CMBC Schedule**
36

37 P. Donohoe- we need to approve the 2023-2024 CMBC Schedule, this has been passed out via
38 electronic and print form. There are a couple of questions about dates way out in the future.
39 Does anybody have any questions?
40

41 ***F. Jost motioned to approve the proposed 2023-2024 CMBC meeting schedule as presented;***
42 ***seconded by D. Jensen.***

43 ***Motion carried (15-0).***

44
45 J. LeFebvre- I have a question regarding the use of the Marshall Auditorium, that has
46 traditionally been a place that is not conducive to group meetings. Is there any possibility that
47 the BOS and we could meet at some other location that might be better suited acoustics and
48 understand what is going on?
49
50 P. Donohoe- that is an excellent question, I don't know the answer except I think it's a capacity
51 thing and I think we have a number at TH that we are in danger of exceeding for that evening. I
52 will make a note and check into that for you Jim and report back to the board.
53
54 D. Jensen- I think once in the not too recent past when you weren't here, we did it here.
55 Selectman Colbath suggested that we demand use of TH instead of here because he thought we
56 should be there more often, did anything occur of that?
57
58 P. Donohoe- yes, we have 2 dates that were otherwise scheduled to be in the Marshall because
59 of conflicts with this room that the BOS have offered us to use.
60
61 D. Jensen- my feeling there is more of us let's take it.
62
63 P. Donohoe- I will make an inquiry and if it's a conflict, our next shot would be TH and see if we
64 can use the upstairs.
65
66 S. Sand- I think the issue at TH is that there are no maintenance staff on duty.
67
68 F. Jost- I think when this was discussed previously after a couple of meetings at the TH, we
69 talked about that concern, and to this point we've relied on the BOS rep to ensure that it was
70 closed appropriately after we left.
71
72 R. Shepard- Wednesday's I think are ZBA meetings I'm not entirely sure, but I will look into it.
73
74 **Subcommittee Group Meeting Time: (1) Town, (2) School, (3) Policy/Procedure & Non-profits.**
75
76 P. Donohoe- next up is the subcommittee group meeting time of the 3 groups we're going to
77 dedicate some time, I think 45 minutes is enough time in this meeting to get together and
78 reconvene and talk about the things that you've already had discussions about. I want to see
79 what progress has already been made, if any. Steve, I'll start with you with the Town.
80
81 S. Steiner- (Town)- no meetings yet.
82
83 J. LeFebvre- (School)- we had a meeting at the Library on May 31st, Mr. Marvel, Mr. Drinkhall,
84 and Mr. Lewis were all present as was Randy Davison. We've already met and come up with
85 some of our revised questions.
86

87 D. Jensen- (Policy/Procedure) no we have not met.

88

89 P. Donohoe- I have a couple of thoughts that I just wanted to put out there, which I listened to
90 the school board meeting the other night and the discussion was how the school board meeting
91 is using Robert rules and, in our policy, & procedure manual, which I sent to everyone this
92 afternoon, there is a brief inclusion about how we are using Roberts Rules. It says under
93 number 10, rules of order to the extend these rules and orders are not comprehensive, all
94 questions of order shall be resolved by reference to Roberts rules of order. The chairman shall
95 rule on all matters raised by this rule. The school board got into it deep the other evening and
96 their treatment of procedural things. I would suggest that we dive into it a little bit to see what
97 types of things might need to be reviewed in that regard, updated, or kept the same. In
98 addition, there were questions that were raised about the possibility that maybe the policy and
99 procedure group will deliver questions for the charter commission. We also may need to look at
100 our recording policy and procedure as that is the new paradigm. I want to put this out there
101 and I'm not expecting a board debate on this but what I noticed a lot during the nonprofits
102 presentations was the discussion about their lack of slush funds set aside for a rainy day. I think
103 to ask them to present to get some sense of what they have for rainy day funds, how they
104 decide to use it, how much has grown or shrank over the years, things like that.

105

106 D. Jensen- one of the things that I was hoping to talk about when we get together shortly is to
107 those points exactly. To my knowledge every non-profit must fill one of these 9-90 ez forms and
108 it should be in their packets, they should all have something equivalent to an income and
109 balance sheet.

110

111 Q. Lewis- I agree with you on the balance sheet and the financials of the company, but I also
112 think it's important not to forget the service they provide to the population of the town. A lot of
113 the questions we had last year were about their service numbers to the people.

114

115 **Meeting and video stopped for a 45-minute discussion in smaller subgroups. Meeting**
116 **reconvened at 7:30.**

117

118 **Old Business**

119

120 J. LeFebvre- I'd like to encourage everyone who has not yet had the opportunity to go take a
121 look at the current conditions of the Conway Police Department, and take advantage of the
122 Chiefs more than generous offer to let you go through and he will walk you through the
123 situation he's got and why he's considered it to be so downright almost dangerous, I think
124 everyone should have an opportunity to take a look at it if you possibly can, it's a good
125 educational tool.

126

127 P. Donohoe- there was a recent submission to the paper that suggested that maybe they use
128 the mothball space of the high school or this building to store old records. It is a multifaceted
129 problem. I suggest you go on an individual basis as a group is too hard.

130

131 Q. Lewis- I don't read the papers as much, is this problem at the PD was this talked about last
132 year during the budget season?

133

134 P. Donohoe- it's not a brand-new problem but it was talked about at different levels.

135

136 J. LeFebvre- that's the 35k that's coming out of the grant money which is for the feasibility
137 study.

138

139 R. Shepard- yes, the town is financing the feasibility study. The chief received a couple of bids
140 and went with one. I have toured the facility and they need this study, from a safety
141 perspective alone that department needs new facilities. It has not been determined yet if it is to
142 build from the ground up or to rehab what's already there. They want to make sure a well-
143 thought-out plan is put in place.

144

145 S. Sand- why is this being made into a crisis. When you are doing a budget and why were we
146 hearing about this last year? I'm not questioning things that need to be done at the PD, but
147 here we are and its only June we just passed the budget in April and here we are in June with
148 this crisis. Where is the long-term look from the department heads.

149

150 P. Donohoe- my take on this it just seems to me there are many members of town staff who are
151 chronically overworked and there just an understaffing at the department level, their dealing
152 with everything in front of their face and they're not dealing with some of the longer term
153 implications of things and that is I don't think there is anything nefarious here, there just not
154 particularly good at the bigger thinking.

155

156 B. Drinkhall- I do recall this being brought up several times, they even talked about moving the
157 detective section to the now called TH annex, so this has been brought up in the past in their
158 defense.

159

160 Q. Lewis- if it was brought up last year, I don't remember it. It does seem like a big problem that
161 they have been sitting on or not talking about for who knows maybe years, but in terms of
162 planning I think it will be very helpful to know future or current problems, even if not solved in
163 the next budget.

164

165 R. Shepard- I don't know the current amount of ARPA funds, but perhaps the goal was not to
166 burden the taxpayers, but maybe they are at a tipping point that something needs to happen.

167

168 J. LeFebvre- you are right at that BOS meeting you were discussing the motion that was passed
169 was to spend \$35,000 out of the ARPA and that just like the ESER funds have an expiration date.

170 Q. Lewis- that makes sense that maybe they could only spend that money on emergency things,
171 and so maybe we had to let this turn into an emergency?

172

173 P. Donohoe- I want to thank the BOS for their letter of support to the local legislators regarding
174 the hotel room fee, which was a nice follow through. Ryan, I'll task you with the question on
175 whether John Eastman has had time and or any success in reaching out to some of our tourist
176 community constituents regarding similar sorts of efforts.

177

178 R. Shepard- not to my recollection as of yet, I know we are all on board. Everywhere you go
179 there are fees. I was just in Boston the other weekend and the fees are plenty and I know it's
180 going towards the city and to take care of it. I don't have an issue with this fee, and we will
181 work to see it happen. I want to see it happen personally.

182

183 S. Sand- when we met with Senator Bradley, he made it clear that he was going to listen to the
184 lobbying group for lodging and restaurants over us. The only way that we're going to
185 accomplish this is to band with other towns, and I would encourage you to bring that back to
186 the BOS. Maybe we can make some progress versus the loud voice of lobbyists.

187

188 **New Business**

189

190 R. Shepard- we recently had the auction for some parcels of land belonging to the town, and
191 these are rough numbers given to me by John, but I wanted to share with the BC, roughly
192 \$675,000 was brought in that sold and of that the Towns take was roughly \$575,000 going to
193 back to the town and taxpayers.

194

195 P. Donohoe- I think it has been a task of John Eastman to dispense excess property quickly. I
196 can't remember when there was a sale of town owned property.

197

198 **Public/Media Questions and Comments- None**

199

200 **Adjournment**

201

202 ***B. Marvel motioned to adjourn the June 14, 2023, meeting; seconded by J. LeFebvre.***
203 ***Motion carries (15-0).***

204

205

206 Respectfully Submitted,

207 *Alicia Jipson*

208 Recording Secretary