

## Minutes of Meeting CONWAY BOARD OF SELECTMEN

December 7, 2005

The Selectmen's Meeting convened at 4:10 p.m. in the Meeting Room of Conway Town Hall with the following present: Selectmen Larry Martin (Chair), Karen Umberger, David Weathers, Gary Webster, and Mark Hounsell; Town Manager, Earl W. Sires; and Recording Secretary, Karen Hallowell

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

### REVIEW AND CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSED 2006 BUDGET

Finance Director, Lucy Philbrick, was present for discussion.

Police Budget - Police Chief, Ed Wagner, joined the meeting. Mr. Webster questioned what happens to old weapons. Chief Wagner advised they are traded in.

Mr. Webster next questioned why the Police Department do not purchase cruisers outright like we do our school busses. Chief Wagner advised that several years back they went to a lease purchase program. There was a discussion by the Board regarding lease purchase versus purchasing vehicles outright. Mr. Hounsell suggested leasing one vehicle and proposing to purchase one through a warrant article next year. Ms. Umberger stated she recommended the Chief take the concept of purchasing instead of leasing back to the Police Commissioners for their thoughts on the matter as well as Mr. Hounsell's idea of leasing one and purchasing one through a warrant article next year. Mr. Sires suggested capital reserve funds, either an existing fund or that another be created in the future for the purchase of police cruisers. After further brief discussion, **Mr. Hounsell moved, seconded by Ms. Umberger, that we reduce the police budget in the amount of \$8433 under vehicles and that we support a capital reserve with the first year's contribution of \$25,000 and that we authorize the Selectmen's representative to represent the Board of Selectmen on this line item during budget presentations. The motion carried 4-0-1 with Mr. Weathers abstaining.**

There was next discussion regarding the commercial duty budget line. Chief Wagner advised the yearly average for commercial duty for several years has been \$25,000. **Ms. Umberger moved, seconded by Mr. Webster to reduce the police commercial duty line to \$20,000. The motion carried 3-2-0 with Messrs. Hounsell and Martin dissenting.**

Ms. Philbrick advised the new police budget number is \$2,192.637.

Recreation Budget – Mr. Sires reviewed counselor ratios and fees for programs as there had been questions regarding this information at a previous meeting. Information was distributed for the Boards review.

Mr. Hounsell next suggested a \$1 or \$2 fuel surcharge be added to the bottom of every sign up sheet for any program (bus trips, basketball, etc) to help offset increased costs. Ms. Umberger voiced concerns that, administratively, this may be burdensome. Mr. Weathers suggested a one time fee of \$5.00 instead. After further brief discussion it was agreed that this could be a discussion item for next year. It was agreed that this would be put on an agenda in January.

Mr. Sires reviewed personnel budget adjustments that were made, including counselors. **Mr. Webster moved, seconded by Mr. Weathers, that we increase the recreation budget by \$5355 to cover two counselors as required. The motion carried 5-0-0.**

Mr. Sires next reviewed the Parks and Recreation final figure total is \$280,405.

Solid Waste – There was a brief discussion regarding establishing a revolving fund for special waste for the recycling program. **Ms. Umberger moved, seconded by Mr. Hounsell, that we change the figure for special waste management to \$25,000 and that we put on a warrant article for a revolving fund for special waste for the recycling program. The motion carried 5-0-0.** It was agreed that \$59,500 is to be taken out and the new number for solid waste is \$653,229.

General Assistance – Mr. Sires distributed a memo regarding the \$4,000 increase to the General Assistance Budget to the Board for review. Ms. Umberger commented that next week two organizations will be in to present \$3700 to the town for fuel assistance.

Budget Total – Ms. Philbrick advised the new bottom line proposed budget figure is \$8,731,015. **Ms. Umberger moved, seconded by Mr. Webster, that we accept the budget bottom line at \$8,731,015. The motion carried 5-0-0.**

Warrant Articles – Mr. Sires advised that warrant articles will be discussed at next weeks meeting.

### BOARD REPORTS

School Building Committee – Ms. Umberger reported the School Building Committee met last night, December 6, 2005. At that meeting a draft list of things still needed was distributed at that meeting.

Fire Ponds – Ms. Umberger reported that she has information regarding what NCWP does for fire pond maintenance. Mr. Weathers reported he also dropped off a report from NRCS to the Town Office regarding fire pond maintenance.

Conservation Commission – Mr. Weathers reported a Conservation Commission meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 14, 2005. Mr. Weathers reported they had an application for a new road off of East Conway Road in wetlands and there is also a meeting scheduled here at town hall tomorrow regarding same.

Technology Village Tour – Mr. Webster reported that Senator Gregg toured the Technology Village construction site yesterday.

ESAA – Mr. Webster reported he attended a meeting of the Eastern Slope Airport Authority last evening and the budget was discussed.

Southern Terminus – Mr. Hounsell commented on the roundtable discussion held recently regarding the southern terminus. Mr. Hounsell stated that he feels a letter should be sent to the Governor stating the consensus of our position. The Board all agreed a letter signed by all Board members would be appropriate to send to the Governor and that a draft should be crafted reaffirming the discussions at the meeting as well reinforcing this Board's decisions and reinforcing our points.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

Drive Time – Mr. Sires reported he did a taped segment for the radio Drive Time program today.

PUBLIC COMMENT/MEDIA QUESTIONS

There were no public comments or media questions.

ADJOURN

**Ms. Umberger moved, seconded by Mr. Weathers to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously.**

The meeting adjourned at 5:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen J. Hallowell  
Executive Secretary