

## MUNICIPAL BUDGET COMMITTEE

Thursday, February 15, 2018  
Professional Development Room  
Kennett Middle School, Conway, NH

Chairman Jim LeFebvre called the meeting to order at 6:31 pm. The following Budget Committee members were present: David Jensen, Mike Tetreault, Terry McCarthy, John Colbath, Doug Swett (arrived at 6:45), Bill Marvel, Joe Mosca, Bob Drinkhall, John Edgerton, Pat Kittle, Ted Sares, Bill Masters, Mike Fougere, Steve Steiner (arrived at 6:38), and John Whittier. Also present: Lisa Towle, recording secretary

Excused: Pat Swett

Mr. Edgerton led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **OPENING REMARKS:**

Remember we are dealing with close to \$50 million dollars combined costs with the town and school and their warrant articles.

### **OTHER BUSINESS:**

- I received an email request from Mr. Kittle for a reconsideration vote of Article 25, The Conway Humane Society and I will let Mr. Kittle explain his reason.  
**Mr. Kittle:** As I stated last night I was conflicted on this article and voted not to recommend it. The decision ate at me last night and I contacted Chairman LeFebvre to see if there was a way I could change my vote and was advised that in accordance with the Roberts Rules I would have to make a motion for the committee to allow reconsideration of the vote and therefore that is what I am asking, and I am only looking to change my vote.

**Motion by: Mr. Mosca, seconded by Mr. Sares, for reconsideration of the vote on Article 25, The Conway Humane Society. 11-3 [Mr. Mosca, Mr. Marvel, and Mr. Whittier] -0. Motion Carries.**

**Mr. Kittle:** I don't have a need for further discussion, I am just looking for the opportunity to vote in favor of the article. Mr. Kittle read the article aloud to the committee.

**RECOMMENDED: 9 – 4 [Mr. Whittier, Mr. Tetreault, Mr. Masters, and Mr. Marvel] – 1 [Mr. Mosca]**

- **Chairman LeFebvre:** I would like to move discussion and vote on Article 4, the operating budget until the end.

**Motion by: Mr. Drinkhall, seconded by Ms. McCarthy to defer the voting on Article 4, the operating budget until the end. 14 – 0 – 0. Motion carries.**

- **Chairman LeFebvre:** I would like to discuss out of sequence, Articles 22 and 35, which pertain to the tax exemption for industrial and commercial properties. It is my reading of Chapter 32, that since these articles do not have a monetary impact the Budget Committee is not authorized to vote on them and that is based on the issue last year with MacMillan Lane. **Mr. Mosca:** I agree, however if these articles pass there is a financial impact. **Chairman LeFebvre:** It is not predicted and is speculative. We don't have a proration or set aside so we can't vote on these under the current rules of chapter 32. This may change next year with the pendency of the McCarthy bill.
- **Mr. Mosca:** Someone put it on there and I think we should vote on it, if it is not necessary the DRA will disallow it.

**Motion by: Mr. Kittle, seconded by Mr. Mosca to vote on both Article 22 and 35. 8 – 5 [Mr. Masters, Mr. Sares, Mr. Colbath, Mr, Drinkhall, and Chairman LeFebvre] – 1[Mr. Whittier].**  
Motion Carries.

**TOWN WARRANT ARTICLES:**

All warrant articles were read aloud by Mr. Jensen.

Article 5: CBA FOR 2018-19 TOWN AND POLICE

**Motion by: Mr. Drinkhall, seconded by Mr. Marvel for discussion.**

- **Chairman LeFebvre:** One thing of interest here is the compounded cost is \$65,063.

**RECOMMENDED 13 – 0 – 1[Mr. Whittier]**

Article 7: MOVING THE TOWN RECREATION CENTER

**Motion by: Mr. Steiner, seconded by Ms. McCarthy for discussion.**

- **Mr. Steiner:** As stated in previous meetings, I believe the school is trying to fill up classrooms. I bet that if we took \$60,000 to the North Conway Community Center they would take the extra kids. This is foolish to close off anyway of expanding classrooms as that is what it is supposed to be for is classrooms. **Mr. Mosca:** To clarify, when the North Conway Community Center was here they said they couldn't take all the students.
- **Mr. Whittier:** I spend some time today at the Rec Center, which is in disarray, and the North Conway Community Center. I am not in favor of moving the Rec Center, but with the number of kids and the current programs it isn't possible for them to go to the North Conway Community Center
- **Mr. Sares:** Mr. Steiner makes a good point, however with the lack of other alternatives and the current Rec Center's condition, this solution is perfect and gilded by Sut Marshall.
- **Mr. Steiner:** I think it is wrong to allow the school to put checkmate. **Mr. Whittier:** It is checkmate for 3-years, I am all for closing a school and this building held 1500 students at one time, which is all the kids. **Chairman LeFebvre:** For clarification purposes, when there were 1361 students at KMS there were also 14 trailers that held 20 people per class. For comparison purposes you must make sure you compare apples to apples. **Mr. Mosca:** In addition, they had split sessions on campus. **Mr. Marvel:** To further clarify, the split sessions were in the 70's and the trailers were in the 90's.

- **Mr. Mosca:** I take exception to Mr. Steiner's comment, the school is not trying to do this, the school and town are working together to do what is best for the children of the town.
- **Mr. Jensen:** Of the options we have before us, this is the best financial option for the tax payers and what should focus on what is germane now which is do we approve moving the Rec Center.
- **Mr. Marvel:** The options we have are the only options that have been presented to us by others who have chosen not to go another way with the Rec Center. Personally, I would like to see something done using the current site, rather than to accumulate more abandoned town property. I understand that the costs savings of moving and consolidating as envisioned could be greater. Although, they couldn't have done better if they planned it, I don't believe that the School Board decided this is a great way to never have to consolidate elementary schools.
- **Mr. Kittle:** I am concerned that this limits the ability to consolidate schools at a later time, which I think needs to happen. If we can revisit Mr. Richard's comment, what is the capability with the Rec Center in place? **Mr. Mosca:** With the Rec Center we could bring the 6th grade here. **Mr. Kittle:** If the 6th grade comes here perhaps we could consolidate the elementary schools to two locations.
- **Mr. Fougere:** When the high school moved to KHS the alternatives at that time were to tear down the middle school and build new or keep the school and moth ball the unused space. Now we have a chance for a second entity to pick up the refurbication of the old school and bring it up to code. Then if and when we move the 6th grade it will be to an area that is up to code. The more we talk against it sometimes we favor it.
- **Mr. Whittier:** Moving the 6th grade to KMS doesn't have a costs savings as you are still keeping a school open. Further, has anyone looked into the legality of a Rec Center being in the same building as a public school? **Chairman LeFebvre:** I presume the attorneys are doing their due diligence. **Mr. Mosca:** There would be a cost of \$200,000 to move the 6th grade to KMS.
- **Mr. Steiner:** We could put PTS in its entirety in KMS with all of the available space. The tax payers need a break. **Mr. Sares:** What do you suggest as an alternative for the Rec Center? **Mr. Steiner:** The Rec Center is able to stay put for one more year. A business that had half of its business shut down would go out of business, that is not the case here because the tax payers paying for it.
- **Mr. Drinkhall:** If the 6th grade came to KMS would that enable two elementary schools to pick up three schools? **Chairman LeFebvre:** It depends on the projections, which right now is dropping from 730 – 702 or the equivalent of one classroom. **Mr. Drinkhall:** What about closing a school and moving the Rec Center there rather than KMS.
- **Mr. Edgerton:** For the last 15 years we have been hearing from administration that moving the 6th grade to the middle school environment and out of the one teacher to a teacher for each course is the best thing for the children. **Chairman LeFebvre:** I had received information from the DOE that the most popular standard was a grade 6-7-8 setting.
- **Mr. Sares:** When proposing different scenarios, it is important to take into consideration a very important variable, being Sut Marshall who the town is very blessed to have.
- **Mr. Jensen:** 50 years ago, the population was half of what it is now and thinking that in 15 – 25 years down the road the population will be less than it is now is a leap of faith. The prospect of

closing a school only to have to build a new one in 10 years is the most fiscally irresponsible thing I could imagine doing. As well as the fact that closing a school has nothing to do with our opinion about the Rec Center and we should be voting on the Rec Center.

- **Mr. Marvel:** I think it is our responsibility to think a few years down the road and voting on the Rec Center impinges our ability to consolidate.

**NOT RECOMMENDED 5 – 11** [Mr. Drinkhall, Mr. Whittier, Mr. Kittle, Mr. Marvel, Mr. Swett, Mr. Masters, Mr. Steiner, Mr. Tetreault, Mr. Edgerton, Ms. McCarthy, and Chairman LeFevre] – 0

#### Article 8: MOVING THE TOWN HALL

**Motion by: Mr. Kittle, seconded by Chairman LeFevre for discussion.**

- **Mr. Steiner:** Economically this is great for the Town Hall to be in Conway as I believe that area needs economic development and hopefully this will be a great start and it will grow from there.
- **Mr. Sares:** The reason for doing this is that the current building is a fire trap, according to one of the selectmen and as Mr. Holmes explained in detail, this great opportunity came about, and he jumped on it and it makes sense.

**RECOMMENDED 13 – 2** [Mr. Swett and Mr. Tetreault] – 1[Mr. Whittier]

#### Article 9: CAPITAL RESERVE FUND FOR INFRASTRUCTURE RECONSTRUCTION

**Motion by: Mr. Kittle, seconded by Mr. Drinkhall for discussion.**

- **Ms. Gilligan:** The current balance in this account is zero. Planned for 2018 are deferred paving projects and this is the second year of a 3-year phase for catching up on work that was put off to complete other situations and keep the tax rate at zero. These deferred projects are budgeted at \$235,000 as there are 7 culverts that need to be replaced. Thompson Rd is on the budget for \$366,000, Grove St. reconstruction is budgeted at \$80,400, and Seavey St. reconstruction is budgeted at \$245,000 for a total of \$926,400, which exceeds the \$850,000 requested. We plan to cover the remaining cost and have \$90,000 to roll over into the 2019 projects with an unanticipated State Highway Block Grant we received in the amount of \$217,102. We spent \$49,530 this past year on unplanned projects and have a balance of \$167,572 to use.
- **Mr. Drinkhall:** If we don't take care of the infrastructure we end up with things like the Town Hall and Rec Center that were not properly maintained.
- **Mr. Marvel:** I like this kind of Capital Reserve Fund where you raise and spend it in the same year and the finance department is so well managed I have no reason to question it.
- **Mr. Steiner:** The town as a whole including the road department are fine oiled machines.
- **Mr. Whittier:** Has anyone personally looked at these roads to see if they really need to work done now. **Mr. Colbath:** Of course, they have been observed as this is part of a long-term plan of road repair catch up from the recession when we were unable to expend the funds. In addition, the price of asphalt is down so we are getting a great bank for our buck.
- **Mr. Masters:** This article is money well spent for all tax payers and addresses the common good for all and is extremely important in terms of how we disperse funds as the highway system is the only means we have to get around the community and we can't afford to let that deteriorate.

**RECOMMENDED 16 – 0 – 0**

Articles 10: CAPITAL RESERVE FUND FOR HIGHWAY EQUIPMENT

**Motion by: Mr. Drinkhall, seconded by Mr. Steiner for discussion.**

**RECOMMENDED 16 – 0 – 0**

Article 11: CAPITAL RESERVE FUND FOR SOLID WASTE

**Motion by: Mr. Drinkhall, seconded by Chairman LeFebvre for discussion.**

**RECOMMENDED 15 – 0 – 1[Mr. Whittier]**

Article 12: CAPITAL RESERVE FUND FOR LANDFILL EXPANSION

**Motion by: Mr. Drinkhall, seconded by Mr. Colbath for discussion.**

- **Chairman LeFebvre:** This is a place holder warrant article funded at \$1 to keep it in front of the people. The selectmen cut the appropriation in order to keep the tax rate at \$.34/\$1,000.
- **Mr. Colbath:** We are doing so well with recycling that we are ahead of schedule and do not need all of the property that was allocated for the land fill. This allowed us to appropriate \$1 last year to keep the tax rate low and again this year. **Mr. Kittle:** As recycling continues to do well do you foresee \$1 appropriation for the next 4-5 years? **Mr. Colbath:** I don't have the expertise to answer that question. I know we had the opportunity to do it last year to help keep the tax rate low and we were able to do it again this year, however whether we will be able to do it again next year will be up to the town engineer. **Mr. Mosca:** The explanation I was given on the \$1 appropriations is that eventually we are going to have to double up on the appropriations to catch up.
- **Mr. Marvel:** Where the recycling has expanded the life of the landfill, I think this is a situation where it would be wiser to use a bond rather than a Capital Reserve Fund.

**RECOMMENDED 14 – 1 [Mr. Marvel] – 1[Mr. Whittier]**

Article 13: CAPITAL RESERVE FUND FOR MAINTENANCE OF TOWN BUILDING AND FACILITIES

**Motion by: Mr. Drinkhall, seconded by Ms. McCarthy for discussion.**

**RECOMMENDED 15 – 0 – 1[Mr. Whittier]**

Article 14: CAPITAL RESERVE FUND FOR PARKS DEPARTMENT VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT

**Motion by: Mr. Drinkhall, seconded by Chairman LeFebvre for discussion.**

**RECOMMENDED 15 – 0 – 1[Mr. Whittier]**

Article 15: CAPITAL RESERVE FUND FOR POLICE VEHICLES

**Motion by: Mr. Steiner, seconded by Chairman LeFebvre for discussion.**

**RECOMMENDED 14 – 1[Mr. Tetreault] – 1[Mr. Whittier]**

Article 16: PUBLIC EDUCATIONAL/GOVERNMENT CABLE TELEVISION TRUST FUND

- **Mr. Whittier:** Spend on what? **Chairman LeFebvre:** To support Valley Vision, which is how we get the public TV and meeting coverage. **Mr. Jensen:** The money comes directly from Spectrum and passes through the town to Valley Vision.

**Motion by: Mr. Steiner, seconded by Mr. Marvel for discussion.**

**RECOMMENDED 16 – 0 – 0**

Article 17: COMMUNICATIONS CONSOLE SYSTEM FOR POLICE DEPARTMENT Motion by:  
**Mr. Steiner, seconded by Mr. Drinkhall for discussion.**

**RECOMMENDED 16 – 0 – 0**

Article 18: TERMS OF COMPENSATION FOR SUPERVISORS OF THE CHECKLIST

**Motion by: Mr. Sares, seconded by Mr. Marvel for discussion.**

- **Mr. Sares:** Where I held a position as treasurer for the schools many years ago and felt I was grossly overpaid at \$1,500 / year, I would be hypocritical if I didn't support this as these people work harder than I did, therefore I am reversing my position and supporting this article.
- **Mr. Kittle:** This is only a warrant article this year because it is not part of the budget but will be in the future. **Mr. Mosca:** It is part of the budget this year but only for the \$1,000, next year it will be the full \$1,500.

**RECOMMENDED 15 – 0 – 1[Ms. McCarthy]**

Article 19: MULTI-PURPOSE PATH

**Motion by: Mr. Sares, seconded by Mr. Kittle for discussion.**

- **Mr. Whittier:** After it is built will the maintenance be passed onto the town? **Mr. Colbath:** No, they have indicated they are a non-profit and will maintain it themselves.

**RECOMMENDED 16 – 0 – 0**

Article 20: WEBSITE FOR CONWAY PUBLIC LIBRARY

**Motion by: Mr. Kittle, seconded by Mr. Colbath for discussion.**

- **Mr. Edgerton:** It is my view that they got the money and it is not an operating function of business, why didn't they just do it? **Mr. Colbath:** The library used to charge a fee for overdue books which they no longer do and any money that comes in is put into a donation account. According to DRA anything that comes into that account can be spent in that same year, however if it accumulates beyond that year the voters must vote to expend it.

- **Mr. Marvel:** This is article is at my request as I felt it was important for the public to see what it costs to run the library and wanted the \$7,500 to be put into the budget, rather they compromised and made it a warrant article.
- **Mr. Whittier:** Where they already had the money, it is a library trustee decision and not really a Budget Committee decision. **Chairman LeFebvre:** We must vote on it because of the RSA and the way it is put into the system.
- **Mr. Sares:** The trustee donation account could be people giving money to the library. **Mr. Marvel:** They are two different accounts being the donation account can be spent on anything and the trust fund account can only be spent on specific items.

**Mr. Mosca: move to question. 15 – 1[Mr. Marvel] – 0**

**RECOMMENDED 16 – 0 – 0**

**Article 22: PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION FOR PROPERTIES OF INDUSTRIAL USE**

**Motion by: Mr. Mosca, seconded by Mr. Marvel for discussion.**

- **Mr. Steiner:** Other states are doing similar programs for economic development where they are cutting taxes and I think this is great for our community and creates jobs.
- **Mr. Drinkhall:** I believe it creates an unfair advantage for existing businesses.
- **Mr. Jensen:** 50 years from now I think the prospect that we are going to have a retail based economy in the valley is unlikely. Online shopping is increasing every year and the thought that we will have people driving here from Boston or Quebec to shop is unlikely. Pushing retail is not something that is going to have a positive effect on us. If the town is interested in helping sponsor manufacturing or other forms of business that normally wouldn't require visitors then the things we should spend money on is making sure housing is available for the workers of the company that is moving here, that we have a school system that compares favorably to other locations under consideration, and to provide municipal services to the industrial zone so the businesses are not paying for their own plowing, water, and sewer. If you are a business moving to the valley those are the things you are going to consider not a little tax savings for a few years.
- **Mr. Whittier:** It does create an unfair advantage and if down the road we don't have retail or a resort destination we are going to have a lot more problems than these warrant articles can fix.

**NOT RECOMMENDED 5 – 11[Mr. Kittle, Mr. Drinkhall, Mr. Fougere, Mr. Sares, Mr. Whittier, Chairman LeFebvre, Mr. Jensen, Mr. Tetreault, Mr. Masters, Mr. Swett, and Mr. Marvel] – 0**

**Article 23: EASTERN SLOPES REGIONAL AIRPORT**

**Motion by: Mr. Steiner, seconded by Mr. Drinkhall for discussion.**

- **Mr. Sares:** (The following is from the printed comments provided to the Budget Committee) I have concerns with the amount of press that depicts turmoil at the airport and most of it has gone unchallenged and Lovell's departure from the airport affirms this. The county commissioner's sudden departure is additionally troubling as up until recently they supported the airport, however not they state the "need for the airport commissioner to get its house in order". There is a possible conflict with the selectmen as one of them is also on the airport commission. As for the requested

amount, what happens if they didn't receive that money and what are their alternatives. It seems the airport has taken on an automatic or entitled quality. I visited the airport in September/October and came away wondering how people arriving at the airport would get to Conway, Fryeburg, or other locations. If we reject other warrant articles that done have this turmoil, how can we be fiscally responsible granting this one. I am going to be very clear, I smell a rotten fish and I don't like it.

- **Mr. Mosca:** I supported this article in the past, however reading today's paper it troubles me that it eluded to a violation of the right-to-know law and without know if that is true, I am unable to support this.
- **Mr. Edgerton:** The Federal Government submits grants to the airport for 90% of all the money and 10% or \$90,000 is the part they are going to lose. This was the first time the County Commission had been approached for a donation and they turned it down. Additionally, any trouble maker on any board can get their view in the Sun.
- **Mr. Steiner:** Is it possible to not vote on this tonight and get the airport commission here for a briefing. **Chairman LeFebvre:** They already did and unfortunately you were not here that evening.
- **Mr. Whittier:** I don't see the benefit to the Conway tax payers who never fly out of there and if you own your own plane you should be able to afford to maintain it.
- **Mr. Marvel:** This is an additional donation from tax payers, the airport got along without it for years. I don't like the idea of the airport expanding and I don't think the new residential areas want jets flying into it. I think it is a hobbyist airport and the only jets that go in there are private jets for some of the richest residents. My lack of support for the airport has been aggravated by the suspicion of collusion with Poland Springs.
- **Mr. Jensen:** If they increased the take-off and landing fees by a minimal about for those flying private jets the airport would raise the \$10,000. Additionally, people who are buying aviation fuel for private jets, use the airport more than the tax payers of Conway.
- **Mr. Mosca:** This is the 5th year for this article and I believe the first warrant article state that if it passed 3 consecutive years it automatically went into the operating budget. **Mr. Colbath:** The selectmen could have added this into the operation budget, however, as a result of discussions such as this the selectmen decided to leave it on as a warrant article.
- **Mr. Edgerton:** The executive jets, which will bring more money into industry, can't come until they get the extra 500 ft of runway. The executives for Cranmore fly in and out of this airport all the time.
- **Mr. Steiner:** I had supported this article in the past based on economic development. I previously approached Congressman Guinta, who promised he would get money for the airport and he did. The problem is the airport authority needs new blood and a plan.

**RECOMMENDED 10– 5** [Mr. Whittier, Mr. Sares, Mr. Mosca, Mr. Marvel, and Mr. Jensen]  
– **1**[Mr. Masters]

#### Article 35: PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION FOR PROPERTIES OF COMMERCIAL USE

**Motion by: Mr. Steiner, seconded by Mr. Kittle for discussion.**

- **Mr. Jensen:** How is it determined that a business qualifies for this discount and is the decision based on adding value to the town? **Mr. Holmes:** Commercial property as defined by statute (same for



the previous industrial article) and the assessor adds value to the property through new construction, addition, or renovation that amount that is added is eligible for the 50% discount.

- **Ms. McCarthy:** Every business has to make out an application which goes before the selectmen and they say who gets it and who doesn't. **Mr. Holmes:** Application has to be made to the assessor who are the selectmen and they have to approve the increase/decrease in value.
- **Ms. McCarthy:** In the beginning this was for community businesses that wanted to increase or add on and couldn't afford it but could if they got a tax exemption for it.
- **Mr. Steiner:** Market Basket is a commercial property and in light of what is happening with the economy in the U.S. this might be the hitching pin that gets them here.

**NOT RECOMMENDED 4** [Mr. Colbath, Mr. Steiner, Mr. Mosca, and Ms. McCarthy] – **12 – 0**

Article 4: THE OPERATING BUDGET (\$11,078,998)

**Motion by: Mr. Drinkhall, seconded by Mr. Sares for discussion.**

- The operating budget is \$11,078,998 with a default budget of \$10,951,370 which is \$127,628 less
- **Chairman LeFebvre:** The budget as proposed as I understand it will have an increase of \$.34/\$1,000 and for a \$200,000 home the increase would be \$68 for the town only and this is for a tax payer with a median income and a median home.
- **Mr. Marvel:** Each year we continue to find the efficiency we are looking for in the town's operating budget, which eliminates our need to ask questions of them.
- **Chairman LeFebvre:** I sat in on the selectmen's meeting when they passed this budget and know they worked hard to cut out several line items to provide a need-based budget and were able to cut the tax rate down from \$.84 to \$.34 per \$1,000.
- **Mr. Masters:** The town budget represents the common good for all people that live here or come here, and the services included apply across the board including the school system.

**RECOMMENDED 16 – 0 – 0**

REVENUES:

**Motion by: Mr. Edgerton, seconded by Mr. Jensen for discussion.**

- On pages 20-21 you will see the estimated Federal revenues, which will be adjusted in September when the tax bills are finalized.

**RECOMMENDED 14 – 0 – 2** [Mr. Sares and Mr. Whittier]

### **CONWAY SCHOOL DISTRICT WARRANT ARTICLES:**

All warrant articles were read aloud by Mr. Jensen.

Article 2: \$1.2 MILLION BOND FOR UPGRADES TO PINE TREE SCHOOL

**Motion by: Mr. Mosca seconded by Mr. Steiner for discussion.**

- **Mr. Mosca:** This is the 3rd request in 3 years; first was JFS in 2016 for \$2 million which passed at 74.25%. The second was Conway El in 2017 for \$2.1 million which passed at 74.52%. I believe

the town understands we are trying to up keep and maintain the buildings and infrastructure repair is something we should be doing.

- **Mr. Steiner:** I think the school needs to be closed and the \$1.2 million should be spent at KMS. **Mr. Mosca:** The work needs to be done whether a school or other entity occupies it and the longer you put it off the more it is going to cost.
- **Mr. Whittier:** In my opinion to take a \$1.2 million bond for 20 years is absurd.
- **Mr. Kittle:** What are the risks if this does not pass in terms of things that may become a crisis or an emergency. **Mr. Mosca:** The boiler system is very old, the lines have a leak, and last year one of them shut down, luckily maintenance was able to get it working.
- **Chairman LeFebvre:** I believe Mr. Mosca has some information about the savings from having 2 schools using propane and one using oil. **Mr. Mosca:** For JFS 2016-17 propane cost was \$22,988 and 2015-16 cost were \$37,279. The two previous years il costs were \$44,000 and \$48,000. The fuel costs have been cut in half plus we got a rebate check from Eversource for both schools for \$12,000 because of the efficiencies in the new pump system at JFS, which is a onetime occurrence however due to the efficiency the electric usage is down as well as the fuel consumption.

**RECOMMENDED 10 – 6** [Mr. Whittier, Mr. LeFebvre, Mr. Steiner, Mr. Masters, Mr. Marvel and Mr. Drinkhall] – **0**

#### Article 4: KHS MAINTENANCE FUND

**Motion by: Mr. Mosca, seconded by Mr. Drinkhall for discussion.**

**RECOMMENDED 12 – 3** [Mr. Whittier, Mr. Marvel, and Mr. Tetreault] – **1** [Mr. Sares]

#### Article 5: KMS MAINTENANCE FUND

**Motion by: Mr. Drinkhall, seconded by Mr. Steiner for discussion.**

- **Mr. Kittle:** What is the balance? **Ms. Gilligan:** \$189,545

**RECOMMENDED 13 – 3** [Mr. Whittier, Mr. Marvel, and Mr. Tetreault] – **0**

#### Article 6: ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS MAINTENANCE FUND

**Motion by: Mr. Steiner, seconded by Chairman LeFebvre for discussion.**

**RECOMMENDED 12 – 3** [Mr. Marvel, Mr. Tetreault, and Mr. Whittier] – **1** [Mr. Sares]

#### Article 7: 3 YEAR CBA with AFSCME

**Motion by: Mr. Mosca, seconded by Mr. Drinkhall for discussion.**

- **Mr. Mosca:** AFSCME was the one union that came to the table a couple years ago to renegotiate their health benefits saving the town \$200,000. They have done it again this year by taking on a 4-tier prescription plan with an increased cost in their prescriptions, the cost of the dental insurance has increased, and the starting pay has increased for new employees.

- **Mr. Kittle:** For clarity purposes for the public voting on this I think it would be beneficial to include the cumulative amount in the warrant article. **Mr. Mosca:** The warrant meets DRA requirements, which does not require including the cumulative cost.

**RECOMMENDED 15– 1 [Mr. Whittier] – 0**

Article 9: PROJECT SUCCEED PROGRAMS.

**Motion by: Mr. Steiner, seconded by Mr. Edgerton for discussion.**

- **Mr. Steiner:** For clarification can you tell me what Project Succeed is? **Mr. Mosca:** It is the before and after school program, where kids have supervision, homework clubs, and tutoring.

**RECOMMENDED 13 – 3 [Mr. Marvel, Mr. Drinkhall, and Mr. Swett] – 0**

Article 10: SCHOOL BUSES

**Motion by: Mr. Drinkhall, seconded by Mr. Mosca for discussion.**

- **Mr. Kittle:** What is the balance of the capital reserve fund after the withdrawal? **Mr. Mosca:** The current balance is \$47,480 and after the \$45,000 withdrawal \$2,480 will be left.
- **Mr. Whittier:** Do busses fail or this just because they are worn out? **Chairman LeFebvre:** Yes, busses fail they get old and rust out. This is a standard replacement cycle, last year we replaced one, this year we will replace two, and next year will be one, etc.

**RECOMMENDED 15 – 1 [Mr. Whittier] – 0**

Article 11: REC CENTER LEASE AGREEMENT

**Motion by: Mr. Mosca, seconded by Mr. Steiner for discussion.**

- **Chairman LeFebvre:** This is the counterpart to the earlier warrant article on the town side that we already voted on. You need to vote as you deem appropriate just as you deemed appropriate on the municipal one.
- **Mr. Masters:** I don't see a dollar figure on this why are we voting on this? **Chairman LeFebvre:** I believe they are using a \$1 lease. **Mr. Colbath:** This only gives them permission to enter into the lease it does not discuss the terms of the lease.
- **Chairman LeFebvre:** Based on Chapter 32, it is my informed opinion that we should not be voting on this article, unless the committee wants to vote on this knowing that when it reaches the DRA they may fully tell us it was in error.
- **Mr. Marvel:** There is a place for a vote, therefore they are asking us to vote and I think we should accommodate them.

**NOT RECOMMENDED**

**5 [Mr. Mosca, Mr. Fougere, Mr. Colbath, Mr. Sares, and Mr. Jensen] – 11 – 2**

Article 8: OPERATING BUDGET

**Motion by: Mr. Mosca, seconded by Mr. Steiner for discussion.**

- The recommended operating budget is \$37,161,463 and the default budget is \$37,139,445 which is \$22,018 less than the operating budget.
- **Mr. Sares:** This is the first time I can remember where we could save money by going with the default budget.
- **Mr. Marvel:** With a budget of \$37 million, \$22,000 is nil as it really hasn't changed much.

**NOT RECOMMENDED**

**6** [Mr. Kittle, Mr. Mosca, Mr. Fougere, Mr. Colbath, Mr. Sares, and Mr. Jensen] – **10 – 0**  
(no alternative number is being recommended at this time)

**Motion by: Mr. Drinkhall, seconded by Mr. Steiner to recommend the default budget.**

**RECOMMENDED 10 – 3** [Mr. Mosca, Mr. Marvel, and Mr. Jensen] – **1** [Mr. Sares]

All paperwork from both the town and the school will be at the Town Hall for us to sign hopefully on Tuesday.

**ADJOURN:**

**Mr. Mosca moved, seconded by Mr. Colbath, to adjourn the meeting at 9:02 PM. Motion carried unanimously.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa E. Towle, Recording Secretary