

# MUNICIPAL BUDGET COMMITTEE

Wednesday, January 9, 2019

Professional Development Room

Kennett Middle School, Conway, NH

Chairman Jim LeFebvre called the meeting to order at 6:30pm. The following members were present: Vice Chair Dave Jensen, Eric Dziedzic, Ted Sares, Michael Tetreault, Greydon Turner, Diane Ryan, Joe Mosca, Terry McCarthy, John Edgerton, Steve Steiner, Ellin Leonard, Mike Laracy, Michael Fougere, Sarah Verney, and Steve Porter (for John Colbath). Also present: Lisa Towle, recording secretary

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

## REVIEW OF OUTSTANDING MINUTES (January 2, 2019):

**Mr. Jensen moved, seconded by Mr. Sares to approve the minutes from January 2, 2019 as presented. Motion Carries (15 -0-1 [Mr. Porter])**

## PRESENTATION BY KAREN UMBERGER:

Karen Umberger; former Carroll 2, Republican member of the NH House of Representatives; addressed the budget committee regarding the State portion of school funding. Therefore, when looking at the school, money, and taxes it helps to understand where the State aide comes from and what is contained within it and any difference is made up by the taxpayers in the community.

Statewide Property Education Tax (SWEPT) is a result of a court case that dealt with school funding, ordering statewide equalized valuation. Equalized valuation in Conway, which is one of the property rich towns, is \$1,533,474,766, resulting in \$3,327,640 raised from local taxpayers. The Conway December tax bills SWEPT was \$2.17/\$1,000, this tax raised \$363,099,676 statewide.

### The State provides;

- \$3,636 per student in grades 1-12 and is adjusted approximately 2.3% - 2.6% each year based on inflation.
  - \$75 for technology; \$20 for professional development; \$195 for facility maintenance; and \$315 for transportation.
- \$1,818 for Kindergarten student as it is only required for half day. In 2019, there will an additional \$1,100 per kindergarten student.
- Free and reduced lunch allows an extra \$1,818 per qualifying student.
- Special Education provides \$1,956 per qualifying student.
- ESL provides \$711 per student.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> grade standardized testing provides \$711 per student who doesn't qualify for any other monies.

37 Stabilization grant provides;

- 38 • The stabilization grant was transition money to assist school districts when the funding  
39 formula changed. However, it has come to be thought of as money the school districts should  
40 have all the time. Legislature passed a bill a couple years ago that reduces the stabilization  
41 grant to towns by 4% annually.
- 42 • Conway initially started at \$793,690 and has continued to decrease by \$31,748 or 4%  
43 annually.
- 44 • A senate bill, which will be voted on in June, has been proposed to stop the 4% reduction of  
45 the stabilization grant for the 19-20 school year.
- 46 • \$47,000 is paid for K-2 teachers using a ratio of 1 teacher / 25 students.
- 47 • \$47,000 is paid for 3-12 teachers using a ratio of 1 teacher / 30 students.
- 48 • \$101,000 is paid for 1 principal per 500 students.
- 49 • \$42,000 is paid for 1 administrative assistant per 500 students.
- 50 • 1 guidance counselor per 400 students; 1 librarian per 500 students; 1 technology coordinator  
51 per 1200 students; and 1 custodian per 500 students
- 52 • Albany and Eaton receive their own money that is paid to Conway through the tuition  
53 agreements.
- 54 • Anything that does not fit into the criteria previously discussed is covered by the tax payers.
- 55 ○ **Chair LeFebvre** clarified when the school district goes to a 1/20 ratio, additional funding  
56 requirements will be met.
- 57 ○ **Mr. Mosca** inquired in accordance with the 1/500 ration for principals and Conway has  
58 758 students will funding be received to cover 2 principals? **Ms. Umberger** advised it  
59 would be funding for one plus as it is based on the number of students.
- 60 ○ **Mr. Fougere** inquired if every town is entitled to their own funding, would they also be  
61 entitled to have their own principal. **Ms. Umberger** noted that small towns would not get  
62 sufficient funds for a principal, as again it is based on the number of students.
- 63 ■ The State computes the amount to be received based upon the number of students, then  
64 subtracts the \$3 million in SWEPT funds already raised. (For example; if you qualify for \$5  
65 million the State subtracts the \$3 million SWEPT to determine that \$2 million would be  
66 provided through State funding.)
- 67 ■ When determining if school funding is being lost; did SWEPT increase or did the number of  
68 students decrease, Conway is not going to get the same amount of funding each year, and to  
69 date the only identified reduction is \$31,700 from the stabilization grant.
- 70 ■ The commissioner announced the State has \$10 million for funding schools with special  
71 education students that cost the district 3.5x more than the base line. Upon speaking with  
72 Mr. Richards, he advised the school district does a good job at collecting funding for these  
73 students.
- 74 Questions:
- 75 ○ **Mr. Edgerton** inquired how Conway's average classroom is less than 20 students affects  
76 the program. **Ms. Umberger** noted the school board a decision to have fewer students per  
77 classroom and the tax payers are responsible for the difference.
- 78 ○ **Mr. Jensen** inquired that tax payers are responsible for all of it.

- 79 ○ **Mr. Sares** called for point of order and stated any discussion should be held off until the  
80 school is here.

81 TOWN BUDGET REVIEW- PART THREE:

82 Parks and Recreation:

83 John Eastman, Recreation Director:

- 84 ● There is a \$26,986 or 7% increase.  
85 ● Personnel increased by \$22,853 to potentially add a Rec Programmer to help get the kids  
86 around who will start June 1, 2019 and to increase the administrative assistants schedule  
87 from 24 hours to 32 hours.
- 88 ○ **Mr. Sares** noted he did not recall any prior discussion of additional staff when discussing  
89 the move. **Mr. Porter** advised throughout the process there was discussion pertaining to  
90 staffing with the move of the Rec department. **Mr. Sares** further inquired with Ms. Gilligan  
91 what her discussion was pertaining to the costliest item in the move of the Rec Center. **Mr.**  
92 **Holmes** advised there is the major cost of the renovation of the Rec, which is the HVAC.  
93 Additional personnel were discussed many times based on the configuration of the new Rec  
94 Center.
- 95 ○ **Mr. Sares** inquired if Mr. Holmes would go over the options discussed by the selectmen.  
96 **Mr. Porter** advised the selectmen are still working on it and have not come up with a  
97 proposal.
- 98 ○ **Mr. Tetreault** inquired if the field lights would be moved from the current Rec Center or  
99 new ones purchased for the fields at KMS. **Mr. Eastman** advised that would be answered  
100 once the selectmen have discussed the options.

101 Patriotic Purposes:

102 John Eastman, Recreation Director:

- 103 ● Memorial Day and Veterans Day is funded by the American Legion.  
104 ● 4th of July is for the big celebration including fireworks and all the things that go with it.  
105 ○ **Mr. Mosca** noted the 4<sup>th</sup> of July has tripled understanding more responsibility has been  
106 taken on, however, should the taxpayers be paying for it. **Mr. Porter** answered yes, the tax  
107 payers should pay for it, it is a strong community orientated event and it is our obligation to  
108 pay for it.

109 Police Department:

110 Edward Wagner, Chief of Police:

- 111 ● The 2019 proposed budget is \$3,980,445 with an increase of \$60,967 or 1.56% increase.  
112 ● Labor increased \$15,642. The \$71,000 increase in the officer's line is offset by the \$82,000  
113 decrease in the prosecutor line, as an officer was hired to fill the vacant prosecutor position.  
114 \$8,000 increase in the dispatch line.  
115 ● \$12,333 or 1% increase in benefits.  
116 ● \$16,000 increase in health insurance based on a 5.3% increase in premiums.

- 117 • \$18,500 increase in retirement due to labor increases.
- 118 • \$18,250 decrease in workers compensation.
- 119 • Operations –
- 120 • \$1,500 increase to cover cost of software.
- 121 • \$2,500 increase in cleaning based on price increases.
- 122 • \$2,000 increase in building maintenance, based on the age of the building
- 123 • \$1,500 increase in heat.
- 124 • \$2,000 increase for training demands on officers.
- 125 • \$17,280 increase in equipment for the potential purchase of conducted energy weapons a/k/a
- 126 tasers.
- 127 • \$29,310 or 13.7% increase in benefits
- 128 • \$3,000 increase in vehicle line as Ford no longer makes sedans and the need to purchase
- 129 SUV's
- 130 ○ **Mr. Mosca** inquired what the cost difference between the SUV and sedan. **Chief Wagner**
- 131 advised it is approximately \$2,000, plus having to purchase new equipment to outfit the
- 132 SUV.

133 **OLD BUSINESS:** None

134

135 **NEW BUSINESS:**

136 The next meeting is Wednesday, January 16, 2019 at 6:30 PM at KMS.

137 **PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

138 **ADJOURN:**

139 **Mr. Mosca moved, seconded by Mr. Edgerton to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 PM. Motion**

140 **carried unanimously.**

141

142 Respectfully Submitted,

143 Lisa E. Towle, Recording Secretary