

1 CONWAY MUNICIPAL BUDGET COMMITTEE PUBLIC HEARING
2 KENNETT HIGH SCHOOL
3 CONWAY, NH
4

5 February 14, 2024, at 6:00 PM
6

7 The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM. The following Budget Committee members were present:
8 Dave Jensen, Bob Drinkhall, Michael Lacey, Quentin Lewis, Bill Marvel, Steven Steiner, Vice-Chair Frank
9 Jost, Stacy Sand, Jim LeFebvre, Steve Angers, Randy Davison, Ryan Shepard, Chair Peter Donohoe Ellin
10 Leonard.

11
12 **Absent-** Terry McCarthy

13
14 **Call to Order**

15
16 **Pledge of Allegiance-** those present and able stood for the pledge.
17

18 **Approval of Minutes**

19
20 *J. LeFebvre motioned to approve the minutes of January 22, 2024; seconded by F. Jost.*

21 *Vote in favor 12-0-1*
22

23 *B. Drinkhall motioned to approve the minutes of January 24, 2024; seconded by R. Shepard.*

24 *Vote in favor 12-0-1*
25

26 *J. Lefebvre motioned to approve the minutes of January 31, 2024; seconded by R. Shepard.*

27 *Vote in favor 12-0-1*
28

29 **Public Hearing on Precinct Annual Budgets**

30
31 P. Donohoe opened the PH on the Precinct Annual Budgets for Center Conway and East Conway Fire.
32

33 **Center Conway**

34
35 Chief Merril- our total budget is \$380,900. We have a capital reserve of \$80,000 making the total
36 \$460,900.
37

38 No questions from the audience or Budget Committee.
39

40 **East Conway**

41
42 In the Fire Chiefs absence P. Donohoe announced that the E. Conway proposed budget is \$ 64,564
43 Operating budget is \$51,439, \$36,075 in an expendable trust fund, and a Capital Reserve of \$9,450.
44

45 No questions from the audience or Budget Committee.

46
47 P. Donohoe closed the PH on the Precinct Annual Budgets for Center Conway and East Conway Fire.

48
49 **Public Hearing on Municipal Budget**

50
51 P. Donohoe opened the PH on the Conway Municipal Budgets.

52
53 **ARTICLE 1:** Choosing all necessary officers.

54
55 No Discussion.

56
57 **ARTICLE 2:** Shall the Municipality approve the Charter recommended by the Charter Commission? **Not**
58 **Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (1-1-3). Not recommended by the Budget Committee (4-8-**
59 **2).**

60
61 S. Sand- I am a member of the Charter Commission that revised the Charter. Our mission was to see if
62 changes needed to be made. What you will see on the ballot is bullet points of changes. We were a
63 diverse group, came in with many backgrounds and perspectives. We looked at other towns and how
64 their charters were set up. We thought it was important for the people to have more representation.
65 In order to do that we'd have to move to a Town Council format. It allows us to go up to 15 members if
66 we choose to in the future, also allow us to go smaller to 7 if needed. We also voted to gradually
67 decrease the budget committee down to 13. It gives you a chance to vote on all budget items like you
68 do now. I encourage you to read the entire charter that we put together. It has been given to the State
69 and has gotten the States approval. What we have now is a legal document and does require a 3/5
70 vote to pass.

71
72 Wryan Feil- I want to make it clear this is a change in how we are governed as people of the town, it
73 transfers power of the voter to a Town Council.

74
75 S. Sand- that is incorrect. This is not a town council mayoral type of government. We will still be an
76 official ballot form of government. It is very similar to what we do now. There are few minor changes.
77 We will still be a SB2 form of government.

78
79 M. Hounsell- I'm not looking for a debate as this is a PH. I applaud the work put into this charter. It was
80 suggested that going to SB2 light would be a better direction. In an attempt to make it easier for
81 people to get out and vote. The thought of making it easier for those who are not interested than
82 those who are was lost. 7 members of board I think is a dangerous liberal growth of the governing
83 board. I think there are some unnecessary changes in the charter. I think the hope of making the
84 deliberative better was not accomplished.

85
86 J. Lefebvre- I applaud all of those that were involved in the process of the charter commission, a lot of
87 hard work was put into this. I also agree with M. Hounsell. I don't agree with giving the Council the
88 authority to approve bonds of up to \$2 million without a vote from the voters.

89
90 S. Sand- if you read under the budget committee section it does say they are allowed to vote on their
91 replacements.

92

93 No further questions or comments.

94

95 **ARTICLE 24:** To see if the Town will vote to amend **CHAPTER 72: HOUSING STANDARDS**, to specify
96 minimum life-safety requirements for Dwellings Units and to allow the inspection and licensing of
97 rental Dwelling Units. **Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0-0). Not recommended by the**
98 **Budget Committee (6-7-1).**

99 No questions from the audience or Budget Committee.

100

101 **ARTICLE 25:** To see if the Town will vote to adopt **CHAPTER 197: COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION TAX**
102 **RELIEF INCENTIVE.** Chapter 197 offers a tax relief incentive for the construction of new Affordable
103 Housing to be taxed at the predevelopment assessed value for a maximum of 10 years, or a maximum
104 of 14 years for Projects involving the preservation of historic structures. **Recommended by the Board**
105 **of Selectmen (5-0-0). Not recommended by the Budget Committee (6-8-0).**

106

107 Ryan O'Connor Town Planner- this is a tax incentive program. This is based on a public benefit in the
108 form of affordable housing. It is based on public benefits. The amount of relief would be at the
109 discretion of the Select Board.

110

111 Wryan Feil- my concern is around affordable housing in the community. We are asking taxpayers to
112 subsidize affordable housing in the community for projects that might not be economically viable if it
113 hadn't been for the tax break.

114

115 Alex Loath- I work for a developer and built a lot of affordable housing. Housing is really difficult to
116 build. Costs are high. I'm not even sure if this passes it will even bring in affordable housing. It is a good
117 step in the right direction.

118

119 Mike DiGregorio- essentially you want to subsidize using taxpayer dollars to someone who wants to
120 renovate a building to get to their profits faster.

121

122 Ryan O'Connor- to rent an apartment at this price point is not feasible to construct that building, this is
123 meant to offer housing that is at a price point that others can achieve. This is just one tool to get to the
124 tool to offer affordable housing in Conway.

125

126 Linda Teagan- how many dollars would shift to other taxpayers?

127

128 R. O'Connor- the amount that is shifted is based on the relief they are given.

129

130 Q. Lewis- at the meeting there was a discussion on what rent for affordable housing was. I also heard
131 there was a covenant placed on the property.

132

133 R. O'Connor- affordable housing is based off state statute. And in Conway that equates to about \$1,100
134 based on the median wages.

135
136 No further questions.

137
138 **ARTICLE 26:** To see if the Town will vote to **AMEND CHAPTER 170: VENDING CARTS**
139 to include language which permits **FOOD TRUCKS** as an accessory to a commercial use.

140
141 S. Sand- is this allowing food trucks to have permanent locations in the commercial district?

142
143 R. O'Connor- the way we permit food trucks is through a temporary event, or a non-applicable request
144 to the PB. We don't really have any regulations in place to say what those permit requirements are.
145 This just solidifies what we are currently doing. This means an existing commercial business may apply
146 for a permit for a food truck to be on their property.

147
148 **ARTICLE 27:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$8,800,000 (gross Budget)
149 for the design, permitting, construction, and equipping of an **ADDITION TO THE POLICE STATION** (the
150 "Project"); to authorize \$8,800,000 of such sum to be raised through the issuance of bonds or notes in
151 accordance with the Municipal Finance Act (RSA Ch. 33); to authorize the Board of Selectmen to issue
152 and negotiate such bonds or notes and to determine the date, maturities, interest rate, and other
153 details of such bonds or notes; and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to apply for, accept, and
154 expend any federal, state, or private Funds that may become available in respect of the Project to
155 reduce the amount that must be bonded or to pay debt service on such bonds or notes.

156 **Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee (8-5-1).**
157 **3/5 ballot vote required.**

158
159 Wryan Feil- I toured the PD and went to the PH last night. The comments that I got from many was that
160 it was a slum, but that's not what I thought. My concern regarding the Turner report was
161 commissioned by the PD. This is an independent group, and their goal was to create a report for the
162 customer and the customer was the PD not the people. I question the report and the wants and the
163 needs. When you look at all the articles you are looking at a 30% increase and we aren't even to the
164 school yet.

165
166 M. Hounsell- the committee who served on this study ranged from Selectmen, public members, budget
167 committee members and more. This is an unsafe building and is not up to standards and unfit for
168 humans to be in it. It has served its time. A lot of work was put into this. I think this is a necessary ask
169 and \$8 Million doesn't go far.

170
171 Chief Mattie- the cost is for the remodel of the current building plus the addition. Evidence collection
172 and the legal requirements have changed over the years.

173
174 R. Shepard- spoke in his support of the building and that his interest is in the future of the town and
175 the citizens.

176

177 J. Lefebvre- spoke to the fact that due to tourism the PD force is double the average police
178 department.

179
180 No further comments.

181
182 **ARTICLE 28:** (Operating Budget) Shall the Town raise and appropriate as an **OPERATING BUDGET**, not
183 including appropriations by special warrant Articles and other appropriations voted separately, the
184 amounts set forth on the Budget posted with the Warrant for the purposes set forth therein, Fourteen
185 Million Eight Hundred Fourteen Thousand Sixty Two Dollars (**\$14,814,062**). Should this Article be
186 defeated the Default Budget shall be Fourteen Million Three Hundred Twenty Seven Thousand Four
187 Hundred Sixty Dollars (\$14,327,460) which is the same as the last year, with certain adjustments
188 required by previous action of the Town of Conway or by law, or the governing body may hold one
189 special meeting in accordance with RSA 40:13 X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating
190 Budget only. NOTE: This Operating Budget warrant Article does not include appropriation contained in
191 ANY other warrant Article. **Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0-0). Recommended by the**
192 **Budget Committee (8-5-1).**

193
194 K. Umberger- how much is solid waste offset from others that use our transfer station?

195
196 K. Golding- it's in the revenue budget. We are expecting \$69,220 from Albany and Eaton.

197
198 K. Umberger- under Patriotic Purposes I see an increase, are we planning on more fireworks?

199
200 J. Eastman- no we are not planning more fireworks; the cost of fireworks has increased and to do the
201 same show the price has increased.

202
203 K. Umberger- I noticed the finance dept was going to work with the East Conway FD during the
204 transition.

205
206 J. Eastman- we have assembled our team and Conway village. The transition is a 4-month transition.
207 We are going to be bringing on 13-14 employees in total. Some FT and PT. the transition as far as
208 bookkeeping has already started. We can't do the money stuff, but we can do other stuff.

209
210 M. Hounsell- expressed his appreciation for the work that was done on the Budget Committee. And
211 expressed that he didn't agree with the notion that if they cut the school budget then they should also
212 cut the Town Budget. The needs and the mission are both very different.

213
214 Amy Snow- in a \$14 million dollar budget the town only increased the budget by 3%. If you think their
215 budget is to high then don't vote in favor of it and allow the voters to decide.

216
217 S. Angers- this committee has not asked anyone to cut. We have asked that they re-look at the budget
218 and perhaps ask that they do some tightening of the budget.

219
220 J. Lefebvre- I think we should define tonight what a default budget is to inform the audience.

221
222 K. Golding- I don't have the law in front of me, but the default budget is defined by law as last year's
223 budget, plus any required changes in contracts or union contract, less any one-time costs.
224
225 K. Umberger- why was last year's anticipated revenue at \$6 million and 2024 anticipated revenue is at
226 \$4 million?
227
228 K. Golding- the estimated revenue is the only budget that fluctuates throughout the year. You want to
229 understate it as if you overstate it, you are at a loss if that revenue does not come in, these revenues
230 do change throughout the year and change by the time year-end is reported to DRA. You are better to
231 budget lower as all of it is in anticipation. We also had the sale of town owned property that made the
232 revenues increase that we are not anticipating this year.
233
234 No further questions.

235
236 **ARTICLE 29:** To see if the town will vote to approve the cost items of a three-year **COLLECTIVE**
237 **BARGAINING AGREEMENT FOR THE CALENDAR YEARS 2024-2026 BETWEEN THE TOWN OF CONWAY**
238 **AND AFSCME #93, LOCAL 859, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS** which calls for a one-time market
239 adjustment of \$1.00 per hour commencing after the approval of this Article. The proposed contract
240 makes changes to the current merit matrix that provides for increases in salaries under the current
241 agreement at the current staffing levels.

Fiscal Year	Estimated Increase
2024	\$43,296
2025	\$64,499
2026	\$64,706

242
243
244
245
246
247 And further to raise and appropriate the sum of Forty-Three Thousand Two Hundred Ninety-six
248 (\$43,296) for the current fiscal year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the
249 increase in salaries and benefits required by the new agreement over those that would be paid under
250 the current agreement at current staffing levels. The total compounded cost of the three-year
251 agreement is \$323,592. **Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0-0). Recommended by the**
252 **Budget Committee (14-0-0).**

253
254 Wryan Feil- what is the percentage increase in the 2023 budget to this proposed article?
255
256 No further comments.

257
258 **ARTICLE 30:** Shall the Town, if Article (#29) is defeated, authorize the governing body to call one
259 special meeting, at its option, to address Article (#29) cost items only. **Recommended by the Board of**
260 **Selectmen (5-0-0). Not recommended by the Budget Committee (6-8-0).**

261
262 No questions from the public or budget committee.

263

264 **ARTICLE 31:** To see if the town will vote to approve the cost items of a one year **COLLECTIVE**
265 **BARGAINING AGREEMENT FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2024 BETWEEN THE TOWN OF CONWAY AND**
266 **CONWAY POLICE DEPARTMENT** which calls for the following increase in salaries and benefits over the
267 costs that would have been paid under the current agreement at the current staffing levels.
268 Calendar Year Estimated Increase
269 2024 \$68,894
270

271 And further to raise and appropriate the sum of Sixty-Eight Thousand Eight Hundred Ninety-Four
272 Dollars (\$68,894) for the current fiscal year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to
273 the increase in salaries and benefits required by the new agreement over those that would be paid
274 under the current agreement at current staffing levels. **Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0-0).**
275 **Recommended by the Budget Committee (14-0-0).**
276

277 **ARTICLE 32:** Shall the Town, if Article (#31) is defeated, authorize the governing body to call one
278 special meeting, at its option, to address Article (#31) cost items only.
279 **Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0-0). Not recommended by the Budget Committee (6-8-**
280 **0).**
281

282 Amy Snow- why are we only doing a 1-year agreement?
283

284 Chief Mattie- I wanted a 3-year agreement, but with Health Insurance costs rising, and a new pay scale
285 the union wanted to see how this would work out.
286

287 Wryan Feil- where does this \$68,894 fall in the budget?
288

289 Chief Mattie- that will be divided up amongst the salary lines and the associated fringe benefits such as
290 NH Retirement. If this fails, that means no raises in November for the union staff.
291

292 No further comments.
293

294 **ARTICLE 33:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twelve Thousand Dollars
295 (\$12,000) for the support of **EASTERN SLOPE REGIONAL AIRPORT. Recommended by the Board of**
296 **Selectmen (5-0-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee (8-6-0).**
297

298 No questions from the public or budget committee.
299

300 **ARTICLE 34:** To see if the Town will vote to amend the **TERMS OF COMPENSATION FOR THE THREE**
301 **MEMBERS OF THE SUPERVISORS OF THE CHECKLIST** as follows: To increase the Annual Compensation
302 by Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) each from the current One Thousand Five Hundred Dollars
303 (\$1,500.00) to Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000.00) for each Supervisor and include additional
304 compensation of Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$250.00) for each Supervisor of the Checklist to be paid
305 for each election held in the Town and fully attended by the Supervisor of the Checklist AND to raise
306 and appropriate the sum of Four Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$4,500.00) to Fund this increase for
307 the current fiscal year. In subsequent years this compensation shall be included in the Town's

308 Operating Budget. **Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0-0). Recommended by the Budget**
309 **Committee (12-2-0).**

310

311 Tom Reed- explained to the audience what it is that they do, and their job duties include.

312

313 **ARTICLE 35:** To see if the Town will vote to increase the **COMPENSATION FOR THE TOWN**
314 **MODERATOR, ASSISTANT MODERATOR AND/OR MODERATOR PRO TEMPORE** by One Hundred Fifty
315 Dollars (\$150.00) each from the current Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) each to Two Hundred Dollars (\$200.00)
316 each per election, special election and deliberative session held by the Town of Conway for local and
317 state elections AND to raise and appropriate the sum of One Thousand Five Hundred Dollars
318 (\$1,500.00) to Fund this increase for the current fiscal year. In subsequent years this compensation
319 shall be included in the Town’s Operating Budget. **Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0-0).**
320 **Recommended by the Budget Committee (12-2-0).**

321

322 **ARTICLE 36:** To see if the Town will vote to enter into a 25-year land lease between the Town of
323 Conway and Kearsarge Solar at closed capped Conway landfill at the Conway Transfer Station Site. This
324 **LEASE OF TOWN PROPERTY IS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A SOLAR ENERGY GENERATING FACILITY.**
325 The lease is available for review at Town Hall.

326 **Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0-0). Not recommended by the Budget Committee (1-**
327 **12-1).**

328

329 Wryan Feil- requested more information on the funds coming from this lease.

330

331 J. Eastman- this has been attempted 2x and has been unsuccessful. The lease would be negotiated, it
332 would be a pilot program and a lease. That property is prime as nothing can be done over the landfill. It
333 is still in the negotiation stages.

334

335 S. Sand- expressed concerns about the lease and didn’t feel it should be approved.

336

337 **ARTICLE 37:** To see if the Town will vote to establish a **CAPITAL RESERVE FUND FOR THE HEALTH**
338 **REIMBURSEMENT ARRANGEMENT (HRA)**-to Fund the deductible reimbursement of the Town’s high
339 deductible health insurance plan under the provisions of RSA 35:1 and to authorize the Board of
340 Selectmen to be the agents to expend in accordance with the purpose of the Fund. And further to see
341 if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) to
342 be placed in the **CAPITAL RESERVE FUND FOR THE HEALTH REIMBURSEMENT ARRANGEMENT**
343 **(HRA)** to be used according to the purposes for which the Fund was established. Said Funds are to be
344 withdrawn from the Town’s Unassigned Fund Balance. No money will come from taxation.
345 **Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee (13-0-**
346 **1).**

347

348 Wryan Feil- where does the money come from?

349

350 K. Goulding- it is from unused/unspent funds.

351

352 Brief recess.

353

354 *J. Lefebvre motioned to treat Articles 39-45 as a slate and discuss as one; seconded by F. Jost.*

355 *Vote in favor 13-0*

356

357 **ARTICLE 39:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Five Hundred Thousand
358 Dollars (\$500,000) to be placed in the **CAPITAL RESERVE FUND FOR HIGHWAY EQUIPMENT** to be used
359 according to the purposes for which the Fund was established. **Recommended by the Board of**
360 **Selectmen (5-0-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee (13-1-0).**

361

362 **ARTICLE 40:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Hundred Twenty-Five
363 Thousand (\$225,000) to be placed in the **CAPITAL RESERVE FUND FOR SOLID WASTE EQUIPMENT** to
364 be used according to the purposes for which the Fund was established.

365 **Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee (13-1-0).**

366

367 **ARTICLE 41:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Hundred Thousand
368 Dollars (\$200,000) to be placed in the **CAPITAL RESERVE FUND FOR LANDFILL EXPANSION** to be used
369 according to the purposes for which the Fund was established.

370 **Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee (13-1-0).**

371

372 **ARTICLE 42:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Hundred Thousand
373 Dollars (\$200,000) to be placed in the **CAPITAL RESERVE FUND FOR MAINTENANCE OF TOWN**
374 **BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES** to be used according to the purposes for which the Fund was established.

375 **Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee 13-1-0).**

376

377 **ARTICLE 43:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Seventy-Five Thousand
378 Dollars (\$75,000) to be placed in the **CAPITAL RESERVE FUND FOR MAINTENANCE OF BUILDINGS AND**
379 **FACILITIES LEASED BY THE TOWN** to be used according to the purposes for which the Fund was
380 established.

381 **Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee (7-7-0).**

382

383 **ARTICLE 44:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Forty-Five Thousand
384 Dollars (\$45,000) to be placed in the **CAPITAL RESERVE FUND FOR PARKS DEPARTMENT VEHICLES**
385 **AND EQUIPMENT** to be used according to the purposes for which the Fund was established.

386 **Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee (13-1-0).**

387

388 **ARTICLE 45:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Eighty Thousand Dollars
389 (\$80,000) to be placed in the **CAPITAL RESERVE FUND FOR POLICE VEHICLES** to be used according to
390 the purposes for which the Fund was established. **Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0-0).**

391 **Recommended by the Budget Committee (13-1-0).**

392

393 No comments from the public.

394

395 **ARTICLE 46:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Twenty-Six
396 Thousand Dollars (\$126,000) from the annual cable television franchise fees received to add to the
397 **PUBLIC EDUCATIONAL / GOVERNMENT CABLE TELEVISION (PEG) TRUST FUND**, to support the

398 operations and equipment needs of Public Education and Government broadcasting services. No
399 Funds shall be raised by local property taxes to support this Warrant Article.
400 **Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee (14-0-0).**

401
402 No comments from the public or the budget committee.

403
404 ***J. Lefebvre motioned to treat Articles 47- 55 as a slate and discuss as one; seconded by F. Jost.***
405 ***Vote in favor 13-0***

406
407 **ARTICLE 47: To see if the Town will **ADOPT THE PROVISIONS OF CHAPTER 149-I OF NH RSAS, AS IT****
408 ****PERTAINS TO SEWERS****, to enable the Town and Selectboard to operate and maintain the sewer system
409 and also the sewer department that will become part of the Department of Public Works on January 1,
410 2025. **Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (4-0-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee**
411 **(14-0-0).**

412
413 **ARTICLE 48: To see if the Town will **ADOPT THE PROVISIONS OF CHAPTER 38 OF NH RSAS AS IT****
414 ****PERTAINS TO WATER****, to enable the Town and Selectboard to operate and maintain the existing
415 Conway Village Fire District plant for water and also the water department that will become part of the
416 Department of Public Works on January 1, 2025. **Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (4-0-0).**
417 **Recommended by the Budget Committee (14-0-0).**

418
419 **ARTICLE 49: To see if the Town will vote to approve the **TRANSFER OF THE CONWAY VILLAGE FIRE****
420 ****DISTRICT WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT AND MAINTENANCE CAPITAL RESERVE FUND****, effective
421 January 1, 2025, to the Town of Conway Water System Improvement and Maintenance Capital Reserve
422 Fund, by accepting and utilizing the remaining balance as of the effective date, created for such
423 purpose, and to name the Board of Selectmen Agents to Expend from said Capital Reserve Fund for
424 the purpose that it was originally intended by the Conway Village Fire District: water system
425 improvements and maintenance. (This Article is not an Article to raise and appropriate any new Funds.)
426 (Balance of Trust Fund as of 12/31/2023 \$111,477.54) **Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (4-0-**
427 **0). Recommended by the Budget Committee (14-0-0).**

428
429 **ARTICLE 50: To see if the Town will vote to approve the **TRANSFER OF THE CONWAY VILLAGE FIRE****
430 ****DISTRICT SEWER PROJECTS AND MAINTENANCE EXPENDABLE TRUST FUND****, effective January 1, 2025,
431 to the Town of Conway Sewer Projects and Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund, by accepting and
432 utilizing the remaining balance as of the effective date in the existing Conway Village Fire District Trust
433 Fund created for such purpose, and to name the Board of Selectmen Agents to Expend from said Trust
434 Fund for the purpose that it was originally intended by the Conway Village Fire District: sewer Projects
435 and maintenance not related to the Force Main Project. (This Article is not an Article to raise and
436 appropriate any new Funds.) (Balance of Trust Fund as of 12/31/2023 \$98,681.77) **Recommended by**
437 **the Board of Selectmen (4-0-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee (14-0-0).**

438
439 **ARTICLE 51: To see if the Town will vote approve the **TRANSFER OF THE CONWAY VILLAGE SEWER****
440 ****DEBT EXPENDABLE TRUST FUND****, effective January 1, 2025, to the Town of Conway Sewer Debt
441 Expendable Trust Fund, by accepting and utilizing the remaining balance as of the effective date in the
442 existing Conway Village Fire District Trust Fund created for such purpose, and to name the Board of

443 Selectmen Agents to Expend from said Trust Fund for the purpose that it was originally intended by the
444 Conway Village Fire District: Phase I & II debt off-set. (This Article is not an Article to raise and
445 appropriate any new Funds.) (Balance of Trust Fund as of 12/31/2023 \$392,257.66). **Recommended by**
446 **the Board of Selectmen (4-0-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee (14-0-0).**

447
448 **ARTICLE 52:** To see if the Town will vote to approve the **TRANSFER OF THE CONWAY VILLAGE FIRE**
449 **DISTRICT FORCE MAIN ASSET REPLACEMENT EXPENDABLE TRUST FUND**, effective January 1, 2025, to
450 the Town of Conway Force Main Asset Replacement Expendable Trust Fund, by accepting and utilizing
451 the remaining balance as of the effective date in the existing Conway Village Fire District Trust Fund
452 created for such purpose, and to name the Board of Selectmen Agents to Expend from said Trust Fund
453 for the purpose that it was originally intended by the Conway Village Fire District: Short Term Asset
454 Replacement related to the Force Main Project. (This Article is not an Article to raise and appropriate
455 any new Funds.) (Balance of Trust Fund as of 12/31/2023 \$150,929.01). **Recommended by the Board of**
456 **Selectmen (4-0-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee (14-0-0).**

457
458 **ARTICLE 53:** To see if the Town will vote to approve the **TRANSFER OF THE CONWAY VILLAGE FIRE**
459 **DISTRICT WATER & SEWER EQUIPMENT CAPITAL RESERVE FUND**, effective January 1, 2025, to the
460 Town of Conway Water and Sewer Equipment Capital Reserve Fund, by accepting and utilizing the
461 remaining balance as of the effective date in the existing Conway Village Fire District Capital Reserve
462 Fund created for such purpose, and to name the Board of Selectmen Agents to Expend from said
463 Capital Reserve Fund for the purpose that it was originally intended by the Conway Village Fire District:
464 purchasing water and sewer equipment. (This Article is not an Article to raise and appropriate any new
465 Funds.) (Balance of Trust Fund as of 12/31/2023 \$149,047.39). **Recommended by the Board of**
466 **Selectmen (4-0-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee (14-0-0).**

467
468 **ARTICLE 54:** To see if the Town will vote approve the **TRANSFER OF THE CONWAY VILLAGE FIRE**
469 **DISTRICT FIRE & RESCUE CAPITAL RESERVE FUND**, effective January 1, 2025, to the Town of Conway
470 Fire & Rescue Capital Reserve Fund, by accepting and utilizing the remaining balance as of the effective
471 date in the existing Conway Village Fire District Capital Reserve Fund created for such purpose, and to
472 name the Board of Selectmen Agents to Expend from said Capital Reserve Fund for the purpose that it
473 was originally intended by the Conway Village Fire District: purchasing fire/rescue equipment. (This
474 Article is not an Article to raise and appropriate any new Funds.) (Balance of Trust Fund as of
475 12/31/2023 \$281,701.35). **Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (4-0-0). Recommended by the**
476 **Budget Committee (14-0-0).**

477
478 **ARTICLE 55:** To see if the Town will vote to approve the **TRANSFER OF THE CONWAY VILLAGE FIRE**
479 **DISTRICT AMBULANCE CAPITAL RESERVE FUND**, effective January 1, 2025, to the Town of Conway
480 Ambulance Capital Reserve Fund, by accepting and utilizing the remaining balance as of the effective
481 date in the existing Conway Village Fire District Capital Reserve Fund created for such purpose, and to
482 name the Board of Selectmen Agents to Expend from said Fund for the purpose that it was originally
483 intended by the Conway Village Fire District: purchasing, repairing, rehabilitating, and remounting
484 ambulances. (This Article is not an Article to raise and appropriate any new Funds.) (Balance of Trust
485 Fund as of 12/31/2023 \$141,343.58). **Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (4-0-0).**
486 **Recommended by the Budget Committee (14-0-0).**

487

488 **ARTICLE 56:** Shall the Town re-adopt the **“ALL VETERANS” PROPERTY TAX CREDIT UNDER RSA 72:28-**
489 **B.** If amended the tax credit will change from \$500 to \$750. It will be available to any resident, or the
490 spouse of any resident, who (a) served no less than 90 days on active service in the armed forces of the
491 United States and was honorably discharged or was an officer honorably separated from service, or an
492 officer who continues to serve or the spouse or surviving spouse of such resident, provided that
493 training for active duty or state active duty by a member of the national guard or reserve shall be
494 included as service under this paragraph and (b) is not eligible for and not receiving the credit for
495 veterans who served in a qualifying war or armed conflict or for veterans with a service-connected
496 disability. If amended the credit will be in the amount of \$750, which is the same amount as the credit
497 for a veteran who served in a qualifying war or armed conflict. **If the credit is amended, any person**
498 **desiring to claim the credit will be required to file an application with the assessors by April 15 of the**
499 **tax year.** This Article shall take effect for the 2024 tax year. Submitted by the Assessor. **Recommended**
500 **by the Board of Selectmen (4-0-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee (14-0-0).**
501

502 S. Angers- given that the election is on April 7th does this mean they have a week to apply for this?
503

504 J. Eastman- I am not 100% sure as this has come from the assessing dept.
505

506 B. Marvel- the last time I recall we had an increase it was just automatically applied, and if someone
507 does not agree and or want the increase then they don't have to apply for it.
508

509 **ARTICLE 57:** Shall the Town amend the **“OPTIONAL VETERAN” PROPERTY TAX CREDIT UNDER RSA**
510 **72:28 72:28 Standard and Optional Veterans' Tax Credit.** – If amended the Optional Veteran's Tax
511 Credit will be available to every resident of this state who is (a) a veteran, as defined in RSA 21:50, and
512 served not less than 90 days on active service in the armed forces of the United States in any qualifying
513 war or armed conflict listed in this section, and continues to serve or was honorably discharged or an
514 officer who continues to serve or was honorably separated from service; or the spouse or surviving
515 spouse of such resident, provided that training for active duty by a member of the national guard or
516 reserve shall be included as service under this subparagraph;

517 Every resident of this state who was terminated from the armed forces because of service-connected
518 disability; or the surviving spouse of such resident; and (c) The surviving spouse of any resident who
519 suffered a service-connected death.

520 V. Service in a qualifying war or armed conflict shall be as follows:

521 (a) "World War I" between April 6, 1917 and November 11, 1918, extended to April 1, 1920 for service
522 in Russia; provided that military or naval service on or after November 12, 1918 and before July 2,
523 1921, where there was prior service between April 6, 1917 and November 11, 1918 shall be considered
524 as World War I service;

525 (b) "World War II" between December 7, 1941 and December 31, 1946;

526 (c) "Korean Conflict" between June 25, 1950 and January 31, 1955;

527 (d) "Vietnam Conflict" between December 22, 1961 and May 7, 1975;

528 (e) "Vietnam Conflict" between July 1, 1958 and December 22, 1961, if the resident earned the
529 Vietnam service medal or the armed forces expeditionary medal;

530 (f) "Persian Gulf War" between August 2, 1990 and the date thereafter prescribed by Presidential
531 proclamation or by law; and

532 (g) Any other war or armed conflict that has occurred since May 8, 1975, and in which the resident
533 earned an armed forces expeditionary medal or theater of operations service medal.
534 If amended the credit will be in the **amount of \$750**, the optional veterans' tax credit shall be
535 subtracted each year from the property tax on the veteran's residential property. However, the
536 surviving spouse of a resident who suffered a service-connected death may have the amount
537 subtracted from the property tax on any real property in the same municipality where the surviving
538 spouse is a resident. **If the credit is amended, any person desiring to claim the credit will be required**
539 **to file an application with the assessors by April 15 of the tax year.** If amended, this Article shall take
540 effect for the 2024 tax year. Submitted by the Assessor. **Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (4-**
541 **0-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee (14-0-0).**

542
543 No questions or comments from the public or the budget committee.
544

545 **ARTICLE 58:** Shall the Town, pursuant to RSA 72:39-a, vote to **MODIFY THE ELDERLY EXEMPTION**
546 **FROM PROPERTY TAX** based on assessed value for qualified taxpayers to increase the limits and
547 amounts for eligibility as follows:

- 548 • Single income limit from \$28,000 to \$30,000
- 549 • Married combined income limit from \$37,000 to \$40,000
- 550 • For persons 65 years of age up to 75 years (if eligible) From \$75,000 to \$85,000;
- 551 • For a person 75 years of age up to 80 years (if eligible) From \$90,000 to \$100,000
- 552 • For persons over 80 years of age (if eligible) From 105,000 to \$115,000
- 553 • To modify the maximum asset limit for both individual and married persons From \$75,000 to
554 \$85,000 (excluding the value of the person(s) residence)
- 555 • To qualify, the person must satisfy all of the conditions of RSA 72:39-a & b that pertain to
556 eligibility for this exemption as well as those contained in any other applicable statute including
557 without limitation, that they demonstrate that they have been a New Hampshire resident for at
558 least 3 consecutive years, that they own the real estate individually or jointly, or if the real
559 estate is owned by such persons spouse, that they must have been married to each other for at
560 least 5 years, and that they reside at the property as their primary residence.

561 **Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee (14-0-**
562 **0).**

563
564 J. Lefebvre- when was the last adjustment made?
565

566 J. Eastman- I don't know when the last adjustment was done. It came down from the assessing dept as
567 they saw the increases and it was going to make those that were qualified now unqualified.
568

569 **ARTICLE 59:** Shall the Town, pursuant to RSA 72:37-b, vote to **MODIFY THE DISABLED EXEMPTION**
570 **FROM PROPERTY TAX** based on assessed value for qualified taxpayers to increase the limits and
571 amounts for eligibility as follows:

- 572 • Single income limit from \$22,000 to \$24,000
- 573 • Married combined income limit from \$28,000 to \$30,000 for persons who meet all
574 qualifications adjust exemption from \$75,000 to \$85,000.
- 575 • In addition, the Asset limit will stay the same at \$50,000 (excluding the value of the person(s)
576 residence).

- 577 • To qualify, the person must satisfy all of the conditions of RSA 72:37-b that pertain to eligibility
578 for this exemption as well as those contained in any other applicable statute including without
579 limitation, that they demonstrate that they have been a New Hampshire resident for at least 5
580 consecutive years, that they own the real estate individually or jointly, or if the real estate is
581 owned by such persons spouse, eligible under Title II or Title XVI of the federal Social Security
582 Act, and that they reside at the property as their primary residence.

583 **Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee (14-0-**
584 **0).**

585

586 No questions or comments from the public or the budget committee.

587

588 **ARTICLE 60:** To see if the Town of Conway will vote to accept necessary Funds from the Kevin Peare
589 Memorial Skatepark to construct and adopt a skatepark as a Town Park to then, and forever, be known
590 as the “**KEVIN PEARE MEMORIAL SKATEPARK**”, and to have The Kevin Peare Memorial Skatepark raise
591 and provide Funds for repairs and upgrades for the park in perpetuity. Submitted by Petition.

592 **Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee (7-6-1).**

593

594 S. Angers- is there a fund they have they will keep this going for the future to keep it maintained?

595

596 J. Eastman- I do not know. They have raised \$300,000; they have applied for a grant for construction.
597 As we know in 5 plus years there will be maintenance costs, we have made it known that they will fund
598 maintenance costs and the BOS has put it in the agreement that if they do not, they will close it.

599

600 F. Jost- I wonder about the insurance liability.

601

602 J. Eastman- Primex is our insurer, you think it would be a lot, but it will be less than \$600 a year. They
603 will have to sign that the town will not be held negligent and for any liability.

604

605 **ARTICLE 61:** To see if the Town will vote to accept a transfer from the New Hampshire Department of
606 Transportation and/or the State of New Hampshire of certain real property commonly known as the
607 Conway By-Pass Corridor, and more specifically identified as Tax Parcels 235-55, 230-113.01, 230-
608 126.1, 219-310.3, 219-257, 219-261.1, 219-243, and 214-27.1, or any portion thereof, and including
609 without limitation the North Conway Multi-Use Alternative Transportation and **RECREATION PATH**
610 (commonly known as the “Rec Path”). Such transfer shall be for no consideration or nominal
611 consideration of less than \$10.00. This land shall be used for recreational purposes, and any other use
612 that does not conflict with the primary recreational purpose of the land. Submitted by Petition.

613 **Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee (14-0-0).**

614

615 No questions or comments from the public or the budget committee.

616

617 **ARTICLE 62:** To see if the Town will vote to **ACCEPT PEMIGEWASSET DRIVE AND A PORTION OF OLD**
618 **GOSHEN ROAD** (9/10 of a mile) as Town Roads. Submitted by Petition.

619 **Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee (13-1-0).**

620

621 B. Marvel- there seems to be an error this has not been voted on by the Budget Committee.

622

623 **ARTICLE 63:** To see if the Town will vote to **ACCEPT SOUTHVIEW LOOP** as a Town Road. Submitted by
624 Petition. **Not Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (0-5-0). Not recommended by the Budget**
625 **Committee (0-14-0).**

626

627 J. Eastman- this is a repeat petition article that comes in at the last minute.

628

629 **ARTICLE 64:** To see if the Town will vote to conditionally **ACCEPT SETTLERS GREEN DRIVE AND THE**
630 **PRIVATE PORTIONS OF COMMON COURT AS PUBLIC RIGHTS-OF-WAY**, provided that, pursuant to NH
631 RSA 231:29, the abutters to the roads shall be required to pay a Betterment Assessment not to exceed
632 One Million Three Hundred and Forty Thousand, Eight Hundred and Eight Dollars (\$1,340,808) which
633 Betterment Assessment shall be prorated over a period not to exceed 10 years and shall, pursuant to
634 NH RSA 231:30, create a lien upon the lands so assessed which shall continue until fully discharged,
635 shall be subject to interest, and shall be subject to any other charges as are applicable to the collection
636 of delinquent taxes, and further provided that any work required to bring the roads up to the
637 standards and requirements currently in effect in the Town shall be secured with a performance bond
638 pursuant to NH RSA 447:16. Submitted by Petition. **Not Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (1-**
639 **4-0). Not recommended by the Budget Committee (0-14-0).**

640

641 R. Shepard- the reason why the petition was because the town people use it as a thruway, and I feel
642 we have other people who use this road and residents should not be penalized.

643

644 ***S. Sand motioned to treat Articles 65-75 as a slate and discuss as one; seconded by J. Lefebvre***
645 ***Vote in favor 13-0***

646

647 **ARTICLE 65:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Sixty-Five Thousand
648 Dollars (\$65,000) said sum to be allocated to the **NORTH CONWAY COMMUNITY CENTER** for programs
649 of the North Conway Community Center. Submitted by Petition. **Recommended by the Board of**
650 **Selectmen (4-0-1). Recommended by the Budget Committee (10-2-2).**

651

652 **ARTICLE 66:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty-Two Thousand
653 One Hundred Dollars (\$22,100) for the operation of **TRI-COUNTY COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAM,**
654 **INC.** service programs in Conway: Transportation, Energy Assistance, Weatherization, Guardianship,
655 Head Start, Homeless Intervention and Prevention, Tamworth Dental Center. Submitted by Petition.
656 **Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee (6-6-2).**

657

658 **ARTICLE 67:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Thirty-Six Thousand Five
659 Hundred Dollars (\$36,500) to support Conway home delivered meals (Meals on Wheels), congregate
660 meals, transportation and program services provided by the **GIBSON CENTER FOR SENIOR SERVICES,**
661 **INC.** Submitted by Petition. **Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0-0). Recommended by the**
662 **Budget Committee (14-0-0).**

663

664 **ARTICLE 68:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fourteen Thousand
665 Dollars (\$14,000) for the Family Resource Center at **CHILDREN UNLIMITED, INC.** Submitted by Petition.

666 **Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee (10-1-**
667 **3).**

668
669 **ARTICLE 69:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty Thousand Dollars
670 (\$20,000) for **VAUGHAN COMMUNITY SERVICE, INC.** Submitted by Petition. **Recommended by the**
671 **Board of Selectmen (4-0-1). Recommended by the Budget Committee (14-0-0).**

672
673 **ARTICLE 70:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Seven Thousand Five
674 Hundred Dollars (\$7,500) for **VAUGHAN LEARNING CENTER.** Submitted by Petition. **Recommended by**
675 **the Board of Selectmen (4-0-1). Recommended by the Budget Committee (13-0-1).**

676
677 **ARTICLE 71:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Eighteen Thousand One
678 Hundred Seventy-Four Dollars (\$18,174) for the support of **STARTING POINT.** Submitted by Petition.
679 **Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee (12-0-2).**

680
681 **ARTICLE 72:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twelve Thousand, Five
682 Hundred Dollars (\$12,500) for the support of **MOUNT WASHINGTON VALLEY ADULT DAY CENTER** to
683 supplement support services for elderly Conway residents attending the day center. Submitted by
684 Petition. **Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee**
685 **(12-1-1).**

686
687 **ARTICLE 73:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifteen Thousand Dollars
688 (\$15,000) for the support of **THE WAY STATION** for the purpose of continuing to provide safe,
689 welcoming, non-judgmental space and supportive services for the homeless and housing insecure of
690 the Mount Washington Valley. Submitted by Petition. **Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0-**
691 **0). Recommended by the Budget Committee (12-1-1).**

692
693 **ARTICLE 74:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars
694 (\$10,000) for the **CONWAY AREA HUMANE SOCIETY** for the purpose of supporting continuing services
695 for stray, abandoned and neglected animals brought to the shelter by Animal Control or private
696 citizens no longer able to care for them. Submitted by Petition. **Recommended by the Board of**
697 **Selectmen (5-0-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee (12-0-1).**

698
699 **ARTICLE 75:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Thirty-Five Thousand,
700 Seven Hundred Seventy-Eight Dollars (\$35,778) for the support of **WHITE MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY**
701 **HEALTH CENTER** to help meet the healthcare needs of the uninsured and underinsured residents of
702 the Town of Conway. Submitted by Petition. **Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0-**
703 **0). Recommended by the Budget Committee (12-0-1).**

704
705 Norman Cloutier- spoke to the type of services that the Mount Washington Adult Day Center provides
706 and spoke to what the funding will go towards.

707
708 R. Davison – what are other towns contributing?

709

710 N. Cloutier- last year was the first year we sought out funding from towns, we approached the towns
711 who had the largest number of residents that we served. We did approach the county to help ease the
712 towns.

713
714 M. Hounsell- I think you should reach out to all the towns that you are providing services to. I
715 understand going 20 times to 20 people is time consuming, but if you are looking for equity that's what
716 you should do.

717
718 P. Donohoe closed the Municipal Budget Hearing at 9:57 pm.

719
720 P. Donohoe opened the School Budget Hearing at 9:57 pm.

721
722 **Public Hearing on School Budget**

723
724 **ARTICLE 2:** To see if the School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$54,443 to
725 be added to the Expendable Trust Fund (New Kennett High School Facilities Maintenance Fund)
726 established for that purpose in 2007, with \$35,548 to offset this amount from the sending towns and
727 the remainder to be raised by general taxation. (Special Article by definition) (Recommended by the
728 School Board 7-0). (Recommended by the Municipal Budget Committee 14-0-0) This appropriation is in
729 addition to Warrant Article #6, the operating budget.

730
731 **ARTICLE 3.** To see if the School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$17,086 to be
732 added to the Expendable Trust Fund (A. Crosby Kennett Middle School Facilities Maintenance Fund)
733 established for that purpose in 2007, with \$7,391 to offset this amount from the sending towns and
734 the remainder to be raised by general taxation. (Special Article by definition) (Recommended by the
735 School Board 7-0) (Recommended by the Municipal Budget Committee 14-0-0) This appropriation is in
736 addition to Warrant Article #6, the operating budget.

737
738 **ARTICLE 4.** To see if the School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$9,900 to be
739 added to the Expendable Trust Fund (Elementary Schools Facilities Maintenance Fund) established
740 for that purpose, in 2007, with \$1,062 to offset this amount from the sending towns and the remainder
741 to be raised by general taxation. (Special Article by definition) (Recommended by the School Board
742 7-0) (Recommended by the Municipal Budget Committee 14-0-0). This appropriation is in addition to
743 Warrant Article #6, the operating budget.

744
745 **ARTICLE 5.** To see if the school district will vote to approve the cost items included in the
746 collective bargaining agreement reached between the Conway School Board and the American
747 Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) which calls for the following
748 increase in salaries and benefits at the current staffing levels:

749
750 Year Estimated Increase
751 2024-25 \$281,614
752 2025-26 \$73,157
753 2026-27 \$76,083

754 and further to raise and appropriate the sum of \$281,614 for the upcoming fiscal year, such sum
755 representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits required by the
756 new agreement over those that would be paid at current staffing levels. (Recommended by the
757 School Board 7-0) (Recommended by the Municipal Budget Committee 13-1) This appropriation is in
758 addition to Warrant Article #6, the operating budget.

759

760 B. Marvel- as I stated before I think this figure is somewhat vail.

761

762 **ARTICLE 6.** To see if the School District will vote to raise and appropriate as an operating budget,
763 not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the
764 amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session,
765 for the purposes set forth therein, totaling (\$40,109,103) with \$1,474,500 to offset this amount from
766 various grants. (Not recommended by the Municipal Budget Committee 4-10) Should this article be
767 defeated, the default budget shall be \$39,002,004 which is the same as last year, with certain
768 adjustments required by previous action of the Conway School District or by law, or the governing
769 body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue
770 of a revised operating budget only. (\$40,109,103 is recommended by the School Board 4-3)

771

772 M. Hounsell- watching these committees and boards each night was like a tennis match and they seem
773 to be kinder in tone and more focused on the difficult challenges to taxpayers. I don't think this is an
774 affordable budget.

775

776 Alex Loath- if the school is closing it needs to happen in a year not now. Thank you all for serving. I
777 don't know why there is this race to save money on education. We spend less than other towns do.
778 Closing a school should not be done to save money, it should be done and then repurposed for other
779 educational purposes. I've been listening all night to increasing pay to municipal workers, we've all
780 seen the papers and inflation and yes, we gave raises, but it probably was not enough. Low test scores
781 are a problem, and more money won't bring test scores up and neither will less money. We should be
782 thinking about our kid's education.

783

784 B. Marvel- the source of information creates a reaction.

785

786 R. Davison- we have to look at what the taxpayers can afford. I think that a reduction in a school will
787 allow us to pay more in pay. Our concern is a lot of administration is getting done in Conway and my
788 concern is dumping these issues on a new superintendent.

789

790 S. Angers- I hear the word compassion a lot. Where is the compassion for those waiting for the next 18
791 months who are waiting to see if they are going to make the cut. And if and where they will be placed.
792 We won't destroy our kids if they move schools, how can we expect the professional to do their job
793 effectively with this looming. The superintendent has a plan, he knows the plan to close a school. We
794 don't need to drop a new superintendent into this situation, it is not easy, and it is not fun, but it is
795 necessary. Schools all over are consolidating. The baby boomers are over.

796

797 S. Sand- we need to make the decision, and if they did this last year, we would have already had that 1-
798 year transition. My concern is that this is not going to happen. If we don't do decreases in the
799 infrastructure, then we will fall short on other areas. It's not the building, it is the people.

800
801 Mike DiGregorio- hopefully you will support the union contract. We need to get these people up to
802 industry standards. If you are going to include all the school warrants into the % increase, then you
803 need to do the same for the towns warrants and the % increases to compare apples to apples. We
804 have to move forward as status quo until we know what we are doing with a school. We are trying to
805 make an effort to do different things. We are looking at all options.

806
807 B. Marvel- for an equal comparison if the school budget and warrants pass it will yield an increase of
808 23.72%. If the town budget passes and all warrant articles the estimated tax rate would be \$3. 91 she
809 didn't give us a % increase but looks like the school portion again will be more than twice that of the
810 towns.

811
812 S. Sand- Mike did you guys discuss any cuts?

813
814 Mike DiGregorio- It is not a back-and-forth discussion. You will make your recommendations.

815
816 **ARTICLE 7.** To see if the school district will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$88,000 to
817 supplement the funding of the John H. Fuller School, Conway Elementary School, and Pine Tree
818 School Project SUCCEED Programs. (Designated as a Special Article) (Recommended by the
819 School Board 7-0) (Recommended by the Municipal Budget Committee 9-5) This appropriation is in
820 addition to Warrant Article #6, the operating budget.

821
822 **ARTICLE 8.** To see if the School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$250,000 to
823 be added to the Capital Reserve Fund (Equipment and/or School Buses) established for this purpose
824 in 2019. (Special Article by definition) (Recommended by the School Board (7-0). (Recommended
825 by the Municipal Budget Committee 10-4) This appropriation is in addition to Warrant Article #6, the
826 operating budget.

827
828 **ARTICLE 9:** To see if the School District will vote to raise and appropriate \$2,340,000 to be placed in the
829 Expendable Trust Fund (School Buildings Maintenance Fund) established for that purpose in
830 1995. (Special Article by definition) (Recommended by the School Board 5-2) (Recommended by
831 the Municipal Budget Committee 8-6) This appropriation is in addition to Warrant Article #6, the
832 operating budget.

833
834 Ken Rancourt- some of these schools may not be suitable in the flood plans and may not be habitable
835 in these climate changes.

836
837 **ARTICLE 10.** To see if the Conway School District will vote to approve the provisions of School Money
838 RSA: 198:5 4-b, contingency fund, which will allow the Conway School District to retain any unused
839 portion of the year-end unassigned general funds, from the preceding fiscal year in subsequent fiscal
840 years, provided that the total amount of year-end unassigned general funds does not exceed, in

841 any fiscal year, 5 percent of the current fiscal year's net assessment under RSA 198:5. (Designated as
842 a Special Article) (Recommended by the School Board (7-0) (Not recommended by the Municipal
843 Budget Committee 2-11-1)
844

845 J. Lefebvre- under the old provision I see that the school needs to go to DRA for approval but under the
846 new provision they only need to hold a PH. That strikes me as a loss of oversight which concerns me
847 greatly.
848

849 Mike DiGregorio- let's keep in mind without any authorization we are fully able to spend that money as
850 we want.
851

852 S. Angers- returning every penny and then asking for a warrant article for 2.5 million dollars is
853 ridiculous.
854

855 P. Donohoe closed the School Budget Hearing at 10:52 pm.
856

857 **Discussion and Voting on Precinct Budgets**

858

859 ***B. Marvel motioned to approve the Center Conway Fire Precinct Budget as presented; seconded by J.***
860 ***Lefebvre.***

861 ***Vote in favor 13-1-0***
862

863 S. Sand- I am upset that they increased their budget to do inspections, they are getting paid to do the
864 inspections and I think it is double dipping.
865

866 B. Marvel- in the letter they did not include revenue because they had not received any and did not
867 know how much to account for.
868

869 ***R. Shepard motioned to approve the East Conway Fire Precinct Budget as presented; seconded by S.***
870 ***Steiner.***

871 ***Vote 14-0-0***
872

873 **Discussion and Voting on Town Warrant Articles**

874

875 ***J. Lefebvre motioned to approve Article 2 as presented; seconded by S. Steiner.***

876 ***vote failed 4-8-2***
877

878 Discussion was had back and forth on why some members were for and or against the charter, S. Sand
879 gave some insight on some of the issues raised.
880

881 ***R. Shepard motioned to approve Article 24 as presented; seconded by S. Steiner.***

882 ***Vote failed 6-7-1***
883

884 ***S. Sand motioned to approve Article 25 as presented; seconded by S. Steiner.***

885 ***Vote failed 6-8-0***

886

887 B. Marvel- this boils down to do you want more people in your towns and I do not.

888

889 S. Steiner- I think they are treating homeowners differently than STR, it is about safety.

890

891 B. Drinkhall- the tax relief does affect those who do pay taxes and it increases it to those who are
892 paying.

893

894 S. Sand- I think it is a good plan and for getting quality housing for locals.

895

896 ***B. Drinkhall motioned to approve Article 26 as presented; seconded by S. Sand.***

897 ***Vote in favor 9-4-1***

898

899 S. Sand- expressed that there would be no tax gain.

900

901 S. Steiner- they are paying tax through the meals and rooms tax.

902

903 ***J. Lefebvre motioned to approve Article 27 as presented; seconded by S. Steiner.***

904 ***Vote in favor 8-5-1***

905

906 S. Angers- I am torn on this due to interest rates and the need for safety and will abstain and let the
907 voters decide.

908

909 S. Sand- I will vote against it, I don't think this is the year for it.

910

911 B. Marvel- it is going to cost more than a school closing to make a difference in the budget. I'm
912 concerned about my own housing and how I afford it. I don't deny that it is needed, and I am generally
913 in support of the PD.

914

915 Others showed their support of the need for this article.

916

917 ***S. Sand motioned to approve Article 28 as presented; seconded by S. Steiner.***

918 ***Vote in favor 8-5-1***

919

920 B. Marvel – I wish there had been an attempt to look at the budget again and make reductions.

921

922 R. Shepard- it was looked at by the staff, they have done an amazing job at keeping it fat free budget.

923

924 ***J. Lefebvre motioned to approve Article 29 as presented; seconded by S. Steiner.***

925 ***Vote in favor 14-0-0***

926

927 ***J. Lefebvre motioned to approve Article 30 as presented; seconded by R. Shepard.***

928 ***Vote failed 6-8-0***

929

930 B. Marvel- this article is included by state law and does not need to be approved. I think we should
931 habitually reject this article.

932

933 ***J. Lefebvre motioned to approve Article 31 as presented; seconded by S. Angers.***

934 ***Vote in favor 14-0-0***

935

936 ***S. Angers motioned to approve Article 32 as presented; seconded by J. Lefebvre.***

937 ***Vote failed 6-8-0***

938

939 B. Marvel- this article is included by state law and does not need to be approved. I think we should
940 habitually reject this article.

941

942 ***J. Lefebvre motioned to approve Article 33 as presented; seconded by B. Drinkhall.***

943 ***Vote in favor 8-6-0***

944

945 S. Steiner- that airport should be funded it is a good thing for all of us, and it does bring in the tourists.

946

947 B. Marvel- that event that happened would have happened regardless of the funding.

948

949 ***J. Lefebvre motioned to approve Article 34 as presented; seconded by S. Steiner.***

950 ***Vote in favor 12-2-0***

951

952 S. Sand- I think this is a decision on paying elected officials and saying that you are looking at the job
953 from a different perspective.

954

955 R. Davison- it is about citizenship. We all volunteer in our service.

956

957 R. Shepard- I see both sides of it. I myself don't do it for the money.

958

959 ***B. Drinkhall motioned to approve Article 35 as presented; seconded by S. Steiner.***

960 ***Vote in favor 12-2-0***

961

962 ***B. Drinkhall motioned to approve Article 36 as presented; seconded by J. Lefebvre.***

963 ***Vote failed 1-12-1***

964

965 ***S. Angers motioned to approve Article 37 as presented; seconded by J. Lefebvre.***

966 ***Vote in favor 13-1-0***

967

968 S. Sand- we had this with the school, and it didn't work out. I think the BOS should form a committee
969 to look at health insurance rates.

970

971 R. Shepard- I believe they did try to look at different insurance providers and they were still to
972 expensive.
973
974 ***F. Jost motioned to move articles 38 through 45 as a slate; seconded by S. Steiner.***
975 ***Vote in favor 13-1-0***
976
977 S. Sand- I'm voting for the slate, but I think to put these amounts into leased properties. I'm sick of us
978 putting money into buildings we do not own.
979
980 ***S. Sand motioned to remove article 43 from the slate; seconded by F. Jost.***
981 ***Vote in favor***
982
983 ***Approve Article 38 as presented.***
984 ***Vote in favor 13-1-0***
985
986 ***Approve Article 39 as presented.***
987 ***Vote in favor 13-1-0***
988
989 ***Approve Article 40 as presented.***
990 ***Vote in favor 13-1-0***
991
992 ***Approve Article 41 as presented.***
993 ***Vote in favor 13-1-0***
994
995 ***Approve Article 42 as presented.***
996 ***Vote in favor 13-1-0***
997
998 ***S. Sand motioned to approve Article 43 as presented; seconded by J. Lefebvre.***
999 ***Vote failed 7-7-0***
1000
1001 ***Approve Article 44 as presented.***
1002 ***Vote in favor 13-1-0***
1003
1004 ***Approve Article 45 as presented.***
1005 ***Vote in favor 13-1-0***
1006
1007 ***J. Lefebvre motioned to approve Article 46 as presented; seconded by B. Drinkhall.***
1008 ***Vote in favor 14-0-0***
1009
1010 ***J. Lefebvre motioned to move articles 47 through 55 as a slate; seconded by S. Angers.***
1011 ***Vote in favor 14-0***
1012
1013 No Discussion

1014
1015 **Approve Article 47 as presented; seconded by**
1016 **Vote in favor 14-0-0**
1017
1018 **Approve Article 48 as presented; seconded by**
1019 **Vote in favor 14-0-0**
1020
1021 **Approve Article 49 as presented.**
1022 **Vote in favor 14-0-0**
1023
1024 **Approve Article 50 as presented.**
1025 **Vote in favor 14-0-0**
1026
1027 **Approve Article 51 as presented.**
1028 **Vote in favor 14-0-0**
1029
1030 **Approve Article 52 as presented.**
1031 **Vote in favor 14-0-0**
1032
1033 **Approve Article 53 as presented.**
1034 **Vote in favor 14-0-0**
1035
1036 **Approve Article 54 as presented.**
1037 **Vote in favor 14-0-0**
1038
1039 **Approve Article 55 as presented.**
1040 **Vote in favor 14-0-0**
1041
1042 **S. Sand motioned to move articles 56 through 59 as a slate; seconded by J. Lefebvre.**
1043 **Vote in favor 14-0**
1044
1045 No discussion
1046
1047 **Approve Article 56 as presented.**
1048 **Vote in favor 14-0-0**
1049
1050 **Approve Article 57 as presented.**
1051 **Vote in favor 14-0-0**
1052
1053 **Approve Article 58 as presented.**
1054 **Vote in favor 14-0-0**
1055
1056 **Approve Article 59 as presented.**

1057 ***Vote in favor 14-0-0***
1058
1059 ***S. Sand motioned to approve Article 60 as presented; seconded by J. Lefebvre.***
1060 ***Vote in favor 7-6-1***
1061
1062 B. Marvel- I am skeptical of this article and the wording.
1063
1064 S. Angers- in perpetuity kills it for me.
1065
1066 B. Drinkhall- it does not specify maintenance, so I am not in favor of it.
1067
1068 S. Sand- the Pierre family have been working on this for almost a decade and we have limited activities
1069 for kids to do. This is going to give them a place to play, and they have committed to this park and
1070 taking care of it.
1071
1072 ***J. Lefebvre motioned to approve Article 61 as presented; seconded by D. Jensen.***
1073 ***Vote in favor 14-0-0***
1074
1075 ***J. Lefebvre motioned to approve Article 62 as presented; seconded by D. Jensen.***
1076 ***Vote in favor 13-1-0***
1077
1078 S. Sand- this will save time and make it easier for them.
1079
1080 ***B. Drinkhall motioned to approve Article 63 as presented; seconded by S. Steiner.***
1081 ***Vote failed 0-14-0***
1082
1083 ***J. Lefebvre motioned to approve Article 64 as presented; seconded by R. Shepard.***
1084 ***Vote failed 0-14-0***
1085
1086 ***S. Sand motioned to approve Article 65 as presented; seconded by S. Steiner.***
1087 ***Vote in favor 10-2-2***
1088
1089 ***S. Steiner motioned to approve Article 66 as presented; seconded by D. Jensen.***
1090 ***Vote failed 6-6-2***
1091
1092 B. Marvel- I did an internet search and found some unfavorable articles. My patience with them is
1093 exhausting.
1094
1095 R. Davison – the money that they say they give back to the residents seems like a lot.
1096
1097 ***S. Sand motioned to approve Article 67 as presented; seconded by J. Lefebvre.***
1098 ***Vote in favor 14-0-0***
1099

1100 **R. Davison motioned to approve Article 68 as presented; seconded by D. Jensen.**
1101 **Vote in favor 10-1-3**
1102
1103 R. Davison- I think they need to ask other towns for funding as well.
1104
1105 **S. Sand motioned to approve Article 69 as presented; seconded by R. Shepard.**
1106 **Vote in favor 14-0-0**
1107
1108 S. Sand- they are starting to have nonfood items available and extending to seniors.
1109
1110 **D. Jensen motioned to approve Article 70 as presented; seconded by J. Lefebvre.**
1111 **Vote in favor 13-0-1**
1112
1113 **J. Lefebvre motioned to approve Article 71 as presented; seconded by D. Jensen.**
1114 **Vote in favor 12-0-2**
1115
1116 **J. Lefebvre motioned to approve Article 72 as presented; seconded by B. Drinkhall.**
1117 **Vote in favor 12-1-1**
1118
1119 S. Angers- I think they get enough in abatements they don't need this money.
1120
1121 R. Davison- I think the presentation is poor. If they are turning this in and it is wrong, then they need
1122 someone else to handle their paperwork.
1123
1124 S. Sand- I do know that other towns do contribute.
1125
1126 **D. Jensen motioned to approve Article 73 as presented; seconded by S. Angers.**
1127 **Vote in favor 12-1-1**
1128
1129 S. Sand- I think they work they are doing is really good work, but I don't think they have given us a
1130 program that justifies how this money is going to be spent.
1131
1132 S. Angers left meeting.
1133
1134 **J. Lefebvre motioned to approve Article 74 as presented; seconded by R. Shepard.**
1135 **Vote in favor 12-0-1**
1136
1137 **S. Sand motioned to approve Article 75 as presented; seconded by S. Steiner.**
1138 **Vote in favor 12-0-1**
1139
1140 **Discussion and Voting on School Warrant Articles**
1141
1142 S. Angers returned.

1143
1144 **J. Lefebvre motioned to approve Articles 2, 3, 4 as a slate as presented; seconded by R. Shepard.**
1145 **Vote in favor 14-0-0**
1146
1147 **Approve Article 2: New Kennett High School Facilities Maintenance Fund as presented.**
1148 **Vote in favor 14-0-0**
1149
1150 **Approve Article 3: KMS Facilities Maintenance Fund as presented.**
1151 **Vote in favor 14-0-0**
1152
1153 **Approve Article 4: Elementary Schools Facilities Maintenance Fund as presented.**
1154 **Vote in favor 14-0-0**
1155
1156 **S. Sand motioned to approve Article 5: Collective Bargaining Agreement (AFSCME) as presented;**
1157 **seconded by S. Angers.**
1158 **Vote in favor 13-1-0**
1159
1160 B. Marvel- notice the big difference between the school and the town and how this is front loaded.
1161
1162 R. Davison – I am in support of this; we can't even fill positions all around.
1163
1164 **J. Lefebvre motioned to reduce the school operating budget by \$1.2 million dollars; seconded by S.**
1165 **Angers.**
1166 **Vote fails 1-12-1**
1167
1168 B. Marvel- I think that is feasible. I came up with a similar number.
1169
1170 **J. Lefebvre motioned to approve Article 6: Operating Budget as presented; seconded by D. Jensen.**
1171 **Vote fails 4-10-0**
1172
1173 **S. Sand motioned to approve Article 7: Project SUCCEED as presented; seconded by R. Shepard.**
1174 **Vote in favor 9-5-0**
1175
1176 **B. Drinkhall motioned to approve Article 8: Equipment and/or School Buses Capital Reserve Fund as**
1177 **presented; seconded by D. Jensen.**
1178
1179 **Vote in favor 10-4-0**
1180
1181 **B. Drinkhall motioned to approve Article 9: School Buildings Maintenance Fund as presented;**
1182 **seconded by R. Shepard.**
1183 **Vote in favor 8-6-0**
1184
1185 Discussion was had on the maintenance issues with the schools and what buildings need repair.

1186
1187 ***S. Steiner motioned to approve Article 10: Contingency Fund as presented; seconded by S. Angers.***
1188 ***Vote fails 2-11-1***
1189
1190 J. Lefebvre- I have expressed concern over this before and I see this as an oversight.
1191
1192 B. Marvel- if they have money left at the end of the year, yes they can spend it as they want.
1193
1194 ***J. Lefebvre motioned to adjourn the meeting at 1:23am; seconded by R. Shepard.***
1195 ***Vote in favor 14-0***
1196
1197
1198 Respectfully Submitted,
1199
1200 Alicia Jipson
1201 Recording Secretary