

TOWN OF CONWAY

TOWN MEETING 2010

VOTING GUIDE



FOR THE DELIBERATIVE SESSION
Wednesday, March 3, 2010 at 7:00 PM
Kennett High School Auditorium
409 Eagles Way, Conway, New Hampshire

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SECTION 1. TOWN MANAGER'S LETTER

February 20, 2010

To All Conway Voters:

This Voting Guide is intended to help you prepare for the annual town legislative process. It contains a variety of information concerning the proposed budget and warrant articles.

The proposed operating budget is explained in the Operating Budget Narrative on page 4. On page 10, there is a spreadsheet that presents a summary of the budget as proposed by the Budget Committee and Board of Selectmen. The spreadsheet also shows the percentage change in each department as well as the overall budget. The default budget calculation for 2010 is presented on page 11.

In addition, a detailed budget and other information on how town meeting works is available at Town Hall or on-line at www.conwaynh.org.

This year, the Town Warrant contains 37 Articles of which 27 will be presented on the floor for discussion and possible amendment at the Deliberative Session of Town Meeting (See Section 3, page 12). These Articles (Articles 11 through 37) will be deliberated on March 3, 2010 under the leadership of the Town Moderator. Articles 1 through 10 are not discussed at the Deliberative Meeting and will be submitted to the voters on April 13, 2010.

Your attendance at the Deliberative Session is critical as it provides further opportunity for the opinions, concerns and issues of the Town to be expressed and debated by the Legislative Body. There are a variety of Articles proposed that will significantly affect town policy as well as the budget. In addition, while no final action on the Articles takes place, the power and right to amend an Article can occur at the Deliberative Session. Following the Deliberative Session all Articles are placed on the ballot, as amended, in the form of YES – NO questions.

Town Reports will be made available in late March to further assist you with your decision making on April 13 th. The Town Report will include a final sample ballot with a tear-out worksheet. In addition, information will be available on the Town Web Page (www.conwaynh.org) . If you would like any additional information, please do not hesitate to give me a call at 447-3811.

Finally, I urge you all to actively participate in the important duty of self-governance at both sessions of Town Meeting.

Sincerely,

Earl W. Sires
Town Manager

SECTION 2. OPERATING BUDGET

A. Narrative

Introduction

The following narrative presents the proposed operating budget for the municipal government of the Town of Conway to be discussed at Town Meeting. This budget has been forwarded for consideration by the Conway Municipal Budget Committee with a favorable vote of 9-1. The Board of Selectmen supported this budget with a vote of 5-0.

The budget is composed of three distinct components:

- Town Departments under the purview of the Board of Selectmen and Town Manager
- Police Department as overseen by the Police Commission and Police Chief,
- Library which is managed by the Library Board of Trustees and the Librarian

This budget supports the existing level of service for town departments. While no new programs, employees or services are proposed, further reductions in funding will necessitate reductions in service.

The total proposed operating budget is \$8,923,038 which amounts to a decrease of \$275,632 or 3% over the 2009 adopted budget (see Section 2.B). The default budget will be \$9,247,446 Dollars. The fact that the default budget is higher than the operating is unusual and is a result of the fact that a number of Capital Reserve funds previously included within the operating budget were removed from the operating budget and placed on the warrant as separate articles (see Page 14). The default budget calculation is found on page 11.

Increases in the proposed operating budget:

- Employee Benefits increase by approximately \$125,000 due primarily to a 9% increase in health insurance.
- An increase of \$106,029 in the Police Budget resulting largely from increased costs associated with existing employees.

Significant decreases are as follows:

- Based on new Division of Revenue Administration guidance, all Capital Reserve Funds have been removed from the operating budget and will appear this year as warrant articles. This amounts to a decrease of \$680,500.

- A decrease of approximately \$124,000 occurred in the Long Term Debt accounts due to the retiring of two bonds.

Departmental Summaries

This following discussion provides a summary of each department budget. The spreadsheet on page 10 presents a summary of the changes in each budget from 2009 to 2010.

Executive

The Executive Budget includes staff and operating expenses for general town administration. Included in the budget are supplies and materials for administrative departments and compensation for the Board of Selectmen/Town Manager's Office. Compensation for some elected officials is also included. This year, the budget increases by 1.4%. Increases are due to employee compensation and net changes in other expense lines.

Election and Registration

This budget funds elections and voter registration.

The budget increases by 2.9% and reflects the fact that three elections will be held in 2010.

Financial Administration

The Finance Department maintains fiscal records for the town. The Finance Budget includes expenses for Finance Department salaries, the annual external audit, the elected Town Treasurer, and the Budget Committee. The budget increase of 4.8% is due in part to staff increases but primarily due to the increase of \$10,750 in the Information Technology Line. This is necessitated by the fact that some equipment purchases have been deferred during the last two years.

Assessor

The Assessor's office is responsible for valuing all real and personal property, including mobile homes, residential and commercial properties, and agricultural land.

The Assessor's Budget includes assessing department staff salaries, outside mapping services, and other costs for property assessment. The budget increases by 2.4% due largely to increased staff costs.

Legal Expenses

The Legal Budget contains expenses for Town Counsel and other outside legal expenses. Town Counsel provides legal counsel to the Board of Selectmen and

town staff. In addition, Town Counsel defends or prosecutes actions in court on behalf of the Town.

The amount budgeted for legal expenses increases from \$50,000 to \$60,000 based on projected needs for 2010.

Employee Benefits

Employee Benefits includes health insurance and other employee costs mandated by the federal or state government such as FICA, social security and retirement. An amount for sick leave incentive for non-union employees is also included.

This budget shows an increase by 17%. Of particular significance is the fact that health insurance increased by approximately 9%. In July 2009, state retirement contributions were mandated to increase from 8.74% to 9.16% for administrative employee and from 11.84% to 13.66% for certified police officers. In addition, Workers Compensation insurance increased by approximately 9%.

Planning and Zoning

The Planning Department is responsible for advising the Planning Board, the Zoning Board of Adjustment, and the public on land use and development issues. The planning staff oversees site plan and subdivision applications and amendments to the Site Plan, Subdivision and Zoning Regulations, as well as the Conway Master Plan. The Code Compliance Officer issues sign permits, home occupation permits and enforces the zoning codes.

This budget increases by 2.1% due mainly to staff compensation increases. It should be noted that the salary for the Project Administrator includes overtime for taking minutes at night meetings for the Planning Board and Zoning Board of Adjustment.

Government Buildings

Government Buildings includes operating expenses for a variety of Town buildings and facilities. These include: Town Hall, the Conway Recreation Center, the Public Works Garages, and the Whitaker Meeting House. For 2010, this budget stays level.

Cemeteries

This budget carries \$1.00 to hold the account open for future contingencies.

Insurance

Liability insurance for Town property and vehicles is funded within this budget. The amount presented is an estimate of actual premium costs for 2010 based on the maximum the premium can increase under our current contract.

Police Department

The Police Department preserves the public peace, reduces the opportunity to commit crime, and provides a high level of safety, security and service for all members of the community.

The Police Department Budget increases by 4.3% or \$106,029. This increase is due largely to labor costs.

Ambulance

The Ambulance Budget funds a contribution to local ambulance providers. The providers are Conway Village Fire District and the North Conway Ambulance Service. This budget remains level based on the current contract.

Fire and Rescue

The primary expense within the Fire and Rescue Budget is the provision of fire protection for areas of the Town that are not located within a fire precinct. Conway Village Fire District and North Conway Water Precinct provide these services under contract. This expense is funded by property taxes paid only by residents of non-precinct areas of the Town.

The budget is expected to increase by 1.2%. This increase is due to a relatively minor increase in the estimated cost of the Non-Precinct Fire Contract which funds fire service to non-precinct areas of the Town.

Inspections

The Building Inspector reviews building permits, building plans, inspects buildings and enforces the building codes.

This budget increases by 3.2% due to salary expenses for the existing positions.

Highway

The Highway Department is responsible for the maintenance and construction of Town roads and bridges as well as other related activities such as snow removal and ditch and culvert repair.

An increase of 1% is proposed for the Highway Budget. This increase is a result of a number of factors including personnel costs. In addition vehicle maintenance costs are projected to increase based on recent experience.

Solid Waste

The Solid Waste Department manages the disposal of solid waste for the Mount Washington Valley Solid Waste District, which includes the towns of Conway, Albany, and Eaton. The member towns reimburse Conway for this service. The department operates both a transfer station and landfill.

The proposed budget represents an increase of 1.5%. This is due primarily to labor costs and the need to engage an outside engineer to deal with landfill odor issues.

Health

The Health Budget includes funding for the services of appointed Health Officers as well as kennel fees for impounded animals. The budget is up 8.3% (\$250.00) based on a minor increase to projected kennel fees.

Welfare

The General Assistance Department relieves and maintains those who are unable to support themselves. This office assists with basic necessities such as medication, housing, electricity, food and heat for those who qualify. All assistance is in the form of a loan and not a grant. This budget carries operating expenses associated with providing economic assistance to residents and non-residents alike. Included are payments for housing assistance, food and medical needs. The budget increases by .09% based on staff costs.

Parks and Recreation

The Recreation Department is responsible for elementary school age youth sports and recreation programs and activities as well as a Teen Center for junior high age students. The Department also offers a variety of adult and senior citizen programs.

The budget decreases slightly. As for 2009, an additional \$50,000 in Recreation Department expenses is projected to be funded through fees collect in the Recreation Department Revolving Fund.

Library

The Conway Public Library provides community residents of all ages access to information sources, the opportunity to borrow materials in a variety of formats to meet their cultural, educational, and recreational needs, and a place to gather.

From story hours to guest presenters, the Library offers numerous programs that encourage lifelong learning. The Library's professional staff strives to be accessible and helpful to all and is committed to providing excellent service.

The recommended budget represents a decrease of 2%.

Patriotic Purposes

This budget provides funding for the Town Fourth of July celebration and for commemorative activities that occur on Veteran's Day and Memorial Day. The budget increases by 4.5% (\$500) due to an increase in projected expenses associated with the Fourth of July Celebration.

Conservation Commission

The Conservation Commission oversees the planning and long-term use of Town common lands and open space properties. The proposed Conservation Commission Budget remains level and is based on planned projects for the year.

Debt Principal

Included here are principal payments on long-term debt incurred by the Town. The budget decreases by just over 21% based on the fact that payment schedules of existing long term debt reduce over time and, more importantly, to the fact that the courthouse bond was retired in 2009.

Debt Interest

Included in this budget are the interest payments on long-term debt incurred by the Town. The budget decreases by a net amount of approximately 28% and results from the changes in the payment schedules for the remaining bonds which were most heavily affected by the retirement of the courthouse bond.

Interest on TANS

This budget includes projected interest expenses on Tax Anticipation Notes (TANS). Simply put TANS are short-term loans available to municipalities from the state that assist in supporting cash needs during the year. Based on the current reserves retained by the Town, this amount remains the same as the prior year at \$2,500.

B. 2010 PROPOSED OPERATING BUDGET: SUMMARY

DEPARTMENT	2009 BUDGET	2010 PROPOSED	% CHANGE
EXECUTIVE	219,995	223,101	1.4%
ELECTION & REG.	92,860	95,560	2.9%
FINANCE	241,555	253,151	4.8%
ASSESSING	138,250	141,581	2.4%
LEGAL	55,000	60,000	9.1%
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	739,034	864,445	17.0%
PLANNING & ZONING	159,132	162,533	2.1%
GOVERNMENT BLDGS.	107,726	107,726	0.0%
CEMETERIES	1	1	0.0%
INSURANCE	53,000	56,400	6.4%
POLICE	2,480,264	2,586,293	4.3%
AMBULANCES	154,000	154,000	0.0%
FIRE & EMER. MGMT.	264,765	267,960	1.2%
INSPECTIONS	67,319	69,453	3.2%
HIGHWAY	1,839,929	1,857,583	1.0%
SOLID WASTE	731,227	742,079	1.5%
HEALTH	3,025	3,275	8.3%
WELFARE	84,883	85,632	0.9%
PARKS & RECREATION	294,811	292,158	-0.9%
LIBRARY	446,640	438,112	-1.9%
PATRIOTIC PURPOSES	11,200	11,700	4.5%
CONSERVATION	17,250	17,250	0.0%
DEBT PRINCIPAL	485,000	380,000	-21.6%
DEBT INTEREST	69,804	50,545	-27.6%
INTEREST ON TANS	2,500	2,500	0.0%
CAP RESERVE FUNDS	439,500	0	-100.0%
TOTAL	9,198,670	8,923,038	-3.0%

C. DEFAULT BUDGET CALCULATION

DEFAULT BUDGET 2010

2009 ADOPTED BUDGET	9,199,343
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ADD:

EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	43,734
POLICE SALARY & BENEFITS	99,899
PW UNION SALARY & BENEFITS	25,034
NON PRECINCT FIRE	4,195
AUDIT	-500

SUBTRACT:

DEBT SERVICE	-124,259
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2010 DEFAULT BUDGET	9,247,446
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2010 PROPOSED OPERATING BUDGET	8,923,038
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DIFFERENCE 2009 ADOPTED TO 2010 PROPOSED	324,408
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SECTION 3. WARRANT ARTICLES

NOTE: Some warrant articles are followed by brief explanations to help the voter more fully understand the intent of the article.

ARTICLE 1: To choose all necessary officers.

ARTICLE 2: To see if the Town will vote to adopt amendment No. 1 to Chapter 147 (Zoning Ordinance) which amends §147.13.1.9 to allow "...yard sales to run for no more than 12 calendar days in a year in the Residential/Agricultural District.". Submitted by petition. **Not recommended by the Planning Board (0-5-0).**

ARTICLE 3: To see if the Town will vote to adopt amendment No. 2 to Chapter 147 (Zoning Ordinance) to allow "...yard sales to run for no more than 12 calendar days in a year in all zoning districts." Submitted by petition. **Not Recommended by the Planning Board (0-5-0).**

ARTICLE 4: To see if the Town will vote to adopt amendment No. 3 to Chapter 147 (Zoning Ordinance) to amend §147.13.19.2 (the Special Highway Corridor Overlay District) by excluding from the district "...that portion of the limited access right of way as so depicted as it runs northerly from the centerline of N.H. Route 113/U.S. Route 302 in the Village of Center Conway to its Northern terminus at the centerline of N.H. Route 16/U.S. Route 302 to the north of the Village of North Conway. Submitted by petition. **Recommended by the Planning Board (3-2-0).**

ARTICLE 5: To see if the Town will vote to adopt amendment No. 4 to Chapter 147 (Zoning Ordinance) to permit balloons in the Conway Village Commercial District as follows: "§147.13.6.7.12.2 Banners, pennants, search lights, twirling signs, balloons (greater than 12 inches in diameter, numbering more than six) or other gas-filled figures, and other such materials shall be prohibited, except as specified herein." Submitted by petition. **Not Recommended by the Planning Board (0-5-0).**

ARTICLE 6: To see if the Town will vote to adopt amendment No. 5 to Chapter 147 (Zoning Ordinance) to permit balloons in the North Conway Village Commercial District as follows: "§147.13.7.6.12.2 Banners, pennants, search lights, twirling signs, balloons (greater than 12 inches in diameter, numbering more than six) or other gas-filled figures, and other such materials shall be prohibited, except as specified herein." Submitted by petition. **Not Recommended by the Planning Board (0-5-0).**

ARTICLE 7: To see if the Town will vote to adopt amendment No. 6 to Chapter 147 (Zoning Ordinance) to permit balloons in the Highway Commercial District as follows: "§147.13.8.6.12.2 Banners, pennants, search lights, twirling signs, balloons (greater than 12 inches in diameter, numbering more than six) or other gas-filled figures, and other such materials shall be prohibited, except as specified herein." Submitted by petition. **Not Recommended by the Planning Board (0-5-0).**

ARTICLE 8: To see if the Town will vote to adopt amendment No. 7 to Chapter 147 (Zoning Ordinance) to amend §147.13.6.7.7.6 as follows: “One (1) portable a-frame sign per ~~lot of record~~ business is permitted in the district, it may be displayed during business hours only, it shall have a message area of six square feet or less, no illumination of the sign is permitted and no appendages to the sign are permitted.” Submitted by petition.
Not Recommended by the Planning Board (0-5-0).

ARTICLE 9: To see if the Town will vote to adopt amendment No. 8 to Chapter 147 (Zoning Ordinance) to amend §147.13.7.6.7.6 as follows: “One (1) portable a-frame sign per ~~lot of record~~ business is permitted in the district, it may be displayed during business hours only, it shall have a message area of six square feet or less, no illumination of the sign is permitted and no appendages to the sign are permitted.” Submitted by petition.
Not Recommended by the Planning Board (0-5-0).

ARTICLE 10: To see if the Town will vote to adopt amendment No. 9 to Chapter 147 (Zoning Ordinance) to amend §147.13.8.6.7.6 as follows: “One (1) portable a-frame sign per ~~lot of record~~ business is permitted in the district, it may be displayed during business hours only, it shall have a message area of six square feet or less, no illumination of the sign is permitted and no appendages to the sign are permitted.” Submitted by petition.
Not Recommended by the Planning Board (0-5-0).

ARTICLE 11: BOND ARTICLE: To see if the municipality will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Six Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$600,000) (gross budget) for the construction of a new **PUBLIC WORKS SERVICE GARAGE**, such sum to be raised through the issuance of not more than Four Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$400,000) of bonds or notes under and in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act, RSA 33:1 et seq., as amended) and to authorize the Board of Selectmen and other municipal officials to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon; furthermore, to authorize the Board of Selectmen to apply for and accept any grant funding or other revenue in support of the project. Any such funding received will offset and reduce the total bond amount; and furthermore, to authorize the withdrawal of Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000) from the Buildings Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund created for this purpose to be used to fund the garage construction. A 3/5 ballot vote required. **The Board of Selectmen recommends this appropriation (4-1-0). The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation (8-2-0).**

This article asks the voters to support the construction of a new Service Garage. The project and proposed financing is fully explained in the Garage Fact Sheet on page 21.

ARTICLE 12: (Operating Budget) Shall the Town raise and appropriate as an **OPERATING BUDGET**, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the Warrant for the purposes set forth therein, totaling Eight Million Nine Hundred Twenty Three Thousand Thirty Eight Dollars (\$8,923,038) Should this article be defeated the

default budget shall be Nine Million Two Hundred Forty Seven Thousand Four Hundred Forty Six Dollars (\$9,247,446) which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town of Conway or by law, or the governing body may hold one special meeting in accordance with RSA 40:13 X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only. NOTE: This operating budget warrant article does not include appropriations contained in ANY other warrant articles. **Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee (9-1-0).**

This article will approve the annual operating budget for the town. The operating budget is fully explained beginning on page 4 of this Narrative.

ARTICLE 13: (Separate - not included in Budget Appropriation Article #12) To see if the Town of Conway will vote to approve the cost items included in a **TWO-YEAR (2010-2011) COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWN OF CONWAY AND AFSCME #93, LOCAL 859, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS** which calls for no increase in benefits or costs to the Town for fiscal years 2010 and 2011. This means that the proposed contract results in no additional costs attributable to the increase in benefits over those of the appropriation at current staffing levels paid in the prior fiscal years. **Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee (9-1-1).**

This article asks voters to approve a two year contract between the Town of Conway and its unionized employees in the Public Works Department. The contract has no changes that would result in additional costs to the Town. In fact, for the first year, the employees have accepted a decreased maximum raise (maximum of 2%) and a lower level of coverage on their medical prescription plan. For the second year the pay plan reverts to the 2009 salary plan.

CAPITAL RESERVE FUNDS

Articles 14 through 20 are Capital Reserve Funds. These are special town funds that can pay for current year expenditures but are also allowed to be used to save for future expenditures. This allows the town to purchase equipment and vehicles without having to incur finance charges. These funds are also important in that they support multi-year plans that enable the efficient management of town departments and enable the town to undertake large construction projects.

For example, we plan our vehicle replacements on 10 or 12 year schedules so that we have a dependable fleet and avoid excessive maintenance costs. Monies are saved for a number of years in some cases before the actual purchase is made. The Infrastructure Fund is used to accumulate funding for relatively large road and street construction projects.

While these funds have been included within the general town budget in the past, this year the State has advised the town that these funds need to be approved via special warrant articles.

ARTICLE 14: (Special-not included in Budget Appropriation Article #12) To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Three Hundred Twenty Five Thousand Dollars (\$325,000) to be placed in the **INFRASTRUCTURE RECONSTRUCTION CAPITAL RESERVE FUND** to be used according to the purposes for which the fund was established. This appropriation is in addition to Warrant Article 12, the Operating Budget Article. **Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee (9-2-0).**

This fund accumulates money to support road and street construction projects. Projects scheduled for 2010 include:

- **Road reconstruction and paving on Kearsarge Road from the North South Road to Skimobile Rd.**
- **Reconstruction of Tasker Hill Bridge**
- **Street drainage reconstruction on Duprey and Ledgewood Roads**

ARTICLE 15: (Special-not included in Budget Appropriation Article #12) To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Fifty Five Thousand Dollars (\$155,000) to be placed in the **HIGHWAY EQUIPMENT CAPITAL RESERVE FUND** to be used according to the purposes for which the fund was established.. This appropriation is in addition to Warrant Article 12, the Operating Budget Article. **Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee (6-4-1).**

This fund accumulates money to replace equipment and vehicles that are used for all public works activities such as snow plowing, road construction, drainage work and other critical functions. Because we save money up front, the Town avoids financing costs and keeps the budget level by making equal payments to this fund over a period of years thereby saving up for the purchase. Actual annual expenditures are based on equipment to be purchased that year. Currently equipment and vehicles are on a 10-12 year replacement cycle.

ARTICLE 16: (Special - not included in Budget Appropriation Article 12). (Police Vehicles Capital Reserve Fund) To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Thirty Eight Thousand Dollars (\$38,000.00) to contribute to the **CAPITAL RESERVE FUND FOR POLICE VEHICLES** to be used according to the purposes for which the fund was established. This appropriation is in addition to Warrant Article 12, the

Operating Budget Article. **Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (4-1-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee (9-1-1).**

This fund accumulates money to purchase vehicles for the Police Department so that financing costs can be avoided. On alternating years, the Police Department purchases either one or two vehicles. This year the department plans to purchase two patrol cruisers.

ARTICLE 17: (Special-not included in Budget Appropriation Article #12) To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Seventy Five Thousand Dollars (\$75,000.00) to be placed in the **MAINTENANCE OF TOWN BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES CAPITAL RESERVE FUND** to be used according to the purposes for which the fund was established. This appropriation is in addition to Warrant Article 12, the Operating Budget Article. **Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee (8-3-0).**

This fund provides for the on-going maintenance of our town buildings. Projects such as replacing heating systems or installation of a new roof are funded from this source. Projects for 2010 include the repair of the roof on the existing vehicle storage garage.

ARTICLE 18: (Special-not included in Budget Appropriation Article #12) To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Ninety Thousand Dollars (\$90,000) to be placed in the **SOLID WASTE EQUIPMENT CAPITAL RESERVE FUND** to be used according to the purposes for which the fund was established. This appropriation is in addition to Warrant Article 12, the Operating Budget Article. **Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee (7-4-0).**

This fund accumulates money to support the replacement of equipment and vehicles that are used at the landfill and transfer station. By saving money up front, the Town avoids financing costs and keeps the budget level by making equal payments to this fund over a period of years. Actual annual expenditures are based on equipment to be purchased that year. Currently equipment and vehicles are on a 10-12 year replacement cycle.

ARTICLE 19: (Special-not included in Budget Appropriation Article #12) To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Thirty Thousand (\$30,000.00) to be placed in the **LANDFILL CLOSURE CAPITAL RESERVE FUND** to be used according to the purposes for which the fund was established. This appropriation is in addition to Warrant Article 12, the Operating Budget Article. **Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee (10-1-0).**

The Town of Conway is required by the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services to contribute to this fund which will be used to

pay for the eventual closure of the existing landfill. If the town does not contribute to this fund, the landfill operating permit may be jeopardized.

ARTICLE 20: (Special-not included in Budget Appropriation Article #12) To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Eighty Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$80,500) to be placed in the **LANDFILL EXPANSION CAPITAL RESERVE FUND** to be used according to the purposes for which the fund was established. This appropriation is in addition to Warrant Article 12, the Operating Budget Article. **Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee (7-4-0).**

This fund provides for the accumulation of funding for the future expansion of the landfill which is scheduled for 2014. The annual contributions are necessary to ensure that the Town has adequate funding for the expansion of our municipal landfill.

ARTICLE 21: (Special-not included in Budget Appropriation Article 12). To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twelve Thousand Four Hundred Dollars (\$12,400) to purchase a **ROADSIDE SICKLE BAR MOWER FOR PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**. **Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee (9-2-0).**

This article proposes the purchase of a new mower that fits onto the tractor that mows the sides of town roads. Currently, we use a “flail mower” which is a drum type spinning mechanism that is pulled behind the tractor. It whips vegetation, knocking it down as much as cutting it. It is approximately 10 years old and has had multiple repairs. It has not been the best alternative for mowing as it often leaves stubs and small brush standing. Also, since it is a dragged behind the mower, the operator must look back to follow mowing progress, potentially paying less attention to what is in front.

The sickle bar mower is a reciprocating blade much like an electric hedge trimmer that cuts brush and small trees. Not only does this equipment do a better job, it is safer because the operator can pay better attention to his forward progress. In summary, the reasons for requesting the equipment are:

- The existing equipment is reaching the end of its useful life
- This blade will do a better job
- This blade will improve operator safety

ARTICLE 22: (Special - not included in Budget Appropriation Article 12). To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000) to purchase a **COMMERCIAL LAWN MOWER FOR THE RECREATION DEPARTMENT**. **Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee (6-5-0).**

This article requests authorization to replace an existing lawn mower in the Recreation Department. The existing mower is six years old and has close to 500 operating hours on it. It has had to be repaired on a regular basis during the last two seasons. Repair costs for the 2008-2009 seasons were \$1200.00. We believe that it is more cost effective to replace the mower with a newer more heavy duty model rather than to continue to repair the existing mower. The proposed purchase is a high grade commercial mower that has a use life of 10+ years. The mower will be used to mow all of the town maintained parks, cemeteries, recreation fields and green spaces.

ARTICLE 23: (Special-not included in Budget Appropriation Article #12) To see if the municipality will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Three Hundred Six Thousand Dollars (\$306,000) (gross budget) for the construction of the **KEARSARGE ROAD PEDESTRIAN WAY/BIKE LANE** and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to apply for and accept any grant funding or other revenue in support of the project. The entire project funding amount shall be raised by grants and contributions such that no funds shall be raised by local property taxes. **The Board of Selectmen recommends this appropriation (4-1-0). The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation (9-2-0).**

This article asks the voters to authorize the Town to accept grant money and local donations to fund the construction of a bike and pedestrian lane along Kearsarge Rd. in North Conway Village. This article approves spending monies received by the Town from grants and donations. Consequently, this article has no impact on the tax rate it will all be paid for with grants or donations.

ARTICLE 24: (Special - not included in Budget Appropriation Article 12). To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Twenty Two Thousand Thirty Eight Dollars (\$122,038.00) from franchise fees to add to the **PEG EXPENDABLE TRUST FUND**, to support the operations and equipment needs of the Public Education and Government station. No property tax funds will be raised to support this warrant article. **Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee (10-1-0).**

This article asks the voters to place all of the Cable TV franchise fees received by the town into a trust fund to be used only for purposes related to Public Education and Government (PEG) television. PEG TV is currently broadcast on cable channel 3 and is provided for the Town of Conway by Valley Vision, a private non-profit organization. If the voters approve the placement of these funds in the trust, the Board of Selectmen intends to use \$92,000 to fund Valley Vision services for the year. The remaining monies will be deposited into the account for use for equipment purchases of other PEG related services, programs, or expenses.

ARTICLE 25: (Special – not included in Budget Appropriation Article #12). To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Thirty Two Thousand Dollars

(\$32,000) (level funded from last year) to support the Conway home delivered meals (Meals on Wheels), congregate meals, transportation and program services provided by **THE GIBSON CENTER FOR SENIOR SERVICES, INC.** Submitted by petition. **Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee (10-1-0).**

ARTICLE 26: (Special – not included in Budget Appropriation Article #12). To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Seventy Five Thousand Dollars (\$75,000), said sum to be allocated to the **NORTH CONWAY COMMUNITY CENTER** for programs of the North Conway Community Center. Submitted by petition. **Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee (8-3-0).**

ARTICLE 27: (Special – not included in Budget Appropriation Article #12). To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Three Thousand Dollars (\$3,000) in support of **CARROLL COUNTY TRANSIT** for following transportation services; Public Transit Fixed and Commuter Routes, Demand Response Senior Transportation and Long Distance Non Emergency Medical Transportation. Submitted by petition. **Not recommended by the Board of Selectmen (0-5-0). Not recommended by the Budget Committee (4-7-0).**

ARTICLE 28: (Special – not included in Budget Appropriation Article #12). To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Thirteen Thousand Dollars (\$13,000) for **TRI-COUNTY COMMUNITY ACTION** for the purpose of continuing services of the Fuel Assistance Program for the residents of Conway. Submitted by petition. **Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (4-1-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee (7-4-0).**

ARTICLE 29: (Special – not included in Budget Appropriation Article #12). To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Thirty Five Thousand Five Hundred Sixty Five Dollars (\$35,565) for the support of **WHITE MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER** to help meet the healthcare needs of the uninsured and underinsured residents of the Town of Conway. Submitted by petition. **Not recommended by the Board of Selectmen (1-4-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee (8-3-0).**

ARTICLE 30: (Special – not included in Budget Appropriation Article #12) To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Four Thousand One Hundred Twenty Eight (\$4,128) (\$.45 per resident) in this fiscal year for the **AMERICAN RED CROSS/GRANITE CHAPTER**, to help support disaster preparedness, response and recovery; blood services; Armed Forces emergency services; international aide; and health and safety training to the benefit of residents of Conway. Submitted by petition. **Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (4-0-1). Not recommended by the Budget Committee (1-10-0).**

ARTICLE 31: (Special – not included in Budget Appropriation Article #12). To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Thirteen Thousand Dollars (\$13,000) for the Early Supports & Services Program (birth to 3 years) of **CHILDREN UNLIMITED**,

INC. Submitted by petition. **Not recommended by the Board of Selectmen (2-3-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee (6-5-0).**

ARTICLE 32: (Special – not included in Budget Appropriation Article #12). To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000) for **NORTH CONWAY DAY CARE**. Submitted by petition. **Not recommended by the Board of Selectmen (2-2-1). Not recommended by the Budget Committee (5-5-1).**

ARTICLE 33: (Special – not included in Budget Appropriation Article #12). To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Three Thousand Dollars (\$3,000) for **VAUGHAN COMMUNITY SERVICE, INC.** Submitted by petition. **Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (4-1-0). Recommended by the Budget Committee (10-0-1).**

ARTICLE 34: (Special – not included in Budget Appropriation Article #12). To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Thousand Twenty Five Dollars (\$2,025) to benefit those residents from the Town of Conway who need to participate in the **MOUNT WASHINGTON VALLEY ADDICTION TREATMENT SOLUTIONS SLIDING SCALE FEE PROGRAM**, which is established to provide access to treatment for individuals in the community who cannot otherwise pay full price for the addiction treatment program. Submitted by petition. **Not recommended by the Board of Selectmen (1-4-0). Not recommended by the Budget Committee (1-8-2).**

ARTICLE 35: To see if the Town of Conway will to vote to accept and maintain Robert Morrell Drive. (Submitted by Petition). **Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (5-0-0).**

ARTICLE 36: To see if the Town will vote to approve the following resolution to be forwarded to our State Representative(s), our State Senator, the Speaker of the House, and the Senate President.

Resolved: The citizens of New Hampshire should be allowed to vote on an amendment to the New Hampshire Constitution that defines “marriage”.

(Submitted by Petition).

ARTICLE 37: To act upon any other business that may legally come before said meeting.

SECTION 4. SERVICE GARAGE FACT SHEET

Why is the Service Garage important to our community?

All vehicles and heavy equipment for town departments (Highway Department, Solid Waste, Town Hall, Recreation, and the Police Department, and Conway School District school buses) are maintained at the garage. This includes 58 vehicles, heavy equipment like road graders and plow trucks for Public Works, 20 school busses, and 17 vehicles for Police, Town Administration and Recreation. Garage employees make sure that our trucks and equipment are available for town projects and that our snow plows can keep the streets passable for travelers and emergency vehicles. Here in the “north country”, plow drivers are truly “first responders” because they keep the roads clear for not only the general public but more importantly for other emergency responders (Police, Fire, and Ambulance).

Why do we need a new garage?

The garage is sixty years old, obsolete, deteriorated, and it no longer provides a safe, efficient workplace. Inspections by the Town Building Inspector, Fire Chief, liability insurance consultants, and independent engineers confirm that the building should be replaced or significantly rebuilt.

Structural problems: The mortar joints in walls are cracked in numerous places from the roof to the foundation (see Photos 3 and 4). The roof, doors, and windows all need replacement.

Life Safety concerns: The electrical system is undersized and has been repaired in a haphazard manner over the years. It does not meet current codes and must be replaced. A smoke/fire alarm system must be installed and the air handling system needs upgrading.

Energy efficiency: The building was constructed without regard for energy conservation. The roof is uninsulated and the windows are single pane casements and the block around the windows is crumbling creating drafty conditions (see Photo No 4).

What will the new garage look like?

The new garage will be about the same size as the current structure (6,000 square feet). It will have three bays with six work areas, an office, and storage areas. It will be a steel building with three doors on either gable end to create three drive through bays. The building will have radiant floor heat which is efficient and cost effective. It will also be well insulated to save on energy costs. It will be located at the Town Public Works yard in Center Conway adjacent to other public works buildings. The building will be consistent with all applicable workplace safety requirements.

What happens if we don't build a new garage this year?

Garage planning began in 2004 when the Town started setting aside construction funds through a Capital Reserve Account. If the garage is not built this year, the Town can no longer ask its employees to work in an unsafe situation. Consequently, safety issues must be addressed in

2010 and the Town will have to invest in the old building to fix the electrical system and install a fire alarm. In addition, immediate repairs are needed including new heaters and doors. The Town will have to spend somewhere between \$80,000 and \$120,000 to fix these problems in the near term. In addition, in a few years, a new roof will be needed and heating system repairs are likely. Building now makes sense because we avoid these costs and a new building will be cheaper to construct now than in 5-10 years.

How much will it cost and how can we afford it in these tough economic times?

The Board of Selectmen understands that many people in our community are facing difficult economic times, and we understand that each member of the community will have to judge both what is best for them as well as the community in deciding whether to support the garage project. Consequently, we have worked hard with the Garage Building Committee to reduce the cost of the garage to a minimum and to provide a financing plan that is as affordable as possible while addressing this critical community need. The total project cost will not exceed \$600,000 (reduced from an estimated \$800,000 in 2009). To pay for the garage, we would spend \$200,000 in existing funds from the Capital Reserve Account and borrow up to \$400,000 for the total of \$600,000. The Board is also applying for a federal grant that could reduce the project cost by up to \$200,000. If this grant is awarded, then only about \$220,000 would be financed through a bond or loan.

Depending on how much is financed and the term of financing, the town will have to make annual payments of between \$30,000-\$50,000. This would result in an increase in the annual tax rate over the term of the bond of between 3 cents and 5 cents per thousand dollars of value. This means that for every \$100,000 in property value a taxpayer owns, their tax bill would increase by about \$3.00 to \$5.00 per year. The average tax payer's taxes (home valued at \$183,500) would increase by an estimated total of between \$5.50 and \$9.20 a year.

Photographs of the Existing Service Garage:



Photo 1. Garage facade



Photo 2. Entrance to Garage



Photo 3. Cracks in masonry



Photo 4: Window deterioration and cracks in block masonry and foundation



Photo 5. Garage interior showing work areas and oil storage.



Photo 6. Work area