

**CONWAY POLICE COMMISSION  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
November 2, 2010**

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Conway Police Commission was brought to order at 0845 hours on Tuesday, November 2, 2010. In attendance were Chief Edward K. Wagner, Lieutenant Christopher C. Perley, Chairman David D. Doherty, Commissioner Theresa L Kennett, Commissioner Rodney E. King and Recording Secretary Jill K. Dicey.

Also present at the meeting was Town Manager, Earl Sires and Selectman Chairman Larry Martin.

Commissioner Kennett voiced her concern about Mr. Sires request for a level-funded budget. She believes that going through that exercise would give the impression that the Commission could live with a level-funded budget and that the Commission is not comfortable with that. The conversation should be focused on the impact a level funded budget would have on the police department. Mr. Sires advised that he asked the department heads to come up with a level-funded budget and then to have an addendum explaining what impact that would have on their departments as an exercise only. It was never intended that those would be presented. Mr. Sires advised that with Town revenues down and the still unknown revenue sharing of the State, there is a lot of pressure on the tax rate and he cannot support the three new officers in the police budget. Chief Wagner advised that he and Mr. Sires have kept an open dialogue during his tenure and he does not want that relationship to change. He sympathized with Mr. Sires position to put forward a fiscally responsible budget during this difficult economy however, the police department is busier than ever and the outlook is that the trend is going to continue so it is important to come to an agreement that both can support. One new officer was added three years ago and in an attempt to help keep the budget down, Chief Wagner has not asked for more in the subsequent years but can no longer put it off. Mr. Martin advised that Chief Wagner couldn't have picked a worse year and that the Board of Selectman cannot support the police department budget with three new positions in it. At a time when the Selectman are looking for solutions to save money, he cannot support increasing this budget. Chairman Doherty advised it would be very remiss of the Commission to not inform the selectman and the public of the public safety issues that come with an understaffed police department. Chairman Doherty asked if Mr. Sires and Mr. Martin could support adding one officer per year over the next three years instead of all three this year. Mr. Martin acknowledged the public safety issues and the importance of presenting a united front. Mr. Martin advised that the Selectman might be able to support a budget with one new position in it. Chief Wagner reminded all present that while other town departments have flexibility about choosing tasks to do or not to do because of budget restraints, the police department does not have that luxury, all calls must be answered and responded to. Commissioner King advised that while the economic times do not support adding personnel, the studies done show the police department should be adding more than just the three they are asking for. Lt. Perley advised that timing is an issue but everyone can agree on the need. He further suggested that during a time when other town departments are not as busy and don't have pressing needs, this is a good time to add to the police department since they are the only one in need. Mr. Martin advised that asking for three is just too many and adds too much to the budget. He advised to put together a budget with one new officer and it will have a better chance of getting support. Commissioner Kennett advised that the Commission needs to know that Mr. Sires and Mr. Martin understand both the need and the implications of not fulfilling that need. It is irresponsible of the Commission to not ask for at least one new position. Commissioner Kennett asked if the Board of Selectman can support one officer in the name of presenting a united front. Mr. Sires handed out copies of the proposed 2011 budget which shows the police department is nearly the entire increase. Lt. Perley asked what the actual household tax bill would increase on \$214,000. Mr. Sires advised it is \$.16 per 1000, so it would cost \$34.24 per household to increase the police budget by adding three new positions. Mr. Martin suggested a work session with all of the Selectman and the Commission to present the needs of the police department to the entire board. Mr. Sires advised that he is set to present the entire town budget to the selectman next Tuesday so any work session would have to be scheduled prior to that. Mr. Sires discussed the relationship between the Commission and the Selectman and how they could best work together in the absence of clearly defined rules and guidelines. Commissioner Kennett advised that the taxpayers need to know their elected officials are putting forward the best product. She advised that she understands the Selectman can't support three new positions but the Commission can't support having no new positions. Commissioner Kennett further explained that it is paramount that officers are not in an unsafe working environment and that the needs of the Town are met. Chairman Doherty suggested that a work session with the Selectman would be best. It was decided to have the Police Commission and the Selectman meet on Friday in the Town Office meeting room. Chief Wagner asked Mr. Sires if he could support the budget with one additional officer.

Mr. Sires advised it is possible. Chief Wagner asked Mr. Martin if he could, he advised that he could but it is unknown how the rest of the board will vote. Commissioner Kennett advised that the need is so imperative that even in this difficult economic time the Commission still feels it essential to add to the staff at this time.

At 0942, Earl Sires and Larry Martin left the meeting.

Payroll and disbursements were handed out and signed.

On a motion by Commissioner King, and seconded by Commissioner Kennett, it was unanimously voted to approve the minutes of October 19, 2010.

Chairman Doherty asked that, as Chairman, he be the voice of the Commission and that any inquiries posed to other Commissioners outside of the meetings be forwarded to him.

Chief Wagner advised that the PD is to present their budget to the Selectman on Tuesday, November 16 at 1600. Chairman Doherty advised it is important for at least one Commissioner to be at all budget-related meetings.

Chief Wagner advised he has received the first set of interrogatories for the Edward Vierra lawsuit.

Chief Wagner suggested starting a capitol reserve, revolving fund that would be set up using fines from alcohol fines and other alcohol and drug-related fines. Moultonboro PD did this and was able to use some of the money to help with project graduation. Commissioner Kennett advised the Town would need to be on board. Chief Wagner advised it would also fund undercover cigarette and drug buys. The Commission agreed to look into it at a later date.

A discussion ensued about PD generated revenues which consist of fees collected for alarms, pistol permits, report copies and fingerprints.

Chairman Doherty asked if Chief Wagner is comfortable that the PD has done all it can towards educating about bullying. He suggested setting up a hotline that kids or parents can call anonymously to report bullying. Commissioner Kennett advised that the issue needs a constant focus to be successful. Chief Wagner advised that bullying programs need to start at the school.

At 1038, a motion was made by Commissioner Kennett, and seconded by Commissioner King to move into non-public session per RSA 91-A: 3, II (a). The Commission was polled and voted as follows: Doherty, yes, Kennett, yes, King, yes. With a unanimous vote, the meeting was moved into non-public session.

At 1056, the public session reconvened.

At 1056, on a motion by Commissioner King, and seconded by Commissioner Kennett, it was unanimously voted to adjourn the regularly scheduled commission meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill K. Dicey,  
Recording Secretary